

MICHAEL AND ANN FLOOD- OUR FIRST PROVEN FLOODS

#208 Jane Teague, 4324 Superstition Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011-7553

E-mail: TGTeague@aol.com

In 1778, the first year that our progenitor Michael Flood appears, he is a soldier. In Paul Myers' *Westmoreland County in the American Revolution*, it is noted that he served from 1778-1780 as a Westmoreland County Ranger. The Rangers were on full time duty against the frontier Indians for terms of about six months. We know from records in the Pennsylvania Archives that he served as a private in William Conwell's Company of Westmoreland County Rangers. He is also cited in the *Pennsylvania Archives Series # 6, v. 3, page 349*, as serving enough time to qualify for depreciation pay.

In Howard Lecky's book, *The Tenmile Country and its Pioneer Families*, we find that Michael Flood signed a petition in 1780 (It is the only time I have ever seen a middle initial with the name-Michael P. Flood). Even as early as that, we can see Floods were ready and eager for change. The petition he signed was to create a new state in southwestern Pennsylvania because the state government in Philadelphia was not protecting the interests of the settlers so far away from the seat of government. (In 1783 the part of Westmoreland County in which M. Flood lived became part of Fayette County, Pennsylvania). In this neighborhood General Braddock and his army were defeated by George Washington in the French and Indian War in 1755. It was also in this locale that the Whiskey Rebellion occurred in 1791-94 after Congress passed a law imposing a revenue tax on important local products, whiskey and spirits.

That Michael was old enough to sign a petition leads us to believe that he was at least 18 years old in 1780. Unfortunately, I have not been able to achieve my goal of finding our immigrant ancestor. Perhaps it is Michael Flood. Although we have not yet discovered his origins, I want to share what we know about this man and his family. I have drawn from the Flood/Oliver research of several other genealogists as well as my own.

We do not know where or when Michael and Ann met and married. We have no clue to Ann Flood's maiden name or her family. In 1785 Michael is listed as a neighboring landowner on a deed. In *Listing of Inhabitants in 1785-Fayette County, Pennsylvania*, compiled by Allen Hays, Michael Flood is included in Washington Township. We know he was granted a warrant for 80 acres in 1788. Four years later in 1792, he was given the patent for 116 ½ acres in Washington Township in Fayette County. The patent lists the name of his property as Springfield. No doubt they were working hard to earn a living from their land. Fayette County had large deposits of bituminous coal and was later to have a large coke industry.

The first U. S. Census of the United States in 1790 shows Michael Flood as head of the household in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, only the names of the heads were listed.

In a tax assessment document of 1798, their "cabbin" is described as 16 feet by 18 feet with a log barn on the property.

Children: Lee, Frank, Fannie, Harry, Maude, Nellie, Ewing, Marietta, and Nina.
7a. Hester Blosser m. Henry Dorsey
8a. Mary Blosser m. Allen Plumm
9a. Elizabeth Blosser
10a. Hannah Blosser

10. Jacob Blosser b. 15 May 1810 d. 22 Mar 1890 m. Martha Martin b. 1807 d. 1894. This family moved to West Virginia, then to Iowa and finally to Willets, CA. They traveled by wagon train from Iowa to California. They are buried in Willits, CA. Children: Elizabeth, Nicholas, Thomas, Samuel, William, Lorenzo, Mary, and John.

11. Henry Blosser b. 1791 d. 1853 m. Isabella Stewart, dau of Charles and Jane Stewart. They lived for a time in Greene Co., PA before moving to Wood Co., WV. Children: John, Isaac, Robert, Matilda, Jane, Isabella, Henry, George and Mary.

12. Eli Blosser. Recorded as the youngest child but nothing else known of him. May have died young.

If you have information concerning this family please contact the author.

¹ Birth and death dates from tombstone in Cagey-Blosser Cemetery, Greater Point Marion, PA

² 1810 U. S. Census, Dunkard Township, Greene Co., PA

³ 1820 U. S. Census, Springhill Township, Fayette Co., PA

⁴ Fayette Co., PA Will Book 3, page 141

⁵ The information on the Nieman family is from a manuscript *The Nieman Family* by Mrs. Harry Maust, Markleysburg, PA., dated 1980

FROM OUR NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

The Glades Star Vol. 9 No. 13 March 2002, had an article on Uniontown's stop on the Underground Railroad, Baker's Alley, on pages 498-499. The stop, a home, now gone, on Baker's Alley is marked with a monument. Baker's Alley has several markers and can be spotted from Rt. 40 (East Main Street). {From *The Glades Star*, Garrett County Historical Society, PO Box 28, Oakland, MD 21550. www.thegladesstar.org }

Useful web sites gleaned from articles in these newsletters:

