

## **Chapter II Our Founding Fathers a/k/a “The Begats”**

The Biblical book of Genesis contains a detailed genealogy of Adam and Eve’s family tree, to identify the founding fathers of the human race. A capsulization of this genealogy might read:

“...And Adam begat a son and named him Seth, and Seth begat Enos, and Enos begat Cainan, and Cainan begat Mahalaeel, and Mahalaleel begat Jared, and Jared begat Enoch, and Enoch begat Methuselah, and Methuselah begat Lamech, and Lamech begat Noah, and Noah begat Shem, Ham and Japeth.”

Many Biblical scholars laughingly refer to those genealogical references as “the begats,” for obvious reason. Still, if that system of showing the initial growth of humankind on earth is good enough for the good book, it is certainly good enough for Springettsbury Township, and it is with pride that we publish our local version of the “begats”...a compendium of those founding families about whom some records and particulars were able to be located.

Springettsbury Township is fortunate in having had so many outstanding persons form our grass roots. This chapter contains information on as many as possible to uncover via research of our area’s early settlers. Any shortcomings were indeed inadvertent and occurred only because we were not aware of those who were not included.

Careful research has disclosed numerous millers, blacksmiths, farmers, teachers, public office holders, mercantile businessmen and just plain honest, hard-working, God-fearing family men. Many of the readers may discover the thrill and excitement of being related as descendants of some of these founding families, just as some of the centennial committee have done. Excitement continues to rise as the background information on these families was compiled. Many made major contributions to community affairs, which spurred growth and development, both within our township and beyond.

Some of the early homesteads still remain, and some descendants of those early families still live in our township, carrying on the tradition of being valued community assets.

It should, however, be noted that the commingling of some family trees has resulted in cross-indexing and, of course, necessary duplication of data in a few instances. But, in historical research, rather too much information than too little, is the established rule of thumb.

### **Cunningham Family**

A retired farmer, John Cunningham, the father of Eli and David, was born in Maryland on January 22, 1800. He came to Springettsbury Township at age 18, purchased 104 acres, mostly uncultivated, cleared the land and made it productive. He built new farm buildings, and then assisted in erection of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. *John helped build the railroad from York to Wrightsville.* His son, Eli, was born in 1837.

Mr. John Cunningham was a Democrat, and an elder of the Lutheran church. He served as township assessor, road surveyor, and in other offices. In December 1894, this enterprising citizen was appointed mercantile appraiser for York County.

Beside Eli and David, John and his wife, Elizabeth, (born October 17, 1812, died March 7, 1833, daughter of John and Christine (Shultz) Spangler) had these children: William; Susan, married Nye; George and John (twins); and Lucinda Elizabeth.

Eli Cunningham married Caroline (daughter of Jacob and Leah (Rudy) Loucks). Their children, John E., who married Alice Crist, and their children, Bruce, Mallie, Eli, and an infant; Emma married Henry Leckrone, a Springettsbury Township farmer, and bore him seven children: George Elias, Morris William, Carrie May, Allen Howard, Anthony Jacob, Walter Dewey, and Paul Raymond.

Walter, Eli's son, a painter in Springettsbury Township, married Miss Lillie Snyder, and they had one child, Ray. Dora, Mrs. George Worley, had two children, Grace and Stewart.

Eli's religion was Lutheran and he served as an elder in Mt. Zion Church, of which his father, John Cunningham, was a founder, having helped in the erection of the church. Eli enjoyed farming for himself and attended the York markets, selling apples and peaches from his large orchard. He retired from farming in 1893. His son continued to cultivate the farm.

David Cunningham, child of John and Elizabeth Cunningham, was born October 12, 1839. David attended public schools and then devoted his life to farming. He owned sixty-seven acres of the old homestead, two residence properties, and had a peach orchard of 400 trees. David married Miss Kate Kohler, daughter of Henry and Mary (Cramer) Kohler; they had eight children: Elmira (Mrs. Samuel Hess); Charles, yard boss at the freight depot of Pennsylvania Railroad, who married Miss Emma Stough of Springettsbury Township; James, a molder, married Miss Lizzie Shenberger of Lancaster; Nettie, Mrs. Henry Moul of Eberton; Luther, married Miss Emma Boyer of Eberton; Susan, who taught school for seven years before she married Edward Heikes of Manchester Township; George; William.

### **Diehl Family**

*One of the landmarks in Springettsbury Township was the Diehl Mill. It was the first mill built on the Codorus and, until the early 1900's, stood on the site of Hively's Mill. Built by John Adam Diehl, the first immigrant of this Diehl family to come to America, it descended from father to son for a number of generations.*

John Adam Diehl came to America from Germany. He purchased 360 acres of land on the Little Codorus Creek. His son, Peter Diehl, inherited the mill and rebuilt it.

Jacob Diehl, one of Peter's sons, was the next owner. He and his brother, Nicholas, bought it from the other heirs. A cornerstone still remains on stone house and reads: "Bilt by Nicholas J. Diehl and Frau, Catrina-1771." This house is located on Eberts Lane, Springettsbury Township. Additional sections to this property were built by Michl Ebert and his wife Lydia in 1829. Burnt August 5, 1888. Rebuilt by Albert M. Ebert and wife

Clara. Jacob's portion consisted of the mill, four stillhouses, and several farms. In his family of six children, there were two sons, and the mill went to the younger son, Daniel.

The elder son of Jacob Diehl was Charles. He owned a 200-acre farm, and was a lifetime Democrat. He married Miss Leah Lutman, daughter of John Lutman. They had eleven children: Lucinda, who married John Rutter; John; Susan, who married Henry Miller; Anna Mary, who married George Rutter; Jacob; Amanda, who married Emanuel Bear; Alfred; Charles; Samuel; Edmund; Rachel, who married George Matthews.

Jacob Diehl was born March 13, 1932, grew up on the farm, and attended public schools. At age 25, he began farming on his own a farm of his father's. A good Democrat, who worked for the party and served as a delegate to various conventions, he was a member of the county committee. Township offices, which he filled, were Director of the Poor and Treasurer. He first married Magdaline Dietz, daughter of Jacob Dietz of Springettsbury Township. They had these five children: Jacob L, who worked for eight years in the mill and married Mary Ellen Inners, and had two children, Jacob M. and Wilber A.; Ada Agnes, who married Albert Cunningham; Alfred N.; Edmund D.; and Martha Ann, who married Henry Billett.

Jacob Diehl's second marriage was to Miss Sarah Runkle.

Alfred N. Diehl was born October 24, 1862, and was educated in public schools. At age 21, he began the occupation of cigar making at "Springet," in the Pleasureville area. He married Annie Shepp, daughter of William Shepp of Springettsbury Township. Their children were Elmer, Minnie, Charles, William, Francis, Daisy, Stewart, Sallie, Lester, Mary, Viola, and three children who died young.

### **Dietz Family**

Alexander Dietz was born January 14, 1854, in what was then Hellam Township, later to become Springettsbury Township. On October 20, 1879, he married Annie Heistand, daughter of William and Rebecca (Dull) Heistand. Three children were born of this marriage: Harry James, who married Anna Budding, and worked in the office of York Gazette; Maggie, wife of Dr. John E. Inners of Yorkana; and Gertrude, wife of John Anstine.

Alexander's father was Henry Dietz. Henry was born August 24, 1833. He married Elizabeth Leiphart, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Sloat) Leiphart.

Their children, Alexander, mentioned above; Annie, born September 13, 1857, married William Leonard; Amanda, born August 25, 1861, married John Lefever; Susanna, born December 3, 1862, married Mark Landis; Amos W., born February 1, 1866, married Emma Poff; Henry, born September 5, 1868, married Gertrude Leiphart; Elizabeth, born August 1, 1871; David S., born August 19, 1873, married Lydia Sentz.

Alexander's grandfather, Henry Dietz, Sr., was born July 3, 1809, in Hellam Township, and spent his whole life there. He died October 17, 1842. Henry, Sr. married Susanna Lehman, (born January 27, 1812 and died December 22, 1892). Susanna was the daughter of John

and Elizabeth (Fisher) Lehman. They lived on the farm of his uncle, Daniel Dietz. Their six children: Henry Jr., father of Alexander; David, who was born December 24, 1834, and married Rebecca Paules; Joseph, born October 23, 1836, who first married Lydia Ferree, and married second Kate Poff; Leah, born August 27, 1838, who married Michael Crumling; Susanne, born July 31, 1840, who married Frederick Stauffer; Alexander, born January 27, 1842 and died November 8<sup>th</sup>, year unknown.

Alexander attended schools of the area until age of 22 years and secured a teacher's certificate. In 1875 he learned the trade of cigar making, founded and ran a cigar making business for sixteen years. *In 1892 he was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue for the Ninth District of Pennsylvania under President Cleveland*, remaining in this position for four years and three months. After retiring from this office, *he organized the Yorkanna Cigar Company*. Among the brands of cigars manufactured were "George B. McClellan," "No Discount," "Twin Sisters," and "La Flor De Humbert."

He was a progressive, alert businessman and a worker in the Democratic Party.

Franklin P. Dietz was born January 18, 1847. His grandfather was Jacob Dietz, a German who settled near Stony Brook. Jacob took up a large tract of wild land, which he painstakingly cultivated. He also operated a distillery. Jacob resided here until his death, and is buried in the Dietz cemetery in Hellam Township.

Jacob married??? – (Research did not uncover name of wife) – Children: George; Joseph; Samuel; Jacob; John, father of above Franklin; Sarah, wife of Harry Neiman; Mrs. Michael Blessing; Magdalena, married Frederick Schatzberger; Polly, wife of Jacob Lehman; and Catherine.

John Dietz, Franklin's father, farmed and ran the distillery and became the owner of the farm. He later purchased a residence and distilling property in Wrightsville. John died at age 65 years and is interred in family cemetery in Hellam Township. John Dietz married Susan Luttman; children: Franklin P. and Rachel, wife of David W. Graybill of Hellam Township.

The mill owned by Franklin P. Dietz was in the southern section of York Township and was in operation since 1832. At that time, a building of stone and brick was built. A prominent participant of the Democratic party and one-time Auditor of York Township, *he was a member of the building committee for the Reformed Church at Jacobus and a director and stockholder of York National Bank* from 1903. Mr. Dietz married Miss Clayanna Dosch of Windsor Township. Their children: Mary M., who married Henry C. Leader; John C., who married Leah Sheaffer of Glen Rock, whose father was in the milling business; Harry S., who married Jennie Falkenstine; Dora Susan, died age thirteen years; Edward, died age one year; Charles, died age eight months; Morris; Ameda F.; Allen F.

