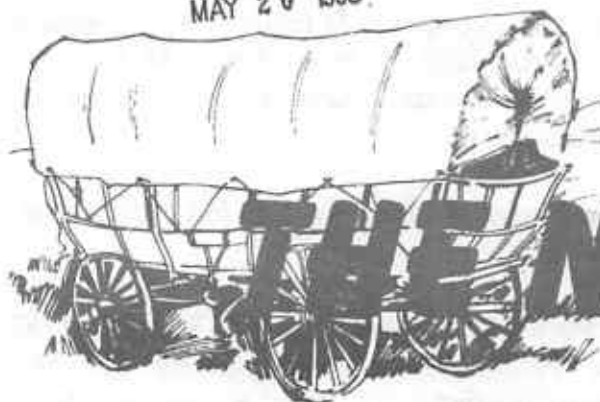


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# THE NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

The News-Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10 for the first year of membership and \$8 per year thereafter. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of the News-Caster for that year. Members receive four issues of The News-Caster per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

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## Ludwig Kister (1688-1747)

With the recent additions of the Madge Hubbard files, Fay Fuller notes, research in Northampton and Westmoreland Counties, PA, and paid association research by Dave Marshall of Peoria, AZ on the Ohio connections, we have made giant strides in our information on Ludwig Kister's descendants. However, there are still a number of gaps to fill in and we hope that future research by our members will give us some more answers.

1/95

(file Ludwig Kister) Ludwig Kister disk\0

Ludwig Kister was born 29 November 1688 at Zinswiller near Oberbronn, son of Johannes and Maria Susanna Kister. He was baptized 3 December 1688 in Oberbronn. He was confirmed at age 14 years. He married 1717 Maria Susanna Schneider at Oberbronn. Maria Susanna Schneider was born 9 November 1695. Maria Susanna had been living at Asswiller before her marriage. Ludwig was a shoemaker, as was his father. They lived at Durstel (about 36 miles northwest of Strasbourg, and 6 miles east of the Sarre River), Alsace, France. The area is known as "Crooked Alsace." The people speak German, Lorraine dialect. Ludwig died 12 July 1747 and was buried the 15th. Maria Susanna, widow of Ludwig, died 12 August 1770 and was buried the following day in the churchyard. Ludwig and Maria Susanna had five sons and three daughters.

### Their children:

1. A first son may have been baptized in Oberbronn (this record has not been searched).
2. Johann Jacob Kister baptized 16 February 1721; married 13 May 1751 Maria Christian Entzmenger in Durstel, Alsace, France.
3. Johann Ludwig Kister born 18 September 1723, baptized 19 September 1723; married 4 November 1748 Eva Christina Antoni at Bettwiller parish Durstel; married second Catharina \_\_\_\_\_; died between 11 December 1786 and 19 January 1787 in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pa.

DOES NOT CIRCULATE

OCCGS  
REFERENCE

4. Maria Christina Kister baptized 29 December 1728;
5. Maria Elisabeth Kister baptized 31 March 1731.
6. George Philip Kister born 25 September 1733, baptized 27 September 1733; married Anna Maria Tetisman Old Goshenhoppen 30 October 1755 Lutheran Church, Montgomery County, PA.
7. Johann Martzloff Kister born 26 August 1737, baptized 28 August 1737; married Rachel Dieter about 1768; died 1834.

Sources:

Family Group Sheets of Fay Fuller

"Ludwig Kuster and George Philip Kuster Who Arrived on the 'Neptune'" by George H Custard/The News-Caster\3:2 (June 1985), pp 5-9.

8/94

(file Ludwig Kister.3) Ludwig Kister disk\3

Johann Ludwig Kister/Kuster was born 18 September 1723 in Durstel, Alsace, France, son of Ludwig and Maria Susanna (Schneider) Kister. Ludwig was baptized 19 September 1723. He was confirmed 29 May 1740. Ludwig married 4 November 1748 Eva Christina Antoni at Bettwiller parish, Durstel. Eva Christina was daughter of Casper Antoni, deceased, wheelwright from Bettwiller. They came to Philadelphia with brother, George Philip, aboard the ship Neptune, leaving Rotterdam and coming by way of Cowes, England, and arrived 4 October 1752. Ludwig and Eva Christina settled in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pa. They probably attended St Pauls (Indianlands) Church near Cherryville. Eva Christina died 1760-1768. Ludwig married second Catharina \_\_\_\_\_. Ludwig died sometime between 11 December 1786 and 19 January 1787, leaving a seven page Will (File 1188, Northampton County, Pa, dated 11 December 1786). An inventory of the Estate was made 19 January 1787. Sixteen children survived Ludwig. Catharina was still living in 1810 as evidenced by the federal census record.

Children of Ludwig and Eva Christina:

1. Johann George Philip Kuster born 8 February 1749 in Durstel, Alsace, France; married Ann Elizabeth

Stamatz 15 November 1774 Franklin, Westmoreland County, PA; died 15 November 1834 Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, buried Denmark Manor Cemetery.

2. Maria Margaretha Kuster born 29 July 1750 Alsace, France.

3. Ludwig Kuster/Lewis Keister born 18 January 1752 Alsace, France; Catharine Margaretha (surname unknown); married Mary "Polly" Keyser 27 October 1825 Wayne County, OH; died 20 November 1827 Baughman, Wayne County, Ohio.

4. Anna Margaretha Kuster born 11 December 1753 Northampton County, PA; married Johann Peter Rugh; died 12 April 1831.

5. Peter Kister/Kuster born about 1755 PA; married Eva Schnyder (Fay Fuller records wife as Elizabeth); died January 1828 ?Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA.

6. Eva Christina Kuster born about 1755 PA.

7. George Jacob Kuster born 1 March 1760, baptized 8 April 1760 by Reverend Daniel Schumacher; living in 1818.

8. Johann Nicholas Kuster born about 1761; married Magdalena (surname unknown); lived on his father's farm in Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA.

9. Maria Salome Kuster born about December 1763/January 1764; lived in Westmoreland County, PA.

10. Magdalena Kuster married Christian Hartman 17 April 1787.

Children of Ludwig and Catharina:

11. Susanna Kuster born 24 March 1769, baptized 16 April 1769; ?married Peter Kuntz; married Henry Rockel 6 August 1812.

12. Johann George Kuster born 30 January 1771, baptized 24 March 1771 by Reverend Daniel Schumacher.

13. Elizabeth Kuster born 30 July 1777; married \_\_\_\_\_ Eichhorn; died 14 December 1817 Northampton County, PA.

?14. Conrad Kister born 11 June 1779 Northampton County, PA; married Susanna (surname unknown); died 7 October 1844, buried Old United Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, PA.

15. Lawrence Kister/Kester born 23 December 1783; married Susanna (surname unknown); died 9 June 1871 Northampton County, PA, buried St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church near Cherryville, Northampton County, PA.

16. Female Kuster born 1786/1787; single living at home 1810.

Sources:

Family Group Sheets of Fay Fuller

"Ludwig Kuster and George Philip Kuster Who Arrived on the 'Neptune'" by George H Custard\The News-Caster\3:2 (June 1895), pp 5-9

Emanuel Petersville Church Records H929.3 M781 at Easton Area Public Library

letter Marvin L Kester -- 24 Sep 1991

1800 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lower Mt. Bethel Twp., p. 595  
Widow Kester

1F 45  
1F 16-26  
1 F 10-16

1810 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 77  
Catharin Kester

1F 45+  
1F 26-45  
1F 16-26

1/95

(file Ludwig Kister.6) Ludwig Kister disk\6

George Philip Kister/Kuster was born 25 September 1733 at Durstel, Alsace, France, son of Ludwig and Maria Susanna (Schneider) Kister. George Philip was baptized 27 September 1733. He was confirmed 14 May 1747. George Philip came to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with brother, Ludwig, aboard the ship Neptune and arrived 4 October 1752. George Philip was a servant for Rudolph Zerbe at Skippack, Pennsylvania. George Philip married 30 October 1755 Anna Maria Tetisman at the Old

Goshenhoppen Lutheran Church, Upper Salford Township of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Anna Maria was born about 1730, daughter of Philip Tetisman.

Possible children of George Philip and Anna Maria:

1. Valentine Keister married Barbara Huber Goshenhoppen Reformed Church, Montgomery County, PA.

2. Maria Catharina Kiester married Peter Schuller 26 May 1768 Goshenhoppen Reformed Church, Montgomery County, PA.

3. Peter Kuster married Cath. Elisab. Engelman 29 October 1782 Goshenhoppen Reformed Church, Montgomery County, PA.

Sources:

Marriages in Goshenhoppen 1781-1790; News letter of PA Chapter of PALAM

"Ludwig Kuster and George Philip Kuster Who Arrived on the 'Neptune'" by George H Custard\The News-Caster\3:2 (June 1895), pp 5-9

8/94

Ludwig Kister disk\7

Johann Martzloff/Martzelloff/Martzell/Martin Kester was born 26 August 1737. He was baptized 28 August 1737 Durstell, Alsace, France (No. 196 on 2nd Register). He emigrated to America with his brothers Ludwig and Philip, and settled in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. He married Rachel Dieter about 1768. Rachel was the daughter of George Michael Dieter. The family lived in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Martzell Küster sold 150 acres of land to his son, Philip, on 20 February 1816.

Agreement Lecha [Lehigh] Township, Northampton County, February Between 20, 1816. On this day Martzellus Kuster appeared as seller Martzell Kister and his son, Philip Küster, as buyer, and they made and and Philip Kister signed the following sales contract with each other. The agreement is as follows: the above mentioned seller, Martzellus Kuster, sells his farm in Lehigh Township, with the 150 acres of land belonging to it, adjoining the land of Friederich Eberhart, Jacob Anthony, wilhelm Dieter, and lastly Anton Solt and others, for the sum of 500 pounds, and if the seller should die, then his children shall draw this yearly according to age from the buyer's portion as joint- heirs. Furthermore the seller promises to give to the buyer a good, just and free deed when

the buyer shall have paid off the debt of the land, and the cost for the deed must be deducted from the above-mentioned 500 pounds or from the sum. Furthermore, the buyer promises to give his father, besides the above sales price, every year as long as he lives, 4 bushels of wheat, 21 bushels of corn, 13 bushels of Indian corn, 12 bushels of buckwheat, 15 lb. comed flax, 20 lb. tow, 1 barrel of cider, 1 barrel of \_\_\_\_\_ cider, and the seller is allowed to get as many apples as he needs for himself and his household. Every year the buyer must plow for the seller a quarter acre of land, dung it and put it in good order. The seller must see to the hoeing and sowing himself. The seller can keep two head of cattle on the place, and he can raise one cow, and this one can go with the buyer's cattle, and the necessary feed the buyer must supply for the seller. The buyer must bring the necessary firewood, cut, to the seller's house, but should he no longer be able to cut into smaller pieces himself, then the buyer must chop it smaller. Should the seller die before his wife, Rachel née Dieter, then she receives one half of the above and from the first amount shall my wife Rachel draw the interest as long as she lives. Since both parties are now agreed, they have signed with their own hand and have promised to fulfill this accord on the aforesaid day and year.

Martzell Kuster  
(seal) Phillip Kuster (seal)

Signed and delivered in our presence, Friedrick Kuntz, Johannes Kester

Rachel died sometime before 16 September 1834 when administrators, George Philip Kester, farmer, Jacob Vogel, carpenter, and Peter Kester, farmer all of Lehigh Township were named to administer her estate. The estate, listed as the amount of portion recieved from William Eichman, being from the estate of George Michael Dieter, the father of sd. Rachel Kester, was settled on 20 July 1837. On 19 November 1834 administrators, Henry Rockel, yeoman; John Bachman, cordwainer; and Henry Gress, farmer were named to administer Matzloff's estate.

#### Children of Matzloff and Rachel:

1. Johann Ludwig Kuster born 3 March 1769, baptized 26 March 1769 by Rev. Daniel Schumacher, sponsors were Ludewigh Küster and Elixabeth Dieterin both single; ?died young.

2. Philip Kester born 1770-1780; married Maria (surname unknown).

#### Sources:

Northampton County, PA File No 4455, p. 369; File No 4518, p. 99.  
Northampton County, PA Deed Book 1, C4, page 74.  
The PA German Society Publication, New Series, Vol. 1  
1800 Census PA, Northampton Co., Lehigh Twp., p. 561  
Martin Kester  
1 male 45+ 1 female 45+

1810 Census PA, Northampton Co., Lehigh Twp., p 77.

Martin Kester

1 male 45+ 1 female 45+

1 male 26-45

9/94

(file Ludwig Kister.3.1) Ludwig Kister disk\3-1

Johann George Philip Kuster/Keister was born 8 February 1749 in Durstel, Alsace, France, son of Ludwig and Eva Christina (Antoni) Kuster. George Phillip married 15 November 1774 Ann Elizabeth Stamatz. Ann Elizabeth was born 2 December/15 February 1750 on board the "Strasburg" during a crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. George Philip and brother Ludwig left Northampton County, Pa to settle in Westmoreland County about 1778 and bought about 350 acres. George Philip settled near Harrison City, Westmoreland County, Pa. He served as a private in Capt Thos. Stokely's Company of Pennsylvania Rangers from Westmoreland County in 1781. He bought 462 acres of land from Alex Cobean of Gettysburg, Admas County and wife, Elizabeth in 1815. George Philip died 15 November 1834. Ann Elizabeth died 11 July 1838. They were buried at Denmark Manor Church Cemetery, Westmoreland County, Pa. A list of heirs was made in 1839 when Philip's land consisting of 189 acres, part of a survey of 1807 of 432 purchased by Philip Kiester from Alex Cobean, was quit claimed to Jacob Kister of Franklin Twp., Westmoreland Co. by the remaining heirs: Peter Kiester and wife, Susannah of Butler Co, Muddy Creek Twp.; John Kiester and wife, Margaret of Westmoreland Co., Franklin Twp.; Philip Kuster and wife, Margaret of Slippery Rock Twp., Butler Co.; Daniel Kiester and wife, Susannah of Franklin Twp., Westmoreland Co., Franklin Twp.; Catherine Kiester Franklin Twp.; Michael Kiester and wife, Martha, Salem Twp.; John McClelland and wife Elizabeth, Connesquenessing Twp., Butler Co.

#### Their children:

1. Susannah Kiester born 1775; died 24 January 1827.

2. Peter Kiester born 1777; married Susannah Baumgardner; died 2 September 1857 Slippery Rock Twp, Butler County, Pa.

3. John Kiester born 27 December 1778 Denmark



Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 7 March 1779 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement; married Margaret Kemerer; died 31 October 1843.

4. Johann Philip Kiester born 12 December 1780 at Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 18 March 1781 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement; married Margaret Shaffer; died 28 September 1863 Slippery Rock Twp, Butler County, Pa, buried Old Slippery Rock Cemetery.

5. Jacob Kiester 27 October 1782 Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA; married Elizabeth Neleigh; died 5 June 1843 Westmoreland County, Pa, buried at Murrysville Cemetery.

6. Daniel Kiester born 22 April 1784 Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 26 December 1784 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement; married 11 June 1817 Jane Aber; died 20 August 1862 in Murrysville, PA, buried at Murrysville Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Westmoreland County, PA.

7. Catherine Kiester born 3 January 1787 Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 22 April 1787 Zion Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, PA, Johannes and Anna Silvius were sponsors; married James Dunford after 1839.

8. Michael Kiester born 5 April 1788 Denmark Manor, Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 21 January 1789 Zion Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, PA; married Martha \_\_\_\_\_, lived Franklin Twp. Westmorland County, PA.

9. Elizabeth Kiester born 19 October 1790 at Denmark Manor; married John F McClelland; died 6 September 1875 IA.

10. Sara Kiester born 29 January 1793 at Denmark Manor; married Jacob Phipps; died before 1839.

Sources:

Ruff, Paul Miller; The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, PA, Vol I; p. 62, 52.

"Ludwig Kuster and George Philip Kuster Who Arrived on the 'Neptune'" by George H Custard\The News-Caster\3:2 (June 1985),

pp 5-9

Lives and Letters from Kiester House by Donna Kiester Gibson (1987), p 9

Genealogical & Personal History of Western Pennsylvania; John W Jordan, ed (1915), pp 202-4

Emanuel Petersville Church Records H929.3 M781 at Easton Area Public Library; p 12.

Pennsylvania Archives; Third Series, Vol XXII, p 405; Vol XXVI, p 409; Vol XXIII, p 463

1800 census Pa, Westmoreland Co, Washington Twp, p 369

Phillip Kiester

1M 45+ 1F 45+

2M 16-26 1F 26-45

2M 10-16 2F 16-26

1M -10

1810 census Pa, Westmoreland Co, Franklin Twp, p 784

Phillip Keister Sr

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 26-45 1F 26-45

1M 16-26 2F 16-26

8/94

(file Ludwig Kister.3.2) Ludwig Kister disk\3-3

Ludwig/Lewis Kuster/Kester/Keister was born 18 January 1752 Alsace, France, the son of Johan Ludwig and Eva Christina (Antoni) Kuster. Lewis married Catharine Margaetha (surname unknown) about 1774 or earlier. Lewis left Northampton County, Pennsylvania about 1774 to settle near Scottdale in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. A warantee of land for 200 acres was issued to Lodowick Kerster -- survey dated 10 November 1773. Lewis rendered service in the Revolutionary War. Lewis bought 100 acres in Huntington Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania adjoining Walker, Vance, and Woodrow from Isaac Meason and wife, Catrine of Fayette County, which had been granted to Meason in 1787. In 1812 he sold this land to Conrad Stam. Ludwig Keister and wife, Cathrin, of Sugar Creek, Wayne County, Ohio sold 81 acres of land to Jacob Kiester of East Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania adjoining Steisert, River, and other land of Ludwig on 24 August 1813. He bought more land from Meason and wife Cathrine of Fayette County in 1813, even though Ludwig was listed as living in Sugar Creek Township, Wane County, Ohio, at the time. This land was East Huntington Township adjoining Kerr, Tintsman and Stewert, part of a tract granted by Penns in 1796 to Ann Young, Niece of John Young. Ludwig Keister of Wayne County, Ohio

had granted "power of attorney" to "our trusty friend" Nicholas Swope of Westmoreland County to sell land, lately purchased from Meason, to Jacob Keister, and the land was sold to their son, Jacob. In 1814 more land was sold by Nicholas Swope, attorney for Ludwick Kester and wife Catherine. This time the land was sold to John Snider, and was located on Jacob's Creek adjoining Brenjoren, Furtz and land of Jacob Kester.

Lewis located in Baughman Township of Wayne County, Ohio around 1812. Catherine died after 1813, as she was listed on deeds selling land. She is not listed on the deed dated 21 August 1817 where Lewis sold land to Conrad Harman:

This Indenture made this twenty-first day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen between Lewis Keuster of the county of Wayne and State of Ohio of the one part and Coonrod Harman of said County and State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth That the said Lewis Keuster for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred Dollars current money of the United States of America to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and forever quit and discharge the said Coonrod Harman heirs, executors and administrators have granted, bargained, sold, aliened and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, alien and confirm unto the said Coonrod Harman heirs and assigns forever all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Wayne and state of Ohio and more particularly described by being the North-east half quarter of section thirteen of township seventeen in Range eleven beginning at the North-east corner at a beech, thence south to a white-oak post, thence west to a ash post 1002 perches, thence north-east forty-six perches to a beech thence north to the line, together with all improvements, water courses, profits and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises belonging or in anywise appertaining and the reversions, remainders and profits thereof and all the estate, right, title interest, property claim and demand of the said Lewis Keuster of in and to the same. To have and to hold the lands hereby conveyed with all and singular the premises and every part and parcel thereof with every of the appurtenances unto the said Coonrod Harman heirs and assigns forever to the only proper use and behoof of the said Coonrod Harman heirs and assigns forever. And the said Lewis Keuster for his heirs executors and administrators do covenant promise and agree to and with the said Coonrod Harman his heirs and assigns by these presents that the premises before mentioned now are and forever hereafter shall remain free of and from all judgements, executions, titles, troubles, charges and incumbrances whatsoever done or suffered to be done by the said Lewis Keuster. And the said Lewis Keuster and his heirs all and singular the premises hereby bargained and sold with the appurtenances unto the said Coonrod Harman heirs and assigns against the said Lewis Keuster and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever doth and will Warrant and forever defend by these presents. In witness whereof the said Lewis Keuster hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written. Signed, sealed and delivered in the

presence of us.  
John Shillen  
Solomon Baughm

Lewis Keuster (seal)

State of Ohio Wayne SS

Personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the acting Justice of the peace for said County the within named Lewis Keuster who acknowledged that he did voluntarily sign, seal and deliver the within deed of conveyance for the purposes therein expressed and desires that the same may be admitted to record. Given under my hand and seal this 23rd day of August 1817.

John Baughm (seal) Recorded & comp. the above deed this  
14th day of September AD 1817 Wm Sann  
JLS Rec.

Lewis married Mary "Polly" Keyser 27 October 1825 in Wayne County, Ohio. Lewis' will was dated 2 March 1827, and probated 5 November 1827. Some records list Lewis' death as 20 November 1827 (more likely 20 October).

In the Name of God Amen, I Lewis Keister of township of Baughm, County of Wayne and state of Ohio, being weak in body, but of sound mind and understanding, do make this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all and every kind of Wills and Testaments heretofore by me made, or in anywise given.

I hereby resign my soul into the hands of Almighty God from whom it came, and my body to the ground to be interred at the discretion of my executors, in full confidence of a Joyfull Resurrection at the Consumation of all things.

And as to my Earthly Estate I Will and and dispose of it in manner following: After the payment of my just debts (if any there should be) which payment I allow to be made out of my Personal Estate, I Will and allow that my Son Jacob Keister shall have the sum of one dollar, my daughter Christiana Stouffer the sum of Fifty Dollars, my daughter Margaret Walters the sum of Fifty dollars, my daughter Elizabeth Herman the sum of Twenty dollars, and my daughter Eve Clapper the sum of Fifty dollars. After the payment of which sums as above mentioned, I Will and allow the remainder of my Estate to be equally divided between my children. That is, Cathraine Shoop, Christiana Stouffer, Margaret Walters, Matty Herman, Elizabeth Herman and Eve Clapper. I Will an allow that my son-in-law Conrad Herman shall have my Windmill, two sets of Horse Geers, one Harrow and two Pitch Forks. I Will and allow my daughter Matty one Churn, one Wire Riddle, and one pair of Sheep Sheers and one Heckle. All the above articles I Will and allow to be delivered before any division of any part of my Estate shall be made.

I Will and allow that whatever Property I got by my second Wife to go to her daughter Rebecca Johnston.

I hereby appoint George Herman and Jacob Clapper my true and Lawful executors to execute this my last Will and have it performed.

In testimony of the foregoing being my last Will and Testament, I hereby affix my hand and Seal this second day of March, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven. Signed and Sealed

in presence of

his  
Lewis X Keister  
mark

Noah Edgington  
Jacob Funk  
James F Leonard

probated 5 November 1827

**Their children:**

1. Johann Peter Keister born 12 November 1775 Westmoreland County, PA; baptized 17 December 1775 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement; appears to have died before 1827.

2. Johann Jacob Keister born 14 December 1777 Westmoreland County, PA; baptized 17 December 1775 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement.

3. Catherine/ Catharina Margaretha Keister born 30 March 1780 Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 14 June 1780 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement; married G W Shoup.

4. Christiana Keister born 1786/31 March 1787; married Jacob Stauffer/ Stouffer before 1805; died 1865 OH.

5. Maria Margaretha Keister born 31 March 1787/29 November 1791; married spring 1805 Christian Walter; died 2 February 1862 in Wayne County, Ohio, buried at Paradise Cemetery.

6. Mary Magdalene "Matty" Keister born 29 November 1790/1 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania; married 1810 Conrad Harman; died 11 October 1883 in Baughman Township of Wayne County, Ohio.

7. Elizabeth Keister born 9 June 1797; married George Harman; died 1855 OH.

8. Eva Keister born 2 July 1798; married Jacob Clapper 28 September 1813 Stark County, OH; died 21 February 1867 Wayne County, OH.

**Sources:**

Notes sent by Fay Fuller

Westmoreland County Deed Books 10-317-1813;  
10-317-1813; ?-554-1812; ?-316-1813; ?-677-1814

Ruff, Pennsylvania German Church Records; Vol 1.

Madge Hubbard Files

Pennsylvania Archives 3rd Series, Vol 26, p 455; Vol 22, p 405; Vol

22, p 515 Wayne County, Ohio Deed Book Volume 1, page 236 -- Lewis Keuster to Coonrod Harman Wayne County, Ohio Will Book 2, p 40

History of the Walter and Keister Descendants by W C Walter (1936)

[Hempfield Township was formed 6 April 1773. South Huntingdon Township was formed January 1790 from Hempfield Township.]

1790 census Pa, Westmoreland Co, South Huntingdon Twp, p 267

Lewis Caster

1M +16 4F

2M -16

1800 census Pa, Westmoreland Co, South Huntingdon Twp, p 291

Ludwick Kester

1M 45+ 1F 45+

2M 16-26 1F 10-16

1M -10 3F -10

[East Huntingdon Township was formed 1795 or 1798 from South Huntingdon Township, but the enumeration in 1800 census was reported as South Huntingdon.]

1810 census Pa, Westmoreland Co, East Huntingdon Twp, p 726

Ludwic Kiester

1M 45+ 1F 45+

2M 16-26 2F 16-26

1M -10 1F 10-16

[Scottdale, where Lewis settled, was successively in Hempfield, South Huntingdon, and East Huntingdon Townships.]

1820 census Ohio, Wayne Co, Baughm Twp, p 171

Lewis Custerd

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 10-16

Ohio Records of Pioneer Families; contributed by Esther Wegandt Powell, 36 N Highland Ave, Akron, Ohio 44303

NB: Some of the dates on these records have been proven to be incorrect by baptismal records created at the time of the birth. Some of the dates given do not fall on the day of the week given.

**WALTER KEISTER BIBLE RECORDS**

Christian Walter and Margaretha Keister married Spring 1805  
Christian Walter born May 13, 1781 died October 30, 1852  
Margaretha Keister born November 29, 1791

John Walter born Tuesday Apr 22, 1806, d 1891

Jacob Walter born Monday, Jan 3, 1808, d June 19, 1861

Catherine Walter born Friday, May 19, 1809, d 1902

Margaret Walter born Friday, Nov 23, 1810

Elizabeth Walter born Monday, May 25, 1812

Susan Walter born Wednesday, Dec 18, 1813

Peter Walter born Wednesday, Mar 13, 1816, d July 25, 1887

Joseph Walter born Saturday, Apr 11, 1819, d Dec 31, 1882

## Marriages

John Walter - Elizabeth Carroll 1824  
Jacob Walter - Elizabeth McFadden June 30, 1830  
Catherine Walter - Silas Coe Feb 26, 1835  
Margaret Walter - Daniel McFadden 1830  
Peter Walter - Elizabeth Carr  
Joseph Walter - Sarah Nixon 1838  
Susan Walter - John McFadden 1836

Peter Walter was first white child born in BaughmanTwp, Wayne Co, Ohio

## KEISTER BIBLE RECORDS

Peter Keister born on the Sabbath, Nov 12, 1775  
Jacob Keister born on the Sabbath, dec 14, 1777  
Catherine Keister born on Thursday, Aug 20, 1781  
Christiana Keister born on Monday, Mar 31, 1787  
Margaretha Keister born on Saturday, Nov 29, 1791  
Elizabeth Keister born on Tuesday, June 9 1797  
Eva Keister born on Monday, July 2, 1798

Margaretha married Christian Walter

Lewis Keister of Westmoreland County, Pa. He was a Revolutionary War Soldier and belonged to the Westmoreland contingent. The name is spelled Koester, Kuster, Kuester and Custard. A Ludwig Koester born in Prussia had name changed to English. The mother's name is not mentioned but was recorded on the baptism certificate.

Mary Magdalene \_\_\_\_\_ married Conrod Harman, buried at County Line Cemetery, Warwick - North Lawrence Road. He died in 1855 age 64. She died 1883, age 91 Margaret married Jacob Harman. He died Jan 18, 1897 and she died May 27, 1893. Also buried in County Line Cemetery.

9/94

Ludwig Kister disk\3-4

Anna Margaretha/Maria Margaret/Margaret Keister was born 11 December 1753 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Ludwig and Maria Susanna (Schneider) Kister. She married Johann Peter Rugh. Peter was born 7 August 1747, the son of Michael and Anna Francia (Markle) Rugh. They lived on 200 acres, one mile south of Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. This was part of 400 acres purchased by Peter's father, Michael Rugh, when he came to America prior to the Revolutionary War. Peter died 22 December 1828. Margaret died 12 April 1831. They are buried in the Old Union Graveyard, German Lutheran and Reformed Church graveyard adjoining Greensburg on the South along with Peter's brother, Jacob. The graveyard may not

now exist.

Children of Peter and Margaret:

1. Christian Rugh born 20 June 1773, baptized 1 August 1773 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Philip Köster and Christina Rugh were sponsors.
2. Eva Christina Rugh born 11 August 1774, baptized 6 October 1774 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Daniel and Christina Williams were sponsors.
3. Anna Margaretha Rugh born 5 November 1775, baptized 26 November 1775 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Philip and Margaretha Kuntz were sponsors.
4. Elisabetha Rugh born 30 October 1776, baptized 15 December 1776 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Philip and Elizabeth Köster were sponsors.
5. Magdalena Rugh born 7 March 1777, baptized 19 April 1778 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Jacob Rugh and Luisa Keppel were sponsors.
6. Peter Rugh born 9 June 1779, baptized 4 July 1779 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Michael Mechling and Catharine Über were sponsors.
7. Anna Maria Rugh born 20 October 1780, baptized 19 October [sic] 1780 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Theobald and Maria Mächling were sponsors; married Mr. Macklin.
8. Catharina Rugh born 7 April 1782, baptized 20 May 1782 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwickle Settlement, Philip and Catharina Schmidt were sponsors.
9. Ann Franzina Rugh born 11 March 1785.
10. Child Rugh born 3 October 1786.



11. Salomon Rugh born 14 June 1793, baptized 18 August 1793 Greensburg Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, PA, Joh. Peter and Anna Catharina Miller were sponsors.

12. Sara Rugh born 16 November 1794, baptized 24 January 1795 Greensburg Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, PA, Joh. Peter and Anna Margaretha Stroh were sponsors.

13. Lea Rugh born 6 November 1799, baptized 6 April 1800 Greensburg Lutheran Church, Westmoreland County, PA, Christian and Elisabeth Sachsmann were sponsors.

14.

15.

16.

Sources:

Look Behind Your Mirror, Some Descendants of Michael Rugh; p9  
Ruff, P. M.; The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, PA; p.2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 15, 18, 24.

Ruff, P. M.; The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, PA; Vol. II; p. 46, 49, 60.

Fay Fuller notes

Letter from Beverly Molsted - 1990

8/94 (file Ludwig Kister.3.7) Ludwig Kister disk\3-5

Peter Kuster/Kester was born about 1755, son of Ludwig and Eva Christina (Antoni) Kuster. Peter married Catherine Schneider. Catherine was born 1755-1774. Catherine died about 1807 or before. Peter married Eva Schneider, sister of Catherine.

They lived in Lehigh Township (now County) of Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Peter paid federal taxes in Northampton County in 1785, 1786, and 1788. By 1786, Peter owned 100 acres of land. Also, that year he was described as a tavern keeper.

On the 6th of February 1795, Peter Kester bought 156 1/4 acres from the Penn family for sixty-nine pounds, six shillings and three pence. On the 6th day of February 1810, Peter and wife Eva conveyed 144 1/4 acres to their son John Kester in consideration of 600 pounds and in accordance with an Agreement dated 14 May 1807. John Kester sold 15 acres of the

tract 16 June 1810 to John Applebach for \$420. On the 30th of April 1821, John Kester and wife Elizabeth conveyed 133+ acres of this tract back to Peter Kester in consideration of \$1,600 and the nullification of the Agreement dated 14 May 1807. Peter died January 1828.

Children of Peter:

1. George Peter Kuster born 1774-1784.

2. Female Kuster born 1784-1790.

3. Female Kuster born 1784-1790.

4. John Kuster/Kester born 1784-1790; married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_; died between 1850-1860.

5. Female Kuster born 1790-1794.

6. Female Kuster born 1794-1800.

7. Female Kuster born about 1800.

8. Female Kuster born 1804-1810.

Two of the above females are:

Elizabeth Kuster married Conrad Pier before 1811.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kuster married Peter Schneider of Hamilton Township.