Old Terms for Diseases & Causes of Death:

www.vineyard.net/vineyard/history/old_diseases.html

http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm

Hessian soldiers: <http://www.jsha.org> {From *Good Purpose*, Vol. 9 Issue 1 Feb. 2002, pp 5-6. Baltzer Meyer Historical Society, RR 11 Box 211, Greensburg, PA 15601}

Occupational Terms Defined: www.cpcug.org/user.jlacombe/terms.html {From *Good Purpose*, Vol. 8 Issue 4 Nov. 2001. Baltzer Meyer Historical Society's web page: ww2.ChoiceMall.com/baltzermeyer }

Bureau of Land Management Land Patent site: www.glorerecords.blm.gov (Was off-line while databases were purged of sensitive data by order of US District Court) {From *Pathways*, Vol. XXI No 1 - 2002, p 5. Butler County Chapter of the OH Genealogical Society, PO Box 2011, Middletown, OH 45044-2011; web page: <http://da120757.tripod.com/bcogs/> }

and are buried in the Brandonville Cemetery.⁵ Children: Catherine, Melissa, Frederick, John, George "Alva", Mary Ellen, Daniel, Rebecca, Sarah, Rose, and Carrie.

5. John Blosser b. ca. 1829 d. 19 July 1905 m. Malinda Conn b. 1827 d. 1901. John Blosser was a farmer and stonemason and lived near Stewartstown, WV. The family were members of the Forks of the Cheat Baptist Church in Stewartstown, WV. Children: Eleanor, Harriet, Anna, Laura, William, Emma, Carrie and Louise.

6. Rebecca Blosser b. 22 Jan 1831 d. 16 Oct 1903 m. Daniel Stewart b. 13 Aug 1825 d. 8 Nov 1887, son of Daniel and Rachel Stewart. They first lived near Durr's Crossroad in Dunkard Township, Greene Co., PA and later moved to a farm near Stewartstown, WV. They were members of the Eden Methodist Church, Stewartstown, WV. They are buried in the cemetery of this church. Children: Mary, David, Jemima "Sis", John, Olive "Pet", Keener, Rachel, Daniel, Jerry, George, William, Quinter and Myrtie.

6. Sarah Blosser b. 11 Nov 1801 d. 30 Nov 1818. Buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery, Greater Point Marion, PA.

7. Isaac Blosser b. 1804 d. 26 July 1842 m. Rebecca Gillespie d. 26 Oct 1880, dau. of David and Margaret Gillespie. Isaac purchased the home farm from his brothers and sisters and lived his whole life on Blosser Hill. He and his wife are both buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery.

1a. Henry Blosser b. 21 June 1828 d. 10 April 1901 m. Mary M. Brooks. They lived on a farm along the Cheat River near what is now the village of Lake Lynn, PA. Children: Luvara, Joseph, Mary Margaret, James, Julia, Jesse and George.

2a. John Blosser m. Sara Frankenberry

3a. George Blosser m. Harriet Johnson

4a. Margaret Blosser m. William Sergent. In 1870 they were living near Point Marion, PA but later moved to Sturgis, WV. No known children.

5a. Matilda Belle Blosser b. 17 April 1836 d. 23 July 1910 m. Francis M. Downey. They lived in Springhill Township. Children: Callie, Orpha, George, Frank, Fanny, Laura, Belle, and Ada.

6a. Isaac "Ike" Blosser b. 16 Feb 1837 d. 31 Dec 1896 m. Eliza Jane Fowler b. 2 July 1843 d. 19 Feb 1921, dau. of Caleb and Martha Fowler. They lived in the old Blosser homestead on Blosser Hill. Ike was a farmer and lumberman. Both are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Springhill Township. Children: Jacob, Launa, Jesse, Josephine, Benedick "Ben", Plessie, George, Nancy, Isabell Dora, K. Wilson, Larry, Della and Goldie.

7a. Rebecca Blosser b. 5 May 1840 d. 28 Sept 1841

8. John Blosser d. April 1866 m. Nancy Anne Blosser, his cousin. Moved to Hocking Co., OH. Children: Abraham, Jasper, George, Jacob, Mary, David and Benoni.

9. Nicholas Blosser b. ca 1809 d. 1866 m. Ann Gillespie b. 1809 d. 1861. Nick was a lumberman on the Cheat River. He and his wife are buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery. Most of Nick's sons moved to the Decker Creek - Kingwood Pike area of Monongalia Co., WV where they were also engaged in the lumber business.

1a. Jacob Blosser b. 1829 m. Permelia Wells. Children: Hester, Sarah and Mary.

2a. Isaac Blosser b. 1832 d. 1913 m. Catherine Runner. Children: Allen, Hester, James, Sannie, Mary, Eli, Ben, Walter and Leonard.

3a. George Blosser b. 1830 m. Catherine Rhoderick. Children: Isaac, Thomas, Mary, Charles, William and Emma.