Elias Dietz (his great-grandfather was George Dietz from Germany) owned land in Hellam Township that was virgin forest when his family settled there. George Dietz, Elias's grandfather, was born November 6, 1737 and died March 10, 1823. He was left an orphan at nine years of age.

George Dietz married Magdalena, who was born in 1743 and died January 4, 1805. George and Magdalena (Smith) Dietz are the common ancestors of the Dietz family in Pennsylvania. Their children: (1) George, born June 14, 1762, married Elizabeth Yeagle, born July 8, 1763. George died August 19, 1822 and she died November 23, 1843. They were the grandparents of William Dietz. (2) Henry, born 1764, married Miss Grestwight, whose father was a Reformed minister. (3) Conrad, who died March 22, 1829, at age 65 years, eight months, and two days. His wife was Annie M., who died September 24, 1854, aged 87 years and four months. (4) John, born November 5, 1766, died March 21, 1843, unmarried. (5) Jacob, born September 28, 1768, died March 21, 1840 married Magdalena Leiphart, who was born January 12, 1781, and died November 8, 1846. (6) Peter, born August 30, 1770, died April, 1859; (7) Anna Maria, born May 2, 1772, died March 25, 1842, unmarried; (8) Michael, born January 30, 1774, died March 31, 1843, unmarried; (9) Daniel, born June 3, 1776, died May 25, 1866, unmarried; (10) Elizabeth, born 1779, married Michael Rudy, she died April 20, 1851; (11) Magdalena, born October 29, 1780, married George Gohn, who was born April 15, 1780, (he died February 7, 1861).

Peter Dietz, father of Elias, was educated in area schools where the language used was 'Pennsylvania Dutch.' The stone house at his farm was built in 1811. The contractor for building his farmhouse was David Landis and the builder was David Leppart. Peter ran a distillery on his land. The old stillhouse was later used as a wash house and for storage. Peter married May 8, 1808, to Susanna Terson, born September 1, 1787. Her father was Squire Terson of Windsor Township.

*Mr. Dietz, a Democrat, was a State Senator, schoolteacher, and justice of the peace. He received one dollar a day for his legislative services at Harrisburg.* His wife died April 20, 1871. Their children: (1) Henry, married Susanna Lehman; (2) Joseph, married Elizabeth Strickler, daughter of Benjamin Joseph Strickler; (3) Peter, married Mary Leppart, sister of John Leppart; Peter settled on the original Dietz farm, which he bought, and he died in 1902; (4) Sarah, married Adam Daron; she died at age 21 and left two children; (5) Daniel, married Lucinda Diehl; (6) John, married Eliza Myers; (7) Susanna, married Frederick Sakemiller; (8) Elias, married Leah Rudy; (9) Jacob, married Sarah Louck.

Elias Dietz was born March 8, 1823, on his grandfather's farm. He began farming in 1851, and continued for 52 years, retiring in 1903. He attended area schools, where one of his principal teachers was William Stough. Elias bought the farm in 1860 using money he saved from his seventy-five-dollars-per-year wages. He cut early wheat crops with a scythe and cradle, selling his wheat first in York, then Wrightsville, and finally Hellam.

As mentioned, Elias married Leah Rudy (on October 7, 1851). The daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Reisinger) Rudy, she was born October 31, 1831, on a farm adjacent to her husband's. Her grandfather, Michael Rudy, came from Lancaster County. His wife was a Shreiner. Elias Dietz and his wife, Leah, had these children: (1) Milton, married Cassie Landis; (2) Annie; (3) Elias Rudy, married Amanda Shue; (4) Leah; (5) Albert; (6) Reuben; (7) Melinda; (8) Jacob; (9) Lavinia; (10) Ida, married Albert Sechrist; (11) Carrie.

Mr. Dietz never missed voting for a Democratic candidate since he cast his first vote for Polk in 1844. He served three years as a school director, one year as a township auditor, and declined many local offices. *A member of Kreutz Creek Reformed Church, he contributed largely to its*

*building. His grandfather helped build the original log church, his father assisted in building the second church, which was stone. The present structure is brick. Elias Dietz was widely known and honored in the community.*

Charles H. Dietz, son of Jacob, was born April 24, 1874. He attended school until age 15, then began clerking in Crumling's Store in Hellam for about two years. He spent two years in cigar making, - owning his own business. He raised tobacco for a year, then again went into the cigar making business. He also became a barber. Active in Democratic politics, Charles served on the county committee. In 1903 he was elected to justice of the peace for five years, and was efficient in his many pursuits.

On May 9, 1895, he married Miss Annie Paules, daughter of Reuben Paules. Their children: Evelyn, died young; Penrose C.; Myrtle M.; and Viola.

William Dietz, Sr., was born August 9, 1829, and lived on the farm where he was born. George Dietz, William's father, was born January 20, 1791. He married Christina Blessing, daughter of Jacob Blessing. She was born in Hellam Township October 12, 1794, and died March 28, 1841. (George died September 1863.) Their children: Mary Ann, died young; Elizabeth, married Jacob Strickler; Frederick, married Martha Strickler; George, married Catherine Bowman, had a son, George; William; *Jacob Dietz, a brother of George, was a contractor, and he built the old Court House at York.* William attended school at Kreutz Creek Church, his teacher was Jacob Landis; this was a subscription school and his father paid fifty cents a month to the school. Later he went to Rudy's, a free school, graduating at age 18. He worked on the farm for his father, who paid him wages of \$10 per month.

Mr. William Dietz married Caroline Bahn on November 18, 1856. She was born January 29, 1834, the daughter of David and Rachel (Whitman) Bahn. David was a half brother of Adam, father of Rachel Bahn, who wrote the history of the Bahn family. William and Caroline had these children: Emma Florence, who married David Stoner; Howard, who married Sarah Miller; Mary Jane, who married Albert Emig; Lizzie E. and Annie C., twins; William H., who married Ella, daughter of Alfred Bixler.

Mr. Dietz and his wife were members of Kreutz Creek Reformed Church, where he served as elder and deacon. *He donated land on which the Trinity Reformed Church was built.* A lifetime Democrat, he first voted in 1852 for Pierce.

### **Flory Family**

Abraham Flory was a farmer from Jackson Township. He was born in 1846, the son of Jacob and Leah (Deal) Flory, and died April 13, 1904, at the age of 58 years. A farmer all his life, Abraham married Miss Amanda Smyser, daughter of Henry and Mary (Emig) Smyser. They had four children: Harry, Edward, Ella, and Lillian. Mr. Flory was a member of the Lutheran Church and had Republican political sentiments. After he died, his son, Edward, took care of the homestead, which was believed to be located in the area of Route 462 and Mt. Zion Road. Edward was born October 15, 1876. Abraham's wife, Amanda, was born in Springettsbury Township in 1857. Her maternal grandfather was Valentine Emig.

## **Gingerich Family**

William W. Gingerich conducted a general merchandise store at the Glades, Springettsbury Township. A native of the township, he was born August 23, 1862, the son of Jacob and Catherine (Kauffman) Gingerich.

His grandfather, Jacob Gingerich, married Betsy Holder and they were members of the Lutheran Church.

His father, Jacob Gingerich, was born in Springettsbury Township (then Spring Garden), August 18, 1815, and died March 31, 1886. This farmer and carpenter married Catharine Kauffman, who was born June 27, 1825. She was the daughter of Jacob and Polly (Brillinger) Kauffman. They came here from Lancaster County. Jacob owned a fine farm. They were parents of fourteen children: John, Soloman, Jacob, Daniel, Samuel, Peter, Zachariah, George, Adam, Catharine, Eliza, and three who died in infancy.

Jacob and Catherine Gingerich had these children: Susan, married Samuel Seiple of Springettsbury Township; Mary, married Henry Dellinger of York; Sarah, married Charles Eisenhart of York; Elizabeth, married Milton Shamberger of York; Daniel, a carpenter in Indianapolis, Indiana; Jacob, lived in McDonough Co., Illinois; Michael, a laborer in York; Eliza, married Mles Garbarick of Springettsbury Township; Catherine, married Daniel Kennedy of Springett (Pleasureville); Amanda, married H. Cann of Springettsbury Township; William W.; Ellen, married Robert Morrow; Franklin, a cigar maker of York.

William grew up on the farm and attended schools of the township. At age sixteen he started life for himself. He learned the cigar making trade and worked at this for eight years, two of them in Indiana and Illinois. He returned to Pennsylvania and learned the carpenter trade and then again worked in cigar business until 1893 when he went into the mercantile business, carrying a full line of general merchandise. William married Miss Annie E. Jacoby April 8, 1888, she being the daughter of Daniel and Susan Jacoby. They had one adopted daughter, Alverta.

Republican in politics, Lutheran in religion, and honest in business, William Gingerich was a well-regarded, genial citizen.

## **Hiestand Family**

John S. Hiestand, a farmer and fruit grower, was born at the Hiestand homestead three miles east of York on May 8, 1837. He spent his early years on his father's farm and at the "Hiestand Hotel," one of the most popular hostelries in southern Pennsylvania. In 1870, he moved to the large brick mansion built in 1828 by his grandfather, Abraham Hiestand.

He devoted his time to fruit culture, and his large apple orchard bore abundant crops of York Imperial apples as well as other varieties.

*A Democrat, John S. served as Register of Wills from January 1878 to January 1881, and for nineteen years as school director in Springettsbury Township.*

He married Annie M. Oldweiler, daughter of Philip and Mary (Gisk) Oldweiler, on November 17, 1857. They had two children: T.B.G. Hiestand and Katie who married Elmer E. Frey, a coal merchant of York. They had two children: John Fallon and Frances Mary.

Abraham Hiestand was the grandfather of John S. Hiestand. Born November 16, 1771, he moved in 1792 from Salunga, between Lancaster and Mt. Joy, to this area.