Sources:

Springfield Historical Society; PA Fraktur, Vol. 2; #320  
letter Marvin L Kester - 24 Sep 1991 & 18 Feb 1992  
Pennsylvania Archives; Third Series, XIX, p 163; p 244; p 349  
1790 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp

Peter Castor

1M +16 6F

2M -16

1800 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 561

Peter Kester

1M 45+ 1F 26-45

1M 16-26 2F 10-16

1M 10-16 2F -10

1810 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 77

Peter Kester

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 16-26 1F 16-26

2F 10-16

1F -10

1820 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 249

Peter Kester

1M 45+      1F 45+  
                 1F 10-16

8/94

(file Ludwig Kister.3.5) Ludwig Kister disk\3-8

Johann Nicholas Kester/Kuster was born 1755-1765, son of Ludwig Kuster. Nicholas married Magdalena (surname unknown). Magdalena was born between 1755 -1765. They lived in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pa. Nicholas' father requested that Nicholas take over his farm as a lessor upon his death and manage it for the benefit of the estate for a period of four years. In 1801, Nicholas bought the farm from the estate at its appraised value of 875 pounds. Deeds are also recorded for Nicholas in Northampton County: Nicholas Küster to John Seager 8 June 1801; Nicholas Kuster and wf to Jacob Kuntz 2 September 1815; Nicholas Kuster and wf to William Wentz 26 May 1815; Nicholas Kuster and wf to Peter Soldt 2 September 1815; Nicholas Kuster and wf to Nicholas Saeger 9 June 1815 and Nicholas Kuster by Sheriff to Jacob Stem 27 November 1819. This last deed is the last record that has been found for Nicholas. Did Nicholas die or did he move somewhere else? Perhaps Sugar Loaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA?

Children of Nicholas and Magdalena:

1. Male Kester born about 1784.
2. Male Kester born about 1784.
3. Female Kester born 1784-1790.
4. Female Kester born 1784-1794.
5. Male Kester born 1790-1794.
6. Female Kester born 1794-1800.
7. Male Kester born 1794-1800.
8. Female Kester born 1794-1800.
9. Male Kester born about 1800.

10. Male Kester born 1800-1810.

11. Female Kester 1800-1810.

Sources:

Northampton County, PA Deed Books

Nicholas Kuster to John Seager G2-62 deed 8 June 1801, rec. 10 August 1801

Nicholas Kuster and wf to Jacob Kuntz B4-246 deed 2 September 1815, rec. 2 January 1816

Nicholas Kuster and wf to William Wentz E4-102 deed 26 May 1815, rec. 29 May 1818

Nicholas Kuster and wf to Peter Soldt E4-236 deed 2 September 1815, rec. 19 October 1919

Nicholas Kuster and wf to Nicholas Saeger E4-371 deed 9 June 1815 rec. 6 May 1819.

Nicholas Kuster by Sheriff to Jacob Stm A2 1/2-133 deed 27 November 1819, rec. 27 Novmeber 1819

"Ludwig Kuster and George Philip Kuster Who Arrived on the Neptune" by George H Custard;The News-Caster;3:2 (June 1985), pp 5-9

Pennsylvania Archives\Third Series, Vol XIX, p 163, p 244, p 349

1800 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 561

Nicholas Kester

1M 26-45      1F 26-45  
2M 16-26      2F 10-16  
3M -10      2F -10

1810 census Pa, Northampton Co, Lehigh Twp, p 77

Nicholas Kester

1M 45+      1F 45+  
3M 16-26      2F 16-26  
1M 10-16      2F 10-16  
2M -10      1F -10

?1820 Census PA, Luzerne County, Sugar Loaf Twp, P.257

Nicholas Kester

1 male 45+    1 female 26-45  
1 male 26-45  
2 males -10

8/94

Ludwig Kister disk\3-9

Maria Salome Kuster was born December 1763/January 1764 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Ludwig and Eva Christina (Antoni) Kister. She moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania along with several of her siblings. According to church records she had two illegitimate children.

Children of Salome:

1. Peter Kuster (Peter Kuntz is listed as the father)

born 26 January 1782, baptized 3 March 1782 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement, Peter and Margaretha Rugh were the sponsors.

2. Magdalena Kuster born 13 March 1785 Westmoreland County, PA, baptized 4 April 1785 by Balthaser Meyer, Schoolmaster at the Siwicle Settlement, Elisabetha, Philip Koster's wife was the sponsor.

Sources:

Ruff, P. M.; The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, PA; p. 23, 26.

9/94

Ludwig Kister disk\3-14

Conrad Kister/Kiester was born 11 June 1779 (computed from tombstone age) in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, the son of Ludwig and Eva Christina (Antoni) Kister. He married Susanna (surname unknown). Susanna was born about 1774. The family lived in Mount Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where Conrad was a tailor. Conrad bought a tract of land called "Partnership" located at Market and S Streets in Mount Pleasant from Clements Burleigh in 1807. This land had been granted to Nathaniel and Joseph (wife Sarah) Marshall (patent recorded at Lancaster), who sold it to Burleigh. He sold this land to Wm. Cherry in 1809 when he bought a lot in Mount Pleasant Town from Wm. Nell/Neel. This land had been patented to Nell in 1788. Conrad was the executor for the estate of Clement Burleigh in 1833. Conrad bought additional land in 1813 from Abraham Ekert and his wife, Elizabeth. This land adjoined his other land and the land of Neely and Ekert. He sold the land bought from Nell in 1814 to John ?Sampson. Conrad died 7 October 1844 and is buried in the Old United Presbyterian Churchyard, Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Susanna died 4 September 1844/6 and is also buried in the Old Presbyterian Churchyard. Their was a deed of partition made to the heirs of Conrad Keister in 1846 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Children of Conrad and Susanna:

1. David Keister born 1794-1800 Westmoreland County, PA; married Lydia (surname unknown);

buried Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, PA.

2. Daniel Keister born 23 November 1800/3 Westmoreland County, PA; married Sarah Shupe; married Martha Stevens; died 1856 Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, PA.

3. Solomon Keister born 24 November 1816 Westmoreland County, PA; married Sarah Stauffer 15 January 1843; married Elizabeth West between 1858 and 1860; married Rebecca Hoerstine; died 21 March 1901 Fayette County, PA, buried Scottdale Cemetery, Scottdale, Westmoreland County, PA.

4. Mary Keister born 1810-1820 Westmoreland County, PA; married Uriah S. Johnson.

5. Catherine Keister born 1810-1820 Westmoreland County, PA; married Jacob Ebersol.

6. Susannah born 20 June 1820 Westmoreland County, PA; married Samuel Zuck 20 February 1843; died 25 May 1900.

Sources:

Fischer, Della Reagan; Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, PA; p. 74. 1810 Census Mount Pleasant Twp., Westmoreland County, PA; p. 727

Conrad Keister

1 male 26-45 1 female 26-45

1 male 16-26

2 males -10

1820 Census Mount Pleasant Twp., Westmoreland County, PA; p.

111 Conrad Keister

1 male 45+ 1 female 26-45

2 males 10-16 3 females -10

1 male -10

?1830 Census

1840 Census Mt. Pleasant Twp., Westmoreland County, PA; p.415

Conrad Keister

1 male 60-70 1 female 50-60

1 male 20-30 1 female 20-30

1/95

Ludwig Kister disk\3-15

Lawrence Kister/Kester was born 23 December 1783 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, the son of Ludwig and Catharina Kister. He married Susanna

(surname unknown). He died 9 June 1871 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania and is buried at St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church near Cherryville, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Children of Lawrence and Susanna:

1. Male Kester born 1800-1810.
2. Female Kester born 1804-1810.
3. Female Kester born about 1810.
4. Male Kester born about 1820.
5. Female Kester born 1810-1820; ?died young.
6. Female Kester born 1815-1820.
7. Male Kester born 1825-1830.
8. Female Kester born about 1825.

Sources:

Madge Hubbard Files

1810 Census Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA; p. 77

Lawrence Kester

1 male 16-26	1 female 16-26
1 male -10	2 females -10

1820 Census Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA; p. 249

Lawrence Kester

1 male 26-45	1 female 26-45
1 male -10	1 female 10-16
	3 females -10

1830 Census Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA; p. 110

Lawrence Kester

1 male 40-50	2 female 40-50
1 male 20-30	1 female 20-30
1 male 15-20	1 female 15-20
1 male 5-10	1 female 10-15

1840 Census Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA; p. 169

Lorenz Kester

1 male 40-50	1 female 40-50
1 male 15-20	1 female 10-15

1850 Census - nil

1860 Census - nil

1870 Census Lehigh Twp., Northampton County, PA; p. 163

Lorenz Kester 87 PA [needs to be read]

8/94

Ludwig Kister\7-2

Philip Kester, the son of Martzelloff and Rachel (Dieter) Kester, was born between 1770 and 1780. He married Maria "Polly" (surname unknown). Polly was born between 1784 and 1790. He bought 150 acres of land from his father, Martzelloff in 1816. In 1830 the family was living in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. He bought several tracts of land including: 23 May 1837 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; 30 June 1837 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and 11 November 1839 from Peter Smith all in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Children of Philip and Maria:

1. Jonathan Kester born 1800-1804 PA; died about 1842.
2. Peter Kester born 1805/1810 PA; probably did not marry.
3. ?Daniel Kester born about 1810 PA.
4. Male Kester born 1810 PA.
5. Female Kester born 1804-1810 PA.
6. Female Kester born about 1810 PA.
7. Female Kester born 1810-1815 PA.

Sources:

Northampton County, PA Deed Book E6, p. 559- Philip Kester from Peter Smith Northampton County, PA Deed Book B7, p. 242 -Patent; Commonwealth of PA to Philip Kester Northampton County, PA Deed Book B7, p. 243 -Patent; Commonwealth of PA to Philip Kester

1810 Census PA, Northampton County, Lehigh Twp., p. 77.

Philip Kester

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

1820 Census PA, Northampton County, Lehigh Twp., p.249.

Phillip Kester

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

1830 Census PA, Northampton County, Lehigh Twp., p. 109.

Philip Kester



1 male 50-60      1 female 40-50  
 2 males 20-30      1 female 15-20  
 1 male 15-20

## Pennsylvania Villages

**Kiester, PA** - formerly Hickory Mills, is situated on Slippery Rock Creek southeast of Centreville in Butler County. The location is one of the most beautiful in the county, and the water power inexhaustible. The Kiester mill located here forms one of the most important industries of the township. The little village is a station on the Pittsburg, Shenango, and Lake Erie Railroad, and contains a postoffice, named in honor of the Kiester family, with John Kiester [Ludwig 3-1-2-3] postmaster, and a general store. Slippery Rock Park, which adjoins the village, is one of the most picturesque and beautiful places in the county, and a favorite resort for visitors during the summer.

[History of Butler County, 1895; p. 623]

**Keisterville, PA** - Located in Redstone Township of Fayette County about two miles north of US 40 on a county road. The village consists of a group of homes, one church and the postoffice. The origin of the name is unknown. If any of our members knows more about this village, let us know.

[Jean M. White]



**Custards, PA** - Located just south of Meadville in Crawford County, this village was named for Richard Custard (1759-1842) [Paulus 1-1-3-3]. He owned and operated the Black Horse Tavern.

[association files and George H. Custard]

**Custer City, PA** - Located in Bradford Township of McKean County, the village is located just south of Bradford on US 219. Anyone know who this village is named for?

[DeLorme Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer]

## John Custer of Kansas (1838-1922)

Dorothy Loesher has spent years trying to determine the parents of her John Custer, who lived much of his life in Grenola, Chautauqua County, Kansas. Recently, the association hired Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas to do additional research on this family, and while we still have not come up with parents for John, we have gained much valuable new information:

12/94      John disk-file\ Custer.ILL\0      (file John Custer of Ill)

John Custer was born 3 March 1838 in Illinois. John apparently had a sister, Mary, who was born about 1836 in Indiana. IA is an early designation for Indiana and is only found on the 1850 census. IA was later used for Iowa, and Ind. for Indiana. John and Mary Custer are found on the 1850 Federal Census for Wells Township, Appanoos County, Iowa living with Jonas Purkepie. Mary Custer married 29 January 1855 John Williams in Putnam County, Missouri. John married 19 January 1858 Adaline Shawver in Putnam County, Missouri. Adaline was born May 1842 in Missouri. They lived in Putnam County, Missouri. Sometime after 1860 they moved to Nebraska, and then moved to Chautauqua County, Kansas by 1863. John was a farmer. Adaline died 13 December 1904 and is buried in Cloverdale Cemetery.

Grenola Greeting and Chief  
 Friday Dec 16, 1904

Died - Mrs. John Custer died Monday at her

home seven miles south of Grenola after several years of illness. Mrs. Custer had lived in her late home many years and leaves her husband and a number of sons and daughters to mourn her absence.

John died 27 February 1922, and was buried at Cloverdale Cemetery southwest of Grenola, Kansas.

Grenola Leader  
Thursday March 9, 1922

#### An Old Settler Laid to Rest

John Custer passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Amanda Dorset of Tonkawa, Okla, aged 83 years 11 months and 19 days. Mr. Custer was among the oldest settlers of Cana Valley, taking the claim now owned by Tom Archer in the year 1870, and living there until the death of his wife several years ago. Since that time he has made his home among his children. Those now, living are Mrs. Amanda Dorsett of Tonkawa, Okla., John Custer of Tonkawa, Harvey Custer of Pauls Valley, Okla., Dora Pierce of Los Angeles, Cal., Addie Downs of Burhl Idaho, Hiram Custer of [blank]line and Stella Snyder of Grenola. Three children died when young. Mr. Custer was known as a good law-abiding citizen and a good neighbor.

The remains were brought to Grenola Friday morning and the funeral services were held at the Christian Church, conducted by Mrs. Yates at 10:30, after which the body was laid to rest in the Cloverdale Cemetery by the side of his wife.

#### A Correction

In the Obituary of Mr. John Custer, published in last weeks Leader, appeared the following "Three children died young." A wrong impression [blank] by this statement, and [blank] all the children were grown when they died. They were William Custer, James Custer, and Mrs. Eva Bunch who left a husband and three small children.

#### Card of thanks

We wish to thank our friends for their help and kindness during the burial of our dear father, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dorsett, Mr. and Mrs. John Custer and Mr. and Mrs. Hi. Custer.

#### Their children:

1. James Custer born about 1859 in Missouri; died 12 June 1881 age 21y 5m 23d, buried Cloverdale Cemetery, Caneyville Twp., Chautauqua County, KS.

2. Amanda Custer born 28 April 1861 in Mendota, Missouri; married Charles Dorsett; died 21 May 1934 at Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

3. William Custer born 16 May 1863 MO; died 7 October 1883 age 20y 2m 21d, buried Cloverdale Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

4. Harvey Custer born 8 June 1866 Chautauqua County, KS; married Nora B. Cruzan 18 December 1885 Chautauqua County, KS; living Pauls Valley, Garvin County, OK - 1922.

5. Eveline "Eva" Custer born 13 June 1869 KS; married William A. Burch/Bunch 29 Jan 1889 Chautauqua County, KS; died 21 May 1902.

6. Dora B Custer born 9 December 1872 KS; married Daniel J. Pierce 12 June 1890 Chautauqua County, KS; living Los Angeles, CA - 1922.

7. John Custer, Jr born 8 July 1874 KS; married Sophrona Brown 1901; died 30 May 1952 Blackwell, OK.

8. Hiram C Custer born December 1877 KS; married Harriet E Gibson 15 December 1897 Chautauqua County, KS; died 1964 Moline, Chautauqua County, KS.

9. Estella Custer born May 1879 KS; married Frank Snyder; death date unknown, buried Grenola Cemetery, Grenola, Chautauqua County, KS - 1922.

10. Mary Adaline "Addie" Custer born 21 December 1881 KS; married Frances D. Wolf 13 February 1899 Chautauqua County, KS; married Mr. Downs; married (name unknown); living Buhl, ID - 1922.

#### Sources:

Obituaries of John and Adeline; KS St. Hist. Soc., Microfilm rolls G1029, 1024.

letter Dorothy Loescher --24 Jan 1995, 8 Jan & 3 Mar & 27 Dec 1985

1850 census Iowa, Appanoose Co, Wells Twp, p 36, #16

Jonas Purkepie 30 KY miller

Sarah " 17 MO

Elizabeth " 6 MO

Arminia S " 3 MO

Christian " 66 MO miller

Mary " 70 IA  
 Mary Custer 14 IA [Note: IA on 1850 census is Indiana, not Iowa]  
 John " 12 IL

1860 census Missouri, Putnam Co, Liberty Twp, p 14/354, #101,  
 PO Chariton Mills  
 John Custerd 21 IL farm laborer  
 Adaline " 18 MO  
 James " 1 MO

1875 KS State Census; Chautauqua County; Caneyville, Twp. ; #5  
 John Custer 37 MO NE farmer  
 A 34 MO NE  
 J 16 MO NE  
 A 15 MO NE  
 W 11 KS  
 H 9 KS  
 E 7 KS  
 D B 3 KS  
 John Jr 10/12 KS

1880 Census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Canaville Twp, p 10  
 John Custer 42 IL --- --- farmer  
 Adaline " 39 MO VA --  
 Amanda " 19 MO IL MO  
 William " 17 MO IL MO  
 Harvey " 14 KS IL MO  
 Evaline " 12 KS IL MO  
 Dora B " 8 KS IL MO  
 John " 6 KS IL MO  
 Hiram " 4 KS IL MO  
 Stella " 1 KS IL MO

1885 Kansas State Census; Grenola, Canaville Twp., Chautauqua County; 61  
 John Custer 47 Marr 1 farmer  
 Adline Custer 45  
 Harvey 18  
 Dory B. 13  
 John 10  
 Hirem 8  
 Stella 6  
 mary 3  
 R C Quilliam 8  
 John T. " 5  
 David P. 1

1900 census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Caneyville Twp, ED 2  
 p 1 John Custer Jul 1874 KS

p 5  
 John Custer Mar 1839 IL  
 Adaline " Apr 1842 MO wife  
 Stella " May 1879 KS dau  
 Hiram Custer Dec 1877 KS  
 Harriet E " May 1878 KS wife

1910 Census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Caneyville Twp., ED 2

p. 7B 88/89  
 Custer, John Jr. 34 KS IL MO m9  
 Sophrona 30 TN TN TN m9 3/3  
 Florence E. 8 KS KS TN  
 Flossie F. 5 KS KS TN  
 John W. 3 KS KS TN  
 John Sr. 72 IL --- --- wd

12/94

John disk\custer.IL4

Harvey Custer was born 8 June 1866 in Chautauqua County, Kansas, the son of John and Adaline (Shawver) Custer. He married Nora B. Cruzan 18 December 1885 in Chautauqua County, Kansas. Nora was born in October 1869 in Ohio. The family moved to Oklahoma between 1889 and 1894, where by 1900 they were living in Payne County. By 1922 they had located at Pauls Valley, Garvin County, Oklahoma.

Their children:

1. William E. Custer born September 1886 Chautauqua County, KS.

2. Lucy M. Custer born January 1889 Chautauqua County, KS.

3. Mollie Custer born March 1894 OK; married Mr. Taylor.

4. Sina Custer born July 1896 OK; ?married Mr. Phipps.

5. Lura/Luia Custer born July 1898 OK; married Mr. Ezell.

6. Lulu Custer married Mr. Lee.

7. Mae Custer married Mr. Culver.

8. Margie Custer married Mr. Palmer.

9. Anna Custer married Mr. Howard.

1900 census Oklahoma, Payne Co, ED 185, p 21  
 Harvey Custer Jun 1866 KS  
 Nora " Oct 1869 OH  
 Wm E " Sep 1886 KS  
 Lucy M " Jan 1889 "  
 Mollie " Mar 1894 OK  
 Sina " Jul 1896 "  
 Lura " Jul 1898 "

John Custer, was born in July 1874 in Chautauqua County, Kansas, the son of John and Adaline (Shawver) Custer. He married Sophrona Brown in 1901. In 1910 the family was living in Chautauqua County, Kansas, but by 1922 they were living in Tonkawa, Kay County, Oklahoma.

**Their children:**

1. Florence E. Custer born 8 February 1902 Chautauqua County, KS; married Claude White; died 1980 Arkansas City, KS.
2. Flossie Fern Custer born 2 August 1904 Chautauqua County, KS.
3. John William "Billy" Custer born 21 December 1906 Chautauqua County, KS; ?died Washington State.
4. Ethel Lorene Custer born 27 June 1915 Chautauqua County, KS; married Mr. Wendall; living WI.

1910 Census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Caneyville Twp., ED 2; p. 7B 88/89

Custer, John Jr.	34 KS IL MO	m9
Sophrona	30 TN TN TN	m9 3/3
Florence E.	8 KS KS TN	
Flossie F.	5 KS KS TN	
John W.	3 KS KS TN	
John Sr.	72 IL ---	wd

Hiram C. Custer was born in 15 December 1876 in Chautauqua County, Kansas, the son of John and Adaline (Shawver) Custer. He married Harriet Ella Gibson 15 December 1897 in Chautauqua County, Kansas. Harriet was born in 1879 in Kansas. The family continued to live in Chautauqua County and were living in Moline, Chautauqua County, Kansas in 1922. Hiram died in 1964 and Harriet died in 1966. They are both buried in the Moline City Cemetery, Chautauqua County, Kansas.

**Their child:**

1. Alfred Custer born 20 November 1901 Chautauqua County, KS; married Leah L. Lorraine;

died 15 February 1986.

1910 Census Center Twp., Chautauqua County, KS; ED3; p. 7A.

54/54

Hiram Custer	33 KS IL IL	m10	farmer
Harriet	31 KS IL IL	m10 1/1	
Alfred L.	8 KS KS KS		

1920 Census Center Twp., Chautauqua County, KS. 58/60

H. Custer	42 KS IL IL	farmer
Harriet E.	41 KS IL IL	
Alfred	18 KS KS KS	

One theory as to the parents of John Custer is that Morgan County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1822-1835\ lists Thomas Hicklin & Sarah Custer married 3 Sep 1835 and Conrad Custer & Juliann Purkepile married 16 Dec 1835. This Sarah Custer was the daughter of Conrad Custer (1785- 1875), [P.1.1.2.1.6], and it is suspected that Conrad was also his son. A Conrad Custer appears in 1840 census in Fulton County, Ill (age 20-30) with some children.

1840 Census Fulton County, IL; p. 304.

Coenrod Custer

1 male 20-30	1 female 20-30
2 males 5-10	1 female 10-15
2 males -5	1 female -5

It appears likely that Mary and John Custer were the children of Conrad and Juliann (Purkepile) Custer, and that Conrad and Juliann had died by 1850 and the orphans were then in the care of Jonas and Sarah Purkepile/Purkepie.

**Interesting Research!!**

During our research on the above family, information was found on the family of Andrew Jackson Caster (Heini Gerster 5\3\1-4-4, who also lived in Grenola, Chautauqua County, KS at one time. He was known as Jack Caster, and we were researching John Custer (MISC John\Custer.IL\0) , who could be easily confused with him. In the Chautauqua County, KS history, information was found on descendants of Jasper Newton Custer (Paulus 1-1\5-2-6-8). The history of Elk County, KS (the next county over) yielded Sheridan and E. D. Custer, who absconded with county funds, while serving as treasurer of the county. They are brothers, who are supposed to be related to Gen. Custer, but we have not found the connection yet.



## New Members

Debbie Anderson 7901 Wild Orchid Way Fairfax Station, VA 22039-0001

Evelyn Boggs 1109 132nd St. Ct. E. Tacoma, WA 98445-3563

Milton H. Crum 2366 Malka Ct Columbus, OH 43232-8466

David F. Custer 2516 Newport Ave Petersburg, VA 23805-2537

George H. Custer 19611 Eagles View Cir Umatilla, FL 32784-7417

Barbara Denahey 3309 W 17th St Davenport, IA 52804-3222

Jennifer A. Endsley 107 Silver Maple Dr Perrysburg, OH 43551-2325

Joyce Miller 30855 County Rd 22 Vona, CO 80861-9757

Frances Smith 1109 132nd St. Ct. E. Tacoma, WA 98445-3563

Ermont L. Williams 1104 Glenwood Ave Hagerstown, MD 21742-3027

### Change of Address

Frederick A. Keister 17551 Parker Rd Athens, AL 35611-8501

Charles T. Holliday RR #1 Box 131-E Crown Point, NY 12928-9722

## Donations

**Gaylord Castor Research Fund:** George Custard, Patricia Ostwald, Glenn Castor.

**Publication Fund:** Evelyn Sass, Harold Castor, Tullus Castor, Michael F. Kester, Gorby Martin, Glenn Castor.

**General Expenses:** Paul Copenhaver, Fanchon Amoroso, John Bielstein, Margaret Cass, Harold Castor, Paul D. Castor, Tullus Castor, Helen Findley, Katherine Hodapp, Elmond Holbrook, Margaret Larsh, Francia White, Vern R. Wigant.



## Association Archives

The association wishes to thank all of our members who contribute material to the archives. When you are researching your family, check the various other spellings used by association families. Whether you need the information or not, sometimes the association will have a member who needs just that bit of information you found, and can't use yourself.

5 October 1994 pages from History of Wayne County, OH; Walter family marriages; 1850 Wayne County, OH Census readings for Christian Walter, George Harmon, Jacob Clapper; Clapper family marriages; Plat map of school land sales, Salt Creek Twp., Holmes County, OH; pages from Commemorative biographical Record of the Counties of Wayne and Holmes, OH. [Paid association research - Dave Marshall, 8335 W. Columbine Dr., Peoria AZ 85381-8112]

2 November 1994 Obituaries of John Kuster, Lorraine Lyons Custer. Photos from newspapers of Melanie Castor, Christopher Custer. [Francis Richardson, 1710 Tarleton Way, Crofton MD 21114-2504]

5 November 1994 Obituary of Mrs. Elizabeth Custer (Paulus 1-1-2-1-4) [Karen Glasser, 5015 Graceland Ave., Indianapolis IN 46208-3428]

15 November 1994 Pedigree Chart showing Lewis Keister (b.

6 May 1833 PA, d. 20 December 1871 Sec Co., IA) [Marcia K. Connors, 724 Sable Rd., Spring City TN 37381]

20 November 1994 Obituaries of John Custer, Mrs. John Custer; Monument Inscriptions from Jackson County, KS; pages from Elk County, KS history; Chautauqua County Cemeteries; pages from History of Chautauqua County, KS; Chautauqua County, KS Marriages; 1910 Census and 1920 Census Chautauqua County, KS. [Paid Castor Association research -Anita Sickmon, 2103 N359th St. W., Cheney KS 67025]

3 December 1994 Photo of Joanna (Custer) Heavener (Paulus 1-1-5-1-4) [Pat Ritchie, 1559 Moffett Dr., Winchester VA 22601-3183]

10 December 1994 Photos of gravestones of Heini Gerster/Caster descendants taken in North Carolina. [ Jean Caster, 3213 Tribble, Grand Prairie TX 75050]

21 December 1994 Obituary of Clifford Moats Custer; wedding of Mark Errol Kester to Carolyn Dell Peake. [Terry O'Connor, 301 Village Circle, Altoona IA 50009-1135]

3 January 1995 Descendant chart of William L. Castor (1815-1893). [William L. Castor]

3 January 1995 Family information on Seymour Castor, Leslie Leora Castor. [ Eileen Basnett, 652 McCready Av., Cadiz OH 43907]

3 January 1995 Pedigree Chart on Mary Ellen Keister (OH Peter 3-4-2) [Carol J. Adair, 151 E. Wilson, Ridgcrest CA 93555]

24 January 1995 Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Westmoreland County, PA; Scottdale Cemetery, Scottdale, PA; pages from Monocacy and Catoclin, Vol III. [Jean M. White, PO Box 11348, Glendale AZ 85318-1348]

3 January 1995 Obituary of Paul H. Keister. [Norma H. Keister, 1100 Pepper Hill Dr., Kettering, OH 45429]

3 January 1995 Family Group Sheet of Susan (Castor) Teeter (Noah 1-5). Kelly Folkestad, PO Box 1352, Veradale WA 99037]

3 January 1995 Information on Rachel Esther Custer, Henry Franklin Custer, Harry Earl Custer, Anna Frances Custer and Calvin Hartle Custer (Paulus 7-1-1-2-3-3-1) [Judith E. Custer, 1225 First St., Northfield NJ 08225]

3 January 1995 Information on descendants of Hermanus Kester (Paulus 2-5) [ Bryan D. Kester, 12125 Dehaviland Dr., Midlothian VA 23112-2939]

3 January 1995 Pedigree Chart showing ancestors of Mary (Custer) Swartz (Paulus 1-5-5-1) [Rosalee Thomsen, 10780 S.

Union Rd., Manteca CA 95336]

3 January 1995 Pedigree Chart showing ancestors of Edward Caster (Benjamin 10) [Wanda Deitmeyer, 6228 Massaponax Church Rd., Fredericksburg VA 22407]

3 January 1995 Information on five Swiss Kuster lines from the St. Gallen area of Switzerland. [Shirley Custer Kaiser, 10000 Carolina Trace Rd., Harrison OH 45030-1805]

3 January 1995 Family Group Sheet on Richard Keister born Feb. 1831 Wurtenburg, Germany [Paul M. Keister, 2416 Ardenwood Dr., Spring Hill FL 34609]

3 January 1995 Pedigree Chart showing descendants of Joseph Kester (Paulus 1-1-8) [Ray Kester, 11535 Lexington Ave. Apt. D, Sugar Creek MO 64054]

3 January 1995 Pedigree Chart showing ancestors of Millie O'Francis Keister. [ Bill Gholson, 525 S. 5th St., Hoopeston IL]

3 January 1995 Information on Abraham Custer (Abraham 7) [Rel B. Corbin, 4715 W. 29th, Little Rock AR 72204]

3 January 1995 Obituary of Paul E. Custard (William Custard 5-4---) [Blanche Hegerty, PO Box 168, Woodland PA 16881]

15 January 1995 Military Pension abstracts - Jacob E. Keister, George A. Keister; John Custer, William Custer, George Custer, Rachel (Custard) Davis Moses, David Custer, Edward Custer, John W. Custer, Catharine (Umstead) Custer; Index to Washington County, PA Orphan's Court Docket A- J; Kister records from Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset, Somerset County, PA; Will book indexes for Butler County, PA, Green County, PA, Mercer County, PA, Somerset County, PA; Maps of Mercer County, PA showing changes in township and county lines; Marriage record of Peter Coster and Elisabeth Fleisher (1781 Berks County, PA); Weakly County, TN marriages; Henry County, TN marriages; extractions from Berks County Church Records of the 18th Century by F. Edward Wright, Vol. 1; Nelson County, KY marriages; Travis County, TX marriages; Will Index Allegany and Garrett Counties, MD; Hampshire County, WV marriages; Washington County, PA Cemeteries; Washington County, PA Will Index; Ohio County, WV and Belmont County, OH marriages; Allegany County, MD marriages; Obituary of Mrs. Minnie May Custer (1948); Custer family of Garrett County, MD by Ross C. Durst; Custer relations from Descendants of Casper Durst & Related Families by Ross Compton Durst; Revolutionary War Special Index Cor-Cy; Cincinnati City Directories 1849-1851; Baptisms Nockamixon Lutheran Church, Bucks County, PA; Allegany County, MD Administration Bonds Index; Montgomery and Giles Counties, VA marriages; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church baptisms, Lancaster, PA; Baptisms Reformed Church, Lancaster, PA; Land warrants for Berks County, PA; pages from Biographical Review of Somerset and Bedford Counties, PA; baptisms from Indianfield Lutheran Church, Montgomery County, PA; The Leatherman Family by Raymond Martin Bell;

Custer "Roots" in Burgettstown? by Mary Anne Vittone; 1783 Washington County, MD Tax List; Probate Index, Rush County, IN; Erie County, NY Genealogy Files, Kester; Bibles held by South Central PA Genealogical Society; pages from History of Butler County, PA; photos of places and tombstones Rockingham County, VA and Strassburg, VA. [Jean M. White, PO Box 11348, Glendale AZ 85018-1348]

20 January 1995 Article and information on Jerry Custard (Daniel Custard) [George H. Custard, 1255 s. Hudson St., Denver CO 80222]

20 January 1995 Obituary of Lucy Elizabeth (Custer) Nendick (Paulus 1-4-2-8-2-1); photo of tombstone of Paul Custer (Paulus 1-4-2-8-2); Obituary of Alice Emeline (Custer) Cole (Paulus 1-4-2-8-2-3); Family Bible record of Paul Custer. [Carra Linsay, 26 Mt. Pleasant, Amherst MA 01002-1511 via JoAnn Kester]

21 January 1995 1875 KS State Census, Chautauqua & Howard Counties; Obituaries of Andrew J. Caster, Jesse J. Caster (Heini Gerster 5\3\1-4-4 & 5\3\1-4-4-1); Obituary of William Custer (John disk\Custer.IL\3). [paid association research of Anita Sickmon, 2103 N359th St. W., Cheney KS 67025]

29 January 1995 Obituary of Leslie Gile Kester (father of Melanie Ringstrom; descendant of Paulus) [Melanie Ringstrom, 6190 Red Oak Rd., Mound, MN 55364]

31 January 1995 Descendancy chart of Jacob Custer (Paulus 1-5-4-5); Family Group Sheets for Jacob Custer; Eliza Custer m. Michael Williams, m. Asa Tobias Spicer, m. Abram L. Whitney, m. Newton Ranes; photo of Eliza Custer (Paulus 1-5-4-5-8-1) [Erment Williams, 1104 Glenwood Ave., Hagerstown MD 21742]

31 January 1995 Pages from A History of Monroe County, WV (Keister & Kester). [Leland L. Caster, 1929 Bellpark Dr., Bremerton WA 98310-4713]

## Queries

Seeking info on Mary Eliza (Castor) Paine, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (Clark) Custer: b. 28 March 1846 Dublin, Wayne County, IN; m. John Wilson Paine 13 September 1865 Bennett's Switch, Miami County, IN; d. 1 March 1935 Stratton, Kit Carson County, CO. Contact: Joyce Miller 30855 Co. Rd. 22, Vona CO 80861.