4a. Nicholas Blosser b. 1833 d. 1906 m. Amy E. Conn. Lived near Point Marion, PA. Children: Thomas, Alpheus, Charles, Olive and Hattie.

5a. Henry Blosser b. 1836 d. 1871 m. Mary "Amy" Cunningham. They lived on Kingwood Pike in Monongalia Co., WV. Children: Martha, Olive, William, George, M. A., Mary and Ed.

6a. Thomas Blosser b. 1841 d. 1898 m. Nancy Sergent, dau. of Levi and Mary Sergent. Tom lived near Connellsville, Pa where he was a stonecutter, mason and blacksmith.

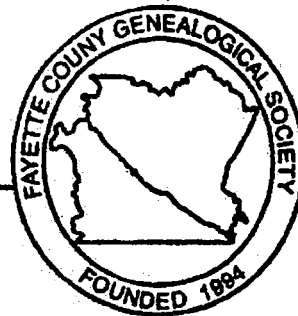
Page 36 - *Families of Fayette County - Volume 8 Issue 3 July 2002*

Mary Blosser made her will on 15 Jan 1845. The will was probated on 9 Sept 1854.⁴ She gave her granddaughter, Mary Herdman, a bed and bedding. The balance of her estate was left to her son, Nicholas Blosser. Mary was probably buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery, although a tombstone cannot be found today.

John, Jr. and Mary Blosser had twelve known children. The two oldest children may have been born in York Co., PA with the others being all born in Springhill Township. All Blossers who live in the Fayette Co., PA – Monongalia Co., WV area descend from this couple. Several of their children moved on to Ohio and the West, but those who remained established large families with many living descendants today. The children are:

1. Barbary (Barbara) Blosser b. 9 May 1788 d. 16 April 1807 m. Nicholas Fast, son of Christian and Anna Barbara Fast. They moved to Ohio in 1815 where they first settled in Richland Co., and then later moved to Ashland Co. They are buried in Nova, OH. Children: Christian, Henry, John, Mary, George, Catherine, Anna, Barbara, Isaac, and Jemima.
2. Catherine Blosser b. 18 June 1790 d. 21 Mar 1859 m. Martin Fast, son of Christian and Anna Barbara Fast. They also moved to Ashland Co., OH in 1815. They are buried in Polk, OH. Children: John, Anna, Eli, Christian, George, Mary, Jacob, Elijah and Sarah.
3. Elizabeth Blosser b. 1794 d. 1835 m. Christain Fast, son of Christain and Anna Barbara Fast. This family also moved to Ashland Co., OH in 1815. Later they moved on to Prairie City, IL where they died and are buried. Children: John, Martin, David, Isaac, Levina, George, Clemmer, Christian, Ann Elizabeth and Catherine. For more information on the Fast family there are two book that are helpful: *By Way of Rotterdam A Story of the Life of Nicklaus Faust (Fass, Fast): His Wife Cadarina Margaretha Danner and Some of Their Descendants* by Wirt Gerry Faust, 1976 and *Nicklaus Fast of Gocklingen, Germany* by Robert George Fast, 1994.
4. Mary Blosser b. 2 Aug 1796 d. 15 Sept 1879 m. William Kirkpatrick, son of William and Agnes Kirkpatrick. The Kirkpatricks also moved on to Ashland Co., OH. Children: Isabella, John, Catherine, William, Isaac, Mary, George, James, David, and Oliver.
5. George Oliver Blosser b. 3 Sept 1799 d. 9 June 1833 m. ca. 1819 Elizabeth Davis b. 4 Jan 1799 d. 26 Jan 1865. Family tradition says George Blosser went to Ohio to visit his Blosser relatives and met Elizabeth Davis. They were married and returned to Springhill Township, where they eventually lived on Blosser Hill. It is possible that Elizabeth's family may have been from Fayette Co. After George's early death Elizabeth remarried to Fidellas Stewart and they eventually settled near Stewartstown, WV. A long persistent tradition in the family is that after George Blosser died all the children were split up and farmed out to other families. George O. Blosser is buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery in Greater Point Marion, PA. Elizabeth is buried beside her second husband in Eden Methodist Church Cemetery, Stewartstown, WV. George and Elizabeth had six known children:
 - 1a. Mary Blosser b. 1820 d. ca. 1900 m. John Herdman and lived near Oak Grove in Springhill Township.
 2. Henry Blosser who moved West about 1850.
 3. Catherine "Kit" Blosser m. a Hillman and lived near Pittsburgh, PA
 4. Mariah Blosser b. 23 May 1828 d. 28 June 1917 m. 1848 John Henry Nieman b. 5 May 1817 in Baden, Germany d. 12 Mar 1904. John Nieman served in the Prussian Army in Germany. He emigrated to the U. S. at the age of 25 and settled in Stewartstown, WV. He served also in the Union Army in the Civil War. He was a lumberman, millwright and miller and followed those trades in several locations including Stewartstown, Delslow, and Bruceton Mills, WV and Gibbon Glade, PA. John was an amateur bass singer well known throughout the area for his powerful voice. He was a deacon in the Dunker Church the last twenty years of his life. He was a staunch Democrat and took an interest in all things political. Mariah and John Nieman lived last in Brandonville, WV