*The Hiestands were Swiss Mennonites, and when William Penn visited Switzerland, he personally invited the Hiestands to settle in his province. Jacob and Johannes Hiestand, ancestors, came to America in October 1727. Jacob Hiestand's son Abraham, married Barbara Landing on April 10, 1764. Their son, Abraham, died at the age of thirty-three, one year after his son, Abraham, was born. Thus, Jacob Hiestand's great-grandson was the grandfather of John S. Hiestand.*

Abraham married Ann Fitz of Hellam Township, near Wrightsville. They settled in Heidelberg Township near Menges Mills and were occupied with distilling and farming.

In 1813, Abraham purchased the Beard property in Spring Garden Township, (along the Wrightsville turnpike), afterwards known as the "Hiestand Hotel." *The property was situated in the area now occupied by the McCrory complex. The building was enlarged in 1816 to dimensions of 50 X 80 feet, making it the largest stone house in York County.* He continued farming and distilling and operated the "Hiestand Hotel," a prominent stopping place for wagoners before railroads were built. Abraham conveyed his whiskey by horse-drawn teams to Baltimore and returned with merchandise for his enterprises.

He and Ann Fitz had the following children: John, Abraham F., William F., Baltzer, Elizabeth, Nancy, Susan, and Sarah.

Abraham F. farmed in Springettsbury Township and married Leah Longenecker. They had these children: John, Catherine, Sarah, Christian, Susan, Amanda, Alice, Abraham, Jacob, and William.

William F. married Rebecca Doll and they had these children: Herbert, Annie, Mary, Frank, Maggie, and Burd; Baltzer died at age twenty, unmarried; Elizabeth married Dr. Francis Koch (their one child became the wife of Vincent K. Keesey).

Nancy became the second wife of Dr. Francis Koch. Their children were Dr. Frances A.H.; William, a jeweler; *Edward, a jeweler and a major in the 5<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment in the Civil War;* Catherine who married William Schley; Mary who married Thomas Beet; Henrietta who died, unmarried; Susan who married Dr. Jacob Glatz. Their four children were Keisey; Margaret, wife of D. Wagner Barnitz, and later the wife of Colonel Matthews of Baltimore; *A. Hiestand, who was a member of the State Senate and Adjutant-General of our Pennsylvania state militia;* Thomas, who died young; and Sarah who married John Wilson of Hellam Township.

Abraham Hiestand's first wife died in 1824, and in 1826 he wed Mrs. Susan Myers of Hanover. She died June 23, 1865.

John, oldest son of Abraham and Ann Fitz Hiestand, was born April 1797. In 1822 he married Elizabeth Sultzbach of Hellam Township, and continued farming and distilling on

his father's Heidelberg Township farm until 1830. He then moved to Spring Garden Township and took charge of the "Hiestand Hotel".

A historic banner was presented to the Historical Society of York County by his son, John S. Hiestand. This silken banner was carried in political parades during Van Buren's campaign for the Presidency of the United States.

The children of John and Elizabeth Hiestand were Abraham S., Henry A., Annie, and John S.

Abraham S. was born December 1, 1824, and he married Annie Detweiler of Wrightsville. He died October 10, 1882. They had four children: Sarah, Lillie, Mary, and Joseph D.

Henry H, born May 29, 1826, married Susan Loucks of Spring Garden Township. They had four children: Elizabeth, Harry B., Emma, and Alfred.

Annie was born December 11, 1828, and died July 17, 1882. She married Alfred C.N. Matthews of Baltimore; they had nine children. Six were living in 1907: John W., Annie E., Francine, Tillie, Frank, and Nowland.

Thus it is fair to say that when John married Annie in 1857, they founded the Hiestand dynasty in the new world.

### **Hively Family**

William C. Hively lived all his life in Springettsbury Township. This farmer was born on the family homestead, August 17, 1841. His great grandfather, Jacob Hively, left Pennsylvania and moved to Ohio via horse-drawn wagon.

John George Hively was the only one of the children taken to Ohio who returned to Pennsylvania. A grandson, John, remembers seeing the base of the tree under which the party camped the first night. John George Hively returned to an area in Spring Garden Township, which is now Springettsbury Township. He rented a property for a while, bought a small farm where he lived a short time, and then purchased his homestead of 128 acres. He died (in 1833 at the age of 45) only two years after settling into his new home. John G. married Miss Mary Roth of Lancaster County and they had four children: Samuel; John of Manchester Township; Susan, wife of Daniel Kendig; and a child who died young.

*Samuel Hively* was born in 1837 and lived all his life as a Springettsbury Township farmer. Only 16 when his father died, Samuel managed the homestead and added improvements to the place while acquiring much other real estate. *The organizer of Spring Garden Fire Insurance Company, he was the President until illness caused him to retire. A promoter of Spring Garden Building and Loan Company, Samuel served as its treasurer.* (When he became ill his son, Enos F., succeeded him.) He was a member and officer of the York Lutheran Church, performed services for the poor, and was a trustworthy man. He married Miss Sarah Miller, daughter of John Miller, of Springettsbury Township. They had four children: George, a farmer of Manchester, who died leaving a widow and three children; William C.; Enos F., a farmer of Springettsbury Township; and Jane, who married George Miller of Spring Grove.

William C. Hively attended public schools and worked on the homestead, retiring in 1903. About 1890 he and his brother, Enos, purchased the Diehl Mill, located just outside York. They operated it for custom and commercial work, remodeling it and putting in new roller machinery. As earlier mentioned, *William followed his father as treasurer of the Fire Insurance Company, director of the Building and Loan Company, the Eastern Market House, and stockholder in City National Bank of York and of Guardian Trust Company.* He married Miss Mary Hoke, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Neiman) Hoke. She died January 11, 1904, aged 61 years, nine months, ten days. They had two daughters: Flora, who married David Myers, a machinist of York (they had four children: Albert, Annie, Mary and Raymond); and Katie, wife of Steward Myers. William C. Hively was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and served as a deacon, elder and trustee.

Edwin F. Hively was the son of George S. and Lydia Ann (Strickler) Hively. He was born November 30, 1862. His grandfather was Samuel Hively, a farmer who died at the age of 43. (His widow died four years later.) They had these children: Edwin F.; Bird W., a grocer; Albert, who died in infancy; and Annie J., who married Joseph Almany of Springettsbury Township.

*Edwin F., Sr.* was educated in public schools and learned the mason's trade while employed by W.H. Sipe. After his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman and *in 1892 began building and contracting on his own.* He was very competent; *some of his jobs were: The Norway Steel plant; the York Haven Water and Power Company's plant; the Art Factory; the Morton Manufacturing plant; the York Carriage plant; the New Freedom Wire Cloth Works; the Mt. Wolf Furniture factory; the York Cold Storage Plant; the York Candy Company's plant; the Stone Church in Spring Grove; and the gate lodge at Prospect Hill Cemetery. He built forty to fifty dwellings yearly and employed fifty workers. He was the contractor of lime kilns of York Valley Lime Co. and S.O. Miller, Thomasville.*

In 1893 he married Alice J. Ferree, daughter of Samuel C. Ferree of Hellam Township. They had nine children: George S., a silk weaver, who married Flora Wilt; Erwin C., also a silk weaver; Emma E.; William N., an engineer working for his father; Edwin F.; Florence C.; Dora I.; Charles A.; and Katie M. Edwin, Sr. gave his children educational opportunities and set for them an excellent example. He belonged to the Lutheran Church and his wife belonged to the United Brethren. He was a Democrat, a Mason of Zeredatha Lodge, No. 451; A.O.K. of M.C.; Jr. O.U.A.M., Sikes Council, No. 182; and York Conclave No. 124, I.O.H.

### **Hoffman Family**

Robert Henry Hoffman (born 3-14-1870; died 4-9-1947) lived in the Stony Brook area, where his old homestead still stands on the north side of Stone Ridge Road. His marriage to Elsie Alverta Krout (born 2-1-1879; died 9-13-47) produced eight progeny: Nevin, Charles (Sr.), Clayton, Harry, Mabel and Elsie (the twins), Grace, and Ruth. Nevin, their eldest son, was wounded on the way to an air station in the Argonne Forest, France, during World War I, and died October 4, 1918. His memorial services were held locally at Locust Grove Reformed Church.

Robert's wife, Elsie, was a very excellent cook, always ready to prepare meals for as many folks as dropped in to visit after church services. This despite her badly crippled fingers, the result of years of hard work and the ravages of arthritis. Large dinners and many visitors were for her a way of life, and there was always enough food for all.

While in his late thirties, Robert Hoffman and Elsie bought a home in Baughman Valley, which still stands on Stonewood Road, Springettsbury Township, near the site of the old clay hole, which supplied raw materials for the former, Stony Brook Slate and Brick Company. Their son, Charles (Sr.) (born in the Stony Ridge Road Home October 6, 1900), worked at the brickyard as a young boy.

Charles (Sr.) married Minnie Irene, who gave him two sons: Charles, Jr. and Lester.

The early years of their marriage saw them making and selling homemade ice cream in the Stony Brook area, from an old panel truck featuring the sign: "Hoffman's Homemade Ice Cream."

Their old rig for making the sweet concoction was run by a shaft and pulleys, and driven by an old gas engine, by means of which they turned out a variety of tasty flavors. And for just five cents you truly got a large scoop in your cone.

This delightful partnership was dissolved, however, when Minnie Irene passed away just three days following the birth of Lester, their second child. At that time, their family lived on the Throne Farm, (which is now Stony Brook Heights), and relatives pitched in to help care for the small children.

Until he was age 13 ½, the oldest boy, Charles, attended school, but quit in the sixth grade to work on the farm, and then at age 14 went into the city to work for several years at New York Wire Cloth Co.

A jack of many trades, Charles (Sr.) worked at many jobs after leaving Witmer's school: as a self-employed painter, as a church decorator for Roth Brothers, and ultimately as a farmer on a 64-acre farm, located on what is now Stony Brook Heights and Wilshire Hills.

In 1937 he quit farming and did painting for different contractors until 1965. His adult years brought out the poetry in his soul and he composed numerous rhymes, which covered personal happenings and events over a 70-year time span. Entitled "Lines and Rhymes from the Heart of Charlie Hoffman," his book of poems was printed by an oral history class in 1977-78.

