

A

GENEALOGICAL RECORD

OF THE DESCENDANTS OF

Christian and Hans Meyer

AND OTHER PIONEERS,

TOGETHER WITH HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES, ILLUSTRATED WITH EIGHTY-
SEVEN PORTRAITS AND OTHER
ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY

REV. A. J. FRETZ,

MILTON, N. J.

With an introduction by A. N. MOYER, of Kansas City, Kan.

1896.

NEWS PRINTING HOUSE,

HARLEYSVILLE, PA.

DESCENDANTS OF CHRISTIAN MEYER, JR.,
SON OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

II. Christian Meyer, Jr., b. about 1705, d. about 1787. Mrd. Magdalena —.

He lived in Franconia township where he purchased of James Steel and wife Martha of Philadelphia, 170 acres of land, Nov. 14, 1729. His farm was bounded by lands of Henry Rosenberger, John Freed, Martin Detweiler, George Delp, and others. In his will dated Apr. 26, 1782, he devised this whole tract of 170 acres of land to his son Samuel Mayer, for the sum of £800 of gold or silver.

On May 1, 1794, Samuel Moyer, then of Hilltown twp., Bucks co., and Catharine his wife, conveyed to their son Isaac Moyer, of Franconia twp., 87 acres and 73 perches of the said 170 acres, and on the same date, May 1, 1794, Samuel Moyer and his wife Catharine granted to their son Christian 87 acres and 76 perches, being also a part of the 170-acre tract. On Apr. 7, 1810, Christian Moyer (son of Samuel) and his wife Mary, of Bedminister, Bucks co., granted to their son Rudolph the same 87 acres 76 perches, and on Nov. 20, 1866, Rudolph Moyer and his wife Barbara granted to their son Abraham F., the present owner, the same tract and premises. The said plantation of 170 acres is now divided into three farms, owned and occupied by Abraham F. Moyer, Benjamin P. Moyer, and Henry B. Kulp.

The tract was in the first place a regular parallelogram, 283 perches long and 96 perches wide and included all the land belonging to the Mennonite church (about 3 acres) except the graveyard. The land extended all the way from the corner of the Mennonite church southwest along the Harleysville and Souderton turnpike 283 perches, $\frac{7}{8}$ of a mile to the corner of the other road generally known as Young's corner. The old homestead proper where Christian Meyer, Jr., lived is located $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile s. w. of the Franconia Mennonite church, where now lives Abraham F. Moyer, a great-grandson of Christian Meyer, Jr. The farm has been in the same family now for 166 years. Mr. Moyer, the present owner, still recollects when the first house (probably built by Christian Meyer, Jr.) was torn down. It did not stand quite on the same place where the present house stands.

Christian Meyer, Jr., was a very prominent Mennonite, and stood front in the church. He was one of the founders of the Mennonite meetinghouse in Salford, the ground for which was purchased in 1738 by Henry Funck, Dielman Kolb, ministers, and Christian Meyer, Jr., and Abraham Reiff, deacons. He was later chosen to the ministry and served at Franconia.* He was also one of the chief actors in

* In the records of Franconia church a Christian Meyer is mentioned as a deacon, and a Christian Meyer is also mentioned as a minister. Christian Meyer, Jr., was a deacon when the Salford Mennonite church was organized in 1738, and it is quite evident, to the author's mind at least, that he was later chosen to the ministry at Franconia, and in his capacity as minister, no doubt, conducted the examination at the Plains meetinghouse in the controversy with his nephew, Rev. Christian Funk, which is clearly intimated in Christian Funk's "Mirror to All Mankind."

the controversy with his nephew, Rev. Christian Funk, who was expelled from the church on account of his attitude toward Congress, and conducted an examination into the matter at the Plain Mennonite meetinghouse.

He made his last will and testament Apr. 26, 1782, and which was probated May 31, 1787. He probably died in the early part of 1787. His son Samuel Moyer, and his son-in-law Abraham Kratz, were the executors of his estate.

