

## The Old Heffner Homestead (The Old Stand)



Two views of The Old Heffner Homestead, referred to as *'the Old stand'* in George H. Heffner's 1886 Book *'Family Records of the Descendants of Henry Hæffner, 1754-1886'* published in Kutztown, Pa. by Journal Steam Job Print. These photos courtesy of Mrs. Elaine Heller, current owner of the property. The main portion of the house is still in existence and is located several hundred feet off Dryville Road about a mile and a half from Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church. A building that was once part of the original property is still standing and is located just a few yards off the highway. This building is obvious by its log construction. The property is presently on the auction block. In the photo to the left above, *the lean-to extension on the house is reputed to have been the first school room in Richmond Township, Berks County.*

11/25/1997

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## First Generation

1. Heinrich Häfner born 10-Sep-1644, Eberstadt, Germany, (son of No Forebear, I.) married Ursula Gramlich, born Eberstadt, Germany. Heinrich died 03-Apr-1720. The birthdate of Heinrich is calculated backward 75 years, 29 weeks and 4 days from his death on April 3, 1720. (This information from Dr. Bruce's notes).

Children:

+ 2. i Andraes Häfner born 1695.

+ 3. ii Johann Georg Häfner born 17-Oct-1698.

## Second Generation

2. Andraes Häfner born 1695, Eberstadt, Germany, married Arolonia Steinbrenner. Arolonia: Arolonia is the daughter of Matthaus Kelchner and Maria Catharina \_\_\_\_.

Children:

+ 4. i Heinrich Heffner born 17-Feb-1722.

3. Johann Georg Häfner born 17-Oct-1698, Eberstadt, Germany, married (1) Orstel \_\_\_\_\_, born 1698, Germany, married (2) 24-Feb-1756, in Christ (Mertz) Luth. Chrch, Dryville, Pa, Johanna Barrall, born Wurtemberg, Germany. Johann died 19-Jun-1775, Reading, Berks County, Pa., buried Mertz Church Cem., Dryville, Pa. Johan arrived in America aboard the galley 'Hope of London' with ship's master Daniel Reid in command. The Hope departed Rotterdam on Sunday May 6, 1733 and arrived in America on Tuesday August 28, 1733 after a journey across the Atlantic that consumed 115 days. It is not known on what date Johan and Orstel left Eberstadt with their young three year old son Frederick for their journey down the Rhine to Rotterdam. It should be noted that their second child, a son they named Johan Georg, was born just 2 days before they departed Rotterdam. That the children survived the rigors of the journey at all is miraculous considering the travel conditions that prevailed at the time (see the account of Johannes Naas, page \_\_\_\_). The Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, volume 17 lists Johan as Hans Georg Höffna in one instance, Hans Jurick Hofnar in another and his wife Orstel as Orstel Höffnar. Rupps Manual of 30,000 names lists him as Hans Georg Höffner. In neither case are their children listed. Strassburger and Hinke's 'Pennsylvania German Pioneers', Volume I, page 116 list the names as Hans Jurick Hofnar, age 22 and Orstel Hoffnar, age 29. The Courthouse list 31B, page 119, same Volume, lists his name as Hanns Jerg Höffner. List 31C, those taking the oath to the Government, notes his name as being Hanns Jerg Höffner. Strassburger and Hinke's 'Pennsylvania German Pioneers, Signature Volume', page 108, the Courthouse list 31B shows his signature. The assumption can probably be made that he had some education as he did not have to use the customary 'X' as his mark when his signature was required. A quote from a transcription of Courthouse records that appears on page 119 of Strassburger and Hinke's 'Pennsylvania German Pioneers', Volume I reads: "At the Courthouse aforesaid, August 28th, 1733. Eighty four Palatines, who with their families, making in all Two hundred & twenty six persons, were imported here in the Ship Hope, of London, Daniel Reid, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes, as by Clearance thence, were qualified as before" From the Minutes of the Provincial Council, printed in 'Colonial Records', Vol, III, p. 517." It should be noted that the actual count of persons named and listed by Strassburger and Hinke is 231. Rupp's manual of 'Thirty thousand names of Immigrants in Pennsylvania' notes "Males eighty-three above sixteen, females eighty-one; males and female two hundred and twenty-five above sixteen - in all 389. It is believed that he first settled in Germantown with his family as a tenant or common laborer. In the early 1740's, he moved his family to Rockland Township, Berks County and obtained patents on the northern slope of the South Mountain, about one mile west of what is now known as Dryville, or about 14 miles northeast of Reading. George Heffner's 1886 history notes that Johan was married a second time at Mertz's Church on February 2, 1756. A note in Evelyn Margaret Butler says that all four sons of Johann served in the Revolutionary War.