Charles Hoffman, Jr., child of Charles (Sr.) and Minnie, was interviewed for this story, and told of many fond memories of his youth. He can recall with pleasure the trips he made with his parents on their ice cream route, and the delicious free cones, which they would give him as a special treat. Born in 1927 on the Throne farm, near the Witmer farm mentioned in the Witmer Family section, Charles, Jr. recalled the Richfield Service Station located on what is now East Market Street, which was operated by Girardus and Helen Naugle. (Mr. Naugle's tales of interest are elsewhere recorded in the Airport Story of this history.)

Charles, Jr. married Marian Sweigart, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sweigart, and was the proud parents of five children: James, John, Jeffrey, Linda and David.

Now retired, Charles, Jr. and his wife, Marian, still live in this township where six-and-one-half decades of living haven't dulled their enthusiasm for this progressive and vibrant community. Charlie's personal observations and contributions to this work are acknowledged with thanks. He has been, and continues to be, a true asset to our township's history.

### **Holtzinger Family**

*George Holtzinger, a Republican County Commissioner in 1905, was a citizen of Windsor Township. He was born July 2, 1847 in that township on a farm owned by M.B. Spahr of York. A grandson of John and Barbara (Wolf) Holtzinger, of German descent, John was a shoemaker by trade. He lived in the area of Stony Brook, where he died in 1844. His offspring included John, George, Jacob, Daniel, Benjamin, Nancy, Catherine, Elizabeth, Susan, and Mary.*

George Holtzinger, father of George W., was born in York County, learned shoemaking from his father, and also acquired knowledge of lime burning. He spent his later years farming and died at age 64. He first married Elizabeth Heindel and had these children: Lydia, Catherine, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Mary, and Susan. After her death, he married Susannah Stauffer, who died in 1879 at age 60. They had four children: George W., David S., John, and Sarah, who died young.

George W. Holtzinger was educated in area schools and at age 19 earned his teaching certificate. He taught school for three years, learned the carpenters trade, and worked as a carpenter during the summer. He became a cigar manufacturer, having his business in the village of Holtz. His business employed forty workmen and continued until 1902. He went into the mercantile business in about 1895, and when a post office was established at Holtz during the Harrison administration, he served for four years as postmaster with the post office in his store.

After abandoning cigar manufacturing, he farmed and *served as secretary of Western Mutual Fire Insurance Company.*

As a farmer, he owned the family homestead farm of 24 acres, the Sechrist property of 36 acres, and the Slenker farm of 136 acres. These sons of his cultivated the farms: John, Henry, and David. His son, Moses, ran the merchandizing business at Holtz.

*George W. Holtzinger was a director of the Drovers and Mechanics National Bank and president of the Red Lion Canning Company, which was organized in 1905. An active Republican, he was elected in 1876 as jury commissioner, serving for three years.*

In 1869, George W. married Anna E. Keller, daughter of John and Eliza Keller, of Lower Windsor Township. Fourteen children were born of this marriage and five of them died in infancy. The other nine children were: Emma, who married H.A. Kinard, died in 1903, leaving three children (Carrie, Norman, and Paul); John C., who married Ellen Paules and

had three children (Carrie, Mabel, and Charles D); Henry, a water-run gristmill and feedmill operator who married Annie Slenker (they had one child, Grace Irene); Moses, who married Mary E. Smith and had one child (Thomas); David, who married Cora Sechrist and had one child (Stewart); Mary M., who married Irvin Paules and had two children (Sterling and Orië); Cora; Ivan; and Elsie.

*Jacob Holtzinger*, probably the child of John and Barbara (Wolf) Holtzinger, of Stony Brook, owned what was once the Daniel Brubaker farm, on which the former Camp Security was located.

### **Horn Family**

Benjamin Franklin Horn was born on a farm in Springettsbury Township on November 15, 1853, son of George and Mary Ann (Wagner) Horn. His paternal grandfather came from Germany and settled in Windsor Township. A member of United Brethern Church, married Miss Elizabeth Deckman. Their children: Michael; George; John; Henry; Daniel and Peter, twins; Philip; Elizabeth; Mattie (Mrs. Emanuel Stiles); Catherine (Mrs. John Blymyer).

George Horn, was a great reader and became well educated, an expert in figures. He was especially conversant with the Bible. This blacksmith was a member of the United Brethern Church, and was for many years a class leader. In 1857, he bought a farm of 119 ½ acres along the southline of Springettsbury Township. The line of York Township and Springettsbury passed directly through the place, and the oven was so situated that the bread was baked in York Township and eaten in Springettsbury! Mr. Horn, a Republican, died in 1894 after having married three times. With his first wife, a daughter of Jacob Gable, he had two children who died young. With his second wife, Miss Mary Ann Wagner, he had four children: Emeline (Mrs. John Stump) of Windsor Township; Andres W., who lives with his brother, Benjamin F.; Benjamin F.; and Caleb, a blacksmith, like his father. Mrs. Horn died in 1857, and George's third wife was Miss Susan Arnold, daughter of George Arnold of Spring Garden Township. She bore him three children: David, a farmer in Springettsbury; Catherine (Mrs. Samuel Adair) of York Township; and one that died in infancy.

Young Benjamin F. Horn grew up on the farm and was educated in common school. At age nineteen, he took up trade of carpenter, but returned home in 1876 to work for his father. He married and subsequently rented one of his father's farms. He later bought forty-five acres from his father and took up farming, building his residence in 1898. In 1876, this Republican married Sarah J., daughter of Henry Knaub of Springfield Township, and sired two children: Amelia, who married machinist George Emenheiser and had four children: Stewart, Albert, Elizabeth Jane, and one who died in infancy; and Melvin F. The family was highly esteemed.

### **Hursh Family**

David W. Hursh was born in Allen Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1837. His parents were Christian and Susan (Witmer) Hursh. (The name was originally spelled Horst.) Abraham Hursh was the grandfather of David W. and was born near Lititz, Lancaster County. A carpenter by trade, he bought a mill property in Allen Township and was a miller the rest of his life. He married Elizabeth Gensinger. Their children: Frannie,

Christian, Abraham, Henry, Mrs. John Mohler, Mrs. John Myers, Mrs. Greiger, and two who died, unmarried.

Christian Hursh was born in 1808 in Allen Township, and learned the milling trade from his father. He later became a farmer, living along Yellow Breeches Creek. Later he moved to Windsor Township and bought seventy acres in 1845, adding 30 more acres later. He lived there the remainder of his life, dying in 1890, and was buried in the graveyard of Witmer Mennonite Church at Stony Brook. His wife, Susan (Witmer) Hursh, died in 1869 and is also buried there. She was born in 1816, the daughter of David and Magdalena (Kauffman) Witmer. *Her father, David Witmer, had land at Stony Brook, and was a preacher in the Mennonite Church. The Witmer Meeting House Church was built on his property.*

David Hursh was eight years old when his family came to York County, where he earned his income through farming. At age 33, he married, remained on his father's farm for 12 years, and then bought 137 acres in the Windsor Township, living there for 12 more years, until he bought the 40-acre Forry homestead in York Township, near Longstown. There he retired.

David Hursh first married Miss Mary Jane Forry in 1870. The daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Strickler) Forry, she died in 1899 after nearly 30 years of marriage and was buried in the Witmer Meeting House Cemetery. In 1901, he again married (one) Miss Eliza Hammer.

He had these children born to his first marriage: Joseph, who married Miss Margaret Seachrist; David, who married Jemima Keesey; Theodore of Hellam Township, who married Mary Kochenour; John, who married Miss Iva Ferrence of Stony Brook; Annie, wife of Henry Irwin; Martha (Mrs. Albert Young); and Paul.

Mr. Hursh, a Republican, served as a faithful trustee of the Mennonite Church for 15 years.

### **Kauffman Family**

Joseph Kauffman was a highly esteemed resident of what was then Spring Garden Township. He was born and died there, at age 66, his entire life spent in farming. His parents were Joseph and Catherine (Huber) Kauffman, who probably came from Lancaster County.

After his marriage, the elder Joseph settled on a 77-acre farm east of Stony Brook. He died there in middle age and was survived by his wife, who died at age 62. They had four children: Mary, who married Dietrich Steiner of York County; Lydia, who married George Bohn; Catherine, who married Daniel Witmer; and Joseph, who married Susanna Sprenkel (she was born in West Manchester Township). Joseph (the younger) owned a 200-acre farm east of Stony Brook. His family consisted of 8 children: Henry, who died in 1893; Joseph of Windsor Township; Emanuel, deceased young; Isaac of Springettsbury Township; John of York; Israel; Mary, who resided on the old farm; Sarah, who married Michael Smyser of York; Susan, wife of Eli Kendig of Philadelphia; and Martina, who lived in Philadelphia. The mother of these children lived to be 83 years of age. Joseph and Susanna were members of the Mennonite Church.

Susanna's parents were Daniel and Annie (Mumma) Sprenkle, of West Manchester Township. Their children were: Daniel, a farmer, who died at age 70; Mary, who married Daniel Graybill; Susanna, who married Joseph Kauffman; and Nancy, wife of Jacob Balinger.

Daniel Sprenkle died at age 77 years. His wife died at age 53 years. They also were pious members of the Mennonite church.

Joseph Kauffman (son of Joseph Kauffman, married to Susanna Sprenkle) had eleven children. A child, *Isaac, of Springettsbury Township, acquired the farm, which is now the Weist farm and was the location of Camp Security.* Isaac's descendants were: Alan Kauffman; Charles Kauffman, and Joseph Kauffman. (Charles never married.) Alan's children were: Frances (Mrs. Nau); Grace (Mrs. Butler); and Clair Kauffman.

Henry Kauffman was born in 1824 in Spring Garden Township where he remained at home until he married Charlotte Ruby, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Becker) Ruby. He farmed a 120-acre farm, which his father bought for him. He remained there for 24 years. From there he went to West Manchester Township. He bought a 112-acre limestone farm. He farmed until 1886, and he died August 1896. His wife died in February 1886. They are both buried in the Mennonite Cemetery in what is now Springettsbury Township. Their children were: Ephraim, who married Isabella Snyder (he died April, 1989); Anna Mary, who died at age eight years; Milton Ruby (more information on Milton to follow); Cassandra, who married Michael Miller; Henry, who married Sarah Hoke and died June 21, 1893; Elizabeth, who married Samuel Baker of Adams county; Samuel, who married Lizzie Kohr, Harriet, who lived with Susan Ruby of Hellam Township; Sarah, who married Charles H. Stonner; and Emma, who married Abraham Hursh.

