

Our Keystone Families

By Schuyler C. Brossman

COLUMN NO. 651 South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization of amateur and a few professional genealogists, interested in York County and surrounding areas, including, Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Lancaster and Lebanon, as well as several nearby counties in Maryland.

Their membership is from all over the United States and their newsletter goes to many persons interested in families of their section. The society has volunteer workers who will answer queries of a limited nature, or refer the more difficult questions to experienced researchers. When writing, don't forget the SASE with your request.

The society has published several booklets as follows:

"Notarial Docket of George Caruthers, 2 May 1810 to 13 Apr 1812", which is a collection of legal documents pertaining to the early residents of York County, 33 pages, including index. Published Oct 1977.

"The Private Records of Rev. George Jacob Martz, 1869-1878, Death, Marriages and Baptisms. During his Ministry at Womelsdorf, Berks County, Pa.", 38 pages, Jan. 1978.

"An Alphabetical Listing, by Surname, of Inscriptions in Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery, Freeland, Baltimore County, Maryland," 24 pages, April 1978.

The July 1978 publication of seven pages is on the tombstones of the Bermudian Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Washington Township, York County, Pa.

Publications No. 5 (Oct. 1978) and No. 6 (Jan. 1979) are Parts I and II of "An Alphabetical Listing of the Assessed Inhabitants of York County, Pennsylvania, For The Year 1762". Book I covers York County and Book II covers that part of York which became present day Adams County. Each name is followed by two key letters indicating what township the name is found in. For example, "Akenbogh, barnet-dr," indicating he lived in Dover Township, York County in 1762.

The cost of the publication is \$1.50 postpaid, however, Pennsylvanians must add 6 percent sales tax. Membership in the society is \$5 per year. All correspondence should be addressed to SCPGS Inc., Box 1824, York, Pa. 17405.

The society has also published two books of names from pedigree charts, with dates of birth, death, and an every-name index. For information on these valuable books, contact the society.

In addition, the society has a complete set of "Our Keystone Families" from Col. No. 1 to the present.

Justina Catharina Brossman
I am sure every genealogist and family historian has one or two members of the family who appear to taunt him and defy discovery of enough identification to place that person within a proper slot in the family record.

Such is the case with Justina Catharina Brossman. She turns up only as sponsor in baptisms, especially in the families I believe to be her sisters. There are four baptisms as follows, in which she appears, in the records of the Rev. Johann Casper Stoever and/or Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, Pa.

"Johanna Catharina, born 25 Oct. 1750, baptized 9 Dec 1750, daughter of Heinrich Kittner and wife, at Northkill. The baptismal sponsors were Baltzer Umbenhauer and Justina Brossman." Northkill is now known as Bernville, Pa. in Berks County. Baltzer Umbenhauer was the husband of Maria Appolonia Brossman, sister of Justina.

Another baptism reads: "Born 21 Aug 1753, bapt. 20 Jun 1754, John Georg and Frantz Bastian Kistler (twin) sons of John Nicholas Kistler, who lives about 50 miles from here beyond the Susquehanna. Sponsors were, 1. Frantz Bastian Brossman (for whom one of the twins was named) and 2. Justina Brossman". The sponsors were brother and sister of the mother, Anna Magdalena (Brossman) Kistler.

The third reference to Justina is, "Justina Catharina Unbehagen, born 5 Dec 1755, bapt. 14 Dec 1755, daughter of Balthaser

Unbehagen and wife Appolonia, at Northkill. Sponsor was Justina Brossman". Maria Appolonia and Justina were sisters, for my theory is correct.

The fourth reference is, "Born 2 May 1756, Baptized 30 May 1756, Christina Catarina, daughter of Heinrich Kittner and wife. Sponsors, George Adam Geiss and Justina Brossman".

These baptisms range from 1750 to 1756, and since one had to be confirmed before one could be a sponsor (godmother) in the Lutheran Church, and since confirmation usually took place at the age of 14 to 16 years, Justina must have been born by at least 1735 and was still living by 1756, when she would have been 21 years old, or more.

She was no doubt a daughter of Frantz Brossman, the immigrant who came to America in September 1739 on the ship "Friendship." At least two of the above baptisms have to do with the Brossman sisters so I believe she was sister to each of them. If born in 1735, or before, she was born in Germany.

Another sister may have been the wife of Heinrich Kittner of the two baptisms above, since on another occasion Baltzer Umbenhauer and wife Maria Appolonia Brossman Umbenhauer were sponsors, and in fact, the infant was named Maria Appolonia Kittner, according to Stoever's records. But that is another problem, who was the wife of Henry Kittner, was she also a daughter of Frantz Brossman, the immigrant?

Getting back to Justina, which is an unusual name among the Pennsylvania Germans. It may be that Frantz Brossman, born about 1693-94 named this daughter after Justina Brossman, born 26 Dec. 1704 in Lohma bie Schleiz, Thuringen. What nicer gesture could there be for Frantz, who was 10 years older than Justina, to name a daughter after his brother, cousin, or other relative?