Who are the parents of Catherine Valentine who married 11 May 1802 John Custer (1782-1830)? Some people say John married a Garlitz. Who is right and where were they married? Contact: Jean

M. White, PO Box 11348, Glendale AZ 85318-1348.

## Obituary

Leslie Gile Kester, age 79, of New Hope, on Jan. 18, 1995. US Navy vet WWII and Korea. Ret. Honeywell Security. Survived by wife, Evelyn (Niedenfuer); daughter & son-in-law, Melanie & John D. Ringstrom; grandchildren, Leslie Thompson, John R. (W. Sharon) Ringstrom, Steven L. (fiancee Janet) Ringstrom; g-grand children, Matthew & Nicole; the Niedenfuer & Ryan families.

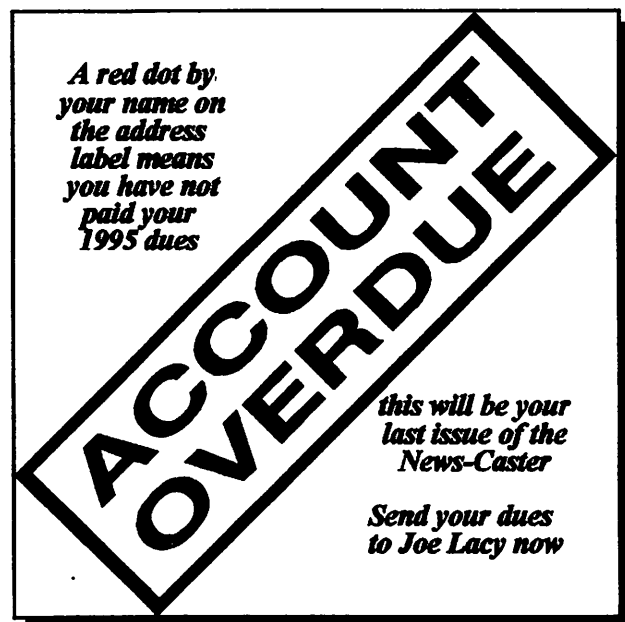
[Minneapolis Star Tribune- Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995]

## Thanks!!

To Paul D. Castor of Kansas City, MO for typing some more of our missing files.

To the Larry O. Millers of Milwaukee, OR for extracting all of the 1920 Census Soundex for Illinois and Kansas! They now plan to start on the 1920 Census Soundex for Iowa. How about our other members helping with the census project?

To Francis Richardson, Crofton, MD for donating *Kuster/Castor Family 1520-1994*; Vols. I, II, III by Francis Richardson to our lending library.



Membership applications may be obtained from the Vice President. Yearly dues should be paid directly to the treasurer.

Library books from the lending library may be borrowed through the librarian. Send a SASE (\$.52) to the librarian for a current list of the books available. Three books may be borrowed for four weeks. When returning the items, mail 4th class or book rate with reimbursement to the association for the cost of the postage plus \$.50 to cover the cost of mailing and handling the loan.

*The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters...* is available for \$30 post paid. Please send your check made out to The Castor Association of America to the treasurer.

The editor welcomes original articles from members of the association. Articles may be submitted either on computer disk or typewritten. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Every effort will be made to publish accurate material. However, The Castor Association of America and the editorial staff assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or judgement on the part of contributors, nor are they responsible for the publishing rights of contributed material. Correction of proven errors will be published.

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Deadline for submission of material for the June issue is 1 May 1995

**A RED DOT ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL? SEE PAGE 19**

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**Historical Atlas of the United States.** Published by the Natl Geo. Soc. A celebration of people, places, ideas and things American.

Video tape -- **Castor Homeland Tour 1987 Video Tapes (VHS VCR)** taken by Dr Richard J Castor during European Tour - donated by Dick and Diana Castor

Video tape -- **Downtown Philadelphia, Custer graves and Homes, Montgomery County, PA.** 1991 VHS VCR tape - by Jean White

**Vital Records Handbook** by Thomas J. Kemp. Tells where to send for Birth, Marriage and Death records.

**Vom Rhein zum Delaware, Krefelder grundeten 1683 Germantown** (From the Rhine to the Delaware, Krefelders found Germantown 1683) by Ernest Koppen (1983) 82 pp (in German) [donated by Leo Wastler of Wastler Escorted Travel, Inc]

**War of 1812 Genealogy** George K Schweitzer (1983) 69 pp

**The Life of Artemas Ward** by Charles Martyn. The First Commander-in-Chief of the American Revolution.

**Washington's and Braddock's Expedition** James Hadden (1910) reproduced 1978, 138 pp

**When This You See, Think of Me!** Judy Ruleman Liskey (1990) 310 pages. Donated by Patricia Turner Ritchie.

**A family history of the William Heaver (1787-1866) and Joanna Custer (1792-1862)** Family and includes copies of many letters and several photographs. Good description of the Brock's Gap area of Rockingham County, VA.

**Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces** 20 page pamphlet.

**While the Prince Slumbered** short stories by Gaylord B Castor (1982), 119 pp

**William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania** William I Hull (1970) 445 pp

**Yankee Magazine Genealogical Columns 1987-1993**

**The Young Hamilton - A Biography** by James Thomas Flexner (1978), 497 pages

**800 Jahre Stiftskirche, St Castor, Karden 1183-1983** [in German - title translated = 800 Years, St Castor Church, Karden 1183-1983] (1983), 131 pages.

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPDATE ON LUDWIG KISTER (1688-1747)

We have had a number of updates, corrections and additions to the article on Ludwig Kister in the March 1995 issue of the News-Caster. First, after looking at the microfilm of the Durstel, France (listed as Bas-Rhin, Germany, in FHLC) church records [FHC film #0729715] at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, it became quickly evident that the association needed someone who could read Old German Script and German in the Swiss dialect to work on these records. Our association is indeed fortunate to have as a member, Shirley Custer Kaiser, who agreed to work on this problem for us. Shirley descends from five lines of Swiss Kusters from the St. Gallen (sp) area of Switzerland, and is not related to Ludwig Kister. Shirley has sent us her first report:

Durstel 1718 13 November 22nd Trinity

Baptised Georg Christian, son of Johann Ludwig Kisters, the shoemaker of Durstel, and Susanna, born Schneiders of Assweiler, his wife (at midday)

Witnesses: Johann [unable to read], Zinsweiler (?Evangelical Minister), Georg Philip (?Junker) [rest unreadable]

Durstel Maria Catharina Sybilla Kister (Born at Durstel 13 July 1726 in the afternoon) Baptised 14 July 1726 Maria Catharina Sybilla Kister, daughter of Ludwig Kister, Shoemaker and his wife, Maria Susanna, born Schneider of Assweiler

Witnesses: Sybilla Hildebrand, widow of J. H. Hildebrand of Assweiler; Mathias Schneider, brother of the mother; Catharina --intereif, the wife of the cabinetmaker of Durstel [more that is unreadable]

Maria Catharina Sybilla died 18 February 1727 of an illness lasting from 11-18 February; buried 20 February 1727.

Death of Ludwig Kister

Buried 15 July 1747 at Durstel, Ludwig Kister, Shoemaker of Zinswieler and Oberbronn

Son of Johannes Kister and Maria Susanna. Married 1717 with Susanna Schneider of Assweiler, with whom he had five sons and three daughters living, one son and one daughter deceased.

Became ill on the 10th and died in the afternoon of the 12th of July, after 31 hours of illness. 59 years old.

So, we now know the name and baptism date of Ludwig's first child, Georg Christian. We also have learned that he had a daughter, Maria Catharina Sybilla, who died in infancy. There is also another son, who died before his father.

Shirley Custer Kaiser will be sending us more reports on these church records as she works to translate these records. Thank you Shirley for a great job.

George Custard has made a trip to Easton and Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania and has added some new information on Ludwig's children:

The name of the husband of Elizabeth Kister Eichhorn [Ludwig disk\3-13] is Benjamin.

Several items have come to light that indicate that William Custard 1766-1844, George Custard's great-great-great grandfather, is a son of Johann Ludwig Kister/Kuster [Ludwig Kister disk\3]. In some notes by Newton Keister recently submitted to the association by Richard Keister of Kettering, Ohio, it is claimed that "when the reunion is held at Funkhannock, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, it is called the Kester family reunion, and when the reunion is held in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, it is called the Custard family reunion; same people attending." George Custard would like anyone with knowledge of these family reunions to contact him.

George also found a will for the husband of Susanna Margaretha, Peter Kuntz, in Northampton County, Pennsylvania [Will File No. 1986]. Susanna rendered the right to administer to William Kester, brother-in-law to the deceased, and Christian Hartman. From this George Custard is leaning toward being a descendant of Ludwig.

Sandra Napier of Baltimore, MD has alerted us to the fact that the second wife of Lewis Keister [Ludwig Kister disk\3-3] is not Polly Keyser. She

believes that the Lewis Keister who married Polly Keyser is the son of the Lewis Keister in the article. Although not mentioned in Lewis' will, there is a male child on 1810 and 1820 census in Lewis' home who is not accounted for. He would be the correct age to be the following Lewis Kester/Kiester. While Sandra is not a descendant of this family, she has gathered the following information to use in figuring out about her Lewis Kester.

4/95

?LudwigKister disk\3-3-9

Lewis Kester/Kiester was born about 1802 in Pennsylvania. He married Mary Keyser in Wayne County, Ohio 27 October 1825. The family was living in Paint Township, Wayne County, Ohio in 1830, but by 1840 had moved to Eagle Township, Hancock County, Indiana. In 1850 the family was living in Newville township, DeKalb County, Indiana. In 1860 Mary and the children were living at Greencastle, Powsheik Township, Jasper County, Iowa. According to Mary's application for her son, Samuel's pension, Lewis had left the family in May 1856. A later letter from a Joseph Harsh, written in 1874, stated that Lewis returned about two years ago (1872), and Mary refused to recognize him as her husband. Mary died 22 September 1885 in Story County, Iowa. Lewis died after 11 August 1892. On that date Lewis was living in Jasper County, Iowa.

Children of Lewis and Polly:

1. Sarah Ann Kester born 1827 OH; married Mr. Man; married Mr. McQuiston; died 12 August 1913 Collins, IA.
2. Maria Kester born 1830 OH.
3. Catharine Kester born 1833 OH.
4. Joseph Kester born 1835 OH.
5. Susanna Kester born 1837 OH; married Silas McQuiston.
6. Jacob Kester born 1840 OH
7. Ellen Kester born 1843 OH.

8. Samuel Kester born 1845 OH; served Civil War Company C, 22 Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry; died 5 July 1863 at Memphis, TN of wounds received at Vicksburg, MS 22 May 1863.

9. Lewis Kester born 1847 IN.

10. George Kester born May 1850 IN; died before 1860.

11. John T. Kester born 1851 IN; married Catharine (surname unknown).

12 . Albert Kester born 1852 IN.

Civil War Dependant Father's Pension Application #488134  
1830 Census Paint Twp., Wayne County, OH; p. 74.

Lewis Keister

1 male 20-30      2 females 0-5  
                         1 female 20-30

1840 Census Eagle Twp., Hancock County, OH; p. 21.

Lewis Kester

1 male 5-10      1 female 0-5  
1 male 30-40      1 female 5-10  
                         3 females 10-15  
                         1 female 30-40

1850 Census Newville Twp., DeKalb County, IN; p. 201.  
10/10

Lewis Kester	48 PA	farmer
Mary	43 OH	
Sarah Ann	23 OH	
Maria	20 OH	
Catharine	17 OH	
Joseph	15 OH	
Susanna	13 OH	
Jacob	10 OH	
Ellen	7 OH	
Samuel	5 OH	
Lewis	3 IA	[on 1850 census IA means
Indiana]		
John	1 IA	
George	3/12 IA	
George W. Shales	74 CT	

1860 Census Powsheik Twp., Jasper County, IA; p. 889.  
536/515

Mary Kester	52 OH
Maria	28 OH
Jacob	19 OH
Samuel	13 OH
Lewis	11 IN
John	9 IN
Albert	7 IN

1870 Census Collins Twp., Story County, IA; p. 49  
78/78

Lewis Kester	67 PA	farmer
Mary	61 OH	keeping house
Lewis H.	23 IN	works on farm
Maria	39 OH	at home
Albert	19 IN	works on farm
McQuiston, Sarah	11 IA	at home

1880 Census Collins Twp., Story County, IA; Ed 212, Sheet  
16, line 14.

144/145

Lewis Kester	76 PA	PA	PA
Mary	71 OH	PA	PA
Maria	50 OH	PA	OH
Albert	28 IN	PA	OH
James	6 IA	IN	IA      g-son
Sarah Man	54 OH	PA	OH

## ANOTHER LEWIS KEISTER

Marcia Connors of Spring City, TN has informed us about another Lewis Keister, who is the son of a John and Mary Kester, all of Columbiana County, Ohio.

5/95

Lewis Keister

Lewis/Ludwig Keister, the son of John and Mary Kester, was born 6 May 1833 in Pennsylvania. He married Catherine Brenner 22 March 1854 in Columbiana County, Ohio. Catherine was born 1 October 1836 in Pennsylvania. Lewis died 20 December 1871 in Crawford County, Iowa. He is buried in Sac County, Iowa. Catherine died 7 March 1891 in Odebolt, Sac County, Iowa.

Children of Lewis and Catherine:

1. Mary Elizabeth Keister born 22 May 1855 IN; died 11 January 1924 Denver, Arapahoe County, CO.

2. John Keister born 9 September 1857; died Huron SD.

3. Rachel Keister born 5 August 1858; died 30 May 1940 Odebolt, Sac County, IA.

4. Jacob Keister born 9 February 1861; died 1946 Odebolt, Sac County, IA.

5. Sam Keister born 20 August 1862; died 1940 Odebolt, Sac County, IA.

6. Sarah Keister born 20 August 1864; died Indian Territory.

7. Henry Keister born 28 June 1869.

8. Ella Keister born 15 September 1871; died 1893 Crawford County, IA.

9. Andrew Keister born 1873.

1850 Census Centre Twp., Columbiana County, OH; p. 327.

Kester, John 44 PA farmer

Mary 44 PA

Elizabeth 18 PA

Ludwig 15 OH laborer

Rachel 13 OH

Mary 11 OH

Sarah 9 OH

Samuel 7 OH

Henry 7 OH

Jacob 5 OH

Susana 4 OH

Ellen 7/12 OH

Thanks to Larry and Barbara Miller of Milwaukee, OR the association now has the 1920 Iowa Soundex extracted for C236 and K236-- A big job well done!!

## QUERY

Seek info on George W. Custer: b. 1842 Allen County, OH; md. Fidelia Maria Worcester 21 April 1864 Morrow County, OH. Ch: Bennie: b. 1 March 1876; d. 12 October 1878; Annabelle & Emma B.: b. 16 July 1880 Richland County, OH. Contact: MarySue Weaver-Cooper, 136 Mohican Trail, Lexington, OH 44904.

## TACKLING DIFFICULT GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH PROBLEMS

A Checklist for Overcoming Researcher Deadends

By Patricia St.Clair Ostwald

Member Pat Ostwald has kindly given us permission to reprint this article from the Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly; Vol. 26 #1; February 1994; p. 32.

Genealogical research is a continuing exercise in problem solving! Each problem solved leads to two new problems - genealogists have to be people who enjoy solving problems.

### Analyzing the specific problem:

- **Evaluate** material already gathered.
- Fill out **Ancestry Chart, Family Group Sheet**, make a **Time Line**.
- Find ancestor's location on a **Map** - be as specific as possible.
- Write a **Position Paper** - state problem, describe what has been done, note sources used.
- **Question** the family story or printed genealogy - you may be stuck because you are proceeding based on error.
- **Formulate a Supposition** - do research with aim to prove or disprove supposition - but don't get hooked into believing it is true without proof.

### Some procedures for solving the problem:

- Check dates of **State, County and Township Formation** - be sure you are searching in the right place.
- Do not get hung up on **Boundary Lines** - many settled near current boundary lines - records may be "over the line" in a different county, state (example - reside in Ohio, attend church in PA), or even country (example - Vermont/Canada).
- Use **Census Records** - record each related ancestral family for every census year - study neighbors also.
- Check all possible **Surname Variations** - be imaginative!
- Research before and after the time period in

question.

- Research others of the same surname.
- Research siblings and neighbors of your problem ancestor.
- Study general history of area of interest.
- Survey all possible records of a location.

Wills are fine, but probate and court litigation may give much more info. Deeds of others of same name, and neighbors, may give needed clue. Ask for tax records, school records, church records, plat maps, etc. Remember, all courthouse records are not filmed.

- Do not depend on printed abstracts. Often more detail will be found in the original record - do your own interpretation.
- Contact other researchers - for every problem, somewhere in the world there may be someone who knows the answer! How? Read queries in major pubs; advertise your problem - through queries or newspaper ads; read exchange quarterlies and surname lists at libraries; use IGI and Family File of LDS libraries; register your surnames at County Historical or Genealogical societies in areas where ancestors lived - and join the society; write or phone people with your surname in the area of interest.
- Use our excellent resources close to home - BGS-Carnegie; University of Colorado Libraries; LDS - Louisville and Longmont; Federal Center; Denver Public Library.

## **KESTERS AND CUSTERS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE OF SLAVERY**

by Jean M. White

Bettie Hill Tolbert has recently submitted her family group sheets on the family and descendants of Robert and Nancy (Kester) MacMahon. This renewed my interest in this family and I began putting together the information I had gathered over the past fifteen years. I first found a copy of the application for Robert's pension in the Indiana State Library, which started my interest in researching this

family to see who Nancy was. When I moved to Wichita, Kansas, I found a genealogist friend who was researching the William Thompson who sold land to the McMahons. She helped me find some of the other sources of information on the family. This family settled in Illinois at a very early date, and there is a unique story to their lives and those of their neighbors.

2/94

?Paulus 1-1-9-5

Nancy Kester/Custer, probably the daughter of Isaac and Susan (Hepon) Custer/Castor, was born about 1778. Placing Nancy as a daughter of Isaac is based purely on the name of her first born son, Isaac Kester McMahon, and also the fact that neighbors of the McMahons came to Illinois from the Wheeling, West Virginia area where Isaac was known to be. The parents of Nancy are not a proven fact.

Nancy married Robert McMahon in St. Clair County, Northwest Territory (now Illinois) in June 1795. Robert was born about 1759 in Virginia, and was probably the son of John and Deborah (Stockton) McMahon. John had died in Augusta County, Virginia in 1784, and his will was proved 19 October of that year. The will named Robert McMahon as executor. John McMahon had served in the Revolutionary War from Augusta County, as did his son, Robert, who in 1780 marched to Guilford Court House in North Carolina, where he fought and was taken prisoner.

After the war Robert moved to Lexington, Kentucky. He then moved to Crab Orchard, Kentucky where he married his first wife, Margaret Clark, 29 June 1785 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. The family moved to New Design (located in present Monroe County, four miles south of Waterloo), Northwest Territory (now Illinois) in 1793. In the same year the Shiloh Methodist Church was organized at Robert McMahon's home. Because the family was apprehensive about Indian attacks, the family lived with the son of James Lemon during 1794. In the same vicinity Peter Casterline and Benjamin Ogle also resided. Thinking that the Indians would not attack during the winter, the McMahons moved back to their property, where on 26 January 1795 Potowatomi Indians attacked the home killing Margaret and four of the children. The Indians took Robert and his daughter, Sally, hostage. Robert escaped the next day, but Sally remained with the Indians until April 1796 when Sukkonok, an



Ottawa chief, returned her in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Greenville and \$160 worth of trade goods as compensation.

Nancy Kester became Robert's second wife and lived for some years on Rall's Ridge, near Red Bud, Randolph County, Illinois. Robert entered 160 acres of land in Randolph County 6 January 1818. Robert served as Justice of the Peace and Judge of the common Pleas Court. On 3 December 1821 Robert and Nancy of Silver Creek Township, Madison County, Illinois bought 100 acres from William Thompson situate on Canteen Creek in the Township of Ogles. This land (presently located near the intersection of Interstates 70 and 55) is near Troy, Madison County, Illinois where Robert died in 1823. His will made 15 August 1822 lists his wife, Nancy, three youngest sons Nathaniel, Jesse W., and George W.; five daughters, Susanna, Nancy, Emaly, Caroline, and Avaline; sons Isaac, Robert and Thomas and Sally Gaskell and Rebecca Kelley. His executors were to be his friend, John Jarvis and son, Isaac K. McMahon. Witnesses to the will were Joshua Armstrong and Andrew Turner.

Nancy was living in Madison County, Illinois when she applied for a Revolutionary War Widow's Pension (R16357):

Declaration was made in Madison County Illinois January 20, 1858 Personally appeared Nancy McMahon a resident of said county and state age 80 who applied under the Act of July 29, 1848 & February 8, 1853 and states she is the widow of Robert McMahan, deceased, and who served in the Revolution that her husband in 1780 served and left service about 1781 that at time he entered the service he resided in Augusta County, Va and was marched from there to Guilford Court House in state of North Carolina, that he was engaged in battle best of her belief one year or over in the Revolutionary War. That she was married to Robert McMahan in St. Clair County Illinois June 1795; that her name before she married was Nancy Kester, that her said husband died in Madison County, Illinois in 1823.

Evidently, the pension was slow in coming as a letter was sent to Washington 20 March 1860 to the Commissioner of Pensions explaining that the widow was still living and that the application had

been mislaid, but was now being presented, and that affidavets of brothers named Lemon relating the service of her husband had been forwarded to his office some time ago.

Children of Robert and Margaret:

1. Sally McMahon born 1784; married David Gaskell, lived Ridge Prairie, Madison County, IL; died 23 January 1850 Alton, Madison County, IL.
2. Male McMahon born 1785-1795; killed by Indians 26 Janury 1795 St. Clair County (now Madison), Northwest Territory (IL).
3. Female McMahon born 1785-1795; killed by Indians 26 Janury 1795 St. Clair County (now Madison), Northwest Territory (IL).
4. Female McMahon born 1785-1795; killed by Indians 26 Janury 1795 St. Clair County (now Madison County), Northwest Territory (IL).
5. Child McMahon born around 1794; killed by Indians 26 Janury 1795 St. Clair County (now Madison), Northwest Territory (IL).

Children of Robert and Nancy:

6. Isaac Kester McMahon born 29 March 1796 St. Clair County, Northwest Territory (IL); married about 1816 Catherine (surname unknown); committed to Illinois State Hospital for Insane 1 December 1862 which occured from religious excitment; died 8 January 1863 IL.
7. Robert McMahon, jr. born 28 November 1796 [sic] St. Clair County, Northwest Territory (IL); married Nancy Conway 25 February 1818 Madison County, IL; died 29 October 1872 Barrow, Madison County, IL.
8. Rebeckah McMahon born 4 May 1800 Horse Prairie, Randolph County, Northwest Territory (IL); married William Kelley 14 June 1814 Madison County, Illinois Territory (IL); died 9 October 1857 Wolf Creek (Delight), Pike County, AR, buried Antiock, Church of Christ Cemetery, Delight, Pike County, AR.
9. Thomas S. McMahon born about 1802 Indiana Territory (IL); married Nancy Harrington; living in Madison County, IL in 1830.



10. Susanna McMahon born about 1894 Indiana Territory (IL); married Creath Renfro 13 December 1827.

11. Nathaniel McMahon born 1806 Indiana Territory (IL); died 2 February 1819 Troy, Madison County, IL.

12. Nancy McMahon born about 1808 Indiana Territory (IL); married Milton Hall 13 March 1827 Madison County, IL.

13. Caroline McMahon born about 1808 Indiana Territory (IL); married Andrew Harvey.

14. Avoline McMahon born about 1810 Illinois Territory (IL); married James Clark.

15. George Washington McMahon born about 1810 Illinois Territory (IL); died 27 April 1840 IL.

16. Jesse W. McMahon born about 1813 Illinois Territory (IL); married Mary "Polly" Smith 1 January 1843; died 1857.

17. Emily McMahon born 26 July 1815 Troy, Madison County, Illinois Territory (IL); married Samuel Caruthers 15 December 1836 Morgan County, IL; died 13 March 1884.

#### Sources:

Madison County Illinois Land Records Book W, p.111

Draper Manuscripts 1-Y-107

Jablonsky, Mrs. Arthur; Robert McMahon Family History; FHC film #0410184

Sanders, Walter R; 400 Marriages: Madison County, IL

Brink; History of Madison County, IL; 1882; pages 278 +

Register of KY State Historical Society, Vol 12; pages 35-82

Morre, Lamire Holden; Southern Baptists in Illinois; pages 7-11

Klein, Helen Ragland; Arrowhead to Aerojets; page 381

Hair, James T.; Gazetteer of Madison County, IL; 1866; pages 58, 248-252

Chancery Record of Madison County, IL; Will of Robert McMahon; p. 293

McGhee, Lucy; Virginia Pension Abstracts of the Wars of Revolution, 1812 and Indian Wars; p. 74

Chalkley; Chronicles of Scotch Irish Settlement

Letters of Bettie Hill Tolbert 11 July 1987 and 10 December 1993

1807 Indiana Territorial Census

Randolph County - Robert McManin

Records of Randolph County, IL; p 20

6 January 1818 Robert McMann NE14 T55 7W 160 acres

1818 Census Madison County, IL

Robert McMahon

Males 21 & up 1 All others 7

What makes this family even more interesting is that it is claimed that James Lemen was supposed to have had a secret compact with Thomas Jefferson to work for the exclusion of slavery in Illinois. Jefferson had already been able to get slavery excluded from the Northwest Territory under the Ordinance of 1783, but wanted to keep slavery out when the area became a state. The idea was to keep several places on the territorial legislature filled with men of like feelings. Edward Coles, the second governor of Illinois, was also a neighbor of Thomas Jefferson. He freed all his slaves, moved to Illinois where he became very vocal on the issue.

Lemen founded the settlement of New Design with that purpose in mind, as he with others founded the New Design Baptist Church. This was the first Baptist Church in Illinois Territory. James Lemen soon became an ordained minister in the Baptist Church, and in 1809 brought the issue of the abolition of slavery to the Illinois Baptist Association. When no stand was taken, Lemen withdrew and formed an antislavery Baptist Church at Cantine Creek, known as Bethel Church. Nancy McMahon and her son, Isaac K., are listed as members of this church. In 1818 Lemen was a delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention, and voted for immediate emancipation of all slaves.

Buley, R. Carlyle; The Old Northwest Pioneer Period, 1815-1840; Vol II; p 468.

Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois; J. L. McDonough & Co.; 1883; p.263.

Buck, Solan J; Illinois in 1818; Appendix; p 317-8.

Bethel Baptist Church 1806-1959; FHC film #0984462

Moore, Lamire Holden; Southern Baptists in Illinois; p.7-11.

Klein, Helen Ragland; Arrowheads to Aerojets; p. 381.

If this is not convincing, then observe this interesting family:

file Paulus.1.1.5.7

Mary Custer born 9 June 1776 in Rockingham County, Virginia, was the daughter of Paul Custer. Mary married 28 August 1794 James Beggs in Rockingham County. James was born 4 April 1768 in Rockingham County, son of Thomas and Sarah (Barnes) Beggs. James was a graduate of William and Mary College. He was a staunch Methodist. James and Mary became members of the Methodist church in 1791. They left Virginia in June 1803 to locate in Kentucky. Later they moved to Clark County, Indiana and bought a 500 acre tract in Clark's Grant. James served several times in the Indiana Territorial and State Legislature. In 1810, he was President of the Council and cast the deciding vote on the slavery issue to make Indiana a free state. He died 13 May 1835 in Clark County, Indiana. Mary died 7 July 1833.

Their children:

1. Sarah L Beggs born 20 February 1797 VA; married Dr William G Goforth 14 February 1819 Clark County, IN.

2. John B Beggs born 14 September 1799; married Matilda Drummond 18 January 1823 Clark County, IN.

3. Stephen R Beggs born 30 March 1801 in VA; married Elizabeth Q Heart 1 September 1831, was a Methodist circuit rider in the Chicago mission; died 4 September 1895 Plainfield, IL. [wrote a book on the early Methodist Church in northern Illinois.]

4. Margaret K Beggs born 16 February 1805 KY.

5. Dr Thomas G Beggs born 28 July 1807 IN.

6. Susanna L Beggs born 29 May 1810; married first John Armstrong, married second Banks Hall.

7. Barthena H Beggs born 4 January 1812.

Sources:

The Book O'Beggs; pp 5, 46, 47, 49, 50 & 51

Clark County, Indiana Abstracts of Wills and Executor Bonds 1801-1833 and Marriage Records 1807-1824; Dorothy Riker, pp 46 and 53

# ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES

Thank you to all members who donated material to the archives this quarter:

1 February 1995 Update on Ludwig Kister (see article); news articles on Norma Keister (Ludwig Kister ?). [George Custard, 1255 S. Hudson St., Denver CO 80222]

8 February 1995 Kesters buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO; obituaries of Edna G. Kuster; Jack Dale Custer. [Terry O'Connor, 301 Village Cir., Altoona IA 50009]

✓ 10 February 1995 Cemetery Inscriptions- Jersey Shore, PA; Index to the Probate Inventories of York County, PA-Kister entries; Early marriages of Somerset County, PA (Gerster entry). [Jean M. White, PO Box 11348, Glendale AZ 85318-1348]

13 February 1995 Photos of Custer gravestones in Fairview Cemetery, Mercersburg, PA; plat map of land holding of Paul, Sarah, Rebecca and Susan Custer in 1794 in Peters Twp., Franklin County and Fulton County, PA; obituaries of John F. Kuster, Wilma Koester, & Thelma Koester; list of PA Custer marriages; Civil War Pension of William Custer; Marriage certificate of Ira Worthington and Florence Custer; Custer extracts from Montgomery County, PA newspapers; information on Walter Louie Koester family from Mathias Hook of Beaver County, PA by Glenn L. Hook. [Joe & Beverly Worthington, 6209 Upton Pl, Clinton MD 207-9761]

15 February 1995 Obituary of Sylvia A. Caster (Heini Gerster 5/3/1-4-4-2) [paid association research - Anita Sickmon]

19 February 1995 Information on Jacob Caster (Heini Gerster 5/3/1-5) and his sons, Robert Jacob Caster, Lyman G. Caster, and Lloyd Howell Caster. [Merle Stevens, 1707 3rd, Brownwood TX 76801]

20 February 1995 Research and information on Sally (Custer) Clark (Paulus 1-1-2-1-8) [Karen Glasser, 5015 Graceland Ave., Indianapolis IN 46206-3426]

20 February 1995 Records of William Dwight Castor and his descendants. (Benj 7-1) [William R. Castor, 86 California Pine Rd., Rio Rancho NM 87124-2572]

10 March 1995 Information on Frederick Koester/Kester/Kuester of Blue Earth County, MN. [James and Paula Warren, Warren Research & Publishing, 1869 Laurel

## Additions to Our Lending Library

These items have been moved from our archives and are now available to our members through our lending library.