Milton Ruby Kauffman was born February 9, 1855, and attended schools in Windsor and West Manchester Township. He married Anna Maria Fahs on February 6, 1881. She was the daughter of William Henry and Anna M.E. (Fisbel) Fahs, and was born February 19, 1858. They lived in York County for twelve years where Milton was a skilled mechanic in the machine business, and then in Dover Township on a 106-acre farm, two miles west of Dover Borough, near Strayer's Church. (Mrs. Kauffman became heir to this property.) Later they purchased another 106 acres, which adjoined their tract. Their children were: (1) Charles F., born November 7, 1884. He attended York Academy and Millersville State Normal School. He began teaching school in 1904, specializing in history and collecting historical relics; (2) Susan Ellen, born October 18, 1886. She attended Linden Hall Seminary at Lititz and the State Normal School at Millersville, Lancaster County; (3) Elmer Frederick, born September 11, 1893. He also loved history and collected relics; and (4) Clara Elizabeth, born March 27, 1897.

Milton Ruby Kauffman was a Republican, an honest person, and a good businessman with fine executive ability.

Mrs. Kauffman, a member of the Moravian Church, was of Swiss origin. Her grandfather was John Fahs, husband of Susan Elizabeth Ilgenfritz. Together they produced seven children: William Henry; Sarah; Capt. John Fahs, a Civil War soldier of Company A, 87<sup>th</sup> P.V.I.; Charles, a physician who married Elizabeth Dean of Virginia; Susan E., who married

Gibson Smith; Mary, who married Martin Wiegel; and Emma Rebecca, who married Stephen Morgan Smith (i.e. S. Morgan Smith).

Mrs. Milton Ruby Kauffman's father was William Henry Fahs. Educated in area common school, he remained at home until he married. Mrs. Kauffman's mother was Anna Maria Fishel, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Brillhart) Fishel of Paradise Township, York County. Her father died in his forty-ninth year.

William and Anna Maria Fahs' children were: William Henry Fahs, who married Katie E. Bender; John Augusta, who died young; Ellen Elizabeth; and Anna Maria, the youngest child.

### **Keasey Family**

John Keasey was born December 18, 1852 in Springettsbury Township. He attended the Miller School in Springettsbury Township until age 18. (One of his teachers was Squire Edward Dietz.) He worked for his stepfather until he married, then rented a farm in Springettsbury Township for three years and another farm for six years in York Township. In 1887 he bought a home from Sebastian Stevens on a twenty-six acre tract. He continued farming his land and also bought the feed store and warehouse of H.S. Myers in York, a business that he conducted along with his farming. John married Miss Mattie Forry of York Township, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Strickler) Forry. They had three sons and two daughters: Jemima, who married David Hursh of Windsor Township; Howard W. of York, who married Miss Florence Hughes; John Franklin of York; Flora May; and Millard Edward. Mrs. Keasey was a member of the Mennonite Church. Mr. Keasey was a Republican, a progressive farmer, and a good businessman.

### **Kohr Family**

William F. Kohr was born in 1861 in Manchester Township, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Roth) Kohr. His great-grandfather, Peter Kohr, was originally from West Manchester Township, but later moved to East Manchester Township. Peter and his wife's children were: Thomas, Michael, Lewis, and two daughters (names unknown).

Lewis, son of Peter, was born in 1801. He was in the milling business with Myers' Mills, in East Manchester Township. He married Miss Westheffer, daughter of Conrad. Their children were: Henry; Daniel; Leah, who died in Decatur, Illinois; and Reuben. His second wife, Rebecca Westheffer, was a sister of his first wife. Their children were: Adam, who married May Fink; Louisa, who married William Nerman; Lewis, a United Brethren preacher; Louise, who married George Sheaffer; Mary, who married Fred Nerman; Jacob, who married Ellen Brown of Macon Co., Illinois; and Zacharias.

Daniel Kohr, born February 27, 1927, in Manchester Township, married Elizabeth Roth, daughter of Christian. Mr. Kohr bought 300 acres of land in Springettsbury Township, dividing it into three farms, and owned two farms in Manchester Township. He devoted his life to agriculture. He and his wife died and were buried in Springettsbury Township. Their children were: Annie Julia, who married Franklin Keller and lives in Springettsbury Township; Lewis; Ellen, who married Zacharias Horn and lives in York; Emma, who

married a Kauffman; Sylvester; Daniel, who married Leah Herbst; Alice, who married E. Sprenkle; Alfred and Jane, who both died in infancy.

William Franklin Kohr was educated in schools of Springettsbury Township. He supplemented his education with a course in the graded schools of York and taught for eleven years in York County schools.

Mr. Kohr married Lillie Sipe, daughter of John Sipe. They lived in Springettsbury Township until 1899, and then moved to Manchester Township. Mr. Kohr inherited one of his father's farms, 108 acres, and made yearly improvements. William and Lillie had these children: Roger; Grace; and Annie, who died at age two years. *A Democrat, he held offices of township clerk and inspector in Springettsbury Township.* William Kohr was a member of the Reformed Church while his wife a member of the United Brethern.

### **Landis Family**

Jacob A. Landis owned a good farm in Springettsbury Township. He was born August 31, 1856, in West Manchester Township, the son of Jacob B. and Susannah (Gross) Landis.

Jacob A.'s grandfather, Christian Landis, came to York County, probably from Lancaster County. He was a farmer, took a great interest in military affairs, belonged to the militia, and had hounds and horses for fox hunting. He had been a member of the Lutheran Church, but later went back to his father's faith, the Mennonite Church. His second wife was Elizabeth Bixler. Their children: William; Jacob B.; Andrew; George; Reuben; Rebecca, who married Emanuel Beck; Elizabeth, who married Andrew Feidler. Previous to being married to Elizabeth Bixler, Christian was married to Miss Strickler, their two children: Michael and Alexander.

Jacob B. Landis was born in West Manchester Township. He was a farmer and a Democrat, had good memory retention, and was well read in English and German. He married Miss Susannah Gross, daughter of Jacob and Rebeccah (Westhafer) Gross, of Conewago Township. She died at age 57. Their children: Christian and George, who both died in childhood; Sarah, who married Adam Spotts; Leander, who died at age sixteen years; Emma, who married Jacob Miller of Springettsbury Township; Jacob A; Aaron, died in childhood; Susan, married Cyrus Musser; Oscar F; Bird; Luther; Edward; Flora, who married Joseph Laucks; Wilson, who died young; Clayton, of Springettsbury Township.

Jacob A. Landis attended public schools. He remained at home until he was 28 years old, when he began farming for himself on a rented farm near Stony Brook, where he farmed for four years before purchasing the family farm. He was a representative of the Walter A. Wood Machine Company and also the J. B. Reist Grain Separator. A Democrat, he served on the school board for six years. He and his family were members of the Mennonite Church. He married Annie E. Forry, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Strickler) Forry. Their children: Chauncy, George, Arthur, William, Daisy, Laura, Harry. Jacob A. Landis was well thought of in Springettsbury Township.

Luther E. Landis, Jacob B.'s son, was born October 6, 1865. *He invented the Farmer's Friend Plow. This invention brought him fame and money.* He lived in West Manchester Township in the

old homestead for eight years, then went to Hellam Township for two years, and then back home for fourteen years. Luther then settled on the Gross farm in Manchester Township before moving to Springettsbury Township, when he died in 1888. A child, Luther E. Landis, was educated in township schools and a course at the York County Normal School. In 1886, he married Mary E. Burg, of Hellam Township, the daughter of C. C. and Mary (Houser) Burg. They located in Springettsbury Township for two years, then for one year in Hellam Township, and then to Springfield Township for eight years. He was interested in growing plants and flowers.

Luther's "Farmer's Friend Plow" was patented November 1903. An ingenious device, it attached in front of the plow beam and could be operated without touching the handles. His children were: Blanche M; Martha M; Alfred H, who died age 12 years; Elmer Luther; Mary Ann; Sarah Rebecca; Florence May; Matilda E; and Philip William.

Luther Landis was a Democrat, a valued member of the Mennonite Church, and a pillar of his community.

Henry S. Landis resided on his twenty-eight-acre farm, one mile south of Stony Brook. He was born July 12, 1840, the son of Emanuel and Catherine (Sheaffer) Landis. His grandfather, John Landis, married a Miss Kaltreider.

His father, Emanuel Landis, was a laborer first but then bought a farm on which he worked until his death at age 58. Their children were: Henry S; Abraham; Levi; Sarah, who married Samuel Hovis; John; David; Adam; and a daughter who died very young.

Henry S. was educated in common schools and became a day helper for a while, then bought the farm on which he lived. He married Lydia B. Lehman, daughter of Bishop Jacob Lehman, in 1864. Their children were: four who died in infancy; Fannie, who married Aaron Kise; Mary, who married Franklin Leader; William; and Clayton.

Mr. Landis was a township supervisor, a school board member for six years, a Mennonite Church member, and a highly esteemed citizen.

### **Lanius Family**

A lady from Caldwell, Missouri, tracing her forebearers through a relative from York, became aware of important facts through help from the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. The lady, Lulu Lanius Harmon, found the old Lanius homestead where her first ancestor settled in 1731. It is in the southeastern corner of Springettsbury Township.

Her first immigrant ancestor was Jacob Lanius, born 1708 and died March 1, 1778. His wife, Juliana, born January 2, 1712, died 1768. She was born in Eisenheim, Germany.

The present residence is a tall, L-shaped farmhouse. It seems that the older section of this structure was built by Mrs. Harmon's immigrant ancestor.

*Jacob Lanius, who was born in Mechenheim, Germany, was a founder of York's First Moravian Church. He married Juliana Kreamer on June 13, 1730. They came to America in 1731. It is believed a cabin first stood on his homesite before the current house was built.*

Jacob's fifth child, Harry A. Lanius, lived in this southeastern area of Springettsbury Township. Henry died in Hallam Township (now Springettsbury Township), September 15, 1808. In 1810, the land was sold out of the Lanius family.

Six other generations are: Johannes, Sr. who moved to North Carolina; Johannes, Jr. who migrated to Illinois; John Wesley, a Methodist preacher in Illinois; James M. Henry; another John Wesley, father of Mrs. Harmon, who settled in Missouri.