The following is a copy of the will :

"In the name of God Amen. I Christian Moyer of the township of Franconia in the county of Philadelphia Yeoman, being aged and infirm of Body but of sound mind and memory thanks be to God do this twenty sixth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form as follows. Imprimis I commend my soul into the Hands of Almighty God who gave it unto me and my Body to the Earth to be decently and in a Christ'an like manner buried at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named in hopes of a joyful Resurrection thro' the merits of my Saviour Jesus Christ. And as for the worldly Goods and temporal Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I disposed thereof as follows, that is to say : First is my Will that my just Debts and funeral Expenses shall be paid and satisfied. Item I give and bequeath unto my beloved Wife Magdalena Mayer the sum of one hundred and twenty five Pounds (in Gold or Silver) to be paid unto her by my Executors out of the first money that comes into their Hands from my Estate, and also our Feather Bed and Bedstead, with all the furniture thereunto belonging, and her Chest with all that is in it and one Milch Cow to chuse which she pleases in lieu of other Dower.

Item I give to the Congregation to which I belong the Sum of ten Pounds, to be distributed by the Elders thereof to the Poor and needy of the Same. Item I give unto Philip Lauterbach the sum of five pounds, all which Legacies I order to be paid in Gold and Silver in the following manner that is to say, a golden half Johannes weighing nine pennyweight, to be paid and received for three Pounds & a milled spanish Dollar for seven shillings and six Pence, and all other Gold and silver Coin in the same Proportion.

Item I give and devise unto my son Samuel Mayer all my Tract of Land situated and being in the Township of Franconia aforesaid and is bounded by Lands of Henry Rosenberger, John Freed, Martin Detweiler, George Delp, and others, con-

taining one hundred and seventy acres be the same more or less, to have and to hold the aforesaid Tract of one hundred and seventy acres, of Land, together with the Hereditaments and Appurtenances thereunto belonging (together with my two Copper Stills) unto my said son Samuel Mayer, his Heirs and Assigns forever, under this express Limitation, that my son Samuel Mayer or his Heirs or Assigns, shall pay or cause to be well and truly paid for the Said Tract of Land, the sum of eight hundred Pounds in Gold or Silver money (at the following rate viz a golden half Johannes weighing nine Pennyweights to be paid for three Pounds and a milled Spanish Dollar for Seven Shillings and six pence and all other Gold and Silver Coin in the same proportion) In the following manner that is to say, the sum of seventy five Pounds as the first payment thereof at the end of the year after my Decease, and the sum of seventy five Pounds in every year following until the whole sum is paid. And whereas I have heretofore given and paid unto each of my sons and Daughters, Goods and Chattles and sums of money, a true account whereof I have entered in a Book, therefore is my Will and do ordain and direct, because some have received more than others, that those or their Heirs that received less than others shall first receive Goods or money to the value of so much, until they all have equal shares one as much as the other, and further is my Will that all my Goods and Chattles not herein before mentioned to be given and bequeathed, and the said sum of eight hundred Pounds, which my son Samuel is herein ordered to pay for the herein before devised Tract of Land (after my just Debts and the afore mentioned Legacies are all paid) shall be equally divided and paid, first to all the children of my oldest son Christian Mayer deceased, one full seventh part thereof to be also equally divided to them all; And then to all the children, and Margareth my great Grand Daughter (only child of his son Jacob also deceased) of my son Jacob Mayer deceased one full Seventh Part thereof, also to be equally divided to them all, and to my son Samuel one full and equal seventh Part thereof. And my sons in Law John Kratz, Abraham Kratz and Martin Detweiler to each one full & equal Seventh Part thereof. And also one full and equal Seventh Part thereof to the Children of my Daughter Esther Gehman (late Wife of Christian Gehman) deceased, to be paid into the Hands of their father who is to have the same in his use until their marriage or respectful lawful ages, also to be equally divided to them share & share alike, which said several shares I order to be paid in the following manner, first to my sons or their Heirs according to their Seniority, and after my sons or their Heirs have received their full shares, then the same Order and Rule to be observed with my Sons-in-Law or their Heirs of my Daughters, every one to Receive their shares according to their Seniority, And I do hereby nominate and appoint my son Samuel Mayer and my Son in Law Abraham Kratz to be Executors of this my last

Will & Testament, and I do hereby revoke all other or any former Will or Wills by me heretofore made.