Children by Orstel \_\_\_\_\_:

+ 5. i Frederick Häfner born 15-Jun-1730.

+ 6. ii Johan Georg Häfner, II. born 04-May-1733.

+ 7. iii Jacob Heffner born 11-Nov-1736.

+ 8. iv Anthony Häfner born 10-Apr-1742.



## Third Generation

4. Heinrich Heffner born 17-Feb-1722, Eberstadt, Germany, married 28-Nov-1752, in Moselem Church, Maria Eva Kelchner, born 1730, Berks County, Pa. Heinrich died after 1784, Virginville, PA. Heinrich Häffner came to America on the ship 'Patience', commanded by Captain Hugh Steel, from the Palatinate and Grand Duchy of Württemberg with 270 passengers on board. They departed Rotterdam, last from Cowes, and landed at the port of Philadelphia on September 19, 1749. He took the oath of allegiance at the County Court House with his signature on record. Heinrich was the son of Andreas Häfner, from Eberstadt a town located about 30 miles east northeast of Heidelberg on the highway between Büchen and Adelsheim, Germany. He was probably a weaver as he reserved "den Webstuhl und das Geschirr dazu" in an agreement made with his son Heinrich on April 13, 1784. Heinrich married Maria Eva Kelchner, daughter of Matthais Kelchner and his wife, on November 28, 1752. He established himself about one mile south of Virginville, Pa. They were the parents of six children as recorded in the family Bible. Thomas Hefner notes that he (Thomas) has a paper with the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in which it states that Henry was a soldier in the Revolution. There are others of the Hef(f)ners who served and one of them, who was captured by the British, having taken the oath not to take up arms against the British, nonetheless stayed with the Colonist and helped the cause by driving a supply wagon. More research is necessary concerning the daughters of Maria and Heinrich. Thomas Hefner lists the daughters as Eva Catherine, Elizabeth and Eva Magdalena. The birthdates of the four listed daughters are specific, however, and need to be investigated as to origin. See the note of Rev. Tobias Wagner of Moselem church 1752 concerning the marriage of Maria and Heinrich. This seems to substantiate the origin of this family as Eberstadt, Germany. Maria is the daughter of Matthaues Kelchner and Maria Catherina Kelchner.

### Children:

- + 9. i John Henry Heffner born 23-Nov-1754.
- + 10. ii Johan Georg Heffner born 10-Jun-1758.
- 11. iii Eva Catherine Heffner born 20-Apr-1760.
- + 12. iv Maria Elizabeth Heffner born 2-Feb-1762.
- + 13. v Eva Magdalena Heffner born 26-Jul-1765.
- 14. vi Catherine Heffner born 29-Sep-1768.

5. Frederick Häfner born 15-Jun-1730, Germany, married Catherine \_\_\_\_\_. Frederick died 16-Jun-1791. The family of Frederick and Catherine was recorded here based on church records of Berks County. See Volume 2 of Berks County Pa. Church Records of the 18th Century, by F. Edward Wright and published by Family Line Publications from Westminster, Maryland; page 24 et al.

### Children:

- 15. i Simon Heffner born 16-Oct-1772, Berks County, Pa., baptized 14-Dec-1772, Oley Hill Church, Berks County, Pa. The sponsors for Simon's baptism were Jacob and Elisabeth Barrall.
  - 16. ii Johan Jacob Häfner born 02-Jul-1774, baptized 16-Oct-1774.
  - 17. iii John George Häfner born 2-Jul-1776, Berks County, Pa., baptized De Long's Reformed Church, Maxatawny Twp.
  - 18. iv Jacob Häfner born 8-May-1783.
  - 19. v Daniel Heffner born 28-Oct-1778, Berks County, Pa., married Elizabeth "Betsy" Graeff. Elizabeth: This Betsy Graeff replaces #2309 until the southern line gets proved or disproved.
- (8/98) KH

