

JOHAN HERMANUS OHRENDORFF

Johan Hermanus Ohrendorff was born in 1712 and baptized in the little parish of Freudenberg, in what is now the Kreis Siegen in North Rhine-Westfalia in Germany. He was the son of Ebert Orndorff and was probably a relative of the Christian Orndorff who also settled in Lebanon, Pa. as they were born in the very same village of Eichen.

About 1735 Hermanus was married to Anna Margareta Weschenbach (b. 1700), who was some 12 years his senior. Through earlier emigration, famine, and fierce winters, no doubt the population of his village in Germany was somewhat reduced and it should not be too surprising that he married someone so much older than he. No records of this couple are found in the baptismal entries of the Freudenberg parish.

Herman Orndorff and Anna Marg. Orndorff are listed on the ship "CHARMING NANCY" which qualified October 8, 1737. The name after them on the list was that of Tielman Wespach (Weschenbach), no doubt some relative of Herman's wife. (SEE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN PIONEERS V. I, p.188, 191). Although the list named women and children, they apparently had no children with them when the list was made.

However, in the records of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, Pa. there is a baptismal record of Maria Marg., daughter of Herman and Anna Marg. April 22, 1739. This is the only record that could be found for a child of this couple.

There are several mentions of Herman's name in the land records of early Lancaster County for land in Lebanon Township, beginning in 1753. It is very interesting to note that although the Orndorffs in Germany were very definitely Protestant and Herman is also found in Protestant records in this country up till 1750 (Herman and Anna Marg. were sponsors at a baptism in a Lancaster County Church—he is mentioned as Herman of Quittapahilla), when the land was sold by his descendants in about 1805, the land description mentions that it contains the first Catholic cemetery.

Herman died about 1778 and his administration account mentions a wife Catherine, one married daughter, and a number of minor children, some over 14 and some under 14. Apparently Herman married a second time, perhaps to a Catholic, and had a second family. It would have been impossible for his first wife to have been the mother of any of the minor children, and probably she was not the mother of the married daughter either.

Herman's administration account names all of his children, but does not mention the earlier daughter Maria Marg. in the dispersal of his estate. Perhaps she did not survive. No other records of her have ever been found.

All of Herman's remaining children seem to have married into Catholic families and are found in later records of the Goshenhoppen Registers (Catholic) of Bally, Berks Co. and at Conewago Chapel in Adams County. By about 1805 all of those known to have lived near Lebanon had moved to the Adams County/Carroll Co., Md. vicinity.

The following is a list of children of Herman ORNDORFF, probably by his second or later wife Catherine, although this cannot be proven:

- Teresa: born about 1757, married Joseph Eckenroth, supposedly had a son Joseph born in 1776. She was widowed by 1787. Lived in Mt. Joy Twp., Lancaster County.
- Lorentz: Named as eldest son in administration record. Born about 1758. He was murdered in his own bed--his throat slit from ear to ear--on July 6, 1791. He died unmarried without issue and his estate passed to his next eldest brother, Christian.
- Christian: Born about 1761, the second eldest son. Married November 30, 1789 to Maria Eva Eck of Longswamp Twp., Berks Co. (see GOSHENHOPPEN REGISTER). They moved to Carroll Co., Md. about 1800. Also records found in Adams Co., Pa. He died January 24, 1816 and is buried in the Westminster Cemetery there.
- Margaret: This is not the earlier daughter of Herman born in 1739, but another named also Margaret (Maria Margareta). She married Joseph Weibel and they lived in Greenwich Twp., Berks Co. and came to Carroll Co., Md. before 1800. Born about 1762.
- Anna Maria: Born about 1765. Married by about 1792 to Joseph Hemler. Also this family moved to Adams Co. area. She died in 1837.
- John: Born September 6, 1767, married Maria Magdalena Allwein, daughter of Conrad Allwein Jl. 12, 1796 (see GOSHENHOPPEN REGISTER). Moved to Adams Co. about 1805 and lived on the banks of the Great Conewago Creek. Died April 23, 1841 and is buried at Conewago Chapel.
- Maria Elizabeth: Born about 1769, married George Widman before 1800. Found in Conewago Chapel records about 1800 and possibly moved to Baltimore by 1810.
- Maria Christena: Born about 1771 married about 1791 to Mathias Orndorff, who was probably the son of a certain John Orndorff, Doctor, of Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County. Mathias and Christena also moved to Adams Co. about 1800.

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All of the above children of Herman are found only in Catholic records. More information is available on most of them. In some cases many of their descendant's records are available.

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