A local Lanius family descendant was William, who lived in York with his father. *William formed part of the guard that escorted the Continental Congress on its return to Philadelphia, June 27, 1778.*

Christian, child of Henry and his second wife, Elizabeth Kuenzly, was born at Kreutz Creek, September 16, 1773. He was a wagon maker and resided in York. He was prominent in the movement to introduce water in the borough of York. He married, on September 17, 1797, Anna, daughter of Jacob and Barbara Von Updegraff. Anna was born in York, March 16, 1774. They had eight children: Elizabeth, wife of Michael Smyser; Susan A, wife of Jacob Weiser; Benjamin; Amelia, wife of John Fahnestock; Sarah, wife of Henry Kauffelt; Henry; Magdalen, wife of William D. Himes; Eleanora, wife of E. C. Parkhurst.

Henry Lanius owned the lumber yard at Wrightsville, which was burned by the fire that was set to burn the bridge during the invasion in the Civil War, June 28, 1863.

William Henry Lanius was born November 26, 1843, the son of Henry and Angeline (Miller) Lanius. He grew up in York and was educated in private schools and York County Academy. At the age of seventeen, he entered the employ of his father in the lumber business in York and Wrightsville. On August 25, 1861, *William H. Lanius became a private in Company A, of the 87<sup>th</sup> regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, organized in York, and was shortly promoted to orderly sergeant of Company I. He was next promoted to second lieutenant of his company. He participated in numerous battles of the Civil War. He was promoted to first lieutenant, and then to Captain of Company I. He was commended for his courage in the line of duty. After his three years of service, he was mustered out October 13, 1864. He entered into various businesses. He was one of the charter members of the York County Historical Society.*

*In 1867, he was a charter member of, and became the first Commander of Sedgwick Post No. 37, G.A.R. at York, and was its representative a number of times at State and National encampments. In 1866, at the age of 22 years, he organized the Boys in Blue of York. In that year, General John W. Geary was nominated by the Republican Party for Governor of Pennsylvania. The State Campaign opened at York by a parade of the Boys in Blue from Harrisburg, Carlisle, Lancaster, Reading and York. After the parade, a public meeting was held in Baumgardner's woods, a short distance southeast of the city. Captain Lanius presided over the meeting. Four thousand persons were at a table in the form of a hollow square. It was the largest political meeting ever held in York County to that time.*

Members of the Lanius family have served in many public offices. Captain Lanius died January 21, 1913 and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

### **McKinley Family**

Mr. Nelson D. McKinley lives at the eastern edge of Springettsbury Township. In 1990, he was 85 years old. His father, Emory, farmed for the half share. The Lower Glades Road at Trout Run Road was called Vinegar Ferry Road. The area of his residence when he lived as a child was called Powder Mill Hill because powder millers operated there. The Powder Mill ran with a water wheel. The area where the stream enters into Codorus Creek was called "Cummons". There was a wire bridge across the creek for inspectors to use to examine oil pipelines. The road, Trout Run, lead to Codorus Furnace.

Along the Codorus Creek, there were locks, where mules pulled the boats on into York. The end comes out around the area of San Carlos.

His father, Emory (Mac), ran a saw mill on Lower Glades Road, near our township's sewer plant area. In years 1935 – 1940, it was Scholl property.

Nelson McKinley remembers a highlight for him and other children was the store in the Glades area. When Nelson was eight years old, 1913, "Zack" Spangler operated this store. He sold penny candy, which the kids loved.

### **Sheaffer Family**

Zachariah Sheaffer was born in Springettsbury Township at "the Glades" on January 26, 1858, the child of John M. and Rebecca (Spangler) Sheaffer. John M. Sheaffer was from Strasburg, Lancaster County, born May 1832. Early in life, John was a shoemaker but went into the cattle business in Springettsbury Township, the first of various pursuits. Later in life, he lived on Poplar Street. His first wife, Rebecca Spangler, was a daughter of Zacharian Spangler. She died when their son, Zachariah, was a small child. Her other four children, Charlie, Benjamin, Rebecca, and Leah, died young and are buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Springettsbury Township.

John M. Sheaffer's second marriage was to Miss Sarah Neff. Five children were born of this marriage: Daniel of York, employed at Weaver Organ Factory; Henry, employed at York Machine Company; Amos of York, employed at H. L. Neuman; Mary, who married Mr. Warner; and Alice.

Zachariah was educated in public schools and worked on a farm. At age twenty, he began to learn his carpenters trade with David Lebermecht. He first worked in the Carpenter Department of Pennsylvania Railroad then went into mercantile business in Yorkanna, where he established a cigar store and manufactured "Crystal Palace" cigars. Located on the southeast corner of Center Square, his establishment had a pool and billiard parlor. He was a Democrat and belonged to Bynona Lodge, No. 999, (Oddfellows), which met on East Prospect Street.

He married in June 1878, to Miss Leah Leiphart, daughter of Jacob Leiphart, of Lower Windsor Township. Their children were: Harry E, George M, Flora E, and Lillie M. They all resided at "Hotel York".

Harry E. Sheaffer, the eldest son, was in business with his father. He was married March 19, 1898, to Miss Edna Shearer, daughter of William Shearer, of York. They had two children: Ethel May, and an infant daughter.

### **Shermeyer Family**

Sarah Agnes Gingerich married John Edward ("Ed") Shermeyer. Their parents were Samuel and Julian (Meyer) Gingerich, and John Henry and Rebecca (Ness) Shermeyer.

The family home on the Glades Road about a quarter mile east of Mt. Zion Road was where Sarah Agnes (Gingerich) Shermeyer died September 18, 1918, her 57<sup>th</sup> birthday. *Three of her sons served in World War I: Samuel Edward, Stewart Franklin, and Albert Elroy.*

John Edward Shermeyer ("Ed") died March 5, 1938, in their family house. The children of Sarah and Ed were: Flora May, born December 18, 1879; Milton Henry, born March 11, 1881; Dora Ellen, born July 11, 1882; Harry Alvin, born December 19, 1883; Mable Grace, born September 26, 1885; infant child, born February 22, 1887; Bessie Alice, born May 17, 1888; Fannie Arabella, born June 9, 1890; Samuel Edward, born April 14, 1893; Stewart Franklin, born November 8, 1895; Albert Elroy, born May 18, 1897; infant child, born July 29, 1898; Julia Rebecca, born August 20, 1899; infant child, born February 28, 1901; infant child, born September 8, 1902; infant child, born March 10, 1904; stillborn infant son, born May 28, 1907.

Julia Rebecca Shermeyer married James William Krebs. They had seven children. Their oldest is James Edward Krebs, born January 18, 1920, in the homestead. His parents moved to Saginaw when he was about three months old. There he married Lucille Frey, who related this history to us for this publication.

Fannie Arabella married Arthur Lehman. Two of their children are: Stella, who married Ralph Prowell (their daughter, Gladys, married Preston P. Kerr); and Kenneth Lehman, who with his wife and daughter performed as a musical group called "Green Valley Ramblers".

### **Sipe Family**

Michael S. Sipe, a carpenter in Pleasureville, was born September 8, 1849, in Pleasureville, the son of George and Mary (Smeltzer) Sipe. His grandfather, Jacob S. Sipe, was a laborer. He married Elizabeth Knaub; their children were George, Michael, Catherine, Matthew, Eliza, Sarah, and Mary.

George Sipe was born in Spring Garden Township, and early in life he was a shoemaker, later a carpenter. He died in 1900 at age 61. He was a Republican; a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. George and Mary Sipe's children were: John, who lived in Windsor Park, a carpenter; Michael S; Martin, a carpenter in Windsor Park; Albert, died age six years.

Michael S. Sipe followed the carpenter trade, but he was a natural mechanic, doing fine work at the tinners of gunsmith bench. Also, he did clock and watch repairing. He was a Republican and fraternally a member with the Mystic Chain.

Michael S. Sipe married Catherine Kauffman on June 21, 1871. She was the daughter of Daniel Kauffman. They had these children: Alvin Edwin, a cigar maker by trade and postmaster at Springet, he married Mary E. Peters and had two children, Nettie and a deceased child; Charles Aaron, a cigar maker, married Miss Nannie Spangler, had two children, Navin (deceased) and Arthur; and William Martin, a cigar maker, he married Miss Annie Williams, had two children, Eva and one deceased.

Michael S. Sipe owned a farm in Springettsbury Township and three properties in Pleasureville. He stood high in the esteem of people of Springettsbury Township, where his family attended the Lutheran Church.

### **Snyder Family**

Born Christian Schneider on July 16, 1817, in Wurttemberg, Germany, this founder of the "Snyder" Fraunchauff in Springettsbury Township Americanized the spelling of his last name when he came to this country. He embarked for America from Bremen, Germany, on the sailing brig "Appollo" on June 21, 1837, arriving some 6 ½ weeks later at the harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Then, pushing inland to "Penns Woods", Christian "Snyder" settled in the Glades area of Springettsbury Manor, establishing his family homestead on what is now known as Druck Valley Road.

Within 27 months (by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1839) he married Maria Magdalena Blausser, who was about two years his junior (she was born 3-25-1819 and died at 79 years of age on 1-12-1898). Their union produced ten offspring: John, Malinda, Elizabeth, Albert, Julian, Jacob, Charles, Frederich, Franklin and Emma...all born over a 22 year span from Oct. 10, 1840 through August 7, 1862. Two children (sons Jacob and Frederich) died in childhood.

Christian and Maria (later Americanized to "Mary") acquired numerous tracts of land. Mary's father, Nicholas Blausser, named Christian in his will, dated April 9, 1846. That document made Christian and Mary quite rich in land, as they acquired five tracts of valuable land from the Blausser estate over a 16-year period as an inheritance. They purchased a sixth tract of land from Jacob Seiple on April 2, 1880; other land was bought from Charles Diehl and later sold to Sam and William Stevens.

When Christian Snyder died in this township on November 7, 1896, he left a sizable estate for his executor, John S. Snyder, to administer.

John S. Snyder (born 10-14-1840; died 5-15-1921) was Christian's eldest son. He chose as his bride the former Amanda Wasser, and they produced nine children. Their names were: Augustus, Sarah, Katie, Lillie, Maggie, William, Harry, Nettie, and Charles.

Their eldest son, Augustus, married Mary Jane Dehoff, and they in turn produced eight offspring: Kurvin, Carrie, Florence, Elmer, and set of twins (Luther and Arthur), Harvey and Ervin.