6. Johan Georg Häfner, II. born 04-May-1733, Eberstadt, Germany, married 01-Mar-1757, in Christ (Mertz) Luth. Ch., Dryville, Pa., Margretha Barrall, born Wurtemberg, Germany. Johan died 4-Jul-1791, Berks County, Pa., buried Mertz Church Cem., Dryville, Pa. George Heffner and Peter Reiff Mortgage Book A. A. Page 212 Penna. Archives, Harrisburg This indenture made the twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand and seven hundred and fifty-seven, between George Heffner of Ruscombmanor Township, in the County of Berks, and the provinces of Pennsylvania, yeoman, and Hannah, his wife, of the one part, and Peter Reiff of the same place, yeoman, of the second part. Whereas the said George Heffner in and by a certain obligation or writing obligatory under his hand and seal bearing even date herewith standeth bound unto said Peter Reiff in the sum of two hundred and thirty and seventeen pounds like money on the sixteenth day of May next, together with lawful interest for the same by said obligation and consideration thereof, relation being there unto had more at large appears now this Indenture witnesseth that the said George Heffner and Hannah, his wife, and in consideration of the afore said debt or sum of one hundred and seventeen pounds, and for the better securing of payments thereof, with its interest unto said Peter Reiff, his Executors, Administrators, and assigns in discharge of the said recited obligation, and for and in consideration of the further sum of five schillings, paid by the said Peter Reiff at the sealing and delivery here of the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have granted, bargained, sold released and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain, sell, release and confirmed unto said Peter Reiff, and to his heirs and assigns a certain messuage or tenement and two tracts or pieces of land situate lying and being in the Township of Ruscombmanor aforesaid, the one of them lying between the lands of Michael Steinburner, Christian Wanner, Casper Reep, and Casper Becking, containing one hundred and fifty acres, and the other of the tracts lying between the lands of Abraham Keiffer, John Sowash, Henry Long, and Jacob Dreibelbis, containing one hundred twenty-two acres of land, which said tracts of land were surveyed to the said George Heffner by virtue of proprietary warrants then of made in the secretaries office, relation being there unto had at large appears, together also with all and singular other, then buildings, improvements way, water ways, water courses, rights, liberties, privileges and appurtenances to the two tracts of piece of land, respectfully belonging or in any wise appertaining any of the estate right and interest property claim and demand what so ever of the said George Heffner and Hannah, his wife, and the revision and remainder rents and profits thereof, to have and to hold the messuage or tenement and two tracts or pieces of land here defilement and premises what the appurtenances unto said Peter Reiff, his heirs and assigns to the only proper use, provided always nevertheless that the said George Heffner, his heirs, executors, and administrators shall will and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Peter Reiff, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assign the afore said debt or sum of one hundred and seventeen pounds on the day and time herein before mentioned for payment, thereof with its interest according to the condition of said recited obligation without fraud or other delay and without defalcation or abatement to be made of anything for or in prospect of any taxes, charges, or assessments, whatsoever, that then and from hence forth as well as this present recited obligation shall become void, anything herein before complained to the contrary in any wise not withstanding. In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have interchangeable sat their hand and seals hereunto dated the day first written. George Heffner (seal) Hannah Heffner (seal) sealed and delivered in the presence of us, I.F. Parvin, Surveyor, and Ben. Parvin, the first day of May in the year of our Lord 1757, before me Francis Parvin, Esq., one of the magistrates of the peace, came the above named George Heffner, Hannah, his wife, and acknowledged the above written Indenture to be their Deed, and desired the same may be recorded as such. The said Hannah, thereunto voluntarily consenting she being of full age, secretly and apart examined the contents of the said writing, first made known. To witness my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid Francis Parvin (seal) recorded and the original of this record diligently compared and found to agree word for word, figure for figure the 15 March Anno Domini 1757. I, Peter Reiff the mortgagee named do hereby



acknowledge that I have received of George Heffner, the mortgage herein named, the debt of one hundred and seventeen pounds, with the interest thereof in full satisfaction of this mortgage and in the discharge thereof, and the obligation therein recited, witness my hand this eighth day of May Anno Domini 1770. Acknowledged at Reading, Berks County, this 28th day of May 1770. Margretha was the daughter of Johanna Barrall Häfner. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dryville, Pa. have her surname as Parallin. She married her step-brother Johan Georg Häfner, Jr.