This is only a theory as I do not know where Frantz Brossman was born, who his parents were, or even if Justina Brossman was a relative, but it does sound logical. The name of Justina only comes up about five times in the entire record of the Rev. Stoever, and mostly in the families connected with the Brossmans, so there "must" be a connection.

Since Justina was probably 21 years, or more, by 1756, she probably married and may have moved away, but to whom, and where? If anyone has a mystery Justina, who married into the family in 1756 or later, please write to me, Schuyler C. Brossman, Box 43, Rehersburg, Pa. 19550. I just "know" she was a daughter of Frantz Brossman, who can help me prove it?

I have decided to make a file on any Justina I can find hoping in some way to find a clue on Justina Brossman. Anyone with a Justina in the family, born or died before 1800 please send this information to me, even if you know there is no connection. By having the information on all the Justinas who lived before 1800 it will save time of checking out the ones we know are not connected, and it may turn out a remotely related Justina may provide the clue to find what happened to Justina Brossman.

As I said before, the name was not common among the Pennsylvania Germans. There were only six, if I found them all, in the records of the Rev. Johann Casper Stoever. In addition to Justina Brossman and her namesake Justina Catharina Unbehagen (Umbenhauer), there were, Justina Margaretha Specht, Justina Winter, Justina Elis. Riess, Justina Kaercher and Justina Bart. So if you have a Justina in your family, please let me know and sometime within the next six months a report will be given on the Justinas we have found.

**Cowley County, Kansas
Genealogical Society**

The County County, Kansas Genealogical Society was organized during the end of 1978. Copying records of marriages from the county courthouse has already begun and the members hope to compile other available records. They will try to help anyone needing information from their county.

Membership dues are \$5 per year. They have no publication, or plans for one, at present. I am sure they would appreciate is-

ues of family newsletters, copies of genealogies and other material anyone cares to donate to their organization. They have a scrapbook of "Our Keystone Families" from 1976 to the present.

The corresponding secretary is Mrs. Vern M. Case, Box 102, Arkansas City, Kansas 67005. Cowley County is located in the southern part of the state and borders Oklahoma.

Queries

Please hold all queries until after March 31 due to the heavy backlog on hand. All queries must have a Pennsylvania connection, include at least one date and should not be more than 150 words.

1. Mrs. Vern M. Case, Box 102, Arkansas City, Ks. 67005 — Seeks info on where "Joe R." Case and wife Elizabeth/Betsy Howard, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Howard were living in Penna. when their sons, Solomon, b. about 1830 and George William, b. 15 Aug. 1834 were born? In the 1830 Census, Riley Case and Benjamin Howard lived in Preston, Wayne Co., Pa. Does anyone know if the above were of the same families? We believe Joe R. Case was born in NY and Benjamin Howard in Conn. In the 1850 Barry County, Mich. census, Elizabeth is a widow with six children; Solomon, George, Joseph, Andrew Jackson, Elizabeth and Lucinda. Who were the parents of Joe R. Case? George and Solomon were in northeast Kansas in 1880, then to Washington state where both died. Would like to hear from anyone on the Case-Howard Family.

2. Rodney W. Trimmer, 2490 Middle St., York, Pa. 17404 — Seeks information of a "Skele-ton In The Closet"! From a scrap of paper, found in the family Bible the following information, "Father's great-grandfather was Philip Wolf, the man he shot was McGraw, the minister's name was Schroeder or Group. This is from Solomon Jacobs, gotten by D. W. Wolf." The D.W. Wolf's father, mentioned in the note, was Jacob S. Wolf and his father was Daniel Wolf, his father unknown, but evidently the son of Philip. Jacob was born 1826, d. 1906 and lived in Franklin County, Pa. but is buried near Hagerstown, Md. The family have lived either in Adams or Franklin Cos., Pa. or in northern Maryland. Can anyone tell us more about this shooting, when and where did it happen, what was the shooting about, was there a family quarrel, or what did happen?

3. Mrs. E. R. Cunningham, 3331 Van Orman Dr., Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46804 — Is searching for descendants of Jonathan and Elizabeth Ross. Jonathan died 1778 at the Battle of Crooked Billet. Children were: Mary, Ann, John, Elizabeth, Jane, Agnes, and Margaret, born in Cumberland Co., Pa. Ann married William Ferguson.

4. Letha Marie Nowry, P. O. Box 72, Graham, Mo. 64455 — Nancy McDonald, b 2 May 1797 in Washington Co., Pa., dau. of Hugh and Jane (—) McDonald, married in 1814 to Jacob Vinsonhaler. Who were Jacob's parents and what was Jane's maiden name? Did they have other children? Jacob died 8 Dec. 1869 and Nancy 14 Jan. 1878 and are bur. Prairie Home Cem., Graham, Mo. Also, John McDonald, a Col. in War of 1812, was b. 28 Jan 1775 in Northumberland Co., Pa. and lists in his will a daugh., Elizabeth Morgan, the wife of John Blair Morgan. Is 4 Jan 1796 her correct birthdate, if so, who was her mother? Catherine Cutright mar. Col. John McDonald on 5 Feb. 1799 in Ross Co., Ohio, and they had seven children other than Elizabeth.