In Witness whereof I the said Christian Mayer have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the Day & year first above written.
CHRISTIAN MAYER [SEAL].

Signed Sealed published and declared by the Said Christian Mayer to be his last Will & Testament in the presence of us who have subscribed our names as Witnesses hereunto in his presence & at his request.

ISAAC DORSTONE,
ABR. STOUT,
MENYO HASS.

Be it rembered that on the 31st Day of May A. D. 1787 the foregoing Will of Christian Mayer was proved in due form & probate with Letters Testamentary granted unto Samuel Mayer and Abraham Kratz the Executors therein named, they having first Duly affirmed that they will well and truly perform the same and render an account according to Law. Given from under my Hand and Seal of office this 31st May 1787.

FRED. AUG. MUHLENBERG Reg

Recorded 31st May 1787.

Book 1. Page 114 Register's office Norristown Pa.

*His children were: Christian, Jacob, Esther, Samuel, Anna, Maria, Fronica, Esther, Barbara.

III. Christian Meyer, b. in Montg. Co., Jan. 29, 1728, d. in 1783. Mrd. Susanna Detweiler, dau. of Jacob and Neltgen (Kolb†) Detweiler —. He in-

*The list of children furnished me by Mr. D. N. Moyer, as furnished him by Bishop Dilman Moyer, are Christian, Jacob, Esther, Samuel, Anna, Maria, Fronica, Esther. The name of Barbara, who married Abraham Kratz, is not in that list. Fronica is not mentioned in the will. She and the first mentioned Esther must evidently have died young. There were but seven that married and had issue. Author.

† Daughter of Martin Kolb, and his wife Magdalena Van Sintern, and granddaughter of Isaac Van Sintern, and wife Neeltje Claassen, who were married at Amsterdam, emigrated to Pennsylvania, and buried at Skippack, and great granddaughter of Peter Van Sintern, and Sarah de Voss, and great great granddaughter of Peter de Voss, and Jannike van der Mers,† who fled on account of the church to Colchester, England, where they renounced Popery and joined the Reformed church, and later removed to Amsterdam, Holland, and there joined the Mennonite church, and great great granddaughter of Jan de Voss (a Burges in Hanshuter Flantern) and Prientje Batten, daughter of Dirk en Batten.

‡ Jannike van der Mers was a daughter of Michael van der Mers (who was a Burges at Belle) and Janneki Dausmans, daughter of Jan en Mayke, born Looten.

herited from his grandfather, Christian Meyer, Sr., the homestead farm of 100 acres, the greater part of which is now owned and occupied by Joseph Drissel. To this property he added by subsequent purchases until he owned in all 232 acres. On Oct. 9, 1765, he purchased of David Stribe and wife 50 acres and 66 perches, which is now owned by Henry Oberholtzer. He next purchased on May 27, 1767, from the widow of his uncle Samuel Meyer, the 50 acres originally belonging to the homestead, with buildings and improvements, where William K. Moyer now lives, and on May 23, 1770, he purchased from Nicholas Schwenk and wife Barbara 32 acres and 67 perches, making in all 232 acres and 132 perches, and was rated for that number of acres in 1776. The last purchase now belongs to John A. Kulp.

Christian Meyer and wife were members of the Mennonite ch. Children: Fannie, Jacob, Maria, Christian, Magdalena, Barbara, Sarah, Samuel, Abraham, John, Elizabeth, Susanna, Hannah, Kate.

IV. Fannie Meyer, b. Feb. 24, 1750, date of her death not known, but died previous to 1783, and she died probably unmarried.

IV. Jacob Moyer, b. Nov. 4, 1751, d. —. Mrd. Mary Detweiler, —. He being the oldest son, on May 29, 1784, he received from his father's widow, and the heirs, a messuage and 132 acres 147 perches; 50 acres being a part of the old homestead. Five years later, Nov. 30, 1789, he purchased from his brother Christian, his farm of 100 acres, where William K. Moyer now lives, making in all 232 acres, the same as owned by his father, and which he held possession of for sixteen years.

Jacob Moyer was a member of the "Funkite sect," and a meetinghouse was built on his land above Harleysville about 1814 or 1815 under the official supervision of Henry Landis, a Funkite minister, and himself, a deacon of the sect. Children: Susanna, Christian, Jacob, Mary, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph.