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FAMILY GROUP SHEET AND PEDIGREE CHART COLLECTION

Beth Bubonovich, Cindy Decker, & Sonia Cesarino are the committee preparing Volume 2. If you do not wish to have your charts included, please return the Publication Refusal slip that was in our April issue. We will have more information for you in our October issue.



WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY DELAYS WITH THIS ISSUE

The printing company that has always done our newsletters for us unexpectedly went out of business. As I type this, we are looking for a local printer who can also handle the mailing portion of the newsletter. We are trying our best to get this out on time, but if this is late, we do apologize. Thanks for your patience!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Pg 33...Family Group Sheet & Pedigree Chart Committee
- Pg 34...The BLOSSER Family of Blosser Hill, Springhill Twp., Fayette Co., PA by #246 Gordon Baker
- Pg 37...From Our Newsletter Exchanges
- Pg 38...Michael and Ann FLOOD - Our First Proven FLOODs by Jane Teague
- Pg 40...Michael & Ann(a) FLOOD (FLUD) (FLUDD): Dates & Documents by Jane Teague
- Pg 42...OH Birth & Death Records from Pathways (newsletter exchange)
- Pg 43...1837 Land Deal Between Rudolph SAD(D)LER & Springhill Twp School Directors by Cindy Decker
- Pg 44...Fayette Co, PA Microfilm Roll Numbers for Both the National Archives & Family History Library by Patrick Trimble
- Pg 45...Scrapbook News Clippings From 1885-1890, Pt. 2 by Deborah Harris
- Pg 49... FCGS Meeting Notes by Joanne Politano
- Pg 50...Searching For
...Miscellaneous Gleanings
- Pg 52...FCGS News
Wanted: Your articles and queries!

This is an official publication of the Fayette County Genealogical Society, Inc., a non-profit organization of Fayette County, Pennsylvania. This newsletter is published quarterly at Uniontown, PA. Yearly membership from January 1st through December 31st is \$12.00 for an individual and \$17.00 for a household (outside the U.S. add \$4.00.)

Blosser family

**THE BLOSSER FAMILY
OF BLOSSER HILL
SPRINGHILL TOWNSHIP, FAYETTE CO., PA**

**Gordon C. Baker
126 South Adams Street
Rockville, MD 20850-2324
gcbaker@starpower.net**

PART TWO

JOHN BLOSSER, JR.

John Blosser, Jr., son of John Blosser, Sr. and Catherine Beery was b. 1 Nov 1766 in York Co., PA and died 7 Feb 1829.¹ He married ca. 1787 in York Co., PA to Mary Clemmer, dau. of Jacob (Jasper) and Anna Barbara Neff Clemmer. Mary b. 14 Dec 1767 in York Co., PA d. prior to 9 Sept 1854. John and Mary Blosser moved from York Co. to Springhill Township, Fayette Co., PA with his parents. John Blosser, Jr. is not found in the 1790 or 1800 Census. He is first found in the 1810 Census in Dunkard Township, Greene Co., PA. This was exactly across the Monongahela River from his parent's home on Blosser Hill at the mouth of the Cheat River. John, Jr. probably lived on the Greene Co. side of the river in order to help operate the family ferry that crossed the Monongahela River at this point. In the 1810 Census² John Blosser, Jr's. household consisted of

- 3 males under 10
- 2 males 10-16
- 1 male 16-26
- 1 male over 45
- 1 female under 10
- 2 females 10-16
- 1 female 16-26
- 1 female 26-45
- 1 female over 45

Although John, Jr. was living in Dunkard Township he did purchase 41 ½ acres and 24 perches in Springhill Township from his parents on 25 June 1801. On 19 Dec 1812 he purchased the island in the Cheat River from his brother, Nicholas. John, Jr. and Mary Blosser probably moved over the river to Springhill after the deaths of his parents and brother, Nicholas in 1814. It may have been about this time that the old Blosser log house was built up on Blosser Hill. In the 1820 Census³ John is listed as

- John Blosser, Sr. Farmer
- 1 male 10-16
- 1 male 16-18
- 3 males 18-26
- 1 male over 45
- 1 female over 45

John Blosser, Jr. died in 1829 and is buried in the Cagey-Blosser Cemetery in what is now called Greater Point Marion, PA.

In the 1830 Census Mary Blosser is found living in the household of her son, Isaac Blosser, who was living at the old home, and eventually bought out the other heirs.