Their second son, Elmer, married Helen Shearer, and their son, Jeffrey, married Elizabeth Hannum.

John S. Snyder's farmhouse was built in 1828 on the Deininger Road, but he didn't buy and move into it until 1877. His son, Elmer, subsequently acquired the property in 1902, and Elmer's son, Jeffrey, obtained the deed to the place in 1952.

John S.'s sixth child, William Snyder, also acquired a farmhouse in this township. Built in 1815, the sturdy structure stands on the east side of Mt. Zion road; behind the produce stand owned by the late Mrs. Arvin. Jeffery Snyder now owns this farm property also.

Other descendants of this hardworking German emigrant from Wurtenburg still live in Springettsbury as well as in adjacent townships of York County.

This son, Albert W. Snyder (born 1-13-1848; died 11-1-1902) married Amanda Malehorn (born 5-19-1859; died 10-22-1938). They were parents of twelve children, all born in the 25-year span between October 14, 1874 and December 5, 1897. (The first and eleventh child, both sons, died before attaining one year of age.) Their children were named: William Edward, Charles Augustus, Jacob Franklin, Flora May, George Alvin, Urgie Mable, Rudolph Albert, Sarah Alverta, Irving Christian, Martin Luther and Clay Jewels.

Any detailed genealogy of each child's family tree would make this centennial history bulge at its seams, and that is not the purpose of this work. But since we do hope to show a solid cross-section of the founding families who formed the staunch bulwark of our township's very beginnings, we have traced the lineage of some of Christian Snyder's offspring. George Alvin Snyder is one of these.

The fifth child of Christian's second son, Albert, George Alvin was born August 12, 1884 and died April 9, 1970. In the early 1900's, George married Ida Priscilla Beck, and lived first on the Houser farm, then later on the Abram Heistand Throne farm (now the Penn Oaks development).

Their son, Albert George Snyder (born 2-21-1904; died 12-11-1989) farmed in the early 1940's for the Alan Kauffman Family on the farm where Camp Security had once been located during the Revolutionary War days.

Albert and his wife, the former Irene Trimmer, had nine children, seven of whom were still living when this publication went to press. (One, in particular, is well known to your writer, since it is her face I see whenever I look into a mirror. None other than yours truly, Rose Hulshart.)

### **Spengler Family**

*The local "Spangler" family tree had its roots in Germany, where the original spelling of the family name was "Spengler".*

We can trace these roots back to a George Spengler (1150 – 1190 A.D.) of Wurtzburg, Bavaria, Germany. And yet eight generations later, to still another George Spengler (1480 – 1529 A.D.) whose brother was coadjutor (an assistant, especially to a bishop) to the founder of the Protestant movement, Germany's Martin Luther. Hans Spengler was numbered among the 12<sup>th</sup> generations of Spenglers, when one dates back to the George of Wurtzburg. There are records of Hans dated in the 1580's, and of his son Jacob, dated 1625, citing that they left their fatherland to become citizens of Switzerland. The ancient Spengler home in Weiler, Baden, Southwest Germany, still remains. A resident of our locality recently visited there and found a Spengler still living in it.

War in Germany during the 15 years from 1674 to 1689 caused others of the Spengler family to flee to Switzerland, where their relatives awaited them; or on to Holland. Those who escaped to Switzerland were destined to meet William Penn during his travels there, and found themselves being offered land in Pennsylvania by Penn, himself.

Casper Spengler (born 1684; died 1760) and his wife, the former Judith Zeigler (born 1702; died 1760), sailed from Switzerland to America on the good ship "William and Sarah" with their three sons, (Jonas, 15; Bernhard, 11; Rudolph, 8) and one daughter (Maria, 2).

Upon arriving in the new world, the Spenglers first lived in Philadelphia and in Berks County, Pennsylvania. But within two years they migrated to their ultimate destination in the East York Area of Springettsbury Township, on land near where Heistand school now stands. Then Hellam Township, it later became Spring Garden, and finally split from Spring Garden to become Springettsbury Township in 1891.

Casper Spengler's plantation in this locale contained 715 acres and featured a fine fresh water spring, which he shared with his Indian neighbors.

Later, Casper divided his plantation, giving 362.5 acres (one half) to his son Bernhard, about 1735. Located on both sides of what was to become East Market St., in Springettsbury Twp., this was indeed prime real estate. It encompassed a private cemetery (near East Market and Vernon Sts.) where family members (father, mother, and sons) were ultimately interred. Having lost two sons in Germany, Casper and Judith Spengler were gratified to fare much better in America, where they had two other children (Judith and Philip Casper) born in their hand-built log cabin in this township. Here Casper quickly learned that he could get ahead faster by sharing and being friendly with his Indian neighbors. After clearing the land, he allowed the Redskins to farm Indian corn on his plantation.

Spengler's sons, Jonas and Rudolph, acquired land in the Spring Grove area, which they farmed in partnership. Both married and had children: Jonas, eight, and Rudolph, five. Meanwhile, Bernhard remained on the original 362½ acres of his father's plantation, freely given over to his ownership. Baltzer, George and Henry Spengler, brothers of Casper, also came into this area from the old world, and also continued to spell their last name "Spengler".

However, starting with Casper's son, Jonas (1741 – 1821), the name was Americanized to "Spangler", and Spanglers from his family started moving into the Mt. Zion area they called "Happy Hollow" and into the Deininger Road area known as "Schmalsteche".

Thus, many of Casper's descendants still live in Springettsbury Township, from the lineage of his son, Jonas, and are known as Spangler rather than Spengler. For example, Mearle Spangler is of the sixth generation of Jonas' family, who traces his lineage back to Casper in this fashion:

Casper 1684-1760; Bernhard 1719-1804; Jonas 1744-1821; John 1777-1880; William 1809-1890; John 1830-1922; Reuben 1867-1932; Harry 1888-1955; and Mearle 1915-still living; Kenneth 1937-1937.

Mearle married Myrtle Adams and lives in our township. Their only child, Kenneth Eugene, died very young and ended 24 generations for this particular Spengler line. Mearle is one of seven children of Harry Spangler.

Warren Harding Spangler also traces the first five generations of his lineage exactly as Mearle does, then varies as follows: Jacob H. 1853-1940; Charles Franklin 1884-1954; Warren Harding 1924-still living. Warren's father, Charles, married Gertie May Schriver, and proceeded to produce 14 children within two decades (1904-1934): Curvin Edgar, Robert Raymond, Catherine Pauline, Florence Marie, George Franklin, Grace May, John Henry, Elizabeth May, Harry, Warren Harding, Stella Louise, Geraldine Ree, Evelyn Loraine, and Delores Roselle.

Elizabeth Mary Spangler married Victor Hamme and still resides in this township, as do her brothers George F. and Warren H. Spangler, and sister Geraldine, who married Donald Metzel. Warren Spangler provided this committee a copy of an 1876 map of this area, made when it was still Spring Garden Township. It clearly shows numerous Spangler households populating the area now known as Springettsbury Township.

Still another branch of the Spangler tree shows a lineage of: Casper, Bernhard, Jonas, John, William, and Zacharias T.

Zacharias T., nicknamed "Zach", was born Nov. 23, 1848, to William and Elizabeth (Heckert) Spangler. His paternal grandparents were John and Christina Spangler. Grandpa John was born in York County, engaged in agriculture, and raised eight children: Samuel, William, John, Charles, Elizabeth, Catherine, Leah, and Polly.

Zach's father was a mason by trade. Prominent in church work, William was active in securing funds to erect Mt. Zion Church in Springettsbury Township, and held a church office for years. While he was of the Reformed faith, his wife Elizabeth was Lutheran. Prior to his death in 1891, they had these nine children: John, of Red Lion; William, a laborer of this township; Emanuel, a local trucker; Zacharias T; Philip H, an East York merchant; Alexander, a Springettsbury farmer; Jacob H, also a local farmer; Albert, an East York resident and Pennsylvania railroad trackman; Louisa (Lucy) who married Alexander Heidlebaugh of this township; and Amanda, who married Ulrich Shellenberger, also of Springettsbury Township.

“Zach” was educated in area schools. At age 24 he became a railroad trackman for the ensuing seven years. Next he became foreman at Littlestown, but was forced to resign due to poor health.

*Still, he established a mercantile business at Glades (Detrop) in Springettsbury Township, where he operated a general store. In addition, Zach Spangler also became postmaster of the “Detrop” post office, the establishment of which he introduced and the name of which he provided. Zach was tax collector twice and clerk for three years. In 1871, he married Amanda Welty, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Smeltzer) Welty, who was born in this township. They had these four children: Annie Kate, who married Albert Lehman and had one child, Arthur E; Allen Clay; and two children who died quite young.*

Zacharias T. (Zach) Spangler was a solid and popular citizen of Springettsbury Township and this same statement can be made for all the branches of the Spengler/Spangler family tree which rooted in the fertile soil of Springettsbury Township.

### **Throne Family**

George Throne was born November 11, 1853, and died October 7, 1885. He was educated in Stony Brook schools, where he taught for four terms. He was the son of Samuel and Harriet (Green) Throne. Samuel purchased 191 acres of land in Springettsbury Township. He built a brick residence. He died of tetanus caused by an accident to one of his fingers. He had nine children: Rebecca, Israel, Catherine, Joseph, Amos, Samuel, George W., Lydia, and John. After his death, his widow built a frame house in which she lived.

George W. Throne married Annie E. Hiestand on October 24, 1872. She was the daughter of Abraham and Leah (Longenecker) Hiestand. Seven children were born to them: Abram H; Samuel E; Catherine; Byrd H, who married Carrie Reeser; Amos, who married Martha White; Susan; and Georgiana, who resided with her aunts, the Misses Hiestand.

The children of George W. Throne and Annie E. Hiestand Throne were accomplished citizens. Abraham H. was first a teacher and then a mechanical engineer who lived in Plainfield, N. J. He attended Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, and then took a four-year course in mechanical engineering, graduating from Penn State in 1900 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Samuel, a molder by trade, attended York Schools and York County Academy; Samuel married Iva Marsh. Their daughter Charlotte married Irvin Hively; their daughter Mary married Raymond Bartholomew. Both are widows. Catherine was educated in home schools and York County Academy. Byrd was educated in home schools and York County Academy, and taught school for a time. He married Carrie Reeser, farmed the homestead, and ran a thresher; Amos, educated in home schools and York County Academy, married Martha White and had one son, George; Susan graduated from York College; Georgiana attended home schools, York Collegiate Institute, and was a founding member of Stony Brook Evangelical Church.