V. Susanna Meyer, b. Apr. 25, 1775; d. Mar. 23, 1856. Mrd. Henry Kolb, —. He was born July 14, 1769; d. Mar. 20, 1850. Farmer, dyer, and tomb-

CHRISTIAN MEYER (JR.) HOMESTEAD, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.



JACOB MEYER, SON OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

II. Jacob Meyer (dec'd). It appears as if he needed the care and protection of his brothers and sisters, because provision was made that they should provide for him "sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing and lodging, fit and convenient for him during his natural life," and therefore it is not probable that he ever married.

SAMUEL MEYER, SON OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

II. Samuel Meyer (dec'd), mrd. Barbara ——. He lived on a tract of 50 acres that had at an early day been cut off from the old homestead farm of his father, and which his widow, after his death, sold to his nephew, Christian Meyer, May 27, 1767, together with buildings and improvements. Samuel Meyer made his will August 20, 1764, and was probated December 9, 1766. In his will he says he is blind and has "no children or bodily heirs living," and therefore devised his whole estate to his loving wife, but solicits his wife to make a free gift of £2 of lawful money to his brother, Christian Meyer; £2 to his sister, Elizabeth Oblinger, and £2 to his cousin, Christian Moyer. His wife was the sole executrix. Witnesses: Jacob Landes, Nicholas Haldeman and Andrew Ziegler.

DESCENDANTS OF ELIZABETH MEYER,
DAUGHTER OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

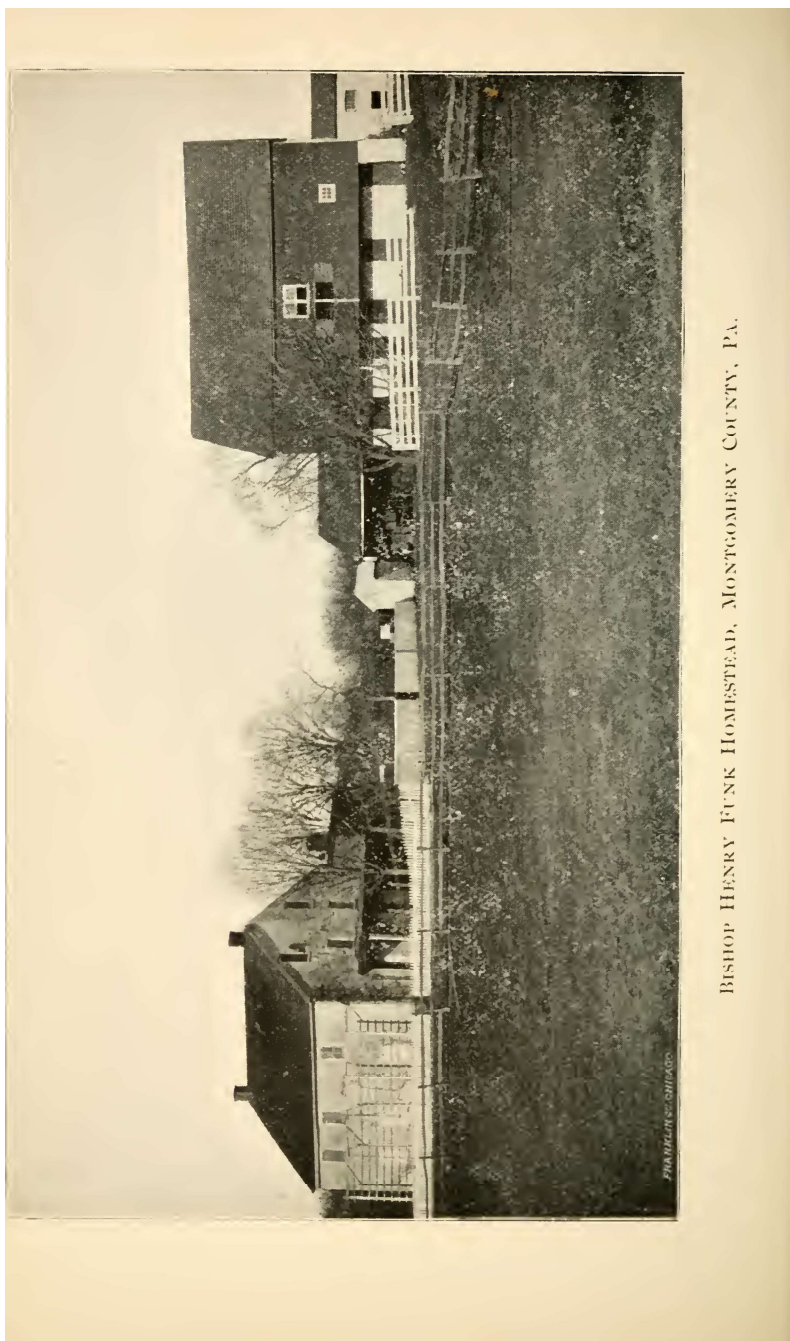
II. Elizabeth Meyer (dec'd), married Nicholas Oblinger, Jr. He was born on the old John Kline place, now owned and occupied by Enos Wambold (or Wampole). There lived Nicholas (Claus) Oblinger, Sr., more than 150 years ago, who was probably the pioneer of the family. He made his will August 3, 1730, and died soon after.