5. Clarence Nitardo, 1219 Chestnut St., Reading, Pa. 19602 — Seeks info on pts. of Johannes Kantner, b. 2 Nov. 1797, d. 12 Jun. 1778 and wife Elizabeth Shollenberger, b. 8 Nov. 1796, died 5 Feb. 1849. Who were the parents of each and was their son, Edward S. Kantner, b. 25 Jul 1825, died 2 Aug 1907, also buried at Trinity UCC, Rehersburg, Pa. He was drummer of Co. F, 167th Pa. Drafted Militia, Civil War and his wife was Maria Zweyer - Zweyer - Sweyer, b. 28 Feb. 1830, d. 8 Apr. 1886. Edward S. Kantner was also a carriage builder in Rehersburg.

For South Hills Area

Residents Favor Sewer System

By MARIANNA KOPP
County Correspondent
SOUTH LEBANON — Approximately 125 residents of the South Hills area in S. Lebanon Township attended the special meeting Tuesday night at the Cedar Crest Middle School concerning the proposed wastewater collection system.

After the public asked questions, the township sewer authority took action to file a letter of intent to construct the system and request the funding available.

During a show of hands the majority of the residents present indicated their approval of a sewer system.

The area involved in the plans for the wastewater collection system starts from Pine Avenue to Adam Drive, and north on Kiner Avenue to Vine Street onto Poplar Street. The service continues west to Broad Street, then south to Vine Street, east to Noble Street and south to Aspen Avenue, from Aspen the lines will be laid south on Smith Avenue to Weiss Avenue and onto Pine Avenue.

While explaining the alternative bond issue method of financing the system at 7 percent interest, which would cost the residents about \$441 annually, it was pointed out that the loan and grant provided by the Federal Home Administration (FHA) to finance the system

would cost each resident only about \$237 annually.

On a monthly basis this figure averages \$19.75, which includes maintenance and treatment costs for the system, and helps toward the debt reduction. Walter Herr, township manager, explained the reason sewer rentals in Hebron and Avon average \$21 quarterly is to pay for maintenance and treatment costs only, because no debt is involved.

Total estimated cost of the project is \$2,788,700. Through the FHA the township can get a \$1,240,800 grant, and a \$1,385,400 loan at 5 percent interest over a 40-year term.

Harry Gipe of the FHA added that the administration frowns on a front footage assessment and that a flat fee would be charged for hookup. If a bond issue is used to pay for the system, a front footage fee would be required to help pay the bond. It also was noted that the hookup fee does not include installing pipes from homes to the sewer lines. Hookup would be required, although no time limit has yet been set.

Gipe stated FHA has low interest loans for families with very low incomes, but Gipe is not sure of the eligibility requirements. Lawrence Lescisko added financial assistance could be arranged for the elderly.

In response to questions by Phil Repino, Gary Moll of Gannett, Fleming, Corddry and Carpenter, township engineers, said the cost figures are estimated at 1979 prices, and that the township pays the contractor the bid he submitted.

Gipe also said the FHA re-

quires the bids be unclassified, "whatever the contractor runs into, he runs into."

Richard Bonfanti stated his support for a sewer system and asked what the possibilities are for an EPA grant, and how long it will be until construction starts.

Supervisor Paul Krause told Bonfanti the township is number 600 on the EPA priority list, and the project is fully engineered so the township will be ready to advertise for bids in about seven to nine months.

Bonfanti added that several years ago Cleona fought the installation of sewer lines and has since been ordered to install sewer lines. Today the project costs four times what was estimated then.

Peter Stanilla was told qualifications for a higher rating on the EPA grant list include whether or not the area is polluting a stream, is the affected stream a water supply and will the system necessitate the construction of a treatment plant.

Ira Light, a local plumber, stated that approximately one in 10 properties has problems with septic systems.

Ed Keener, Lebanon City Engineer, said a treatment plant is not necessary since the city plant can handle the effluent from the township.

The residents were assured that money would be allocated

to have the streets topped, and that contractors carry insurance to cover damages from blasting.

Earl Mease is chairman of the township authority. Other members are Ned Keath, Robert Womer, Larry Wood and Harold Weaver.

Protesters Are Active In Japan

TOKYO (UPI) — Ultra-leftist protesters planted time bombs and set fire to a police sentry box Sunday night in an attempt to disrupt air traffic at the new Tokyo International Airport.

The ultra-leftist Marxist organization Chukaku issued a statement saying it was responsible. Neither the bombs nor the fire disrupted operations at the airport, 41 miles east of Tokyo.

The group earlier announced it would stage rallies and demonstrations March 25 near the airport, the opening of which was delayed more than seven years by a coalition of farmers, students and environmentalists.

A group of leftist youths climbed the airport control tower March 25, 1978 and destroyed more than \$500,000 worth of computer and other sensitive air traffic equipment.

The airport went into operation last May.

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