Alcorn, Maxine; **Passengers & Immigrants to America** (a bibliography of sources)

**Beaver County, PA Deaths 23 Dec 1817 - 30 Mar 1886**; abstracted from Warner's *History*

Miller, Marilyn; **Notes and Records taken from her PA files**

Microfilm Lists of County Records at the Clayton Library, Houston TX

TN County Records

GA County Records

VA County Records

NC County Records

SC County Records

**US to Original Owners Index Vols 1-7; Richland County, OH**

Brookover, Mary Ruth; **The John Custer House, A Reminiscence** (Winchester, TN)

Saylor, Judge Harold D.; **Early Germantown; 1959 Switzerland; The Ultimate Personal Tourguide**; 300 pages + roadmap and 200 color photographs

Custer, Chester; **Vol 18, Descendants of Jonathan Custer 1767-1823**

Custer, Chester; **Vol 30, Descendants of Adam Custard ca 1773-aft 1840**

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Soc. **Newsletters 1980-1991**

**Newsletter of The Bucks County Genealogical Society**; Winter 1986

**Windber-Johnstown Area Genealogical Society Newletter**; August 1989, November 1989

## Another Conrad!!

Yes, another Conrad Kester, but this time he is no relation to Conrad of Brock's Gap, VA. He appears to be the grandson of Ludwig Kister of Northampton County, PA and son of Nicholas Kister. George Custard of Denver, CO sent us a group of letters sent to him by Marvin Kester, mostly the work of Barbara J. Midgley from the 1930's and 40's. To quote George Custard's letter, "I am fascinated by the fact that people were working on this genealogy nearly 65 years ago." Marvin Kester of Lehigh, PA also sent information to Charlie Schooler pertaining to these families. We have organized the material into family groups, and hope to be able to do future research on these families.

5/95

Conrad.wp

Conrad Kester, the son of Nicholas Kister, was born between 1780 and 1790 in Pennsylvania. He married Mary Mushelman/Musselman. Mary was born about 1796. Supposedly, she was part Indian. The traditon is that a young woman was taken captive by the Indians in Berks County, PA about 1740-1755. She had a daughter while in captivity, but later escaped back to her home. The name is given as Mary Wolf or Mary Wolf Smith. She is presumed to be buried at Wilkes Barre or Jim Thorpe, PA. Conrad died before 11 June 1838 as his estate is entered into court in Luzerne County at that time. Mary died after 1850.

Children of Conrad and Mary:

1. Joseph Kester born about 1814 PA; married Rebecca (surname unknown).

2. John Kester born about 1818 PA; single; murdered 17 October 1885 Luzerne County, PA.

3. William Kester born about 1820 PA; single; murdered 17 October 1885 Luzerne County, PA.

4. James B. Kester born 10 April 1824 PA; married Maria Rittenhouse about 1849; married Mrs. Snyder; died 29 July 1907, buried Old Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Ringtown, Schuylkill County, PA.

Jean M. White has donated her personal "Castor" research files to the association archives. They consist of, in archives terms, approximately four linear feet of records and data collected over the last twenty years. After these files are interfiled in our archives, the search process for information should be quicker and easier..

Frederick Kuster

1M 26-45      1F 26-45  
1M 16-26      1F 10-16  
2M -10        3F -10

1820 census PA, Somerset County, Conemaugh Twp, p 143

Frederick Kustard

1M 45+        1F 26-45  
2M 16-26      3F 10-16  
1M 10-16      4F -10

1830 census PA, Somerset County, Conemaugh Twp, p 103

Fred R Custerd Sr

1M 50-60      1F 40-50  
1M 5-10        2F 15-20  
1M -5          2F 10-15

1840 census PA, Somerset County, Conemaugh Twp, p 13

Frederick Kuster

1M 60-70      1F 50-60  
1M 15-20  
1M 10-15

letter Mrs Shirley R Michael -- 10 April 1985

## New Members

John T. Castor; 621 St. Paul Dr.; Arlington TX  
76013-1378

Douglas D. Castor; 3279 Co Hwy #52; Erie CO  
80516-0001

Sandy Cooper; 5824 Foster Ln.; Salem VA 24153-  
0001

Velva M. Elder; 709 Hurt; Liberty MO 64068-2218  
William B. Firebaugh; 510 Ash St.; Moses Lake WA  
98837-1952

Roger M. Keister; 29 Tudor Ct.; Dover DE 19901-  
0001

Alton A. Kester; 23 Pocono Dr; Pittsburgh PA  
15220-0001

Betty Koester; 75 N. Calle Sin Envidia #14201;  
Tucson AZ 85718-0001

Frances Maske; 1426 N. Randall #1; Janesville WI  
53545-0001

Robert G. Moore; 77 Metcalfe St.; St. Thomas;  
Ontario; Canada N5R 3K6

Marilyn Posten; 54 Lake Forest; Charlottesville VA  
22901-1365 --summer address 106 S. Fifth St.;  
Oakland MD 21550-0001

Margaret Rodda; 9310 NE 10 St.; Vancouver WA  
98664-3244

Marvel R. Spiering; 1800 Jansen Ave; Las Vegas NV  
89101-1258

## Change of Address

Bruce Black; 3617 Division St; Los Angeles CA  
90065-3336

Zelma Castor; 1104 W. Gilbert; Peoria IL 61604-  
2627

Robert E. Custer; 608 Twinflower Dr.; Canon City  
CO 81212-2078

Robin Hamilton; 18706 CR 5738; Castroville TX  
78009-2221

Loreta Hodge (summer); 52 DD St.; Lakeland FL  
33801-4272

James J. Kester III; 1315 Rodriguez St.; Santa Cruz  
CA 95062-0001

Maruerite Prinz; 3333 N. Pacific Pl Apt. 445; Long  
Beach CA 90806-1263

Frances Smith; 2112 S. 90th apt 116; Tacoma WA  
84444-0001

John Spacht; 1863 State Service Rd; Defiance OH  
43512-1956

## Donations

Thank you members for your support

Gaylord Castor Research Fund: Maxine Dickey  
General Fund: Elma Arbitter, Barney Capehart;  
Kenneth Castor Sr., Gloria Davis, Jari Emmons, Costa  
Hill, Emma Holtz, Donreta Laird, Gorby Martin,  
Emily Moore, Robert L. Castor, Janice Galasso,  
Norman Koester, Thomas Passingham, Esther  
Pemberton, Carolyn Rowe, Carol Taravella,  
Genevieve Schaffer, Paul G. Kaster, Mary Lou Bacon,  
Rel Corbin, Marvel Spiering

### Note from Dorothy Castor:

**Congratulations to all of you. Gaylord  
would have really been thrilled and proud  
of the growth of the Association.**

ed. note: Gaylord Castor was one of our  
founders.

5. Male Kester born 1820-1830; died young before 1840.

6. Male Kester born 1820-1830; died young before 1840.

7. Rachel Kester born about 1830 PA; married James Hine 23 August 1857 Sybertsville, Luzerne County, PA; died 1910.

8. Stephen Kester born about 1834 PA; married Esther Kepp about 1858; lived Black Creek Twp., Luzerne County, PA.

9. Samuel Kester born about 1836 PA.

"Marvin Kester letters"

1820 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p?

Conrad Kester

3 males 0-10	3 female 0-10
1 male 10-16	1 female 26-45
1 male 16-26	

1830 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA;p?

Conrad Kester

2 males 5-10	2 females 0-5
1 male 10-15	1 female 5-10
1 male 15-20	1 female 10-15
1 male 40-50	1 female 40-50

1840 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. ?

Mary Kester

1 male 0-5	2 females 10-15
1 male 5-10	1 female 40-50
1 male 15-20	
1 male 30-40	

1850 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p?

John Kester 32 PA farmer

William 29 PA

Mary 54 PA

Samuel 14 PA

Stephen 16 PA

5/95

Conrad1.wp

Joseph Kester, the son of Conrad and Mary (Muschelman) Kester, was born about 1814 in Pennsylvania. He married Rebecca (surname unknown). Rebecca was born about 1815 in Pennsylvania. In 1850 the family was living in Black Creek Township, Luzerne County,

Pennsylvania. The family lived in Berwick, Columbia County, Pennsylvania in 1860, but had moved back to Luzerne County by 1870.

Children of Joseph and Rebecca:

1. Mary Kester born 1836 PA.

2. William Kester born 1840 PA.

3. Eliza Kester born 1843 PA.

4. Lydia Kester born 1845 PA.

5. Edward Kester born 1846 PA.

6. Sivilla Kester born 1849 PA.

7. Rebecca I. Kester born 1855 PA; married Milton Kester (first cousin; son of James Kester).

8. Sarah A. Kester born 1861 PA.

9. Alice D. Kester born 1861 PA.

"Marvin Kester letters"

Male Kester; crippled.

Male Kester; married living around Berwick, Columbia County, PA.

1850 Census Black Creek Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. ?

Joseph Kester	36 PA	blacksmith
Rebecca	36 PA	
Mary	14 PA	
William	10 PA	
Lydia	5 PA	
Eliza	7 PA	
Edward	4 PA	
Sivilla	1 PA	

1860 Census Briarcreek, Columbia County, PA; p. 602  
1036/1036

Joseph Kester	47 PA	blacksmith
Rebecca	45 PA	
Mary	23 PA	
Edward	14 PA	
-----	11 PA	(f)
Frances	1 PA	(f)
R J	4 PA	(m)
S E	8/12 PA	(f)
N D	8/12 PA	(f)

1870 Census Salem Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. 591.

Joseph Kester 54 PA blacksmith can read  
& write

Rebecca	54 PA	keeping house	can read & write
William	31 PA	carpenter	can read & write
Rebecca I.	15 PA	attending school	
Sarah A.	9 PA	attending school	
Alice D.	9 PA	attending school	

5/95

Conrad 2,3.wp

John and William Kester, the sons of Conrad and Mary (Muschelman) Kester, were born about 1818 and 1820 in Pennsylvania. They never married and lived together in the old home place. One brother kept the house, while the other did odd jobs and day labor for people in the area. They were thought to have sacks of money hidden in the house or buried on the farm. For this reason they were found murdered on 17 October 1885. According to the newspaper, a posse of forty-five men were organized to catch a couple of itinerants suspected of the crime, but they never did. A \$500 reward goes unclaimed to this day.

"Marvin Kester letters"

1870 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p.456.

William Kester 50 PA laborer cannot read or write

John Kester 52 PA laborer can read & write

5/95

Conrad 4.wp

James B. Kester, the son of Conrad/Solomon and Mary (Muschelman) Kester, was born 10 April 1824 in Pennsylvania. He married Maria Rittenhouse about 1848. Maria was born in 1828, the daughter of Charles and Regina (Wenner) Rittenhouse. Maria died March 1872.

James remarried to Mrs. Snyder. James died 29 July 1907. James and Maria are buried in the Old Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Ringtown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Children of James and Maria:

1. Rachel Kester born 1849 PA; lived and buried at York, York County, PA.

2. Jeremiah Kester born 1852 PA; married Margaret (surname unknown); lived at Manville, PA (?Mannsville, Union County, PA).

3. Samuel A. Kester born September 1854 Black Creek, Luzerne County, PA; married; Henrietta (surname unknown); lived Ringtown, Schuylkill County until 1899; died 19 October 1922 Bloomsburg, PA, buried Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, PA.

4. Milton Kester born 1859 PA; married Rebecca Kester (first cousin; dt. of Joseph Kester); buried Espy, Columbia County, PA.

5. John Wesley Kester born 23 August 1863 Greentown, PA; married Ada/Ida Miller 8 July 1920 Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, PA; buried Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, PA.

6. Edith Estelle Kester born 1868 PA; married Thomas Rowles Judd, jr; lived Putnamville, MA.

Burial Records of Kelchner Funeral Home 1901-1934, Vol I; p. 83, 106.

"Marvin Kester letters"

1850 Census Black Creek Township, Luzerne County, PA; p. ?

James Kester 26 PA carpenter

Maria 23 PA

Rachel 9/12 PA

1860 Census Black Creek Township, Luzerne County, PA; p. 32.

1764/1755

James Kester 36 PA carpenter

Maria 32 PA

Rachel 10 PA

Jeremiah 8 PA

Samuel 5 PA

Milton 1 PA

1870 Census Union Twp., Schuylkill County, PA; p. 610.

James Kester 46 PA carpenter

Maria 42 PA

Rachel 29 PA

Jeremiah 18 PA

Samuel 15 PA

Milton 11 PA

John W. 7 PA

Edith E. 2 PA

Mary Rettenhouse 12 PA

Jacob Farnsworth 22 PA

4/95

Conrad 5.wp

Rachel Kester, the daughter of Conrad and Mary (Muschelman) Kester, was born about 1830 in



Pennsylvania. She married James Hine 23 August 1857 in the Presbyterian Church in Sybertsville, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. James was born in 1829. He died in 1907. Rachel died in 1910.

Children of James and Rachel:

1. Harry O. Hine; living 1931, 3204 Highland Pl. Cleaveland Park, Washington, ?DC.

2. Anna Marian Hine died 1948.

"Marvin Kester letters"

5/95

Conrad 6.wp

Steven Kester, the son of Conrad and Mary (Muschelman) Kester, was born about 1834 in Pennsylvania. He married Esther Kepp, a half sister to Maria Rittenhouse, who married Steven's brother, James. They were married about 1858. Steven lived and probably died in Black Creek Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, although in 1870 he was living in Hazel Township.

Children of Steven:

1. Mary Kester born 1859 PA.

2. John Kester born 1851 PA; living 450 Martin St. Roxboro, Philidelphia, PA in 1931.

3. Stephen Kester born 1853 PA.

4. William "Willie" Kester born 1859 PA;

5. Ida Kester.

6. Gertrude Kester.

7. Calvin Kester.

One of the Male Kesters living in Philidelphia, PA-1931.

"Marvin Kester letters"

1850 Census Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. 650.  
Stephen Kester 18 PA

1860 Census Black Creek Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. 33

1767/1757

Steven Kester	26 PA	carpenter
Hetty	18 PA	
Mary	1 PA	

1870 Census Hazel Twp., Luzerne County, PA; p. 502.

Stephen Kester	38 PA	carpenter
Esther?	28 PA	wife
Mary	11 PA	
John	9 PA	
Stephen	7 PA	
Willie	1 PA	

## Update on Daniel Custard - An English Family

Upon additional research in English records and some probate records, we have been able to add interesting information to our files on Daniel Custard. Of course, in the usual genealogical manner, additional questions about Daniel and his family have been raised. The will of Daniel Custard is a most interesting document and much understanding of family relationships can be inferred by reading who received what in the will.

6/95

disk\DanCust\0

(file Daniel Custard) Misc D

Daniel Custard was born 1750-1760 in England. Daniel married Martha Saul 13 October 1777 at Gimingham, Norfolk, England. Martha died and was buried 2 October 1783 at Gimingham, Norfolk, England.

Did Daniel then marry Elizabeth Allison? The baptism for Daniel Curstead on 20 March 1785 in Gimingham, Norfolk, England lists "Daniel Curstead, son of Elizabeth Allison" with no father's name given. There are several entries on the same page for "bastard" children, so it does not appear that Daniel was born out of wedlock, although why is he listed under the mother's maiden name with no father's name given?

Daniel married Mary Ward 1 August 1786 in Aylsham, Norfolk, England. Mary was born about 1763. They emigrated to America after the Revolutionary War, settling near Harrisburg, Dauphine



County, Pennsylvania. The original name of the family was Curstead, with some members changing the spelling to Custard and Custead after arriving in America. About 1805 they moved to Mead Township of Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Daniel was a farmer. From 1826-1828, Daniel operated a distillery. Mary died 22 April 1830. She is not listed on the 1830 census. Daniel died 14 March 1839 in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Daniel dated his Will 14 December 1836, and it was proved 15 January 1841 -- why was the Will probated so late?

**In the name of God Amen I Daniel Custard of the Township of Mead in the County of Crawford and State of Pennsylvania being weak and infirm in body but of perfect Sound and discriminating mind memory and understanding blessed be God for the Same and being well conversed of the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time of my Exit from this transitory abode I do make and declare this as my last will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made & Ratifying and Confirming the following bequests and legacies viz--**

**In the first place my request is that after my death my body be buried in a decent Christean like manner and that the Expences thereof be paid out of the proceeds of my Estate by my executoer herein after Mentioned.**

**In the second place my will is that all my Just debts (of any such there should prove to be) shall be paid by my Executor**

**In the third place I will and bequeath unto my Eldest Son William Custard one dollar to paid him when demanded out of the proceeds of my Estate.**

**In the fourth place I will and bequeath unto my son Daniel Curstead and to my Daughter Susan -- all my Bank Stock which I hold in the Northwestern Bank of Pennsylvania be the amount of dividend what it may-more or less**

**In the fifth place I will and bequeath to my Daughter Mary one dollar to be paid to her by my Executor on demand**

**In the sixth place I will and bequeath unto my Son John Curstead My Still tubs and distilling aperatus which he has already received and disposed of to Richard and Henry Buckston**

**In the seventh place I will and bequeath to My Son Robert Curstead My Blacksmith tools and a two horse waggon which are in his posession**

**In the eighth place I will and bequeath unto my Grand son Joseph James Curstead son of James Curstead deceased One dollar to be paid him by my Executors on demand and**

**In the last place I will and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah intermarried with Richard Buckston my farm and homestead containing about thirty two acres of land together with the buildings and improvements unto thereon erected to her hiers or assigns forever also all the balance of My personal Estate whatsoever-- consisting of Farming utensils Cattle household Furniture Beds Bedding etc.**

**And I do hereby constitute and appoint My son in law Richard Buckston to be executor of this my last will and Testament In Testimony were of and in the fullfillment of this my last transaction in this busy world of trouble I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of December in the year of our Lord AD Eighteen hundred and thirty six**

**his  
Daniel X Curstead  
mark**

**Signed Sealed published \_\_\_\_\_ and declared in the presence of  
\_\_ who have Signed as Witnesses at the Specieal request of the  
Testator above Named**

**Witnesses  
James Scott  
John Shreiber  
Henry Buxton**

**Children of Daniel:**

**1. William Curstead/ Custard born 1784-1790  
England.; ? married Mary (surname unknown);  
?died shortly before February 1840 Washington  
County, PA .**

**2. Daniel Curstead born 1784-1790, baptized 20  
March 1785 Gimingham, Norfolk, England.**

**3. John Cursted born 18 August 1787, baptized 19  
August 1787 Gimingham, Norfolk, England; died  
and buried 16 October 1787 Gimingham, Norfolk,  
England.**

**4. Susan Curstead born 1794-1800.**

5. Mary Custead born 1794-1800.

6. John Curstead/Custard born 1792 Dauphine County, PA; died 28 January 1873 Olyphant, Fayette County, PA.

7. Robert Ward Custard born 1799 PA; married Lydia Sitler 3 December 1826; died 20/21 February 1847 Crawford County, PA, buried Greendale Cemetery, Crawford County, PA.

8. James Custard born about 1800 PA; married Mary Miller, formerly of Milton, 11 March 1830 in Mead, Crawford County, PA; died 8 August 1831 Crawford County, PA.

9. Sarah Custead born 1804-1810; married Richard Buxton/Buckston 17/23 February 1833 Crawford County, PA.

Sources:

Crawford County, PA Will Book B, page 83-4; FHC film #0864218

Gimingham, Norfolk, England Parish Records; FHC film #0894717 #5

Aylsham Norfolk, England Bishop's Transcripts; FHC film #1526779.

IGI- 1993 ver.

Mitchell, Carole Jean Custard and Custard, Clifford C.; Custard Family Tree; copy from Crawford County Historical Society.

Ira Custard Family Bible - copy of family records at Crawford County, PA Historical Society

\Our County and Its People. A historical and memorial record of Crawford County (Pa) by Samuel P Bates (1899), page 542 -- this is under the caption of History of Mead Township, "Among those who located here before 1810, Daniel Custard, an Englishman, owned a small farm south of Meadville..."

"Crawford Democrat Courier" 2 April 1839 -- Mr Daniel Custard died in Mead Township on Saturday the 16th instant in 97th year of his age (age appears exaggerated?).

1790 Census PA; Dauphine County (formed 1785 from Lancaster) (Lebanon from Dauphine) Daniel Custard

1 male -16 3 females

1 male +16

1800 Census PA, Dauphine County; p. 183

Daniel Custard

3 males -10 2 females -10

2 males 10-16 1 female 26-45

1 male 26-45

1810 census Pa, Crawford Co, Mead Twp, p 284

Daniel Custard

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 16-26 1F 16-26

2M 10-16 1F -10

1M -10

1820 census Pa, Crawford Co, Mead Twp, p 52

Daniel Custard

1M 45+ 1F 45+

2M 16-26 2F 10-16

1830 census Pa, Crawford Co, Mead Twp, p 9

Daniel Custard

1M 70-80 2F 20-30

1M 20-30

Crawford County, Pennsylvania Tax Records - all in Mead Township

1805 Daniel Custard 10 acres, 2 horses, 1 cow; value \$292, tax .32

1806-1809 Daniel Custard 10 acres

1810 Daniel Custard 10 acres

1811-1812 Daniel Custard 30 acres

1813-1814 Daniel Custard 30 acres

1815-1816 Daniel Custard 30 acres

1817 Daniel Custard 30 acres

1818 Daniel Custard 30 acres

1820 Daniel Custard 20 A. of Randolph's, 10 A. of Magaw's

Robert & James Custard single men 60 acres

1821-1822 Daniel Custard - same

Robert & James Custard - same

1823 Daniel Custard - same

Robert & James Custard - same

1824 Daniel Custard - same

Robert & James Custard - same

1825 Daniel Custard - same

Robert & James Custard - same

1826 Daniel Custard 30 acres, distillery

Robert & James Custard - same

1827 Daniel Custard 36 acres, 2 horse, 3 cows, distillery valued at \$419, tax \$2.09

Robert & James Custard 160 acres, valued at \$495, tax \$2.47

1828 Daniel Custard 30 A, distillery, valued \$373, tax \$1.86

Robert & James 160 A, sawmill, valued \$568, tax \$2.84

1829 Daniel Custard 30 acres

Robert & James Custard 150 acres, sawmill

1830 Daniel Custard 30 acres

Robert & James Custard 110 acres, sawmill

1831 Daniel Custard 30 acres

Robert & James Custard 110 acres, sawmill

1832 Daniel Custard 30 acres

Robert Custard 60 acres

Heirs of James Custard 50 acres, sawmill

1833 James Custard's Heirs 50 acres, sawmill

Daniel Custard 30 acres

**Castor Family**

- Robert Custard 60 acres
- 1834 James Custard's Heirs 50 acres, sawmill
- Daniel Custard 30 acres
- Robert Custard 60 acres
- 1835 James Custard's Heirs 50 acres, sawmill
- Daniel Castard 30 acres
- Robert Custard 60 acres
- 1836 Daniel Curstead 30 acres
- Robert Curstead 60 acres
- James Curstead's heirs 50 acres, sawmill
- 1837 Daniel Custard 30 acres
- Robert Custard 60 acres
- James Custard's heirs 50 acres, sawmill
- 1838 Robert W Curstead 70 acres
- 1839 Robert W Custard 70 acres
- 1840 Robert W Curstead 75 acres
- 1841 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1842 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1843 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1844 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1845 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1846 Robert W Custard 75 acres
- 1847 Robert W Curstead 75 acres

letter -- Charles W Geelan - 31 Oct 1985

**Hiram Keister**

Barbara Denahey has sent us some information about her Grandmother's grandfather. Barabara's grandmother told her all she knew about him was that he was Pennsylvania Dutch. Can any of our member give us additonal information on this family?

4/95

H-MISC disk\Hiram

Hiram Keister was born 15 January 1838 in Butler County, PA. He had a brother Hezekiah, who was born 13 August 1830 in "Clarion" (Clarion County was formed in 1839 from Venango and Armstrong Counties) County, PA and later lived in Wisconsin. Hiram moved to Jackson County, IA in 1859. Hiram married Jane (surname unknown) about 1863. Jane was born in PA. Did Jane die between 1870 and 1880? Did Hiram have another brother, James C. Keister, born in 1844 in PA?

6/95

Misc D disk\DanCust\1

**William Curstead/ Custard, the son of Daniel Custard, was born 1784-1790 England. Is he the William Custard who died intestate shortly before February 1840 in Washington County, Pennsylvania? This would account for why Daniel Custard's will was filed so late. At the February 1840 Orphan's Court in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Mary Custard, who may have been William's wife, adminstratrix of the estate of William Custard declared and presented her account by which account it appears that there is a balance in the hands of the Adminstratrix of \$183.50 cents. Confirmed. No other records of this William Custard have been found in Washington County.**

Source:

Washington County, PA Orphan's Court, Docket E 1839-1845, p. 7 (Feb 1840)

**No Kidding?**

**The Custer Family Killed at Battle of Little Big Horn**

1. General George Custer (age 36)
2. Brother Captain Tom Custer (age 31)
3. Civilian brother Boston Custer (age 27)
4. Brother-in-law Lt. James Calhoun (age 30)
5. Nephew "Autie" Reed (age 18)

Source: "The Old West Quiz and Fact Book" (Rod Gragg; Harper & Row; 1990)

[Boulder Colorado Daily Camera, Thurs 18 May 1995 - sent by Patricia A. Ostwald, Boulder, CO]

Castor Fan

its name, and there is not the least evidence to indicated, either by record or tradition, that it got its name from any settler. If anyone knows anything different from the above, I would be very glad to learn of it."

While Mr. Turner's conclusion had considerable merit, your present writer has found additional information that may have some bearing on the matter. By a land patent dated March 15, 1744, John Michael Brock obtained 400 acres of land whose location was described as "being in that part of Orange County designed to be called Augusta, on the South Fork of the North River of Shanando above the gap in the mountain." [This 400 acres is just inside the Gap, on both sides of the Shoemaker River (the South Fork of the North River of the Shenandoah). In 1993 Franklin Zirkle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brock, and Pat Ritchie toured the area to see if they could determine where the 400 acres lay. This Brock family was probably the nearest landowner to the actual Gap.]

Augusta County was formed in 1745, and the area in question became Rockingham County in 1778. The tract has the shape of a parallelogram and lies on both sides of the river (the exact location was not ascertained by the writer but there is no question that it is in Brock's Gap)...

The 400 acres patented by John Michael Brock (by William Gooch, Royal Governor of the Colony of Virginia) were later sold, using the identical property survey; from Christian Funkhouser and wife, Christianah (Brock) and Henry Brock and wife, Mary, to Jacob Bare, by deed dated February 4th, 1752, recorded in Deed Book 4 at page 185. The deed states in part: "together with all singular the houses, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens, pastures, commone woods, woodland, waters, watercourses, ..."; also: "said Christian Funkhouser and Henry Brock at ye time of ensiling and delivery of these presents is seized of and in ye premises by these presents granted, bargained and sold with their every rights members and appurtenances of a good pure, perfect and absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple..."; also: "lastly, that the said Christian Funkhouser and Christianah, his wife, and Henry Brock and Mary, his wife ye said land and premises against themselves and their heirs, and against John Pafsor Brock and his heirs...." By deed dated

December 2, 1752, Opaltis Brock conveys his interest in the same 400 acres to Jacob Bare. This deed is recorded in Deed Book 5 at page 192. Both of these deeds were recorded in Augusta County.

The writer was unable to find a will, list of heirs, or settlement of the John Michael Brock estate. His land patent stated that one shilling be paid as Lease Rent each year for three years, and that Brock must be cultivating at least three acres at end of three years or the property would revert back to the King of England.

The patent and deeds referred to above lead this writer to conclude that a Brock owned land and apparently lived in West Gap just prior to the name change; consequently, there is a good possibility that its name may not have been derived from Captain William Brock, but from a local settler.

**A tour of Brock's Gap and surrounding area is planned for Sunday morning of the 7th National Castor Association Reunion -- see page 71 for details**

## Conrad, Grandson of Conrad

Karen Glasser of Indianapolis, IN has been working on this family. She is especially interested in Conrad's daughter, Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Miller. Elizabeth had five daughters, four of whom are named Miller, but the fifth used the surname of Custard, and Elizabeth was known in later years as Mrs. Custard/Custer. Did she remarry to a Mr. Custard, and if so to whom?

6/95

( file Paulus.1.1.2.1) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1

Conrad Custer/Custard was born in 1742, the son of Arnold and Bridget (Strauder) Custer. Conrad's father died 1759. On 19 November 1760, Conrad, aged 18, chose Abraham Bird as his guardian. Conrad bought 40 acres in Brock's Gap 19 February 1773.

Conrad conveyed the farm of his grandfather, Conrad Custard, to his uncle Paul Custard in the settlement of his grandfather's estate. Under Virginia law, at that time, the oldest son inherited everything. Since Conrad, Sr.'s oldest son, Arnold, was already





dead, Arnold's oldest son, Conrad, legally inherited the farm in Rockingham County, Virginia. However, Grandfather Conrad had given a noncupertive will asking that the land be sold and the money divided. The farm was sold to Paul Custard [Paulus 1-1-5] to settle the estate.

Conrad's younger brother, Arnold, was bound to him 16 August 1774. Conrad served as an Ensign in Company No. 1 of Augusta County, Virginia in 1775 in what is now Nelson County, Kentucky. Conrad married 10 February 1776 Elizabeth Lair. In 1789, Conrad was listed as owning 169 acres in Rockingham County, Virginia. 24 May 1779 on motion of Conrad Custard ordered that the church warden bind out Charity Humble, orphan of Martin Humble to Conrad Custard until she comes of age. Conrad was a Private in Captain Michael Humble's Company of the "Kentucky County" Virginia Militia (commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clark) from 15 July 1780 to 21 August 1780. He was in the expedition against the Shawnees. Conrod received L3.2.6 for killing five old wolves in the 29 November 1780 session of Rockingham County Court. Teter Coutts sold land to Conrod Kester 27 August 1781 in Rockingham County, Va -- also same day the Court ordained Conrod and Paul to appraise the estate of Adam Nelson. 27 March 1786 a deed of bargain & sale from Conrad Kester to John Runyan was acknowledged & ordered recorded in Rockingham County, Virginia. Conrad appeared on the 1787 Personal Property Tax List for Rockingham County, and served on the grand jury 27 March 1789 in Rockingham County, Virginia.

Conrad bought land from the John Hinkson estate in Bourbon County, Ky 14 May 1790 (Bourbon County Deed Book B, pp 34-35 and p 179). [For a discussion of Conrad Custer's home in Bourbon County, see The News-Caster Volume 9 #2, pages 26-27]. 15 June 1791 he was a witness to the will of James Thomas along with Arnold Custer & John Beggs. 12 March 1795 he was a witness to the will of John Wilson. Conrad died in early 1828. His will is dated 10 February 1826, probated March 1828:

In the name of God Amen I Coonrod Custer of the county of Bourbon being of sound mind and disposing memory usual do herby constitute make and ordain this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all other will or wills by me made and First I wish and — and that all my just debts be paid and when life

is with me nor more I desire that my body be buried decently and without pomp.

Secondly To Jane Custer the daughter of my son William Custer deceased I give of my estate when sold twenty dollars

Thirdly To Arnold Custer Junr Robert Custer and Harriet Heirs of George Custer deceased I give each ten dollars

Fourthly To my daughter Clary Custer beside her equal share I give the following articles Viz my clock and case a cow and a Loom

Fifthly The Beds and bedding heretofore given to my Daughters by my will beloved wife I desire to remain as she appointed

Sixthly To Comfort Miller the Daughter of my daughter Elizabeth I give one bed and bedding and one cow

Seventh To my daughter Elizabeth I give my dining Table And to those who may nurse and take care of me now while in my helpless state i desire my Escecutors to pay some reasonable sum

Eighth I desire further that each of my Heirs hereafter named shall bear an equal proportion of any costs which may hereafter arise on my land and my Escecutors are hereby (nineth) directed to make the reduction equally

Tenth After proceeding bequests I desire and direct that all the remaining property of which I may die possessed shall be sold at a reasonalbe credit by my Escecutors to the highest bidder and all the proceeds thereof to be equally divided between my following named Children

Viz Arnold Custer, Coonrod Custer, Elizabeth Custer, Bridget Wilson, Sally Clark, Deborah Wilson, Clara Pugh, Margaret Sharp and to John Custer, Lavisia Custer, Joseph Custer and Salinda Custer the four children of my son Jacob Custer together I make one heir with the others that is that they the Heirs of Jacob Custer deceased shall receive together one equal share of my estate. And Lastly I appoint my son in Law William Wilson and Joseph Shawhan Senr Executors of this my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto to set my hand and seal this tenth day of February 1826

Signed and sealed in

Coonrod Custer

Presence of

Henry David

Jacob David

S. W. B Carnegy

Charles Lair

Bourbon County Court March Term 1828 This last will and testament of Coonrod Custer deceased being proved by the oath of Henry and Jacob David witnesses thereto is ordered to be recorded.