Nicholas Oblinger, Jr., owned and lived on the Binder farm, upon which a part of Harleysville is now

built, and which he owned from 1745 to 1751. Previously he owned a tract of 34½ acres in Lower Salford from August 31, 1734, which he owned for several years. The tract was woodland until many years later, and upon which, to the present day, no buildings were erected.

DESCENDANTS OF ANNA MEYER, DAUGHTER OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

II. Anna Meyer, died July 8, 1758; mrd. Rev. Henry Funk. He was b. in Europe, either in Holland or the Palatinate, and emigrated to America in 1719. He settled at the Indian Creek, in Franconia township, Montgomery county, where he died in 1760. His farm consisted of three tracts of land, making in all 201 acres, lying along the Indian Creek, on which was also a grist mill, which he in all probability erected. The house opposite the mill is a very old structure, and was also, no doubt, built by Henry Funk, and was the homestead. He also owned other land besides his farm at the Indian Creek. Soon after settling at the Indian Creek a Mennonite church was organized at Franconia, of which he was chosen the first minister, and later was ordained bishop. He was the author of two religious works, one a small book in German, entitled "Spiegel der Taufe" (Mirror of Baptism), and the other a larger book, entitled "Eina Restitution oder eine Erkläerung einiger hauptpunkten des gesetzes," which was published after his death, in 1763. He was also, in connection with Dillman Kolb, appointed by the Mennonite church to supervise the translation of "Van Bracht's Martyrs Mirror, or der Blutiga Schauplatz," from the Dutch to the German. The book made a folio of 1514 pages, and was printed at Ephrata in 1748. Bishop Funk was a well educated man for the times in which he lived, and a man of extensive influence in his church and community. Children: John, Henry, Christian, Abraham, Esther, Barbara, Anne, Mary, Fronicka, Elizabeth.



BISHOP HENRY FUNK HOMESTEAD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA.

DESCENDANTS OF BARBARA MEYER, DAUGHTER OF CHRISTIAN MEYER.

II. Barbara Meyer, d. about 1773; mrd. Abraham Reiff, apparently the son of Hans Reiff. He lived in Lower Salford, on the farm now owned and occupied by George P. Heckler. He was a deacon of the Lower Salford Mennonite church, and was one of the original founders. He died in North Coventry township, Chester county, about 1763. His will was probated December 7, 1763. Children: Isaac, Christian, Abraham, Franica, Anna, Barbara, Elizabeth.

III. Isaac Reiff.

III. Christian Reiff (dec'd), mrd. —. Children: Joseph, and others. (IV) Joseph Reiff, d. about 1850; mrd. — Harley (dec'd), dau. of Rudolph Harley. She was b. about 1775. He was a large landholder. Children: Christian, Rudolph, Jacob, Samuel, Barbara, Mary.

III. Abraham Reiff.

III. — Reiff (dec'd), mrd. — Hunsberger. Children: Ulrich, and others.

III. — Reiff (dec'd), mrd. Michael Sentzenich.