The Abram Heistand Throne property was located on Locust Grove Road, at Stony Brook, on the north side of the creek. William Heistand owned this property and A. Heistand Throne bought it from William in the 1920's.

The original property featured a mill and two houses: a large brick home and a log house. A few years ago, the owners sold the property when a housing project was anticipated. The buildings were disassembled with only a shell remaining. *The area where Lower Penn Oaks is now built was once a farm owned by A. Heistand Throne's parents.*

Mrs. Throne's father (Abraham Hiestand) spent his whole life in the township where he was a carpenter. (His father would have preferred that he farmed exclusively.) Her father died in 1887 and her mother in 1899 at the age of 91. Both were members of the Mennonite church. Abraham and Leah Hiestand had the following children: John of York; Catherine and Sarah, who resided together; Christopher, a farmer in Springfield, Ohio; Abraham of Springfield, Ohio; William of Springettsbury Township; Susan and Amanda, who resided with their sisters; Jacob of Stony Brook; Annie, widow of George W. Throne; and the youngest, Alice, who married John Roreback of Hanover.

The Hiestand and the Throne families were prominent and honorable in business, and staunch supporters of education and religion.

### **Waser Family**

"Waser" in the German-Swiss dialect, means "short, chopped grass" as in a newly cut field of wheat or hay. Its common usage is revealed in a song sung near the Swiss border, "Auf Das Waser", about children playing in a field of freshly cut hay. Thus, while some members whose roots sprang from the Waser Family do add a second "S" (Wasser), this is incorrect, as it changes the name's meaning to the German name for "water", and water is not the correct translation for "Waser".

John Jacob Waser, born Dec. 15, 1791 in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, was the first Waser to come to this area of York County. He married Mary Anna Gaebel, by whom he had three children in Germany, and then two more after moving to America. John Gaebel, Mary, Barbara, Eli, and Amanda were all born over a 17-year span from 1828 through 1845. Although John Jacob Waser moved to that portion of Spring Garden Township, which in 1891 became Springettsbury Township, two of his brothers settled in New York and the last of four in the Virginias.

Although both John Jacob and his wife were German born (she on Oct. 30, 1800), both ended their mortal days here and were buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery (he on April 8, 1856; she on Aug. 6, 1883).

Information about three of John Jacob Waser's five children, and their genealogy, has been obtained from "Who's Who - Relatively", a book written by Grace Schaap, great-granddaughter of that worthy, who resides in Rochester, New York.

John Gaebel Waser (1828- 1906) had three wives: Amanda Fahringer, Francis Ann Forry, and Elizabeth Kinard. He fathered 12 children: John F, Moses F, Stella, Jacob, Elizabeth, Sarah Jane, Amanda May, Anna Mary, Aaron, Clara Rebecca, Amos and David. By the time he was laid to rest at Hernley cemetery at Manheim, Lancaster County, John Gaebel had fathered six sons, which assured the continuation of his line. Many of his children continued to reside in Springettsbury Township, although some moved into Lancaster County,

Pennsylvania, to live. John G.'s second son, Moses, married Malinda (maiden name unknown) and sired two offspring, a daughter (Mable, who married John Fried) and a son (Irvin, who married Daisy (maiden name unknown)).

*Moses Waser operated a grinding mill and coal yard at Stony Brook, where he first used a gasoline powered engine and later was one of the first in this area to utilize electricity to grind grain at his mill. His son-in-law (John Fried) also of this township was employed at the mill.*

Stella, John G.'s third daughter, married George Miller and lived in the Waser Homestead at Stony Brook, where they operated the family's milling business. It was quite appropriate to have a "Miller" (George) to run the mill.

John G.'s 8<sup>th</sup> child, Aaron Kinard Waser (1875 – 1933) married Carrie Titus, and lived in Roundtown, York County. Their four children were Ruth, Grace, Fred and Esther. Children of both Fred and Ruth live and are currently active in community affairs in Springettsbury Township.

Clara Rebecca, John G.'s 9<sup>th</sup> child, married Christian W. Harry of Lancaster County. It was their daughter, as aforementioned, who wrote the Waser genealogy.

Amos, 10<sup>th</sup> child of John G., was a minister in Lancaster County. He wed Helen Weller and their son, Donald, is a minister in Mt. Joy.

Eli Waser, 4<sup>th</sup> child of John Jacob (1842 – 1916), married Jane Spangler (1844 – 1932). She was of the Spangler family of this township about whom a previous article appears in this publication. Both Eli and Jane are interred in Mt. Zion Cemetery, but their children, Charles and Alice, continued to add branches to the family tree.

Charles Waser married Alice Keller on Oct. 2, 1892 and began housekeeping at 1032 E. Market Street, York. Their five children were: Harry, Nathaniel Charles, Franklin Luther, Bertha Jane, and Kirven...all born in the 13 year span between 1893 and 1906. (Bertha Jane married Charlie Schaefer.)

Nathaniel's son, Larry, an accomplished connoisseur of wines, operated the Wine Shop at the Stony Brook Shopping Center. This was appropriate since that property had once belonged to Moses Waser during his lifetime. Franklin Luther Waser's son, Richard, is a retired York City Policeman now residing in Springettsbury Township.

Eli and Jane's second child, Alice, married Moses Byron Heiland, and the children born of that union were: Cora May, Martin Byron, Barbara Jane, Walter Elias, and John Mervin; all in the six year interval from 1884 to 1890. These children also married into local township families. Martin Byron Waser, second child of Eli and Jane, taught school at Springetts, while their fourth child was a laborer in Springettsbury Township.

Amanda Waser, 5<sup>th</sup> child of John Jacob and Mary Anna, married John Snyder of this township. For more information about their genealogy, please see the Snyder Family section in this chapter.

## Witmer Family

David S. Witmer, a successful farmer, was born June 29, 1845, on the Witmer farm in what was then Spring Garden Township and is now Springettsbury Township. David Witmer, the grandfather of David S. Witmer, had about 90 acres near Stone Ridge Road. He was a Mennonite preacher who built the first Mennonite church in this area. This building no longer exists. Grandfather Witmer's wife was Magdalena (Kauffman) married in Lancaster. These two were the parents of seven children: John, married Miss Lefevre; Catherine, Mrs. David Forry; Lydia, Mrs. David Sprenkle; Annie, Mrs. Samuel Roth; David, a Mennonite preacher, married Miss Nancy Kauffman; Elias, mentioned below; Susan, Mrs. Christian Hursch.

Elias Witmer was born on the Witmer homestead February 4, 1814, where he lived until 1858. He then bought the place where his son lives, sixty-four acres on the road from Locust Grove to Stony Brook, between Locust Grove and Old Orchard Road, which his son later owned and farmed. Previous owners were George Holtzinger, Harry Strickler, Zachariah Kendig, and then Elias Witmer. The house was log and stone, but Elias Witmer added another story of frame. The barn was built in 1843 by Harry Strickler. *Elias was a Democrat and served on the school board and as a township supervisor.* In 1840, he married Miss Annie Strickler, the daughter of Ulrich and Mary (Shellenberger) Strickler, whose grandfather John Strickler came here from Switzerland. They died on the farm (he in 1873 at age 59 years, 8 months, 6 days, and she on October 27, 1891, at age 68 years, 1 month, 12 days). They had the following children: Sarah, who died unmarried August 8, 1901, aged 60; David (information follows); John A, a soldier in the regular army for three years and a millwright and bridge-builder, who married Miss Ellen Amshbaucher and died in Lancaster, where he had a hotel, on August 31, 1894 at age 46; Edward, proprietor of "Spring Garden Hotel" in East York, who married Ellen Winemiller; Ulrich, who died at age 23; Henry, who died in childhood; Mary, who married Jacob Landis of Springettsbury Township; Clara, who married William Markley; Agnes, who died in childhood; Allen; Amanda, who married Ellsworth Kauffman and died on August 8, 1888, aged 23; Elias, who died in infancy; and Joseph, who lived with his brother, David.

David S. Witmer was thirteen years old when he moved to the homestead with his father, Elias Witmer. He attended school from the age of five in the old Witmer schoolhouse located near Stonewood Park, south of Old Orchard Road. John Throne taught there for a term of four months each year. From the age of thirteen, Mr. Witmer attended Locust Grove School, being taught by D. P. Brown. Then he went to York Normal School, taught by S. B. Heiges and S. G. Boyd. He became a teacher at Tyson School in Windsor Township and also taught in Windsorville and Spring Garden Township. He worked on his father's farm and was a salesman for Stauffer Cracker Company. He also was a salesman for Osborn Reaper Company. In 1883, he cared for his parents' farm and bought it when his mother died. *He was married to Miss Elizabeth Bull in York by the same clergyman who married his parents, Rev. A. H. Lochman. Miss Bull was the daughter of Isaac Bull and granddaughter of Thomas Bull of England.* They had these children: Albert Vincent, who married Miss Florence E. Kinard; Edward H, who married Katie V. Poff; Eli W, who married Miss Ida J. Wanbaugh; and Annie C, unmarried.

David S. and Elizabeth Witmer were members of the Mennonite church. He was a Democrat and active in politics. *He was Register of Wills from 1893 to 1895, served on the school board, and served as census enumerator for Windsor Township in 1900, the only Democratic appointee to that position in York County.* Mr. Witmer was held in highest esteem in his community.

The present structure on his former property consists of a small white house. Descendants (the Witmers) owned it and also a large brick homestead located on a part of the Witmer farm, at the corner of Old Orchard and Locust Grove Roads. David S. Witmer's descendant, John A. Witmer, first bought the brick homestead from David Witmer.

Later John A. Witmer built the frame house at the corner of Old Orchard and Locust Grove Roads. A schoolhouse, named Stony Brook, was on this land. It was torn down and the current residence was built about 1920 from much good timber saved from a business in the area.

A flower garden, created by the current owner, is located in the triangle of this area. It contains flowers from descendants of this founding family and others: Landis, Sprenkle, etc. It is called "My Friendship Garden" by the current owner, Rose Hulshart.