#### Children of Conrad and Elizabeth:

1. William Custer born 1776-1784; married Elizabeth Wilson 4 October 1800 Bourbon County, KY; died before 1826.

2. Jacob Custer born 1776-1784; married Elizabeth Thomas 6 November 1806 Bourbon County, KY; died 1821 Bourbon County, KY.

3. George W. Custer born about 1790 KY; married Amelia "Milly" Wilson 5 April 1814 Harrison County,

KY; died 1819 Bourbon County, KY.

4. Elizabeth Custer born about 1787/8; married Mr. Miller; ?married Mr. Custard; died 7 March 1885 Perry Twp., Marion County, IN, buried Fowler-Munday Cemetery, Perry Twp., Marion County, IN.

5. Arnold Custer born 1784-1800; single; died between 8 November 1829 and 21 March 1830 Wayne County, IN.

6. Conrad Custer Jr born about 1784; married Leanna Thomas 18 July 1800 Lair, Bourbon County, KY; died 20 August 1875 Columbia Township, Fayette County, IN.

7. Bridget Custer born around 1777; married James Wilson 2 May 1796; lived in Gallatin County, KY until 1824 and then Morgan County, IL.

8. Sally Custer born about 1780; married Ephraim Clark about 1800 KY; died 1870 Wayne County, IN.

9. Deborah Custer born about 1789; married William H Wilson 6 March 1811 Bourbon County, KY; left Bourbon County, Ky 1832 to settle in Rush County, IN; died about 1874 Shelby County, IN.

10. Clara/ Clarissa Custer born 1790-94; married Joseph Pugh 3 April 1809 Bourbon County, KY.

11. Margaret Custer born 22 May 1796 Bourbon County, KY; married Abraham Sharp Sr 11 February 1816 Bourbon County, KY; died 25 April 1853 or 1855.

Sources:

Bourbon County, KY Will Book H, page 43.

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

Custer, Milo; *Custer Genealogies*; 1944; pp 2-3.

*The Nelson County Pioneer*; Bardstown, KY.

Chalkley, Lyman; *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*; Vol 1; p 88, 181; Vol 3, p 77, 539

"Early Court Records;" *Rockingham Recorder*; Vol 2, #1, p 12; Vol 2 #3, p. 136.

Kaylor; *Abstracts of Land Grant Surveys*; p 211.

*Virginia Valley Records*

"Rockingham County Court Minutes;" *Rockingham Recorder*; Vol 3, #1; p 111.

*Rockingham County, Virginia Minute Book 1778-1792*; Part 1 1778-1786; p 34, 90, 222, 389.

Alderly, Mrs. William Breckenridge; *Kentucky Court & Other Records*; Vol II, p 25, 26 Book A, p 342, 217.

Cook, Michael L.; *Bourbon County, Ky Marriage Bonds 1786-1835*; pp 11, 37 & 42 .

1784 census Virginia, Rockingham Co, list of John Fitzwater Conrad Kester

9 white souls, 1 dwelling, 1 other building

"Rockingham County Personal Property Tax 1787 - List A;" p 641.

Conrod Custard 0 - 0 - 0 - 5 - 21

March 1791 tax list Bourbon County, Kentucky

1800 census Kentucky, Bourbon County

Conrad Custard

1810 census Kentucky, Bourbon Co, p 80B

Conrod Custard

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 26-45 3F 16-26

2M 16-26 1F 10-16

1M -10 2F -10

9/95

Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-1

William Custer was born between 1776 and 1784, the son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. He married Elizabeth Wilson 4 October 1800 in Bourbon County, KY. He died before 1826.

Child of William and Elizabeth:

1. Jane Custer married Mr. Starmer.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

9/95

(file Paulus.1.1.2.1.2 ) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-2

Jacob Custer was born 1765-1784, son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. Jacob lived in Bourbon County, Kentucky. He married Elizabeth Thomas 6 November 1806. Jacob died in 1821 in Bourbon County, KY. There was a sale of his estate 19 September 1821.

Children of Jacob and Elizabeth:

1. John Custer

2. Louisa Custer

3. Joseph Custer

4. Salina Custer



Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

Custer, Milo; *Custer Genealogies*; 1944; p 3.

1800 census Kentucky, Bourbon County

1810 census Kentucky, Bourbon Co, p 80

Jacob Custard

1M 26-45 1F 16-26

1M -10 1F -10

?1830 census KY, Harrison Co, West Side of Licking River, p 158

Elizabeth Custard

2M 20-30 1F 50-60

2F 10-15

9/95

(file Paulus.1.1.2.1.3) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-3

George W. Custer was born about 1790 in Kentucky, the son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. He married Amelia "Millie" Wilson 5 April 1814 in Harrison County, Kentucky. Millie was born in 1793 in Maryland. George died in 1819 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. In July 1828 William H. Wilson was appointed guardian of Robert Custer, Aaron Custer, and Harriet Custer, infant orphans of George Custer, deceased.

Millie remarried to Thomas David 24 August 1828.

Children of George and Amelia:

1. James Robert Custer born 1815 KY; married Jane Watkins 21 September 1837; died 1896 Montgomery County, IN.

2. Harriet Custer born 3 April 1818 KY; married James Hipes 1 March 1836 Montgomery County, IN; married Mahlon Weaver 30 April 1848; died 23 June 1899 Montgomery County, IN.

3. Arnold Custer born 1819 KY.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

Harrison County, KY Guardianship Records; Book D, page 529.

Custer, Milo; *Custer Genealogies*; 1944; p 3.

1820 Census Harrison County, KY; p. 208

Amelia Custard

2 males -10 1 female 26-45

1 female - 10

9/95

(Elizabeth) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-4

Elizabeth Custer was born about 1788 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. She married a Mr. Miller. Did she then marry a Mr. Custard? She came from Harrison County, Kentucky to Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana in the fall of 1828 with her son-in-law, David Hinkston. They purchased in Section 16 from John Belger. Elizabeth died 7 March 1885 and is buried in the Fowler-Mundy Cemetery, Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana.

Dead at the age of 98

Mrs. Elizabeth Custer died at the age of 98 at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Myers, in Perry Township, on Friday, and was buried yesterday. She was born in Virginia in 1787, and moved to this county in 1828, and has since lived here. Her husband had been dead over sixty years and two widowed daughters - aged 74 and 72 survive her. Mrs. Custer lived just long enough to have been under the protection of every administration, including the present, but for only two days, since the republic was founded. Even in her advanced age she devoted much of her time to charitable purpose, and was particularly active in caring for the sick of her neighborhood.

Children of Elizabeth:

1. Eliza Miller born 20 January 1806 KY; married Elijah McBride 10 November 1829 Marion County, IN; died 18 November 1861, buried Round Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, IN.

2. Comfort Miller born 27 May 1810 KY; married David Hinkston 15 January 1826 Bourbon County, KY; married John Myers; died 4 January/14 February 1893, buried Round Hill Cemetery Marion County, IN.

3. Margaret Miller born 1814 KY; married Larkin Myers (son of Henry Myers) 14 October 1841 Marion County, IN; living 1885.

4. Mary Miller born 11 December 1815 KY; married James Tracy 25 December 1834 Marion County, IN; buried Fowler-Mundy Cemetery, Perry Township, Marion County, IN.

5. Amanda Custard born 1816 KY; married  
Saulsbury Jones (son of William Jones, welshman)  
23 August 1838 Marion County, IN; died 22  
November 1894 Indianapolis, Marion County, IN.

Sources:

Research of Karen Glasser, Indianapolis, IN - 1995.  
Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*;  
Vol. 22, part 1.

Sulgrove, Barry; History of Indianapolis  
Indianapolis News, Monday, 9 March 1885  
1810 Census Harrison County, KY  
Elizabeth Custard  
1 male -10      3 females -10  
1 female 16-26

1840 Census ?Marion County, IN; p. 314.  
Elizabeth Custard  
1 male -10      2 females -5  
1 male 10-15    1 female 20-30  
1 female 30-40

1860 Census Marion County, IN; p. 831  
124/121  
George McClain      50 KY  
Rachel McClain      51 NY  
Saulsbury      23 IN  
Cornelius      21 IN  
Elizabeth Custard      72 VA  
Jane Custard      27 IN  
William Jones      79 Wails, ENG  
Catherine Jones      57 NY

9/95

Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-5

Arnold Custer was born between 1784 and 1800. He  
was single, and died in Wayne County Indiana  
between 8 November 1829 and 2 March 1830. He left  
a will:

In the name of god Amen. I Arnold Custer being weak in body but  
of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be almighty god for  
the same do make and publish this my last Will and testament in  
manner and form as follows that is to say, first I give and bequeath  
unto Ephraim Clark my brother in law one chestnut sorrel horse. I  
do ask give and bequeath unto Conrad Custer my brother the sum of  
fifty dollars I also give and bequeath the sum of fifty dollars unto  
Sarah Clark my beloved sister. I give and bequeath to George Clark  
one suit of ----- clothes I give and bequeath to Jacob Clark, one  
pair of portmanteau and surtout coat and after my burial and funeral  
expenses is paid I give the balance if any of the monies of the Estate  
of father to Ephraim Clark my brother in law whom I hereby appoint  
sole executor of this my last Will and testament hereby revoking all  
other by me made in witness where of I have hereunto set my hand  
and seal this eighth day of November in the year of Our Lord One  
thousand and eight hundred and twenty nine

His  
Arnold X Custer  
Mark

Signed sealed published and declared by the above named Arnold  
Custer to be his last Will and testament in the presence of  
us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the  
presence of the Testator

Attest      Samuel Halstead  
Zadok Dougherty  
Joel Cate

Letter of Testamentary were issued to Ephraim Clark  
on 2 March 1830. The final settlement was made 11  
November 1835.

Sources:

Wayne County Indiana Will Book B, page 8.  
Wayne County Indiana Probate Order Book - March 1830 term

9/95

(file Paulus.1.1.2.1.6) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-6

Conrad Custer Jr was born about 1780-1785 in  
Virginia, son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer.  
Conrad married 18 July 1806 Leanna Thomas at Lair,  
Kentucky. Leanna was born about 1793 in Virginia,  
daughter of William Thomas of Bourbon County,  
Kentucky. Conrad served in the Kentucky military  
War of 1812 as a Private in Ravenscratt's Company.  
He enlisted in early part of September 1813 for 90  
days, and served for two to three weeks after which he  
paid a John Berry to substitute for him for the  
remainder of the service. They lived in Harrison  
County, Kentucky. They located in Fayette County,  
Indiana in the winter of 1827, where Leanna had  
inherited some land from her father, William Thomas:

Indenture made and concluded this 10th day of May one  
thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Six between Conrad Custer  
and Leana his wife late Leana Thomas and Thomas Ferguson and  
Sarah his wife late Sarah Thomas of Harrison County and Enoch  
Males and Nancy his wife late Nancy Thomas of Bourbon County,  
State of Kentucky of the one part & Larkin Sims of Fayette County,  
State of Indiana of the other part witnesseth that whereas William  
Thomas deced late of the aforesaid county of Fayette and State of  
Indiana died seized and possessed of a certain tract or parcel of land  
situate in said County of Fayette containing 79 1/10 acres it being  
the north half of the South west qtr section 35 Township \_\_\_\_ Range  
12 East of the second principal meridian in the District \_\_\_\_  
Lands sold at Cincinnati and whereas the said William Thomas at  
his death left the following children and heirs towit Leana Custer,  
Elizabeth McGinnis, Nancy Mails, Poly Willey, Sarah Ferguson,  
William Thomas, Mary Jane Peck in fact heir of Rosana Peck late

Rosana Thomas and Joseph Thomas now for and in consideration of \_\_\_\_\_ six Dollars to the said Conrad Custer and Leana his wife, Thomas Ferguson and Sarah his wife and Enoch Maile and Nancy his wife in hand paid by the said Larkin Sims the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge. They the said Conrad Custer and Leana his wife, Thomas Ferguson and Sarah his wife, Enoch Males and Nancy his wife the said Leana, Sarah and Nancy being three of children \_\_\_\_\_ heirs of said W Thomas decd have granted bargained and sold \_\_\_\_\_ these presents do Grant Bargain and sell above and confirm \_\_\_\_\_ heir the said Larkin Sims all the undivided interest Rights \_\_\_\_\_ the said Conrad Custer and Leana his wife, Thomas Ferguson and Sarah his wife and Enoch Males and Nancy his wife accruing to them in Right \_\_\_\_\_ of the said Custer and wife, Ferguson and wife and Males and wife being Three undivided Eights of the aforesaid Tract of Land. To have and To hold the aforesaid three undivided eighths said Tract or parcel of land with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining together with all the right title interest and claim of them the said Conrad Custer and Leana his wife, Thos Ferguson and Sarah his wife and Enoch Males & Nancy his wife to the said Larkin Sims his heirs and assigns forever. And the aforesaid Conrad Custer and Leana his wife, Thomas Ferguson and Sarah his wife and Enoch Males and Nancy his wife for themselves and their respective heirs covenant and agree with the said Larkin Sims and his heirs to warrant and defend the aforesaid undivided three Eights of said tract of land from themselves and their heirs and from and from the claim or claims of each and every other person or persons whatever these presents In testimony whereof the said Conrad Custer and Leana Custer, Thomas Frerguson and Sarah Ferguson and Enoch Males and Nancy Males have hereunto set their hands and seals this day and date first above written.

Conrad Custer (seal)  
her  
Leana X Custer (seal)  
mark  
Thomas Ferguson (seal)  
her  
Sarrah X Ferguson (seal)  
mark  
Enoch Males (seal)  
her  
Nancy X Males (seal)  
mark

They later moved to Morgan County, Indiana. Conrad died 20 August 1875 at Columbia Township, Fayette County, Indiana, buried at Columbia Cemetery.

#### Children of Conrad and Leanna:

1. John T Custer born about 1801 Paris, KY; married Eliza A Berry 26 December 1830 Fayette County, IN; died 1873 Fayette County, IN.

2. William Custer born about 1805 Paris, KY; married

Judith Kendall 29 July 1830 Fayette County, IN; died near Connersville, IN, buried at Lick Creek Cemetery near Connersville.

3. Hiram Custer born 29 December 1809 Paris, KY; married Mary Limpus 14 February 1833 Fayette County, IN; died 7 September 1893 Columbia Township, Fayette County, IN.

4. George A Custer born 1814KY; married Dicy King 21 April 1836 Marion, Grant County, IN; died March 1878 Davis County, IA.

5. Sarah Ellen Custer born 1816 KY; married Thomas Jefferson Hicklin 3 September 1835 Morgan County, IN; died 11 February 1855 Delta, IA, buried at Springfield Cemetery, Delta, IA.

6. Melvin Custer born about 1825 Bourbon County, KY; married Elizabeth Sarah Wiggins Keokuk Co, IA; died Benton County, IA, buried at Concord Cemetery.

7. Joseph Custer born 6 Oct 1827 Bourbon County, KY; married Mary Foster 15 May 1851 Fayette County, IN; died 22 May 1901.

#### Sources:

Custer, Milo; *Custer Genealogies*; 1944; pp 3-4.  
Fayette County, Indiana Deed Record Book C, pages 98-99  
*History of Rush County, Indiana*; Brant & Fuller (1888); p 856.  
Bourbon County, Ky Marriage Record Book 2, page 26.  
Fayette County Cemetery Survey (1978-1980) -- located in Fayette County Public Library  
*Custer Chronicles*; Summer 1986, p 8  
letter Chester E Custer -- 26 Oct 1985  
letter Lola Grimsley -- 22 Oct 1986  
letter Donald Craig Custer - 12 Feb 1990  
1810 census Kentucky, Bourbon County, p 80  
Conrod Custard Jr  
1M 16-26      1F 16-26  
2M -10

1820 census Kentucky, Harrison County, p 212  
Conrad Custard

1M 26-45      1F 26-45  
2M 10-16      1F 10-16  
5M -10      1F -10

1830 census Indiana, Fayette County, p 12  
Conrad Custer

1M 40-50      1F 30-40  
2M 20-30      1F 15-20

3M 15-20      1F 10-15  
 1M 10-15  
 1M 5-10  
 1M -5

Jacob Snyder      12 IL

10/95

Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-8

1840 census Indiana, Morgan County, p 587/145

Coonrod Custer

1M 50-60      1F 40-50

1M 15-20

1M 10-15

1850 census Indiana, Morgan County, Madison Twp, p 95, #27-27

Conrad Custer      62 VA      farmer

Hannah "      59 IA [IA stands for Indiana on this census]

1870 census Indiana, Fayette County, Columbia Twp, p 11, #79

Hiram Custer      60 KY      farmer

Mary "      55 IN

Jefferson "      31 IN      farmer

Julia H "      24 IN

Joseph "      17 IN

James "      14 IN

Mary "      4 IN

Conrad "      85 VA

9/95

Paulus disk 1-1\2\1-7

Bridget Custer was born about 1777 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. She married James Wilson 2 May 1796. They lived in Gallatin County, Kentucky until 1824 when they moved to Morgan County, Illinois.

Children of James and Bridget:

1. Male born 1800-1810.

2. Male born 1800-1810.

3 Female born 1800-1810.

4. Female born 1800-1810.

5. John Wilson born 1827 KY.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

1810 Census Bourbon County, KY

2 M 0-10      2 females 0-10

1 M 26-45      1 female 26-45

1850 Census Morgan County, IL; p. 240.

942/974

James Wilson      77 PA      none

Briget      75 VA

John      33 KY      farmer

Sally Custer was born about 1780 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrand and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. She married Ephraim Clark about 1800 in Kentucky. Ephraim was born in 1796 in New Jersey. They moved to Wayne County, Indiana about 1813. Sally died in 1870 in Wayne County, Indiana.

Children of Ephraim and Sally:

1. Benjamin Clark born 1801 KY; married Lavina Ralston 4 December 1823 Wayne County, IN.

2. George Clark born 1803 KY.

3. Jacob Clark born 1805 KY; married Mary Bickel 25 February 1834 Wayne County, IN; died 1883 Grundy County, MO.

4. Charles Clark born 1807 KY; married Ann Marshall 6 June 1832 Wayne County, IN.

5. Elizabeth Clark born 1809 KY; married Christopher Custer (Paulus 1-4-2-7-3) Wayne County, IN.

6. Mary Clark born 1812 KY.

7. Ephraim Clark born 1814 IN; married Barbara Hudson 17 January 1839 Wayne County, IN.

8. Alpheus Clark born 1816 IN.

9. Sarah Clark born 1818 IN.

10. Melvin Clark born 1823 IN; married Susannah Bickle 3 August 1845 Wayne County, IN.

Sources:

WPA Marriage Records- Wayne County, IN; p. 26-27.

Research of Karen Glasser, Indianapolis, IN- 1995

1810 Census Harrison County, KY; p. 305.

4 males 0-10      1 female 0-10

1 male 26-45      1 female 26-45

1850 Census Harrison Twp., Wayne County, IN; p. 50  
 106/106

Ephraim Clark      74 NJ      farmer

Sarah Clark      68 VA

1860 Census Harrison Twp., Wayne County, IN; p. 490.

## Castor Family

Ephraim Clark 84 NJ farmer  
Srah 80 VA  
William 27 IN farm labor

10/95 (file Paulus.1.1.2.1.9) Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-9

Deborah Custer was born about 1789 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. Deborah married William H. Wilson. They left Bourbon County in 1832 to settle in Rush County, Indiana.

### Their children:

1. Conrad Wilson born about 1817 Bourbon County, KY; married Margaret Ewalt 25 September 1836 Bourbon County, KY; died about 1845 Rush County, IN or Lewis County, MO.

2. James Wilson born 5 May 1819 Bourbon County, Kentucky; married Ellen Jameson 8 February 1848; died 5 March 1882 Rush County, Indiana.

3. William Wilson born 1821 KY; married Elizabeth (surname unknown); lived Rush County, IN-1860.

### Sources:

*Rush County, Indiana History*; Brant & Fuller (1888), p 446  
?1810 Census Bourbon County, KY; p. 132.

4 males 0-10 1 female 0-10

1 male 10-16 1 female 10-16

1 male 26-45 1 female 26-45

1850 census Indiana, Rush Co, District #97, p 440/879, #952

William Wilson 61 KY

Debby " 61 KY

Eliza J " 20 KY

William H " 12 IN

Margaret " 9 IN

1860 Census Rush County, IN, Rushville Twp.; p. 551.

William Wilson, Sr. 70 KY farmer

Deborah 70 KY

9/95 Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-10

Clarissa "Clara" Custer was born between 1790-1794 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. She married Joseph Pugh 3 April 1809 in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

### Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

000000 REFERENCE ONLY

9/95

Paulus 1-1 disk\2\1-11

Margaret Custer was born 22 May 1796 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. She married Abraham Sharp, sr. 11 February 1816 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. Abraham was born 15 August 1796, the son of George and Elizabeth (Ruddle) Sharp. Around 1832 they moved to Indiana, perhaps Rush County. Later, they lived in Salt River Township, Knox County, Missouri. Abraham died 19 April 1846. Margaret died 25 April 1853 or 1855.

### Children of Abraham and Margaret:

1. Elizabeth Sharp born 22 May 1818 KY; married Russell Grant; died 1 September 1910.

2. Sarah Sharp born 11 January 1821 KY; married Foster Cain 2 April 1838 Rush County, IN; married Cyrus Fowler after 1846; died 19 November 1893 Brashear, Adair County, MO.

3. Clarinda Sharp born 1822 KY; married Atwell T. Jackman; married William Hanna.

4. Conrad Custer Sharp born 15 August 1825 KY; married Mary E. Palmer; died 16 October 1916.

5. Abrahm Sharp, jr. born 1827 KY; married Amanda (possibly Isles); died 9 April 1909.

6. John Sharp born 1831 KY; married Hettie (possibly Barr); married Deborah (surname unknown); died 18 March 1918.

7. Stephen Sharp born 14 June 1833 IN; married Elizabeth Snelling.

8. William Ruddle Sharp born 1836 IN; died in young manhood.

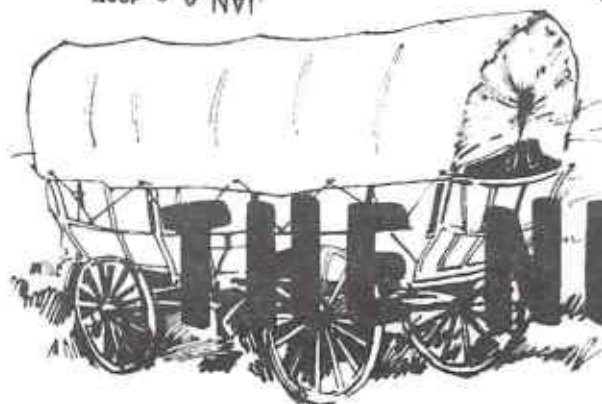
9. Debora Ann Sharp born 1837 IN; married George W. Snow.

### Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

Cain, Wayne R.; *Descendants of Nicholas Cain*; p. 31.

*Kentucky Ancestors*; Vol 3, #2; p. 88.



# THE NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

The News-Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10 for the first year of membership and \$8 per year thereafter. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of the News-Caster for that year. Members receive four issues of The News-Caster per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

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## Hogg's Fort at Brocks Gap, VA



Recent Photo taken after restoration. Note the small log above the side door which could be removed to expose loopholes to shoot at the Indians. (see story in December 1994 News-Caster)

## Virginia Families (con't.)

from March 1996 issue

We continue the early Virginia families, remembering that each of these families is probably totally unrelated to any of the other families. There is a possibility that a later relationship of brothers or uncle/nephew may be established, but at present each of these families is a totally separate file in the association, and only Conrad Custer of Rockingham County and John Kester of Carroll County are related to Paulus Custer.



## Phillip Keister of Montgomery County, VA

5/96

P MISC disk\philkest\0

Philip Kester/Custer/Kister born about 1732. Philip Custer married Elizabeth Levi 2 January 1776 at Linville Creek Baptist Church, Rockingham County, Virginia. If this is a marriage of this Philip, then she is his second wife and not the mother of his children. Philip is known to have lived in Rockingham County, Virginia. He received a grant of 140 acres in Rockingham County on Mill Creek, a Branch of the North River of the Shenandoah on 17 April 1788. It appears that he moved with his children to Montgomery County, Virginia in 1799, and is living with his son, Philip, in 1810. Philip left a will in Montgomery County, Virginia, which was proved in November 1814.

### Children of Philip:

1. Philip Kester/Keister born 7 June 1753; married Maria Catherine (surname unknown) around 1777; died in 1817.
2. John Kester.
3. Polly Kester married (name unknown) Bumgardner.
4. Rebeckah Kester married (name unknown) Dedrecks/Deitrick.
5. Peter Kester/Keister born 1760-1765; married Elizabeth (surname unknown); died after 1830.

### Sources:

[look for "A Brief of Wills and Marriages in Montgomery and Fincastle Counties, Virginia" William and Mary Quarterly Vol 8, p 194]

[need to find Montgomery Wills Bk II; p. 500.]

"Marriage Book of John Alderson," Virginia Valley Records.

5/96

P MISC disk\Philkest\1

Johannes "Phillip" Keister was born 7 June 1753, the son of Johanas Phillip Kuster. He first lived in Rockingham County, Virginia, but in 1799 moved to Montgomery County. He bought two tracts of land

which were recorded 10 May 1800. One tract of 111 acres was from the Patton estate on New River and the other was 65 acres from John McCall on Tom's Creek, a branch of the New River. He married Maria Catherine (surname unknown). Phillip died in Montgomery County, Virginia in 1817.

### Their Children:

1. Marithana Keister born 8 November 1778.
2. Elizabeth Keister born 21 October 1786.
3. John/Johanas Keister born 16 October 1789; married Sarah Martin 1814; died 23 December 1857.
4. George Keister born 27 January 1794; married Christena Lybrook about 1816.
5. Susannah Keister born 4 August 1799; married Isaac Hinderleiter 1825.

### Sources:

Keister, John Taylor; Keister Family of the New River Settlement; p. 3.

Family Group Sheet of Sandy Cooper (1995).

1810 Montgomery County, VA; p. 2.

Philip Kester

2 males 45+      1 female 45+

1 male 16-26      1 female 10-16

1 male 10-16

5/96

P MISC diskphilkest\2

John Kester, the son of Philip Kester, has few records. The only record found is a land grant in Montgomery County, Virginia for 192 acres of land on the north fork of the Holstein River to a Jno. Custard dated 6 July 1787.

### Sources:

VA Land Grants from the Virginia State Archives; Castor Association Archives.

5/96

P MISC disk\Philkest\5

Peter Kester/Keister was born between 1760 and 1765. He was living in Montgomery County, Virginia on the 1810, 1820 and 1830 census. They are reported to have settled along Thoms Creek. They

were know as the "Tom's Creek line." He married Elizabeth (surname unknown). Elizabeth was born in 1770 in Pennsylvania. Elizabeth died after 1860.

Their children:

1. Susannah Keister born 1784-1794 VA.
2. Peter Keister, jr. born 1792/1802 VA; married Catherine "Katie" Shell/Scholl 1826.
3. Mary Keister born 1794-1800 VA; married Philip Barger (moved to OH).
4. Sarah Keister born 1794-1800 VA; married Frederick Barger.
5. Jacob Keister born 1795 VA; married Margaret (surname unknown) about 1827; died between 1850 and 1860.
6. Elizabeth Keister born 1800-1804; married Alexander "Sumpter" Price.
7. George Allen Keister born 1802-1804; married Sarah Joe Stewart 1852.
8. John P. Keister born 3 January 1804 VA; married Margaret (surname unknown) about 1822.
9. Henry Keister born 1810; married (unknown) Ollinger.
10. Allen David Keister born 1810-1815; married Elizabeth Olinger 23 March 1833 Montgomery County, VA.
11. Male born 1815-1820.

Sources:

Keister, John Taylor; Keister Family of the New River Settlement [look for Montgomery County, VA, Will Book 6, page 191]

Keister, John Taylor; Keister Family of the New River Settlement Heavener, Rev. Ulysses S. A.; German New River Settlement: Virginia; Baltimore; 1981; p. 48.

1810 Census Montgomery County, VA; p. 2.

Peter Kester

1 male 45+	1 female 26-45
1 male 10-16	1 female 16-26
4 males 0-10	2 females 10-16
	1 female 0-10

1820 Census Montgomery County, VA; p. 177.

Peter Keistor

1 male 45+	1 female 45+
2 males 18-26	2 females 16-26
1 male 16-18	
1 male 10-16	
3 males 0-10	

1830 Census Montgomery County, VA; p. 77.

Peter Keister, sr.

1 male 60-70	1 female 60-70
2 males 20-30	2 females 20-30
1 male 15-20	
1 male 10-15	
1 male 0-5	

## Adam Keister of Strasburg, VA

2/96

(file Adam Keister) Adam disk\Keister\0

Adam Keister was born 13 March 1782 in Virginia -- was he a son of Christopher Kester? He lived in Strasburg, Virginia and started the first pottery of that community. Adam married 10 March 1806 Margaret Bushong, daughter of John Bushong of Woodstock, Virginia. Margaret died 17 December 1808. Adam married 28 May 1809 Sarah Hite, daughter of Alexander Hite. Sarah died 22 February 1810. Adam married 11 February 1811 Catherine Hite, younger and full sister of Sarah. Catherine was born 25 October 1793. Adam and his children operated a pottery and two stores in Strasburg. Adam also farmed. Adam died 7 June 1847 in Strasburg, Virginia. He left a will:

In the name of God, Amen. I Adam Keister of the town of Strasburg, County of Shenandoah and State of Virginia, in view of my approaching dissolution, do make this my last will and testament to wit: I give and bequeath to my wife Catherine, all of my personal and real property and effects to be under her control as long as she shall live.

Given under my hand this 12th day of May 1847.

Adam Keister

Teste:

Cyrus Spengler  
George M Brinker

At a Court held for this County of Shenandoah on Monday, the 13th of September, 1847, the Last Will and Testament of Adam

Keister, deceased, was produced into Court and proven by the oaths of Cyrus County, sells to Adam Keister of same, for \$230 (17 1/4 or 1/4?) acre bounded...stake on n.s. Bowmans Mill Creek...Joseph S Spenglers line...north side of the mill road, etc, part of the land conveyed to John Hoffman and wife by Christian Stover's executors. Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book OO, p 271

15 August 1835 Adam Keister and Catherine his wife sells to David Yost, Leonard E Balthis, John Hoas, Wm W Magruder, John G Smith, Hirom Myers, and John Roberston, trustees, in trust for uses and purposes hereafter mentioned, all of Shenandoah County...Adam and Catherine Keister for \$55 convey to said Trustees a lot in Strassburg being part of lot 7 as shown on plat of the town land, set off in the southwest corner of said lot fronting on Squirrel and Market Sts, containing about 18 poles, on which they are to erect a building for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church...

Shenandoah County, VA Will Book Y, p 154.

Sprengler and George M Brinker, witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded Cathn Keister the widow relinquishing her right to administer in open Court in favor of Adam Keister whereupon administration with the will annexed upon said estate is granted to Adam Keister who was sworn and with Henry Keister and Cathn Keister his securities entered into and acknowledged their bond in the penalty of \$4000, conditional according to law. A certificate for obtaining letters testamentary is granted him.

Teste:

Saml C Williams, Teste

Catherine died 19 November 1851. They were buried at St Paul's Lutheran Church cemetery. Adam's gravestone cites, "He was a member and elder in the Lutheran Church for forty years."

Adam and Margaret's child:

1. Isaac Keister born 24 December 1806 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married Magdalena Altdoeffer 29 April 1828; died 28 October 1887 Columbiana, Ohio.

Adam and Catherine's children:

2. Samuel Alexander Keister born 15 December 1811; married (name unknown); died 8 September 1836.

3. Henry Keister born 28 December 1814 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married Julia Ann Clayton 28 March 1837; died 5 January 1875, buried St Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

4. Eliza Keister born 4 February 1817 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married Frederick William Kohlhausen 10 November 1834; died 5 November

1862 Winchester, Frederick County, VA.

5. Adam Keister, Jr born 4 March 1819; married Catherine Ann Keister (daughter of Isaac) 1 October 1854 Washingtonville, OH; died 11 May 1876 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA.

6. Margaret Ann Keister born 14 June 1821; died 23 July 1822.

7. William Keister born 10 August 1823; did not marry, settled Aiken, SC; died 20 October 1885.

8. Amos Keister born 18 October 1826; married Frances "Fannie" Stover 21 July 1851 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married Anna Maria (surname unknown); died 22 December 1894.