Children:

20. i Johan Georg Häfner, III born 07-Jan-1758, Berks County, Pa., baptized 15-Jun-1758, Christ Ev. Luth. Church, Dryville, Pa., married Maria \_\_\_\_\_. Johan Georg's baptism was sponsored by Johan Georg Hoefner and wife Johana. See page 143, 'Berks County Church Records of the 18th Century, Vol. 4', by F. Edward Wright, published by Family Line Publications, Westminster, MD. The church record spelling was interpreted as Hoefner.

+ 21. ii Anton (Anthony) Häfner born 21-Dec-1760.

22. iii Sybilla Häfner born 27-Jan-1764, Berks County, Pa., baptized 08-Apr-1764, Mertz Church, Berks Co., Pa., married Jacob Weida.

23. iv Catherine Häfner born 25-Aug-1768, Berks County, Pa., baptized 27-Nov-1768.

24. v Abraham Häfner born 28-Mar-1770, baptized 01-Sep-1770.

25. vi Anna Maria Häfner born 27-Apr-1773, baptized 27-Jun-1773, married Johannes Barto. Anna died 12-Jan-1832. A marginal note by Nelda Heffner in George Heffner's 1886 book says that Johannes and Anna Maria had 15 children.

+ 26. vii Johannes George Heffner born 10-Mar-1775.

7. Jacob Heffner born 11-Nov-1736, Germantown, Pa., baptized St. Michaels, Germantown, Pa., married (1) 27-Aug-1760, Elizabeth Lyass, born 15-Jan-1736, Hingstadt, Germany, died 23-Feb-1806, Rockland Twp., Berks County, Pa., buried Mertz Lutheran Church, Dryville, Pa., married (2) Maria Barbara. Jacob died 31-May-1829, Rockland Twp., Berks County, Pa., buried Mertz Lutheran Ch., Dryville, Pa. Wayne and George Heffner have the name as Johann Jacob Heffner in their respective history books, but in a copy of his Last Will and Testament, which he dictated to his grandson Reuben, he uses 'Jacob'. Jacob was a private in Captain Daniel Eyster's Company in service in the Jerseys from September 1776 to January 1777. This covered the winter campaign in Trenton, Princeton and Morristown. Later he was a Court Martial Man in Captain Matthias Wick's Company of Colonel Daniel Hunter's Battalion, 6th Battalion, Berks County Militia, May 17, 1777. Later in Captain Christopher Folck's Company. The following reference is the authority of record: Pennsylvania Archives Volume XIV 2nd Series, Page 267, and XV 2nd Series, Page 640. Jacob's Will is on file at the Berks County Court House, Reading, Pa. Will Book 6-380, executed 1829.

Hereinafter is transcribed that Will. Jacob could not write, so he dictated the Will to his grandson, Reuben Kline, the son of Elizabeth, Jacob's fourth child. Elizabeth was married to Jacob Kline. There are a few words in the Will that were difficult to read and the spelling was bad. I've tried to transcribe the document faithfully. Capitalization of words and punctuation also follow the original document.

"In the name of god, Amen. I Jacob Heffner of Rockland township Berks County Farmer Being weak But of Sound Disposing Mind and Memory thanks Be to god for the Same Do Make and Publish this my Last will and Testament as firstly I Recomend my Soul into the Hands of god Secondly my Just Debts and funeral Expenses Be Paid Buy they Executors Herein After named third that the Mariedge Contract entered in to Buy my Self and my wife Maria Barbara Be Strictly Complied with fourthly I give and Bequath to my Said wife all the furniture She Brought to me at our Marige together with all Her Cloughing and Linen She may Have Made During our Mariage and Also thirty five Pounds in Money to be Paid to Her in Six weeks after my Death with A Shoulder and Ham or She may take Her Choise and may take three She Shall Also Have two Bushel of wheat fifth I give and Bequeath to my

grand Children Children of my Son Daniel wick He Hath with His Second wife mayed gives one fift Part of all my Estate Real or Personally in trust. that their father be Paid the interest thereof yearly Buy them I and in Case one of the Above Mentioned Children Should Die without Heirs His Respective Share Shall Be Equally Divided Among the Rest of the Children of His Second wife Sixth those children of my Son Daniel wick He Hath with His first wife named Daniel Lydia and Eva Shall Have five Shillings Each of them Seventh I give and Bequath the Remaider of my Estate to my three Sons Henry Anthony and John and to Reuben Kline Son of my daughter Elizabeth Married to Jacob Kline and the Son Reuben Kline Shall Mantain my Daughter Elizabeth of Said Respective Share as long as She Shall Live Eightly I give and Bequeathe to Jacob Kline Husband of my Daughter Elizabeth one Dollar in Money ninthly and Lastly I nominte My two Sons Anthony and John to Be the Executors of this my Last will and testament Revoaking All former wills Buy Me Maide in witness whereof I Have Here to Set My Name and Seal the fift day \_\_?\_\_ of August AD one thousand Eight Hundred and twenty four.

his Jacob X Heffner mark

"Signed Sealed Published and Pronounced Buy the testator as and for His Last will and testament in the Pressens of us who at His Request Have Subcribed our names Hereto

Reuben Kline  
Henry Heimbach

"Registers office Reading Berks County July 21st 1829 Then appeared Reuben Kline and Henry Heimbach the Subscribing witnesses to the above written will who were duly qualified thereto according to law did declare \_\_?\_\_ that they were present and did see and hear Jacob Heffner The Testator Sign Publish pronounce and declare the foregoing writing as and for his last will and testament and that at the time of the doing thereof he the said testator was of sound mind memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge and as they sincerely believe and further that the nominees Reuben Kline and Henry Heimbach are of the depanents (sic) own hand writing as witnesses thereto subscribed in the presence of each other and in the presence and at the request of the testator. Jo. Rhoads, Rgt(?)"

Elizabeth came to America in her 16th year (1752). A study of those ships arriving at the port of Philadelphia during that year show no Lyass' among the lists of passengers. There are however, some names that could be close in pronunciation: Lash, ship Brothers in September; Elias, ship Ann Galley also September; Lyx, ship Duke of Wirtenburg in October and Leis, ship Phoenix in November of that year.

Children by Elizabeth Lyass:

- 27. i Margretha Heffner born 19-May-1760, Berks County, Pa., baptized 04-Jun-1761, Mertz Church, Berks Co., Pa.
- + 28. ii Henry Heffner born 4-Jun-1763.
- + 29. iii Anthony Heffner born 13-Apr-1767.
- + 30. iv Elizabeth Heffner born 16-Jul-1769.
- + 31. v Daniel Heffner born 05-Dec-1771.

+ 32. vi John Heffner born 10-Mar-1776.

8. Anthony Häfner born 10-Apr-1742, Maxatawny Twp., Berks Co., Pa., married 28-Apr-1767, in Mertz Church, Berks Co., Pa., Catharine Hill, born 15-Oct-1743, died 23-Dec-1805, buried Mertz's Church, Dryville, Pa. Anthony died 29-Jul-1803, buried Mertz's Church, Dryville, Pa. It is believed that Anthony served with the forces of General George Washington in the Revolutionary War though military records need to be found to verify this. He received a patent on lands in Maxatawny Township and Zion's Union Church now stands on part of this land.

Children:

33. i Eva Catharine Heffner born 31-Jan-1768, Berks County, Pa., baptized 14-Feb-1786, Zion Moselem Church, Berks County, Pa.

34. ii Johannes Heffner born 02-Jan-1770, Berks County, Pa., baptized 13-Jan-1770, Mertz Church, Berks Co., Pa.

35. iii Fronica Heffner born 08-Nov-1771, baptized 25-Dec-1771.

36. iv Johan Georg Heffner born 11-May-1776, Berks County, Pa., baptized 11-Jun-1776, Christ Church (Mertz), Dryville, Pa., married Maria Wenz, buried St. John's Church, Kutztown, Pa. Johan died 3-Dec-1858, buried St. John's Church, Kutztown, Pa. Johan Georg's baptism was sponsored by Johan Georg Kraemer and wife Maria Elisabetha.

+ 37. v Isaac Heffner born 20-Oct-1780.

+ 38. vi Jacob Heffner born 11-Nov-1782.

39. vii Elizabeth Heffner born 15-Feb-1785, baptized 16-May-1785.