9. Jeremiah Keister born 29 December 1829; married Mary E Spengler 1 December 1852, died 6 April 1901.

10. Sarah Catherine Keister born 4 May 1832; died 21 December 1908.

Sources:

Keister, Elmo Earl: *Strasburg, Virginia and The Keister Family*; (1972) pp 46-47.

*The Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley*; page 209.

1783 census Virginia, Shenandoah County -- list of Alexander Hite Christopher Kester 4 white, 0 black

1785 census Virginia, Shenandoah County -- list of Alexander Hite Christopher Kister 3 white souls, 1 dwelling, 1 other bldg

1820 census Virginia, Shenandoah Co, Strawsburg, p 153

Adam Kester

1M 26-45 1F 26-45

1M 10-16 1F -10

3M -10

1830 census Virginia, Shenandoah Co, p 66

Adam Kiester

1M 40-50 1F 30-40

2M 15-20 1F 10-15

1M 10-15

1M 5-10

2M -5

1840 census Virginia, Shenandoah Co, Strasburg, p 352

Adam Keister

1M 50-60 1F 40-50

1M 20-30 1F 5-10

IM 15-20  
IM 10-15  
IM 5-10

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book R, page 39

11 September 1809 Paul Hamman and wife Mary sells to Adam Kesther for 60 pounds, lot #86 in the plan of Strasburg; 1/2 acre -- gives chain of title from Peter and Franey Stover to Paul Hamman.

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book U, p 207

7 June 1813 Samuel Richardson and David Stickley, as executors of estate of Alexander Hite, sell to Adam Keister for \$303 two "out lots" of 5 acres each, he being the highest bidder at the sale; said lots adjoining the Town of Strasburg and being #49 conveyed to Hite by David Briggs and #50 conveyed to Hite by Peter Stover and wife Franey in 1784.

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book W, p 262

7 October 1815 Isaac Funk, as executor of Christian Stover, Jr, sells to Adam Kester for \$281.50, he being the highest bidder, one of the outlots of the Town of Strasburg, of 5 acres lyings on mud lane adjoining the five acres left by Christian Stover, Jr to his wife, it being one of the outlots conveyed to Stover by Leonard Balthis and Franey his wife 30 April 1804, shown on the plan of outlots as #22.

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book CC, p 93

8 February 1823 John Finley and wife Eleanor liveing near Strasburg in Shenandoah County, sells to Adam Keister of Shenandoah County for \$102.88 part of his plantation near Strasburg which Finley had bought of John Gatewood, which Gatewood had bought of John Snider.

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book GG, p 503

8 November 1828 \_\_\_\_\_ Gardner and Elizabeth his wife, of Frederick County, sells to Adam Keester of Shenandoah County for \$65, six lots in the Town of Strasburg, known on plat of the Town as 9 & 10, 127, 128, 129 and 130 on two different track streets north of the front street contiguous to the German Lutheran Church.

Shenandoah County, Va Deed Book HH, p 480

24 November 1829 John Hoffman of Shenandoah

2/96 (file Adam Keister.1) Adam disk\Keister\1

Isaac Keister was born 24 December 1806 in Strasburg, Virginia, son of Adam and Margaret (Bushong) Keister. Isaac was christened 16 October 1807 by Reverend Christian Streit at St Paul's Lutheran Church -- his parents, Adam Kuster and Margaretha, were sponsors. Isaac learned the potter's trade in his father's potter shop. In 1827, Isaac left Strasburg to settle in Columbiana, Ohio, where he remained for the rest of his life. Isaac established a pottery shop in Columbiana. Isaac married 29 April

1828 Magdalena Altdoeffer. Magdalena was born 30 April 1804. Isaac was listed 1852 as a member of Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Columbiana. Magdalena died 4 July 1870, aged 66 years, 2 months and 5 days. Isaac died 28 October 1887 in Columbiana, Ohio. They were buried at the Columbiana Cemetery.

Their children (there were nine):

1. Rebecca Keister born 25 October 1829; married David Hail; died 23 April 1902.

2. Catherine Ann Keister born 18 January 1831; married Adam Keister, Jr 1 October 1854; married Luther D Funkhouser 18 October 1877; died 6 February 1890 Strasburg, VA, buried at Columbiana Cemetery, Columbiana, OH.

3. Sarah A Keister born 10 April 1836; married Lafayette Stuckman 25 December 1855; died 11 August 1902.

4. David S Keister born 1839; married Hannah Maria Potts; died 20 September 1908.

5. Elizabeth Keister born 9 December 1841; married 26 September 1865 Edward Wolfgang; died 4 May 1923.

Sources:

Keister, Elmo Earl; *Strasburg, Virginia and The Keister Family* (1972), pp 76-80; 109-113.

look up 1840 census Ohio, Columbiana Co, p 12

Josiah Keyster

1850 census Ohio, Columbiana Co, Fairfield Twp, p 85, #457

Isaac Keester	41	Potter	Virginia
Magdalena "	44		"
Catharine "	17		Ohio
Sara A "	14		"
David S "	11		"
Elizabeth "	8		"

1860 census Ohio, Columbiana Co, Columbiana, p 366, #1165

Isaac Kuster	54	Potter	Va
Mary M "	58		"
David "	20	Potter	Ohio
Elisabeth "	19		"

1880 census Ohio, Columbiana Co, ED 47, p 52, #524-542

Isaac Keister	73	pottery	VA	VA	VA
David "	38	son	OH	"	"

Hannah M "	34 dau-in-law "	Eng PA
William "	8 grandchild "	OH OH
Nettie "	3 grandchild "	" "

2/96

(file Adam Keister.3) Adam disk\Keister\3

Henry Keister was born 28 December 1814 in Strasburg, Virginia, son of Adam and Catherine (Hite) Keister. Henry married 28 March 1837 Julia Ann Clayton. Julia Ann was born 24 January 1811. Henry was involved in his father's pottery and tinware business. After his father's death in 1847, Henry formed a partnership with his brother Adam, Jr and continued the business. They also employed their younger brothers, William, Amos and Jeremiah to help operate the pottery. Their store also offered general merchandise. Henry died 5 January 1875. Julia Ann died 26 August 1892. They were buried at St Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Strasburg, Virginia.

Their children:

1. Catherine Virginia Keister born 24 January 1838 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married William Beatty Abbott 20 June 1867; died 23 April 1898.

2. Cyrus Keister born 27 November 1839 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA; married Fannie Eve Spengler 13 November 1866; died 6 December 1908 Strasburg, Shenandoah County, VA.

3. Samuel Clayton Keister born 20 December 1849 in Strasburg; married 24 April 1879 Anna E Copenhagen; died 12 August 1902.

Sources:

Keister, Elmo Earl; *Strasburg, Virginia and the Keister Family* (1972), pp 82-90.  
1880 census Virginia, Shenandoah Co, Davis Dist, ED 83, p 30, #25-30

Julia Keister	67 keeping house	VA VA VA
Cathrine Abbott	35 daughter	" " "
Julia "	12 granddaughter	" " "
Wm H "	9 grandson	" " "

## Abraham Custard of Botetourt County, VA

5/96

(file Abraham) Abraham disk\0

Abraham Custer/Custard was born 1750/60, probably the son of Johann George Kuster. Abraham married Mary (surname unknown). Abraham purchased 1794-1796 157 1/2 acres on Looney's Creek in Botetourt County, Virginia. Abraham sold this land to Johannes Custer in 1798 when he moved to Franklin County, Virginia. Abraham had bought 1797 a lot in Howrytown in Fincastle, Virginia. Abraham paid taxes for Johannes at one time. Abraham bought 71 3/4 acres on Blackwater Branch in Franklin County during 1805-1815. His will was dated 27 July 1819, and recorded 3 January 1820 in Franklin County, Virginia:

In the name of God Amen, I, Abraham Custard of the county of Franklin and State of Virginia, being low in health though of sound memory. I make this my last will and Testament, first I commit my Soul to God who gave it & my body to the dust from whence it came, hoping to be buried in a decent and chistianally manner, and as for my worldly Goods after paying my burial expence and all my Just debts. I give and bequeath my wife, Mary Custard the whole of my personal Estate which we now possess as long as she livith, I also give to my son Henry my gun and big coat. I leave and desire George Bowsman and My son Isaac Custard to act and be my Executors of my Estate and the sd Executors after my death is to sell the Land at the hiaist bidder and to pay my just debts and the remainder to remain in the est. hands as long as my wife Mary livith the Executors are bound to let my wife Mary have money at anytime she being in need of same, as long as there is any in their hands of the E. money, and if there is any remaining after her death to be divided among all my children, which is these, my son Isaac Custard and Hannah and Jacob and David, Elizabeth, Joseph, Abraham, Henry, In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

teste	his
Stephen Sink	Abraham X Custard
Thomas Wood	mark
Wm Chambers	

At a court for Franklin County at the courthouse the 3 day of January 1820. This Last Will and Testament of Abraham Custard deceased, was produced in Court by George Bowsman and was proved by the oath of Thomas Wood and Wm Chambers two of the Wintnessess therto and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of the said Geo Bowsman one of the Executors herein named, who together with John Angle his security entered into and acknowledges their Bond in the Penalty of four hundred Dollars, conditioned according to Law. Certificate is granted him for obtaining a Probate in due form liberty being reserved to the other Executor herein named to join in the Probat. When he shall think fit.

Teste Caleb Tate...C F C

Their children:

1. Isaac Custer born about 1765/1775 VA; married Rachel Copp 28 July 1795 Botetourt County, VA; died 1828.

2. Hannah Custer born about 1770 VA; married John Henry 25 December 1790 Botetourt County, VA.

3. Jacob Custer married Katherine (surname unknown).

4. David Custer married ?Sarah Copp; married ?Nancy Nowlin 9 December 1799 Franklin County, VA.

5. Elizabeth Custer born about 1773 VA; married Felty Kimes 12 November 1798 Botetourt County, VA.

6. Joseph Custer married Martha Cleage 15 January 1811 Botetourt County, VA.

7. Abraham Custer married Lucinda Carter

8. Hermanus "Henry" Custer born 1790 Franklin County, VA; married Sucky Himbrick 25 August 1810; married Elizabeth F Willis about 1840 ; died 12 May 1852 in Franklin County, Virginia.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; Descendants of Abraham Custard ca 1750-1819; Vol 27.

letter Dolores E Gucciardo -- 26 June 1985

Gucciardo, Dolores; Matheny-Gucciardo & Allied Families; 3rd edition (1983), p 176.

Virginia Appalachian Notes; Nov 1980, p 86, Oct 1978.

1810 census Virginia, Franklin County, p 301/463.

Abram Custard

1M 45+

1F 45+

1F 10-16

5/96

(file Abraham.1) Abraham disk\1

Isaac Custer was born 1765/1775 (in Pennsylvania according to family tradition), son of Abraham and Mary Custer. He went to Botetourt County, Virginia and married 28 July 1795 Rachel or Regina Copp, daughter of Christian Copp. Christian Copp in his Will of 23 August 1803 left 109 acres to Isaac in Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia. From deeds in Botetourt County, they had three sons. Isaac died 1828.

Their children:

1. Female Custer born 1786-1796 Botetourt County, VA.

2. Jacob Custer born 20 January 1797 Botetourt County, VA on the James River; married Susan Lypes 23 November 1820 Botetourt County, VA; died 20 May 1867 Catawba, Roanoke County, VA.

3. John Custer born about 1801 Botetourt County, VA; married Elizabeth Whistler/Whisler 24 August 1820 Botetourt County, VA.

4. George Copp Custer born 13 April 1808 Botetourt County, VA; married Mary Magdalene Champ 6 August 1829 Botetourt County, VA; married Violet Dars; died 28 May 1866, buried Solomon Zumwalt Cemetery, St. Charles, St. Charles County, MO.

5. Female Custer born 1804-1810 Botetourt County, VA.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; Descendants of Abraham Custard ca 1750-1819; Vol 27.

letter Dolores E Gucciardo -- 26 June 1985

Custer Chronicles, Summer 1985, pp 8 & 9

Virginia Appalachian Notes; October 1978 - Custer Ancestry by Mrs Wilfred L Bowles, Rte #1, Bowen, Illinois 62316

Gucciardo, Dolores; Matheny-Gucciardo & Allied Families; 3rd edition (1983), p 176.

"Marriages & Deaths from the Herald of the Valley (Fincastle, Botetourt Co)," Virginia Appalachian Notes; August 1984, p 91.

1810 census Virginia, Botetourt County

Isaac Custard

1M 26-45 1F 26-46

1M 10-16 1F 16-26

2M -10 1F -10

1820 census Virginia, Botetourt County, Ys Division, p 53

Isaac Custard

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 10-16 1F 10-16

5/96

(file Abraham.6) Abraham disk\6

Joseph Custer/Custerd/Custard was born about 1784 in Frederick County, Virginia, possible son of Abraham and Mary Custer. He married 15 January 1811 Martha Claig/Cleage in Botetourt County, Virginia at the home of Reverend Samuel Mitchell, a Methodist minister. Martha was born about 1786.



Joseph served in the War of 1812 as a private and a millwright in the 10th US Infantry under Colonel James Wellborn. He enlisted 18 August 1813 at Rocky Mount, Virginia under Captain Josiah Wood. He also served in Captain Robert Mitchell's Company. He was discharged 31 May 1815 at Buffalo (NY?). He stood five feet ten and a half inches tall, had a dark complexion, dark eyes and black hair.

About 1829 they moved to Henry County, Virginia. Joseph died 3 June 1839 in Henry County, Virginia. After Joseph's death, their former neighbors, David and Matilda Werts, went to Henry County and removed Martha and child back to Roanoke County. Peter Kefauver (b1799) and Catherine Nidy/Niely (b1791) were also near neighbors of Martha Custard. Catherine had loaned her shawl to Martha to wear at her wedding. Other people certifying the marriage of Joseph and Martha were Sarah Kefauver, Louisa Edington, Jane Walker, and Matilda Went. There is a bounty land certificate number 82-160-1812 for 160 acres issued 8 August 1815. This was later patented. In 1854, Martha is listed as living in Franklin County, Virginia and in 1871 in Big Lick, Roanoke County, Virginia. Martha was issued a pension for Joseph's service in the War of 1812. Sparrel F Simmons and Isaac Custer of Roanoke County, Virginia witnessed 29 March 1871 the Declaration for Pension. Martha died prior to 18 February 1885.

#### Their Children:

1. Female Custer born 1820-1825.
2. Female Custer born 1825-1830.

#### Sources:

International Genealogical Index (Va) 1984  
data from Jean M White  
Military and Pension file of Joseph Custard - National Archives  
1830 census Virginia, Patrick Co, p 150  
Joseph Custer  
1M 40-50 1F 30-40  
1F 5-10  
1F -5  
1840 census Virginia, Henry Co, p 276  
Martha Custer  
1F 40-50  
1F 10-15  
1 free colored female -10  
1850 census Virginia, Roanoke Co, 57th District, p 302  
enumerated with David Warte  
Martha Custer 65 Va

5/96

(file Abraham.7) Abraham disk\7

Abraham Custer was born before 1775, son of Abraham and Mary Custer. Abraham married Lucinda Carter. They lived in Patrick County, Virginia.

#### Their children:

1. Abram Custer born 1775-1794
2. John Custer born 1775-1794
3. Female Custer born 1775-1794
4. Female Custer born 1775-1794
5. Female Custer born 1775-1794
6. Male Custer born 1794-1810
7. Male Custer born 1800-1810
8. Female Custer born 1800-1810
9. Martha Ann Custer born about 1822; married 3 October 1840 John Anderson Purdy in Henry Co, Virginia; died 2 May 1892 in Pulaski County, Virginia.

#### Sources:

letter Mrs J W Lynch - 10 Feb 1987  
1820 census Virginia, Patrick Co, p 118  
Abram Custer  
1M 26-45

#### Abraham Custer

1M 45+ 1F 45+  
1M 16-26 3F 26-45  
1M 10-16 1F -10  
1M -10

#### John Custer

1M 26-45 1F 16-26  
1M -10

5/96

(file Abraham.8) Abraham disk\8

Hermanus "Henry" Custer was born 1790 in Franklin County, Virginia, son of Abraham and Mary Custer. He married Sucky Himbrick 25 August 1810 in Franklin County, Virginia. Sucky was the daughter of Joseph Himbrick. He was taxed in 1830 in Franklin

County, Virginia for two horses. Sucky died about 1839. He married about 1840 Elizabeth Willis. Elizabeth was born 1812 in Blackwater Township, Franklin County, Virginia. He died 12 May 1852 in Franklin County, Virginia. Elizabeth died 1879 in Floyd County, Virginia.

Children of Henry and Sucky:

1. Isaac Custer born 1811 VA; married Mary "Polly" Willis 3 February 1834 Franklin County, VA.

2. Hannibal "Hal" Custer; served in Mexican War and died soon after about 1849.

3. Elizabeth "Betty" Custer married Christopher Lynch 3 May 1838 Franklin County, VA.

4. Mary "Polly" Custer married James Lynch 12 March 1838 Franklin County, VA.

5. Sarah "Sallie" Custer married James Willis 27 December 1840 Franklin County, VA.

6. Nancy "Suky" Custer

7. Frances "Fannie" Custer married Josiah A Scott 26 October 1840 Franklin County, VA.

8. Hiram Custer born 1833; married Eliza F Willis 16 January 1850.

9. Columbus Custer

10. Julia Custer married Jebez Boswell 20 July 1854.

11. Lucy Anne Custer born 3 March 1838 VA.

Children of Henry and Elizabeth:

12. Mark Henry Custer born 30 July 1843 Franklin County, VA; married Rhoda Ellen Gray 26 November 1862, married 11 June 1891 Mary Prillaman; died 4 November 1931 Floyd County, VA.

13. James Harden Custer born 7 August 1847 VA; married Tabitha Jane (maiden name unknown) Price, widow, married second Sallie Aldridge; died 18 June

1930.

14. Joseph Smith Custer born 7 July 1850; married Elizabeth Byrd 1872; died 1912.

Sources:

Custer, Chester E.; Descendants of Abraham Custard ca 1750-1819: Vol 27.

Gucciardo, Dolores; Matheny-Gucciardo & Allied Families; 3rd edition (1983), p 179.

Virginia Appalachian Notes; May 1984, p 51.

letter Dolores E Gucciardo -- 26 June 1985

1820 census Va, Franklin Co, p 140

Henry Custer

1M 26-45

1F 26-45

3M -10

4F -10

look for:

1840 census Va, Franklin Co

look up 1850 census Virginia, Franklin Co, p 196

Elizabeth Custer

1860 census Va, Franklin Co (widow)

1870 census Va, Floyd Co (widow)

## **John Kester Died in Carroll County, VA (P2-5-4)**

5/96

(file Paulus.2.5.4) Paulus/Johannes disk\5\4\0

John Kester born 21 January 1739, son of Hermanus and Anne (Large) Kester. John married 10 October 1765 Deborah Webster at Kingwood MM, New Jersey. John married 14 June 1770 Sarah Lundy at Kingwood MM, New Jersey. Sarah was born 19 February (12th month) 1744 at Maiden Creek MM, Berks County, Pa, daughter of Richard III and Ann (Willson) Lundy. It would appear from DAR records that John served in the Artillery during the Revolutionary War. John Kester was taxed in 1778 in Kingwood Twp of Hunterdon County, New Jersey as owning 100 acres, 2 horses, 2 cows. In Jan/Feb 1780, he owned 1 horse and 4 pigs. In 1784, the family transferred from Hardwick MM in New Jersey to Deep River MM in Guilford County, North Carolina. According to DAR records, John died 1806 near

(con't. on page 32)



## **7th National Castor Association Reunion Harrisonburg, VA**

- Hostess:** Patricia T. Ritchie, 1559 Moffett Dr., Winchester, VA 22601
- When:** Friday, 21 June - Sunday, 23 June 1996
- Where:** Sheraton Inn, 1400 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA (540/433-2521), at the intersection of Interstate 81 & US 33 (exit 64E). Special rates for our association for rooms - \$58 per night. Make your own reservations directly with the hotel; be sure to tell them you are with the Castor reunion.
- How:** Fill out the registration form for reunion activities, classes and meals enclosed in this issue of *The News-Caster*. Remember that lunches and dinners must be paid for ahead of time, so fill in the registration form now. Anyone registering after 12 June must provide their own meals. Our Registration Table will be in the Lobby Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning.
- Welcome:** An informal get-together and registration will be held on Friday evening from 5-8PM. Opportunities for viewing of association notebooks, posters of 250 years of Custers in the Shenandoah Valley, and Harrisonburg - Rockingham Historical Society book sales.
- Classes:** Jean M. White - "Ideas for Climbing Over the Brick Wall"  
(specific ideas for solving your genealogical problems)
- Tim Ostwald - "Crossing the Ocean with Our German Ancestors"  
(includes information on researching church records and finding the village of origin)  
Tim, of Boulder, CO, is active in the Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America. He has taught classes and written numerous articles on finding German ancestors.
- Speakers:** Pat Ostwald - "The Land of Our Ancestors - Bucks County, PA and Augusta County, VA"  
(includes slides and explanations of how to draw plats of the early farms)  
Pat, a member of the Castor Association of America from Boulder, CO, has spent years researching the various families of Pennsylvania, as well as the Shenandoah Valley. She has made valuable contributions to our archives as well as *The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters...*
- Jean M. White - "Do You Really Know Who You Are Related To?-- Explanation of Castor, Custer, Kester, Keister, etc." (You may not be related to another Castor, but related to a Custer or a Kester. Confused? Come and find out the scoop.)  
Jean, editor and archivist of the Castor Association from Glendale, AZ, is a professional researcher who was the editor of *The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters...*

### **John L. Heatwole - "Folklore of the Shenandoah Valley"**

John Heatwole is a local sculptor who has done historical research for over 25 years. His ancestors came to the valley in 1760. Writer of numerous books and articles on sculpture and history, his *Shenandoah Voices: Folklore, Legends and Traditions* is his newest book.

- Photos:** Bring you old Castor/Kester/Custer family photos for copying for our association notebooks. Please limit them to those taken before 1925.
- Silent Auction:** Showcase your talent - woodworking, crafts, jams & jellys, etc. This is our major fund raising event, so we encourage everyone to bring something. A silent auction of these items will be held on Saturday afternoon. Past auctions have shown that there are some very talented people in our association.
- Entertainment:** Kathy Custer Claytor and friends will sing for us Saturday night.
- Tour:** Sunday morning tour Brock's Gap, home of Conrad Custer and his descendants; visit Fort Hogg; the Custer family cemetery; the Arnold Custer land on Runions Creek, the Paul Custer land, the Lincoln Homestead (home of President Abraham Lincoln's grandfather); and much more.
- Genealogical Research:** The Castor Association notebooks of family information and records will be available for your browsing during the reunion. The Harrisonburg - Rockingham County Historical Society Library, Dayton, VA (540/879-2616) Hours: Mon, Thur-Sat 10:00-4:00. James Madison University, Carrier Library Special Collection, Harrisonburg, VA (540/568-6150). Menno Simons Historical Library, Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary, Harrisonburg, VA (540/432-4177) Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00.
- Sightseeing:** Visit the homes of three Presidents within an hour's drive from Harrisonburg: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. Shenandoah National Park with Skyline Drive has many beautiful views of the Valley. Many Civil War Battlefields are in the area.

## **See You There!**

**Use the registration form found in the March issue or write to: Pat Ritchie, 1559 Moffett Drive,  
Winchester, VA 22601-3183 for a registration form**

You may have noticed the logo we have for our 1996 reunion. The logo was designed by Ron Turner, Pat Ritchie's brother, shows a quick line drawing of Brock's Gap with Chimney Rock and the Shenandoah River. We thank Ron and Pat for letting us use the logo.

Woodlawn, Carroll County, Virginia.

Child of John and Deborah:

1. William Kester married Sarah Jones 13 October 1790 Deep River MM, Guilford County, NC, married Mary Mendenhall 1797.

Sarah's children:

2. Richard Kester married Phebe Brown 3 April 1799 Grayson County, VA.

3. Ann Kester.

4. Mary Kester.

5. Deborah Kester.

6. Edith Kester married \_\_\_\_\_ Puckett.

7. John G Kester born 1779.

8. Peter Kester born 11 October 1781; married Hannah Davis 25 December 1806 Grayson County, VA; died 13 April 1814.

Sources:

Hinshaw, Wm. Wade; Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy; Vol 1, p 823.

DAR Lineage Book; Vol 30, p 79.

Notes of Vivian F Taylor & Ruth Alexander

Stryker-Rodda, Kenn; "New Jersey Rateables 1778-1780;" The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey; May 1973, p 75.

Virginia Genealogy; Vol 29, p 157 - query of Robert Hull.

Worrell, Anne Lowry; Over The Mountain Men, Their Early Court Records In Southwest Virginia.

Alderman, John P.; Carroll County 1765-1815 - The Settlements (1985), pp 218-219.

Davis, Eleanor; A Quaker Family (1985), p 498.

Armstrong, Wm. C.; Lundy Family in America; pages 86-87.

letter Mrs Paul D Kester containing notes of M E Kester of Kannapolis, NC

Richard Kester, son of John and Sarah (Lundy) Kester. Richard married Phebe Brown.

Their children:

1. Eli Kester married Elizabeth Davis.

2. Deborah Kester born about 1800 in Grayson County, Virginia; married 28 November 1815 David Cain in Grayson County, Virginia; died 16 June 1859 in Carroll County, Virginia.

Sources:

Davis, Earl H.; Charles & Hannah (Matson) Davis & Their Descendants (1956), p 137.

Westfield MM, NC

letter Wayne R Cain -- 24 Sep 1987

Davis, Eleanor M. ; Davis: A Quaker Family Chapter 14.

Peter Kester was born 11 October 1781 in Grayson County, Virginia, son of John and Sarah (Lundy) Kester. Peter married 25 December 1806 Hannah Davis in Grayson County, Virginia. Hannah was born 28 November 1783 in Montgomery County, Virginia, daughter of Charles and Miriam (Carr) Davis. Peter died 13 April 1814. After Peter died, Hannah and her children moved to Clinton County, Ohio. They were Quakers, and were part of the Center Monthly Meeting of Ohio. Hannah married 28 February 1824 Josiah Albertson. Joshua was born 12 January 1784 in North Carolina, son of Joshua an Elizabeth (Overman) Albertson. They became members of the Caesars Creek M M (Clinton County), Ohio. Hannah died 8 August 1866 in Clinton County, Ohio. Joshua died 5 or 15 October 1866 in Clinton County, Ohio.

Their children:

1. Thomas Kester went to New Garden Monthly Meeting, IN 1823..

2. Mary Davis Kester born 1803/4; married \_\_\_\_\_ Davis, married second Thomas Cook 1824 .

3. John Kester born 1808 VA; married 1823 Sarah Wilson, lived Clinton County, OH 1850.



## Henry B. Keister of Union Co., PA

9/95 (file Henry B Keister) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\0

Henry B Keister was born about 1774-1775, probably son of Peter Keister or George Keister. Henry married Catharine (surname unknown). Catharine was born about 1780-1784. Henry operated a saw mill. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pennsylvania. Henry died intestate shortly before 20 April 1837:

Whereas my late husband Henry Kister deed intestate and the Administration of the goods & chattles rights & credits of right belongs to me, but considering the burden of the Administration and selling the Estate, I do release my right of Administration to the same. Witness my hand the 20th day of April 1837.

Test  
Samuel Roush

her  
Catharine X Kister  
mark

We the undersigned Heirs of Henry Keister Deed do assign over our privilege of Being Administrator Of the Said Estate of our Father Henry Keister deceased that any person may have the privilege of administering on sd Estate of the Said Deceased this 28th day of April AD 1837.

his  
George X Keister  
mark  
Peter Kiester

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Castor*  
Samuel Kister  
Henry Keister Jr  
John Kister

OCGS REFERENCE ONLY

20 December 1837

The petition of John Smith administrator of Henry Kister late of Hartley township deed was presented to the Court stating --That the said Intestate left --- eleven children to wit: George, Jacob, who died leaving a widow Named Catherine & four minor children to wit Jesse, Debby, Noah and Judy; Peter, Henry; Samuel; John ; Susan, now the wife of James Clark; Mary, Elizabeth Shively; Noah and Sarah, the two last whereof is yet in their minority. That the personal estate of the said intestate is insufficient for the payment of his debts as the account and statement herewith ----- appears. And that the said intestate died seized in his domain as of fee, of and in a certain tract of land situate in the township aforesaid, adjoining Penns Creek and land of Brooks, George Kister and land belonging to the heirs of John Williams deed containing one hundred and two acres and five eighths of an acre more or less-- And a certain other tract of unimproved land situate in the twonship & County aforesaid adjoining lands of Michael Gearhart, George Kister & heirs of John Williams containing forty six acres more or less -- And a certain other tract of Mountain land adjoining his other land containing one hundred and three acres and thirty two perches -- Your petitioner therefore humbly prays your honorus to grant him an order to make sale of the said ----- and tracts of land aforesaid with the spportunences, for the payment of debts and maintenance and education of minor children of the said intestate -- and he will pray etc. A statement exhibiting a true account of the Inventory and appraisal of the intestates personal ----- and also a Just and true account of all the intestates debts come to his knowledge

The land was sold to Daniel Shively and Smuel Kister for the sum of One thousand and five dollars. The final distribution was made at the May 1847 Court.

Their children:

1. George H Keister born 1794-1800; married Elizabeth (surname unknown); died before 1852.
2. Susan Keister born 1794-1800; married James Clark; died before 1852.
3. Jacob born 1800-1802; married Catherine (surname unknown); died before 1837.
4. Peter Keister born about 1805; married Rebecca (surname unknown); died before 1852.
5. Henry Keister Jr born about 1809; married Catharine (surname unknown); died 1881.



6. Mary Keister born about 1810; died before 1852.

7. Samuel Keister born 1810-1820; married Catharine (surname unknown); died 1844

8. John Keister born about 1813; married Magdalene (surname unknown)died after 1880.

9. Elizabeth Keister born about 1815; married Daniel Shively.

10 Noah Keister born 1815-1820; minor child in 1837.

11. Sarah Keister born 1815-1820; minor child in 1837; married Charles Klingler before 1852.

Sources:

Union County, PA; Orphans Court Case file #1205

Union County, PA Estate File 1837-13

1800 census Pa, Northumberland Co, Penns Twp, p 137

Henry Keister

1M 16-26 1F 16-26

1M -10 1F -10

1810 census Pa, Northumberland Co, West Buffaloe Twp, p 335

Henry Keister S. Mill

1M 26-45 1F 26-45

1M 10-16 1F 10-16

3M -10 1F -10

1820 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 75

Henry Keister

1M 45+ 1F 26-45

2M 18-26 1F 16-26

2M 10-16 1F -10

4M -10

1830 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 291

Henry B Keister

1M 50-60 1F 40-50

2M 20-30 1F 5-10

2M 15-20

1M 10-15

9/95 (file Henry B Keister.1)Henry MISC disk\HKeister\1

George H Keister was born about 1800 in Pennsylvania, son of Henry B and Catharine Keister. George married Elizabeth (surname unknown). Elizabeth was born about 1804 in Pa. George was a laborer. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pa. George is not mentioned in his brother, Samuel's estate settlement in 1852.

Their children:

1. Levi Keister born 1832 PA; married Sarah "Sally" Ann Lorans 30 March 1852; died 1902, buried Long Lane Lutheran & Reformed Cemetery, Hartley Township, Union County, PA.

2. Jacob Keister born about 1836 PA.

3. Michael Keister born about 1840 PA; married Mary Emma Marr Young 23 December 1858 Union County, PA; buried Long Lane Lutheran & Reformed Cemtery, Hartley Township, Union County, PA.

Sources:

Gladys King report - 2 Feb 1989 (filed in Union County, Pa)

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 341

George H Kester

1M 40-50 1F 30-40

2M 5-10 1F 10-15

1850 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 179, #213-213

George Kester 50 PA laborer

Elizabeth " 46 PA

Levy " 18 PA

Jacob " 14 PA

Michael " 10 PA

1860 census Pa, Union Co, White Deer Twp, p 1042, #1152-1099

Levi Keister 28 PA miner

S A " 25 PA (f)

Saml " 6 PA

Isaac F " 3 PA

M E " 8/12 PA (f)

Geo " 61 PA

9/95

Henry MISC disk\BKeister\3

Jacob Keister was born about 1800-1802 in Pennsylvania, the son of Henry B. and Catherine Keister. He married Catherine (surname unknown). Jacob died before 1837, as his widow and four children are mentioned in the estate settlement of his father, Henry B. Keister.

Children of Jacob and Catherine:

1. Jesse Keister.

2. Deborah Keister.

3. Noah Keister:

day and year aforesaid)

George Catherman

Their children:

1. Thomas Keister born about 1835PA; married Eliza (surname unknown).

2. Emanuel Keister born April 1839 PA; married Louisa Good.

3. Elizabeth Keister born about 1848 PA.

Sources:

Union County, PA Orphans Court; Case file #1191

Gladys King report 27 Feb 1990 (filed in Union County, Pa)

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 341

Henry Kester

1M 30-40 1F 30-40

1M 5-10 1F 10-15

1M -5 1F 5-10  
1F -5

1850 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 179, #218-218

Henry Kester 41 PA laborer

Catharine " 39 PA

Thos " 15 PA

Emanuel " 9 PA

Elizabeth " 2 PA

1860 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 761, #105-102

Henry Kister 52 PA farmer

Cath " 51 PA

Emanuel " 21 PA shoemaker

Elizabeth " 13 PA

1880 census Pa, Union Co, Hartly Twp, ED 167, p 35, #267-284

Henry Keister 72 PA farmer

Catharine " 70 PA wife

John Cong 14 PA grandson

9/95 (file Henry B Keister.3) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\7

Samuel Keister was born 1810-1820, son of Henry B and Catharine Keister. Samuel married Catharine (surname unknown). They lived Hartley Township of Union County, Pa. Samuel died intestate shortly before 1 April 1844:

To Samuel Aurand Esquire Register forth probate of \_\_?\_\_ and granting letters of administration in and for the County of Union.

Whereas my late husband Samuel Kister died intestate whereby the right of the administration of the estate of the said Deceased did devolve upon me Catherine Kister widow and relict of the said deceased. NOW KNOW YE That for divers good causes and considerations \_\_?\_\_ thereunto moving I have released and hereby do

release all my right and title to the administration of the said estate. Witness my hand and Seal this first day of April AD One thousand eight hundred and forty four.

Witness Present  
Daniel Shively

her  
Catharine X Kister (seal)  
mark

John Ruhl

There were no children The children shown on the 1840 census may be Noah and Sarah, the minor brother and sister mentioned in the estate of Henry B. Keister.

Catherine remarried to William Bonesteel before February 1852.

Whereas at an orphans Court held at New Berlin in and for the county of Union the 22nd day of September AD 1851 before the Judges of the same court, John Kester, Henry Kester and Noah Kester, brothers and collateral heirs at law of Samuel Kester late of the township of Hartley in the said county, deceased; William Bonesteel and Catherine his wife (late Catherine Kester the widow and relict of the said Samuel Kester deceased); Daniel Shively and Elizabeth his wife (late Elizabeth Kester one of the sisters of the said Samuel Kester decd); and Daniel Shively aforesaid in right of Charles Klingler and Sarah his wife (late Sarah Kester also one of the Sisters of the said Samuel Kester Decd to whom the said Charles and Sarah aliened their undivided purport share or dividend in the estate of said decd); respectfully represents that the said Samuel Kester died intestate about six years since, leaving no issue, but a widow and brothers and sisters, as aforesaid, and that the said intestate died seized in his demsne as of fee of and in the following disordered real estate, to wit: Three certain tracts of land situate in Hartley Township, Union County. No 1st a certain tract of land adjoining lands of Daniel Shively, George Kester, Henry Moyer and others. Containing forty three and a half acres be the same more or less; No 2d A certain tract of wood land adjoining land of Jacob Smith, Peter Kester, John Lincoln and others. Containing forty acres more or less. No 3rd A certain tract of land adjoining land of Daniel Shively and other. Containing \_\_\_\_\_ with the appurtenances. No partition or realuation of the estate having been had, your petitioners pray the court to appoint Daniel shaver, Christian Mench, James King, Daniel Hunsocket, George Braucher, Peter Miller & Richard Lincoln, who were chosen by your petitioners for that purposed to make partition or valuation of the said premises ...

Sources:

Union County, PA Orphans Court; Case File #1185

Union County, Pa Estate file 1844-15

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 341

Samuel Kester

1M 20-30 1F 20-30

1M 15-20 1F 15-20

#### 4. Judy Keister.

1830 Census Hartley Twp., Union County, PA; p. 291.

Jacob Kister

1 male 30-40      2 females 20-30  
1 male 20-30      1 female 5-10  
1 female -5

9/95      (file Henry B Keister.2) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\4

Peter Keister was born about 1805 in Pennsylvania. Probably the son of Henry (son of Peter), Henry (son of George), or Peter (son of George). Peter married Rebecca (surname unknown). Rebecca was born about 1812 in Pennsylvania. Peter was a farmer. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pennsylvania. Peter died 17 May 1878. At the time of his death, Peter's widow was listed as Margarill Keister.

Their children:

1. John P Keister born about 1833.
2. Catharine Keister born about 1838; married Jacob Boney, living Tyro, Crawford County, OH.
3. Sarah Keister born about 1839; married Jefferson Jordan.
4. Henry F Keister born 1843; married C Amelia (surname unknown); died 1934, buried at Long Lane Lutheran & Reformed Cemetery, Hartley Township, Union County, Pa.
5. Maryan Keister born about 1844; married Noah Winkelbleck, living Chillicothe, Philips County, KS.
6. Matilda Keister born about 1847; married Paul Ettinger, living Troxelville, Snyder County, PA 1881.
7. William E Keister born December 1849; married Mary (surname unknown).
8. Abraham Keister born about 1852; married Sarah (surname unknown).
9. Franklin Keister born about 1856.

Sources:

Union County, PA Orphans Court; Case file #1194.

Gladys King report of 27 Feb 1990 (filed in Union County, Pa)

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 341

Peter Kester

1M 30-40      1F 20-30  
1M 5-10      2F -5

1850 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 179, #217-217

Peter Kester	45 PA	farmer
Rebecca "	38 PA	
John "	17 PA	
Catharine "	12 PA	
Sarah "	11 PA	
Henry "	8 PA	
Maryan "	6 PA	
Matilda "	3 PA	
William "	1 PA	

1860 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 761, #104-101

Peter Kister	53 PA	farmer
R "	47 PA	(f)
A "	22 PA	(f)
Henry "	16 PA	farmer
M "	12 PA	(f)
Wm "	10 PA	
Abraham "	8 PA	
Frank "	4 PA	

1870 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 561, #198-199

Peter Keister	64 PA	farm laborer
Rebecca "	57 PA	
William "	21 PA	day laborer
Abraham "	19 PA	
Franklin "	16 PA	

9/95      (file Henry B Keister.4) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\5

Henry Keister Jr was born about 1809 in Pennsylvania, son of Henry B and Catharine Keister. Henry married Catharine (surname unknown). Catharine was born about 1811 in Pa. Henry was a farmer. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pa. Henry died in 1881:

On the 31st day of December, AD 1881, before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the county of Union, personally appeared Henry Dorman and Geo. Catherman who being duly sworn according to law, do respectively depose and say that they will well and truly value and appraise the personal property elected to be taken by Catharine Kiester, widow of Henry Kiester, deceased, for the use of herself and family, and in all respects therein perform their duties with impartiality and to the best of their ability.

Sworn before me the)  
Dorman

H e n r y

9/95 (file Henry B Keister.5) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\8

John Keister was born about 1813 in Pennsylvania, son of Henry B and Catharine Keister. John married Magdelan (surname unknown). Magdelan was born about 1807 in Pa. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pa.

Their children:

1. Louise Keister born about 1837.
2. Sarah Keister born about 1838.
3. Catharine Keister born about 1840.
4. Jullian Keister born about 1842.
5. John A. Keister born June 1845; married Mary (surname unknown)
6. Mary Amanda Keister born about 1847.

Sources:

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 344

John Kester

1M 20-30 1F 30-40  
3F -5

1850 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 179, #215-215

John Keister	37 PA	laborer
Magdelan "	43 PA	
Louise "	13 PA	
Sarah "	12 PA	
Catharine "	10 PA	
Julyan "	8 PA	
John "	5 PA	
Mary "	2 PA	

1870 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 561, #194-195

John Kester	60 PA	day laborer
Kali "	28 PA	housekeeper
Ann "	25 PA	
Amanda "	21 PA	

1880 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, ED 167, p 19, #141-146

Amanda Keister	25 PA	
Julia "	28 PA	sister
Sherman "	1 PA	nephew
Ecleo "	2 PA	niece
John "	69 PA	father

9/95 (file Henry B Keister.6) Henry MISC disk\BKeister\9

Elizabeth Keister was born about 1815 in Pennsylvania, daughter of Henry B and Catharine Keister. Elizabeth married Daniel Shively. Daniel was born about 1806 in Pennsylvania. Daniel was a farmer. They lived in Hartley Township of Union County, Pa. In 1850, Elizabeth's widowed mother lived with them.

Their children:

1. Mary Ann Shively born about 1831.
2. Elias Shively born about 1842.

Sources:

1850 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 179, #214-214

Daniel Shively	44 PA	farmer
Elizabeth "	35 PA	
Maryan "	19 PA	
Elias "	8 PA	
Susan Benjamin	8 PA	
Catharine Kester	68 PA	

## John Kister of Union Co., PA

9/95

(file John Kister) John MISC disk\Kister\0

John Kister was born about 1765-1770. John located in Hartley Township of Union County, Pa about 1792. John bought land on the south side of Penn's Creek (Union County Deed Book E, p 323) 10 January 1792 from Jacob Graef. John married about 1792/3 Catherine Bub, daughter of George and Maria Margaret (Landberger) Bub. George Bub died 1825 and left a will (Book A, p 268, file #1826-1W) that shows Catherine to be his daughter:

[in part] In the name of God Amen I Georg Bupp of Hartley township, Union County of Pennsylvania being weak in body but of sound mind memory and understanding do make and publish this instrument of writing as my last will and Testament as follows viz  
First I Commend my soul into the hands of Almyty God who gave it and my body to the earth is to buried in a Christian like manner at the direction of my Executor hereinafter named.

Secondly concerning my worldly estate which consists of Bonds & Notes & other amounts and personal property. It is my will and do order that all notes & bonds stay on interest till the death of my beloved wife Maria Margaret ... personal property shall remain in her possession so long as she lives and after her death shall be sold by my Executor and the money arising from such take and all other outstanding monies then as soon as convenient be collected and divided share alike among all my children Except my daughter Catherine intermarried with John Kister who shall have

thirty dollars less than either of my other children, and lastly I appoint my beloved son George Bupp, Jr to be the Executor of this my last will and testament giving and granting him all my powers and authority in and about the same. In Witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 12th day of October 1825, signed sealed published...

(signed) Georg bub

[witnesses were Michael Miller and Christian Miller, Esq]

[will was proven 7 January 1826]

Catherine was born 12 January 1776. John Kister was an appraiser and heir of the estate. In the final report for the estate, John signs his name in German script as Johannes Kuster. John and Catherine lived in Hartley Township along Penn's Creek. John lived near the covered bridge which spanned Penn's Creek south of Glen Iron, an area that is now on the railroad line. John operated the Berlin Iron Works. "John Kieser erected the Berlin Iron Works at Glen Iron in Hartly Township. He added a furnace when the combined industry merited its business title. The furnace was in blast until 1832, but the forge continued and finally became the property of the late John T. Church, who operated it until his death in 1937. It was the last charcoal iron furnace in this part of Pennsylvania." Probably he was a blacksmith and sawmill operator as well. There are three additional land deeds: (1) William Green to John Kister 1826, patent 17740 for 120 acres; (2) Andrew Albright to John through Henry 22 Nov 1811 and 2 June 1818 for 55 acres; and (3) State of Pa to John Kister 21 May 1827 for 257 acres (patent issued after John's death an estate was paid the balance due). John died in October of 1826. His will was dated 10 October 1826, and was probated 25 October 1826:

In the Name of God amen, I John Kister of Hartley Township, Union County and State of Pennsylvania being weak in body but of Sound mind memory and understanding do make publish and declare this Instrument of Writing to be my last will and testament as follows viz -- first I Commend my Immortal Soul into the hands of Almighty God who Gave it & my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner -- & what Concerns my worldly Estate of whatsoever kind or nature the Same may be I Give and bequeath it as follows --

first It is my will and do order that Immediately after my death or as Soon as Convenient thereafter all my Effects (Except what is hereinafter Excepted) Shall be Sold at public Sale by my Executor hereinafter named and the money thereof arising and all other money due to and Coming to me from Sundry person Shall be by my Executor Collected, and all my Just debts and funeral Expences paid, and the overplus of the money Shall be Equally divided into two Equal parts and the one half thereof to be paid over to my wife

Catherine which She is to have to use and do with to the best advantage for her Support, and the the Support of my Minor Children, while they are under age, and The Said Catherine to possess the Same during her Natural life. She is also at liberty to purchase Land for the Same If She Chooses and after her death the Same to be divided among my Children. She the Said Catherine Shall also have all the grain in Mow in the Barn, all Corn, Buckwheat potatoes and other Summer Crops of grain kind, also all the hogs now pent up for fattening or yet to pen up this Season also a beef now fattening. She Shall also have one Cow & one heifer, and fodder for the Same this winter. She Shall also have three beds and bedding, also three bedsteads and Cords also one stove & pipe now in the room, also the Bureau in the room also three Chairs also one looking glass, and her Choice of the books, also all the wool and as much of the unbroken flax as She wants, as much of the kitchen furniture as She Chooses to keep, also the Copper Kettle and one Iron pot, and all my Clothes, My Said Wife Catherine Shall have to use for my minor Children. She Shall also have the one third of all grain now Sown in my Name this Season --

Secondly, I give and bequeath unto my Son John in lieu of his Services done to me over his age one mare and one Colt (his Choice out of those now on the farm and fodder for the Same this winter.

Thirdly, It is my will and do order that the other half of money in the first Clause mentioned and not appropriated Shall be equally divided when Collected to and among Six of my Children in Equal Shares, to Jacob, Benjamin, John, Catherine, Sophia and Lydia, and no Interest to be paid by any of my Children for money which they Receive out of my Estate, and after my wifes death, the five minor Children to wit Levi, Daniel, Solomon, Julian & Moses Shall each receive the Same amount as one of the others before mentioned and the residue if any to be equally divided among the children above named, and to my Son in law Welsh Irwine I Give and bequeath all the receipts notes Bonds or other Obligations for which I went his bail and had to pay the Same.

And Lastly I nominate and appoint my trusty son John to be the Executor of this my last will and Testament, giving and granting him full power to execute a deed or deeds unto Davis Beaver for the farm which he purchased of me and also to Execute this will according to law. In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the 10th day of October 1826.

Signed Sealed published  
and declared by the tes  
tator to be his last will  
and testament at whose  
Request we have in the  
presence of each other subscribed  
our names as witnesses

John Kister (seal)

Henry Kister  
C Miller

Union County SS

On the 25th day of October AD 1826 before me the duly  
Deputy Register of the Probate of Wills in & for said County  
personally came Henry Kister and Christian Miller the duly

Witnesses to the within written will and being duly sworn did depose and say that they were present and saw & heard John Kister the testator Sign Seal publish and pronounce the within Instrument of writing as and for his last will and testament & at the time of so doing he was of sound mind and disposing memory to the best of their knowledge observation and belief, and that they respectively subscribed their names thereto as witnesses in his presence and at his request & in the presence of each other.

25th day of October AD 1826  
before

C Miller  
Henry Kister

Joseph A Stilwell Depy Reg

ACCOUNTS: Filed in the estate, dated Jan 15, 1829, made by John Kister, Executor

Some items paid out

Receipts:

Daniel Montgomery	\$970.75
Inventory	425.57
William Clark	95.69
Sale	27.44
" " (land)	66.66
Book Accounts	
Benjamin Kister	63.02
John Boob	12.24
John Kister	3.06
Adam Boyer	1.50
Henry Kister	6.29
David Homer	45.00
Catharine Kister 50 bu rye	17.50
(widow) 1/2	402.20
27 bu wheat	16.87
Jacob Kister	80.44
cash	2.00
Benjamin Kister	80.44
Bond of David Beaver	
Fredk Diehl (Catherine)	80.44
for land	2,200.00
John	80.44
Bal in favor acct	42.88
Wm Stuck (Lydia)	80.44
Henry Wise (Sophia)	80.44
	\$2,791.01

John Kister, Jr was named executor. Five of the children were minors. One of the witnesses to the will was a Henry Keister who seems not to be a son of John. Catherine moved in 1844 to Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa to live with her son, Solomon, and died there 1 July 1844, buried at Mt Zion Cemetery in Rochester Township, Cedar County, Iowa.

Their children:

1. John Kister, Jr born about 1794/5; married Eliza (surname unknown); went to Greene County, OH

1820's, later to Miami County, OH; died OH.

2. Jacob Kister/Kester born 15 October 1796 Union County, PA; married Salome Wise/Weiss ! August 1824 Womelesdorf Church; died 3 August 1878 Crawford County, OH, buried at Whetstone Cemetery.

3. Benjamin Kister born 13 August 1799 Union County, PA; married Catherine Cadernan 1821; married Sarah Gingrich around 1852; married Hannah (Lawver) Sausman 4 October 1859; died 21 February 1872 in Lena, Stephenson County, IL, buried Yellow Creek Cemetery, Kent Twp., Stephenson County, IL.

4. Catherine Kister born 1801/2; married Frederick Diehl (b ca 1794, d 22 Aug 1854); died 24 December 1883 in Cedar County, Iowa.

5. Sophia Kister born 28 April 1804 Mifflinburg, Union County, PA; married Henry Wise 15 January 1829(children: Owen B born 1839, Hannah born 1840, James A born 1849); died 11 January 1883 Wilton Junction, Cedar County, IA.

6. Lydia Kister born about 1805 Union County, PA; married William Stuck, lived Crawford County, OH.

7. Levi Kister born 17 May 1809 Union County, PA; married 1 March or December 1833 Sarah Bremen, married Mrs Mary C Brown; died 31 March or 7 July 1885 Rochester, Cedar County, IA.

8. Daniel Kister born 26 April 1811 Union County, PA; married Matilda Graffius 16 June 1832 Blair County, PA; died 13 January 1853 Coalrain Forges, Huntingdon County, PA.

9. Solomon Kister born 1813 Union County, PA; married Elizabeth Brekman; died 1900 Cedar County, IA.

10. Julia Ann Kister born 5 May 1815 in Hartley Township, Union County, PA; married William D Long 18 January 1838 Marion County, OH; married Daniel Newkirk; died 14 August 1893 Lancaster, IA, buried at Pennington Cemetery, Sigourney, Keokuk County, IA.



11. Moses Kister born 1816/7 Union County, PA; married Mary Whitmire 4 April 1840, moved to IA, later in 1870 moved to NE.

Sources:

Godcharles, Frederic A.; *Chronicles of Central PA*; Vol A; p. 283.  
Custer Chronicles; Vol 6:Book 2, Summer 1986, pp 3-7.  
Pennsylvania Archives; Second Series, Vol IX, p 343.

Maria Margaret Landgberger and George Bub married 10 January 1768

Union County, Pa Will Book A; p 268, file #1826-1W.

Union County, Pa Will Book A, p 302.

letter Virginia Z Borradori - 20 Apr & 14 May 1987

letter Jean M White - 26 Oct 1987

letter Mrs Oliver W (Foy) Smith to Mrs Thomas A (Nola)

Marquardt - 13 Jun 1985

Family Group Sheet - Dorothy P. Gross; 1995

1800 census Pa, Northumberland Co, West Buffalo Twp

John Kaister

1M 26-45      2F -10

2M -10

John Kaister

1M 26-45      1F 16-26

3M -10      1F -10

1810 census Pa, Northumberland Co, West Buffalo Twp

John Keister, blacksmith

1M 26-45      2F 10-16

1M 16-26      2F -10

1M 10-16

1M -10

John Keister, sawmill

1M 26-45      1F 16-26

1M 16-26      1F 10-16

1M 10-16      2F -10

1M -10

1820 census Pa, Union Co, West Buffalo Twp

John Keester

1 M 45+ 1 F 45+

3 M 16-26      1 F 16-26

3 M -10 2 F 10-16

1 F -10

John Keister

1M 45+      1F 45+

1M 16-26      2F 16-26

1M 10-16      1F 10-16

3M -10      1F -10

[Hartley Township formed from West Buffalo Township]

9/95

file John Kister.2

Jacob Kister/Kester was born 15 October 1796 in Union County, Pa, son of John and Catherine (Bub) Kister. Jacob married Salome Wise/Weiss 1 August 1824 in the Womelesdorf Church, Womelesdorf, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Salome was born 8 February 1803 (computed from tombstone) in Union County, Pennsylvania, the sister of Henry Wise who married Sophia Kester. They lived in Pennsylvania for several years. Jacob participated in logging operations and rode the log booms down the Susquehanna River. Later, in a Conestoga wagon, they set out for Ohio. A daughter became ill and died on the move west, and they buried her in the wild country on the way. They settled in Crawford County, Ohio. Salome had \$300 left from her dowry, which they used to buy land at \$3 per acre. Their farm was called "Whetstone" and they built a log cabin. As other settlers arrived, Jacob and Henry Phillips were trustees for a log church which was begun in 1833 and dedicated in 1844. When a new church building was needed, Jacob and Lewis Heinlein and Henry Lowmiller were chosen trustees, and the new church building was dedicated Christmas Day 1859. One of the ministers of the church was George Weiss/Wise, brother of Salome. Jacob bought the first organ for the Whetstone Church. The organist was paid \$1 each Sunday. Jacob drove each Sunday to pick up the organist, and drove her home after the service, a distance of 16 miles. Salome died 5 October 1866, aged 63 years, 7 months and 27 days. Jacob died 3 August 1878. They were buried at Whetstone Church Cemetery, Crawford County, Ohio.

Their children:

1. Elizabeth Kester died age 1 year on the way to OH.

2. Joseph Kester born about 1830 OH; married Sevela Shroll.

3. Matilda Kester born about 1832 in OH; married Jacob Shumaker.

4. Mary M Kester born 15 July 1835 Crawford County, OH; married George Wingert 13 June 1861 Crawford County, OH; died 27 April 1909 Emporia, KS, buried at Maplewood Cemetery.

5. Sarah Kester born about 1838 OH; married William Lowmiller.

6. Lydia Kester born about 1840 OH; married Daniel Kehler.

7. Eliza Jane Kester born about 1844 OH; married John Zimmerman.

8. Isaiah Kester died aged 3.

Sources:

Diamond, Dorothy Shuls; History of the Kester Family.

Custer Chronicles; Vol 6:Book 2, Summer 1986, pp 6-7.

letter Mrs Carolyn L Rowe -- 26 Aug 1987

1850 census Ohio, Crawford Co, Whetstone Twp, p 41, #224-224.

Jacob Keaster	56 PA	farmer
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Sarah "	47 PA	
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Joseph "	21 OH	
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Matilda "	18 OH	
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Mary M "	16 OH	
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Sarah "	12 OH	
---------	-------	--

Lydia "	10 OH	
---------	-------	--

Eliza J "	6 OH	
-----------	------	--

1860 Ohio, Crawford Co, Whetstone Twp, p 98, #1431-1447

Jacob Keister	64 PA	farmer (retired)
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Sarah "	57 PA	
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Mary "	24 OH	sewing
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Sarah "	22 OH	
---------	-------	--

Lydia "	19 OH	
---------	-------	--

Joseph "	14 OH	
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Dorothy Harmon	10 OH	
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Eliza Keister	16 OH	sewing
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According to family tradition, the Keister family came to America from Switzerland, prior to the Revolutionary War. The father of Jacob (first name unknown) and possibly an uncle, fought under George Washington. The father of Jacob was supposed to have accompanied General Washington across the Delaware River that Christmas Eve when the Hessians were surprised and captured during a banquet. General Washington gave his poorly clad, cold and hungry soldiers permission to finish the banquet. The warmth, the hot food, and the relaxation made his soldiers so sleepy they couldn't stay awake to do sentry duty, so General Washington walked sentry duty, himself, the rest of the night.

Great-grandmother Saloma Weiss, apparently lived in or near Berks or \_\_\_?\_\_\_ in Pennsylvania. She with several friends, came to Valley Forge to watch the soldiers drill, and there Jacob Kester was Drill Master. A romance blossomed, and later they were married in the Womelesdorf Church. A number

of years ago several of our relatives went to Womeledorf and nearby places to find records of the family, or at least the name of the father of Jacob, but fire had completely destroyed the old church records.

The Jacob Keister evidently lived in Pennsylvania for several years after their marriage. For some time Jacob was interested in logging operations, and would ride the log booms down the Susquahenna River. When they finally started for Ohio, in a Conestoga wagon, they had a child. My uncle told me, that his grandmother, Saloma, told him that it nearly broke her heart, when their child became ill on the trail, and died, and they had to bury the child beside this wild and lonely trail and go on.

On reaching the "Plains" in Crawford County, Ohio, they decided to settle here. The land was excellent and Great-grandmother Saloma, had \$300 of "hard money" left from her dowry. They bought land for \$3 and acres and built a loghouse. The deed for the land showing transfer from the Government was signed by President Jackson and is still in the family. "Hard Money" was very scarce at that time and this represented a large amount. This original farm is still in the hands of their descendants - Rollin Lowmiller and family. This section of land and some adjoining territory was called "Whetstone" and named from the creek flowing thru it.

As more settlers came into this region, they decided to build a log church. They chose Jacob Kester and Henry Phillips as Trustees. This church was commenced in 1833 and dedicated in 1844. Fifteen years later they found it necessary to enlarge and repair the building: instead it was decided to build a new building, and the Trustees chosen for this building were Jacob Kester, J Lewis Heinlen, and Henry Lowmiller. This building was finished and dedicated on Christmas Day of 1859. (I have in my possession the original memo of this transaction.) Today a modern, small country church stands on the same location, and across the road is a cemetery where many of our relatives are buried.

There was no regular minister in the early days and the church was served by a "circuit rider." The name describes the ministers. There were no bridges; no real roads; they rode horse-back; carried their Bibles in their saddlebags, and when they forded streams or swam them, they held their Bibles over their heads to keep them dry. They stopped

where-ever a few people gathered, to perform marriages, baptise babies and preach sermons.

Great-grandmother's brother, George Wise, was such a minister. He established several small congregations along the east coast of the US, and then part of the time made circuits thru Pennsylvania and Ohio. One time during a rainy spell, he arrived at his sister's house late on Saturday evening, completely soaked, only his Bible had he managed to keep dry. His sister, our Great-grandmother, Saloma, put him to bed and spent almost all night drying his clothes and pressing his suit, so that he could appear on Sunday morning at the Whetstone church. By the way, all our people were Reformed, Bible believing and God fearing people, who lived their beliefs - we come from generations of Christian people.

Jacob Kester bought the first organ the Whetstone Church had, and since none of the members could play it, every Sunday morning he hitched up a horse and buggy and drove into Bucyrus, which was a village 7 or 8 miles away, and brought out to Whetstone a woman who could play the hymns for the services. Of course he also drove her home, and paid her \$1 a Sunday out of his own pocket.

Jacob Kester was very active all his life and was especially known for his swordmanship and fencing. The speed of his running and his walking ability were well known. He used this method on his visits back east.

The spelling of the two names changed thru the years. The earliest records show Keister and Weiss, which became Kester and Wise.

Taken from a tombstone in the Whetstone Cemetery is the following:

Jacob Kester, b Union Co, Pa, Oct 15, 1796  
died Aug 3, 1878 aged 81y 9m 18d

Saloma Kester b Union Co, Pa, Feb 8, 1803  
died Oct 5, 1866 aged 63y 7m 27d

9/95

(file John Kister.3) John MISC disk\kister\3

Benjamin Kister/Keister was born 13 August 1799 in Hartley Township of Union County, Pennsylvania, son of John and Catherine (Bub) Kister. Benjamin married 1821 Catherine Caderman/Katherman. Catherine was born 1797, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena (Frederick)

Katherman, granddaughter of David Katherman, and great granddaughter of Jacob Katherman, very early settler of Tulpehocken in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Benjamin worked in a sawmill and then learned the blacksmith trade.

In the spring of 1844 Benjamin and Catherine moved in covered wagons to Green County, Wisconsin where they spent the first winter at the home of French Lake. That winter Benjamin laid a claim to 160 acres in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33 of Rock Grove Township in Stephenson County, Illinois, and entered part of the land on 20 February 1845 and part on 3 June 1846. He cut logs that winter which he sawed for lumber for his house and barn. He built his home and barn during the summer of 1845 in Section 32 which were still standing in 1949. Benjamin was a farmer. Benjamin was a member of the German Reformed Church and Catherine was a member of the Lutheran Church. Benjamin and Catherine had ten children. Catherine died 1850 and was buried at Beam Chapel Cemetery north of Rock Grove, Stephenson County, Illinois.

Benjamin married Sarah Gingrich around 1852, who died in several years. Benjamin married Hannah (Lawver) Sausman, widow of Joseph Sausman, 4 October 1859. His daughter-in-law Nancy (who married son Silas) was a daughter of Hannah. Benjamin and Hannah lived about two miles north of Kent on a farm inherited by Hannah. Later Hannah sold this farm and they lived in Rock Grove and then moved to Jonesboro, Illinois for several years in the late 1860s. Later they moved back to Lena, Illinois living at the northeast corner of Washington and Provost Streets across from the schoolhouse. Hannah's son Cy Sausman lived with them part of the time. Benjamin rented his farm to his son David, and sold the farm about 1868. Benjamin wore chin and side whiskers and was a tall and well-built man. Benjamin died 21 February 1872 in Lena, Stephenson County, Illinois, and was buried at the Yellow Creek Cemetery in Kent Township.

Their children:

1. David Keister born 1822 PA; married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (she died 1845), married 3 June 1852 Elizabeth Girl (daughter of John Girl), moved 1872 Walla Walla, WA.

2. Silas Keister born 9 September 1824 Union County, PA; married 11 June 1848 Mary Ann Sausman, married 14 June 1849 Nancy Ann Sausman; died 29 July 1895 Kent, Stephenson County, IL, buried at Yellow Creek Cemetery.

3. Sarah Keister born 1827 Pa; married Samuel Bachman, no issue; died June 1907.

4. Christian Keister born 14 February 1829 PA; married Mariah Fox October 1864, married Susan Sensenbaugh; died 7 February 1909, buried at Hart Cemetery, Florence Township, Stephenson County, IL.

5. Jacob Keister born 9 May 1830 PA; married Mary Ann Lauck 7 August 1851, lived near Kent and Rock Grove, IL; died 12 June 1857.

6. Catherine Keister born about 1832 in PA; married Harris G Osburn 10 June 1854; lived south of Kent and in IA; died 1920.

7. Levi Kiester born 31 December 1833 in PA; married Mary J Runkle 7 February 1858 Rock Run Twp., Stephenson County, IL; died 2 July 1917.

8. Esther Keister born about 1839 in PA; married \_\_\_\_\_ Best, married Charles Arnold

#### Sources:

Keister, Philip L.; *The Keister Family*, pp 8-11.

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Stephenson County, ILL....*; Chapman Brothers; Chicago; 1888; p. 489-90.

*Custer Chronicles*; Vol 6: Book 2, Summer 1986, p 4

Keister, Philip L.; *Kent (Illinois) for a Century and a Quarter 1827-1952*; 1952; p 147.

1830 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 291

Benjamin Keister

1M 30-40      1F 30-40  
2M 5-10      1F -5  
2M -5

1840 census Pa, Union Co, Hartley Twp, p 339

Benjamin Kester

1M 40-50      1F 40-50  
2M 15-20      1F 10-15  
2M 10-15      1F 5-10  
1M 5-10      1F -5

1850 census Ill, Stephenson Co, Town of Rock Grove p 301, #787-837

Benjamin Kiester	49 PA	farmer
Catherine "	55 PA	
David "	28 PA	farmer
Silas "	26 PA	"
Sarah "	22 PA	
Christian "	21 PA	farmer
Jacob "	20 PA	"
Catherine "	18 PA	
Levi "	16 PA	farmer
Esther "	11 PA	(f)

look up 1860 census Illinois, Stephenson Co, West Point, p 496  
Benjamin Keister

1880 census Ill, Stephenson Co, ED 176, p 5

Christian Keister	52 PA	
Maria "	39 PA	wife
Geo F "	5 IA	

9/95

file John Kister.7

Levi Kister/Kester was born 17 May 1809 in Union County, Pennsylvania, son of John and Catherine (Bub) Kister. Levi married Sarah Bremen 1 December 1833 in Ohio. Sarah was born 1813 in Crawford County, Ohio. Sarah died 31 March 1871 at Rochester, Iowa, aged 57 years 11 months and 22 days, and was buried at Hebron Cemetery in Rochester Township, Cedar County, Iowa. Levi married second Mrs Mary C Brown. Levi died 7 July 1885 at Rochester, Iowa, and was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery in Center Township of Cedar County, Iowa.

#### Children of Levi and Sarah:

1. Elizabeth Priscilla Kester born 27 August 1842 in Crawford County, Ohio; married Francis Marion Brown 12 February 1861 Cedar County, IA.

2. Benjamin Hezekiah Kester born 2 February 1844 in Crawford County, Ohio; married Hilda/Rhoda Simmons 6 June 1867; died 20 December 1923 Shannon City, Union County, IA.

3. Eliza M Kester born 19 August 1847; died 6 November 1862, aged 15 years, 2 months and 17 days, buried at Rochester Cemetery, Cedar County, IA.

#### Children of Levi and Mary:

4. Guy Kester born about 1873 OH.

## 5. Ida Kester born 1879 OH.

### Sources:

letter Virginia Z Borradori - 14 May 1987

letter Mary Brown - 23 Jan 1992

*Custer Chronicles*; Vol 6:Book 2, Summer 1986, p 6.

1880 census Iowa, Cedar Co, Rochester Twp, ED 355, p 1.

Levi W Kester	70	PA
Mary C "	40 wife	OH
Guy "	7 son	OH
Ida "	11/12 dau	OH
Laura "	15 step dau	OH

9/95 (file John Kister.9) John MISC disk\Kister\9

Solomon Kester was born 1813 in Pennsylvania, son of John and Catherine (Bub) Kester. Solomon married Elizabeth Brekman. Elizabeth was born 12 October 1817 (computed from tombstone) in Pennsylvania. Solomon was a farmer. Solomon moved to Cedar County, Iowa in 1843. His mother, Catherine, lived with him before she died 1 July 1844. Elizabeth died 5 February 1869, aged 51 years, 3 months and 24 days, and was buried at Rochester Cemetery in Cedar County, Iowa. Solomon died around 1900 in Cedar County, Iowa.

### Their children:

1. Stephen J Kester born about 1838 OH.
2. Catharine A Kester born about 1840 OH.
3. Infant daughter born 23 January 1843; died 29 December 1843, buried Rochester Cemtery, Cedar County, IA.
4. Infant daughter born 31 July 1847; died 12 August 1847, buried Rochester Cemetery, Cedar County, IA.
5. William Kester born 1850 IA.
6. Franklin P Kester born 16 August 1852; died 19 March 1855 aged 2 years, 7 months and 3 days, buried Rochester Cemetery, Cedar County, IA.
7. Eva Kester born 1857/8 IA.

### Sources:

Family Group Sheet- Dorothy P. Gross; 1995

letter Virginia Z Borradori - 14 May 1987

1850 census Iowa, Cedar Co, Rochester Twp, p 99, #263-263

Solomon Kester	37 PA	farmer
Elizabeth "	32 PA	
Stephen J "	12 OH	
Catharine A "	10 OH	

9/95 (file John Kister.10) John MISC disk\Kister\10

Julia Ann Kester was born 5 May 1815 in Hartley Township of Union County, Pennsylvania, daughter of John and Catherine (Bub) Kister. Julia Ann married William Long 18 January 1838 in Marion County, Ohio. William was born 1819 in Pennsylvania. William died 13 September 1853 in township 76, Muscatine County, Iowa. Julia sold the 160 acre farm in 1857:

To all to whom these presents shall come: Juliann Long of the County of Muscatine, and State of Iowa, Guardian of Mary Long, Jacob Long, Eliza Long, Malvina Ellen Long, and Sarah Catherine Long, minors, and children of said Juliann Long by her husband William Long, late of said County, deceased, sends greetings: Whereas, by an order of the County Court, within and for the County of Muscatine, State of Iowa, duly made and entered at a regular term of said court holden at the City of Muscatine, in the County & State aforesaid, on the first Monday in the month of March in the year of eighteen hundred and fifty seven (the same being the second day of March AD 1857) the said Juliann Long, in her capacity of guardian as aforesaid, was empowered and licensed to sell at private sale (subject to the approval of the said Court) the whole of the said minors interest in the real estate hereinafter described, being an estate in fee simple in said real estate, subject only to the right of dower therein of the said Juliann Long, and whereas, the said Juliann Long having given bonds as required by law. Now, know ye, that I the said Juliann Long, in my capacity as guardian as aforesaid, by virtue of the license aforesaid, and in consideration of the sum of two thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars to me in hand paid by David Peck, the receipt where of is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, and sold, and do by these presents, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said David Peck, his heirs and assigns forever, the certain tract of parcel of land, lying and being situate in the County of Muscatine, and State of Iowa, and bounded and described as follows: the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the east half of the southwest quarter, and the northwest quarter of the south east quarter, of section Twenty (20) in Township Seventy Six (76) Range Three (3) West, containing one hundred and sixty acres of land, be the same more or less, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging. To have and to hold the above granted premises unto the said David Peck, his heirs and assigns forever. And I, the said Juliann Long, for myself, my heirs, an executors, do covenant with the said David Peck, his heirs and assigns, that said premises are free and clear from all incumbrance; that in making the said sale, I have in all things observed the rules and directions of the law; and that I will, and my heirs shall, warrant and defend the above granted premises to the said David Peck, his

heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims of the said minors and their heirs, and all persons claiming the same, by, through, or under them, or either of them, and against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. And I the said Juliann Long, do hereby relinquish all my right of dower in and to the above described and granted premises. In testimony whereof the said Juliann Long hath hereunto set her hand and seal, this seventeenth day of March AD 1857.

Julia A Long (seal)

Julia Ann married 26 December 1865 Daniel Newkirk in Keokuk County, Iowa. Julia Ann died 14 August 1893 in Lancaster, Iowa, and was buried at Pennington Cemetery, Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa.

Their children:

1. Mary Long born 31 October 1839 Cedar County, IA; married Daniel Newton Fish 15 March 1860 Sigourney, IA; died 26 July 1900 at Glendale, OR.

2. Jacob Kester Long born 8 August 1842 in Cedar County, IA; married Julia Ann Bucher 8 December 1861 Hayesville, IA, married Mary E Porter 1878; died 5 February 1924 Hayesville, IA, buried Pennington Cemetery, Sigourney, IA.

3. Eliza "Lide" Long born 31 January 1845 Cedar County, IA; married Albert Dubois 24 November 1868 Cedar County, IA; died 4 August 1927 in Colorado Springs, CO, buried at West Cedar Cemetery, Agra, KS.

4. Melvina "Vine" Ellen Long born 24 December 1848 IA.

5. Charles O Long born 1850 in township 76, Muscatine County, IA; died young.

6. Sarah Catherine "Sadie" Long born 29 April 1852 in township 76, Muscatine County, IA; married Theodore F Kester; died 8 April 1942 Glendale, CA.

Sources:

letter Virginia Z Borradori - 30 April 1987

Muscatine County, Iowa; Deed Long (guardian) to Peck

9/95

(file John Kister.11) John MISC\Kister\11

Moses Kester was born 1816/7 in Pennsylvania,

son of John and Catherine (Bub) Kister. Moses married Mary Whitmore. Mary was born about 1824 in Pennsylvania. Moses moved to Cedar County, Iowa about 1849. Moses was a farmer. About 1870, he moved to Nebraska.

Their children:

1. John Kester born about 1841 OH.

2. Mary J Kester born about 1843 OH.

3. Henry Kester born about 1845 OH.

4. Elizabeth Kester born about 1847 OH.

5. Isaac Kester born about 1848 OH.

Sources:

letter Virginia Z Borradori - 14 May 1987

1850 census Iowa, Cedar County, Rochester Twp, p 97, #227-227

Moses Kester 34 PA farmer

Mary " 26 PA

John " 9 OH

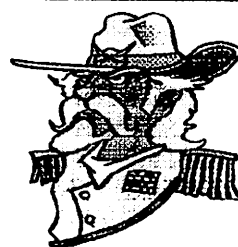
Mary J " 7 OH

Henry " 5 OH

Elizabeth " 3 OH

Isaac " 2 OH

**The General says:**



**Look for the dues renewal form in the December issue of The News-Caster. If you pay your 1997 dues before 10 February 1997, it's still \$8. But after that it'll be \$10!! Don't put it off.**



Membership applications may be obtained from the Vice President. Yearly dues should be paid directly to the treasurer.

Library books may be borrowed from the lending library through the librarian, Jeffery A. Custer, 43 E. Washington St., Jamestown OH 45335-1648. Send a SASE (\$.52) to the librarian for a current list of the books available. Three books may be borrowed for four weeks. When returning the items, mail 4th class or book rate with reimbursement to the association for the cost of the postage plus \$.50 to cover the cost of mailing and handling the loan.

*The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters...* is available for \$30 post paid. Please send your check made out to The Castor Association of America to the treasurer.

The editor welcomes original articles from members of the association. Articles may be submitted either on computer disk or typewritten. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Every effort will be made to publish accurate material. However, The Castor Association of America and the editorial staff assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or judgement on the part of contributors, nor are they responsible for the publishing rights of contributed material. Correction of proven errors will be published.

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

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**Deadline for submission of material for the December issue is 1 November 1996**

The Castor Association of America  
3213 Tribble Drive  
Grand Prairie, TX 75050

#### Dated Material

Forwarding and Return Guaranteed  
Address Correction Requested

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Gretchen Slota  
1919 E Sycamore St  
Apt. #101  
Anaheim CA 92805-3458

## George Kester, Sr. (1777-1838)

George Kester, Sr. appears to connect to some of the Union County, PA Keisters and Kisters. He had 14 children, but we have been able to find only 10 of them.

2/97

(file George Kester Sr) George disk/Kester Sr./0

George Kester, Sr was born about 1777/8 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, son of John George Kester. Computation based on tombstone information indicates birthdate of 8 May 1777. Several researchers have listed his birth date as 14 December 1778 based on a baptismal record at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. These records have been recently translated and published by Debra D. Smith and Frederick S. Weiser. The baptismal record has been translated thus: Georg [no surname given] born December 14, 1778, bapt. December 20, 1778; parent: Catharina Dodtin and Georg Kiesler, Hessian; sponsors: Michael Miller and wife Barbara. Further in the book is the following entry made in 1780 by G. H. E. Muhlenberg, pastor: "Transgressions against the sixth commandment" Cath. Dodtin and Georg K sler, woman impregnated. Is this the baptismal record of this George Kester?

George's father operated an inn in Pennsylvania (possibly Berks County). George had a brother, Peter. George married Julia Ann Wolfe about 1797. About 1800, he settled near Dayton in Montgomery County, Ohio. George bought 160 acres 27 March 1805 from the U S Government in German Township of Montgomery County, Ohio. He served in the War of 1812 for a period of six months in Capt Michael Gunkel's Company. George and Julia Ann had fourteen children. About 1815, Julia Ann died from a rose cancer on her face. George married second Elizabeth Hetzlar 25 May 1815 in Montgomery County, Ohio. In February 1837, George settled in German Township of Darke County, Ohio -- on the southwest quarter of section 14 on a part of which a portion of Palestine has since been built.

While on a fox hunt in March 1838, he was kicked by a horse which shattered the lower bone of his leg. George died from this injury on 10 May 1838, and was buried at Palestine Cemetery, Palestine (Liberty Township of Darke County), Ohio. His

tombstone gives his age as 61 years, 2 days, and commemorates his service in the War of 1812. There were 14 children. George's will names his wife, Elizabeth, and directs that after her death, his estate is to be equally divided among his sons and daughters, but they are not named. His son, George, and son-in-law, Michael Eby, are named as executors:

I, George Kester of the County of Dark in the State of Ohio do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to Say, first it is my will that my funeral expences and all my just Debts be fully paid, Second I give devise and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Kester the privilege of living on the plantation on which I now live being the Southwest quarter of Section fourteen Township eleven Range one east and to have the Rent or So much thereof as will Keep her well and Comfortable during her natural life, Third I do devise and will all the Residue of my Estate Real and personal to be sold by my executors and Equally divided amongst my Sons and Daughters Share and Share alike and also the aforementioned plantation that I now live on after the Decese of my wife to be Sold and divided in the aforesaid manner, and lastly I hereby constitute and appoint my Son George Kester and my Son-in-law Michael Eby to be the executors of this my last will and testament Revoking and annulling all former wills by me made and ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto Set my Seal this 11th day of April AD 1838.

Signed published and declared by the above named George Kester (seal)	his George x
Kester as and for his last will and testament in presence of us who at his Request have signed as witness to the Same	mark

John Ketring  
Abraham Weaver

The State of Ohio) SS Special Session of Darke  
Common Pleas Darke County Personally  
appeared in open court John Kettering and  
Abraham Weaver two of the subscribing  
witnesses to a paper this day produced as the last  
will and testament of George Kester who being  
duly sworn sayeth they saw said George Kester  
sign the said paper as his last will and testament  
and they signed the same as witnesses in his



in the pan which would block the hole to the barrel. The pin would have been used to keep the hole open and free of powder residue, then stored under the cheekrest with the two wire loops.

Mr. Bumbaugh explained that later model guns used cheaper regular run maple for the stocks, but the gunsmiths would stripe it to make it look like more expensive wood. Also in a later period there were factories for making the individual gun parts. For instance, there were barrel factories, stock factories, and lock factories. By that time guns were less expensive and were not the one of a kind piece that gunsmiths made in earlier times.

From this quick study of guns and gunsmiths in Rockingham County it appears that our ancestors were in step with the events and technology of the rest of the area. The handmade Custer gun was originally made in the style of the time with flintlock firing mechanism. When the percussion cap became available, the gun was modified to use the newer technology. From Wells Heavner's letter to sell his gunsmithing tools, it seems that the availability of mass manufactured weapons had affected his business about the same time that gunsmiths in the United States were phasing out their individualized operations.

### Bibliography

Bowers, William S.; *Gunsmiths of Pen-Mar-VA 1790-1840*; Mercersburg, PA: Irwinton Publishers, 1979.

Held, Robert; *The Age of Firearms: A Pictorial History*; New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1957.

Kauffman, Henry J.; *Early American Gunsmiths 1650-1850*; Harrisburg, PA: The Stackpole Co., 1952.

Liskey, Judy Ruleman; *When This You See, Think of Me!*. Privately published, 1990.

Whisker, James Biser; *Gunsmiths of Virginia*. Bedford, PA: Old Bedford Village Press, 1992.

Williamson, Harold F.; *Winchester, the Gun that Won the West*. Washington, DC: Combat Forces Press, 1952.

Jack K. Castor found an error in the death year of Gen. George A. Custer on front page of the December News-Caster. The correct year of 1876 is listed on page 64.

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presence and that they believe he was of sound mind and memory and under no restraint whatsoever and that he was of full age.

Sworn to and subscribed in open  
Court this 12th day of June AD 1838

John (Been?) Clerk

John Ketring  
Abraham Weaver

Elizabeth died 10 November 1838, and was buried at Palestine Cemetery. Her tombstone gives her age as 61 years, which would place the year of her birth as 1777.

#### Children:

1. David Kester/Keister born 7 September 1807 Butler County, OH; married Anna M Schlechty 24 December 1840 Darke County, OH; died 24 November 1865 Washington Township, Darke County, OH, buried Wayne Lakes Cemetery, Neave Township.

2. George Kester, Jr born 1809 near Germantown, Montgomery County, OH; married Eve Frank 10 May 1835, married Viola Miskesell, died 1883.

3. Sarah Kester born about 1811; married Samuel Fox 15 January 1831 Montgomery County, OH.

4. Henry Kester.

5. Juliana Kester married Michael Eby 7 May 1835 Montgomery County, OH.

6. ?? Samuel Keister

7. ?? John Keister born 1800-1810

8. ?? William W Keister born 1810-1820.

9. ?? Daniel Kester/Keister born about 1822 OH; married Sarah Clapp 9 October 1842 Darke County, OH, married Mary E (surname unknown).

10. Elizabeth Kester married James Wilcox 19 Sep 1816 Montgomery County, OH.

11-14. Names unknown.

## OCGS REFERENCE ONLY

#### Sources:

Ohio Roster of War of 1812 Soldiers; p 37.

The History of Darke County, Ohio\W H Beers & Co (1880), pp 578-579

Ellen T & David A Berry;. Early Ohio Settlers - Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio 1800-1840 (1986)

letter from Auditor of State, Ohio dated 26 March 1987 describing land purchase recorded in Tract Book and Entries - U'S Lands West of Miami River & Between the Miamis - 8 Ranges East, Fractional Ranges 1 & 2 - Ranges 1-15 - Auditor of State Pedigree chart of Mrs James R Greene, 2217 Glenview, Royal Oak, Mich 48073

Darke County Minute Book 4, page 408

Phyllis Brown Miller report dated 25 Sept 1987 [filed in Montgomery Co, Ohio]

Tax records of Montgomery County

Deed John Hetzler to George Kister, Mtgy Co Book F, p 337.

Deed Wm Brice to George Kester, Mtgy Co Book F, p 338.

Deed Daniel Gunckel Sr to George Kisler, Mtgy Co Book G, p 401.

Letter Frederick A Keister - 22 Dec 1987.

1820 Census German Twp., Montgomery County, OH

1 male 45+	1 female 45+
1 male -10	3 females 10-16

1830 Census German Twp., Montgomery County, OH; p. 201

George Keaster

1 male 50-60	1 female 50-60
2 males 20-30	1 female 10-15
1 male 15-20	
2 males 10-15	
1 male 5-10	
1 male -5	

2/97

(file George Kester Sr.1) George disk/Kestersr/1

David Kester/Keister was born 7 September 1807 in Butler County, Ohio, son of George and Julia (Wolfe) Kester. David married 24 December 1840 Anna M Schlechty in Darke County, Ohio. Anna was born about 1822 in Darke County, daughter of John and Mary (Noggle) Schlechty. David was a farmer. They lived in Darke County, Ohio. David died 24 November 1865 in Washington Township of Darke County, buried at Wayne Lakes Cemetery, Neave Township. Anna died July 1875 in Washington Township.

David Keaster bought land in Montgomery County, Ohio from the Government 9 Nov 1831, range 1, twp 11, section 21 in the Miami River survey.

#### Their children:

1. John Keister born 9 October 1841 in Darke County, Ohio; married second 24 December 1867 Susanna Margaret Miller; died 24 May 1875 Versailles, Darke

County, Ohio.

2. Joseph Keister born 5 July 1843 in Darke County, Ohio; died 10 January 1863, buried Wayne Lakes Cemetery.

3. Samuel Kester born 23 September 1845; died 30 September 1847, buried Wayne Lakes Cemetery.

4. Rufus Keister born 1848 in Darke County, Ohio; married 13 November 1868 Edna C Moyer in Darke County; died 1909, buried Greenville Cemetery.

5. Lewis C Kester born about 1850 OH; married Hannah Martin 30 March 1870 Darke County, OH.

6. Francis Marion Kester born 16 October 1854 near Hill Grove, Darke County, OH; married Martha Evelyn Sharp 1 December 1877, lived north of Coletown, Darke County, OH; died 6 April 1926 age 71, buried at Union City, OH.

7. David Kester born 13 January 1858 Washington Township, Darke County, OH; married Rebecca Brant (or Braust?) 24 February 1880; died 5 August 1930 Greenville, Darke County, OH, buried at Greenville Cemetery.

8. Mary A Kester born about 1861 OH; married Silas Preston Moyer 30 July 1876 Darke County, OH; lived in Richmond, Wayne County, IN.

9. Susanna Kester born about 1863 OH.

#### Sources:

International Genealogical Index; Ohio (1984).

Pedigree chart from Mrs James R Greene, 2217 Glenview, Royal Oak, Mich 48073

Greenville Journal March 27, 1867, Wednesday

NOTICE: Anna Keister, wife of David Keister; Susan McFarland wife of Joseph McFarland, of Randolph County, Indiana; Susan Thorn, wife of Marion Thorn of Indiana; Catharine Viets, wife of William Viets, of Jay County, Indiana; and Mary Schlecty, whose residence is unknown; is notified that a petition was filed by John Beard adm'r of John Schlecty, Sr, dec'd (to seel real estate).  
John Beard Admr -- March 27, 1867.

Letter Mrs Michael Deeter - 5 Oct 1987

1850 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 389, #224-234

David Keester	42 farmer	Ohio
Ann "	28	"
John "	9	"
Joseph "	7	"

Rufus "	3	"
Lewis C "	5/12	"

1860 census Ohio, Darke Co, Washington Twp, p 186

David Kester	52 farmer	Butler Co
Annie "	38	Darke Co
John "	18	"
Joseph "	17	"
Rufus "	13	"
Lewis "	10	"
Marion "	6	"
David "	2	"

1870 census Ohio, Darke Co, Washington Twp, p 367, #153-149

Ana Kester	47	Ohio
Francis M "	15	"
David "	12	"
Mary A "	9	"
Susana "	7	"

2/97

(file George Kester Sr.2)George disk/Kester Sr./2

George Kester was born 1809 near Germantown Montgomery County, Ohio, son of George and Julia Ann (Wolfe) Kester. George remained at home to help his father on the farm until the age of 16. He then worked three months on the Miami Canal. He served two and a half years term as a wagon-makers apprentice. In 1833, he began as a wagon-maker in Sunbury. George married 10 May 1835 Eve Frank. Eve was born about 1812 in New York. On 20 May 1835, George and his wife planned to moved to Darke County, Ohio, but he became ill and they decided to remain in Montgomery County. In April 1838, he moved to Darke County, buying the east half of his deceased father's farm. He remained on this farm until about 1871, when he moved into Palestine. George and Eve had six children. Eve died in 1855. George then married Viola Mikesell. Viola was born 1820. George and Viola had two children. George was musically talented, and was a member of the Palestine Brass Band. Viola died 1882. George died 8 April 1883 at Palestine, Darke County, Ohio.

#### Children of George and Eve:

1. Oliver Kester born November 1836; married Martha E Burley; died 1915.

2. Louise Kester born 15 August 1837 in Sunburg, Montgomery County, OH; married Jacob Clapp 25 October 1853; died 24 July 1899.

3. Solomon Kester born 10 November 1839 in German Township, Darke County, OH; married Mary A Leas 3 January 1864 Darke County, OH.

4. Mary E Kester born about 1842 OH; married George W Moore.

5. Lucetta Ann Kester born about 1844 OH; married Francis Marion Eidson.

6. Melissa Kester born about 1851 OH.

#### Children of George and Viola:

7. William E Kester born 19 April 1858 near Palestine, Darke County, OH; married Minerva J Miller 8 December 1877, married Della Woods April 1885; died 7 September 1920 Palestine, Darke County, OH, buried Palestine Cemetery.

8. Flora B Kester born about 1861.

#### Sources:

The History of Darke County, Ohio; W H Beers (1880), pp 505-506 & 578-579.

International Genealogical Index; Ohio (1984)

Phyllis Brown Miller report dated 25 Sept 1987 [filed in Montgomery Co, Ohio]

Letter from Auditor of State, Ohio dated 26 March 1987 describing land purchase recorded in Tract Book and Entries - Congress Lands - West of Miami & Between the Miamis - West of 1st Principal Meridian Now Part of Indiana - Vol C - Auditor of State

Letter Frederick A Keister - 22 Dec 1987

Deed Michael Emrick to George Keister Book B-2, p 196

Deed George Keister's Heirs to Samuel Keister Book P-2, p 100

Deed George Keister to Peter Ebey Book Q-2, p 513

Greenville Journal; April 13, 1883, Friday.

Mr Kester of Palestine, father of S Kester and Mrs F M Eidson, of this place, died at his home last Sunday and was buried Tuesday.

??? 1840 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 17

George Keister

1M 20-30 1F 20-30

1M 15-20

1M -5

1850 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 382, #127-133

George Keister	41 farmer	Ohio
Eve "	38	New York
Lucy "	12	Ohio
Solomon "	10	"
Mary E "	8	"
Lucetta A "	6	"

1860 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 110

George Kester	56 farmer	Ohio
Eve "	42	"
Solomon "	21	"
Mary "	18	"
Leucetie "	16 (f)	"
Mulissa "	9 (f)	"
Wm "	2	"

1870 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 125, #355-345

George Kester	60 wagon maker	Ohio
Viola "	50	"
William E "	12 helps father	"
Flora B "	9 helps mother	"

2/97

(file George Kester Sr.3) George disk/Kester Sr./3

Sarah Kester/Keister was born about 1811 in Ohio, dau of George and Julia Ann (Wolfe) Kester. Sarah married 15 January 1831 Samuel Fox in Montgomery County, Ohio. Samuel was born about 1808 in Virginia. Samuel was a shoemaker. They lived in German Township of Darke County, Ohio.

#### Their children:

1. Henry Fox born about 1840.

2. George H Fox born about 1848.

#### Sources:

1850 census Ohio, Darke Co, German Twp, p 382, #128-134

Sam'l Fox	42 Va	shoemaker
Sarah "	39 Ohio	
Henry "	10 "	
George H "	2 "	

The George Armstrong Custer feature in the December 1996 News-Caster was no doubt a bit hit with many members. While surfing the Internet I found a Home Page for the General a t [http://pages.prodigy.com/C/U/R/custer/index1.htm]. Besides his photo and those of Indians and other soldiers from the Big Horn there are links to interesting articles.

[contributed by Bernard Clark]

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

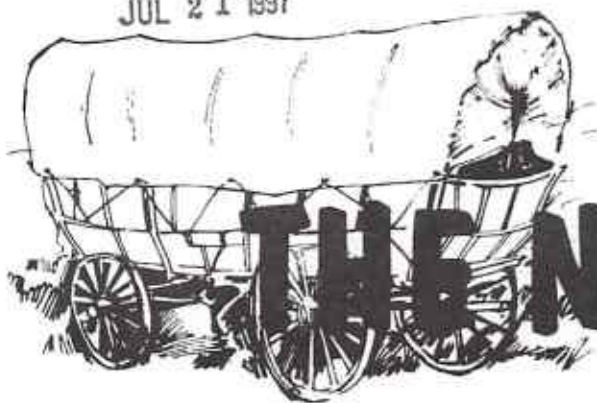




JUL 21 1997

ORANGE COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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# THE NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

The News-Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10. If renewal dues is paid before 10 February, there is a \$2 discount. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of the News-Caster for that year. Members receive four issues of The News-Caster per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

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## Joshua Wells Custer (1796-1859)

Recently, Nadine Marie Wilcox Maerk of Longview, Texas sent us some material on Joshua Wells Custer and his descendants. Nadine did a lot of research to find the graves of Joshua and Olive (Dow) Custer. She found that Olive did not have a gravestone, and that Joshua's had been overturned. At her own expense, she had new gravestones erected to mark the graves of her great, great grandparents. The following association files have been updated to include Nadine's research and some interesting information from the association research files.

5/97

(file Paulus.1.1.5.2.6) Paulus 1-1 disk(5)2-6

Joshua Wells Custer, Sr was born January 1796 in Rockingham County, Va, son of Jacob and Margaret (Lair) Custer. Joshua located at Bennet's Run, near Bergton, Rockingham County, Va where he courted Margaret "Peggy" Smith. Margaret was born 1794, daughter of Frederick and Christina (Sunafrank) Smith. Margaret was soon with child, but Joshua refused to marry her. Margaret named the child after Joshua. In Court 6 October 1823, Joshua admitted to being the father of her child, and the Court directed that he pay Margaret \$20 a year until \$140 was paid. Soon after, Joshua Sr left the area.

Joshua married Olive Smith Dow 23 October 1834 in Clark County, Indiana. Olive was born 22 November 1813 in Plainfield, Connecticut, the daughter of Elisha and Thankful (Davis) Dow. They settled in Scott County, Indiana and later in Oregon Township of Clark County, Indiana. Joshua died 8 August 1859 in Clark County, Indiana, and is buried in the cemetery at New Market. Olive died 19 February 1899, and is also buried in the cemetery at New Market, Indiana.

Margaret Smith married Andrew May 18 July 1825. Andrew was a widower and had married Margaret's cousin, Polly Smith. Margaret and Andrew had Polly Ann May, Christina May (born about 1832) and Washington May (born about 1832). Margaret lived to be 102 years old.

DOES NOT CIRCULATE



Child by Margaret:

1. Joshua Wells Custer, Jr born 15 May 1823 VA; married Sarah "Sally" Freed 28 April 1856; died 3 March 1906 near Tunis, VA, buried United Brethren Church Cemetery, Mt Carmel, near Fulks Run, Rockingham County, VA.

Children by Olive:

2. Roscel Wells Custer born 25 November 1833 IN.

3. Minerva Custer born 1 May 1835 IN; married William Berry Kennedy 12 November 1850 (lic.) Clark County, IN; married Mr. Ingram/Ingraham, divorced; died 1904.

4. Joshua Wise Custer born 12 October 1836 IN; single; "killed by Mexicans" 14 November 1876 Ocate, Mora County, NM.

5. Noble Victor Custer born 26 December 1838 Clark County, IN; married Mary Elizabeth Ferguson 31 August 1859 Scott County, IN; died 25 November 1927 Peru, Chautauqua County, KS.

6. John Gillsom Custer born 20 November 1839 IN.

7. Elisha Dow Custer born 23 December 1840 IN; married Pauline Lutz 11 April 1871 Clark County, IN; died 29 March 1888 Columbus, Bartholomew County, IN.

8. Jasper Newton Custer born 19 March 1843 Clark County, IN; married Hester A. Murrah 10 September 1863 Clark County, IN; died 13 February 1927 Sedan, Chautauqua County, KS, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

9. Pauline Thankful Custer born 19 December 1846 IN; died 29 July 1867 Clark County, IN.

10. Alonzo Sharon Custer born 23/22 July 1849 IN; married Henrietta Johnson; died 1896 probably Clark County, IN.

11. Jacob Bascom Custer born 22 April 1852 IN.

Sources:

Family Group Sheet of Nadine Maerk; 1997.

The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p. 150-1.

Jean M. White files

Clark County Marriage Book D; Hoosier Journal of Ancestry; XV-2/155.

Cuater, Gary L.; The Ancestry and Descendants of Joshua W (1981), pp 15-17.

1840 census Indiana, Scott Co, p 489

J W Custer	
1M 40-50	1F 20-30
1M 15-20	1F 10-15
2M -5	1F 5-10

1850 census Virginia, Rockingham Co, 56th dist, p 60, #793-786

Margaret May	56	Va
Joshua Custer	22	"
Christina May	20	"
Washington "	18	"

1860 census Indiana, Clark Co, Oregon Twp, p 120, #873

Olive S Custer	46 farming	Conn
Joshua W "	23 farm hand	Ind
Elisha D "	19 " "	"
Jasper N "	17	"
Pauline T "	13	"
Alonzo S "	11	"
Jacob B "	8	"
Crastus Hosea	18	"
George R "	7	"
Penelope "	15	"



Olive (Dow) Custer

1870 census Indiana, Clark Co, Oregon Twp, p 23/546		
Olive Kuster	55 keeping house	Conn
Minerva Canada	35 works in house	Ind
Nelson "	18 " on farm "	"
Pinkney "	16 " " "	"
Olive "	10	"
Wm McClelland	33 farm hand	Tenn
Christian Weller	65 " "	Ky

5/97 (file Paulus.1.1.5.2.6.1) Paulus 1-1 disk\5\2-6-1

Joshua "Josh" Wells Custer, Jr was born 15 May 1823 in Virginia, son of Johua Wells Custer, Sr and Margaret Smith. Joshua was raised by his mother, Margaret (Smith) May and her husband, Andrew May. Joshua courted about 1848 Sarah Freed, daughter of John Freed, who lived along the German River near Criders, Rockingham County, Virginia. Soon after, Joshua moved from Bennet's Run to Rader Camp Hollow. Joshua and Sarah were married 28 April 1856 by Reverend John Pope. Sarah "Sally" Freed was born 27 January 1830, daughter of John and Lucy (Biller/Beeler) Freed/Freet. Joshua bought 70 acres along German River 4 November 1856 from his father-in-law for \$25, and Joshua and family lived here until 1883. Joshua was a Private in Company I, 4th Regiment of the 7th Brigade of Virginia Militia in 1861-1862. Joshua was a farmer and a very good gunsmith. In 1882, Joshua bought land in Hopkins Gap. In 1883, he had sold his place on German River and moved to the new home near White Hall School, south of Fulks Run. In 1897, Joshua and Sarah purchased 120 acres near Tunis, Rockingham County, Virginia. In 1905, Joshua fell into the cold creek water and contracted pneumonia. Sarah was also sick at the time, and she died 14 October 1905. Joshua lingered and died 3 March 1906. Both were buried at the United Brethren Church Cemetery at Mt Carmel near Fulks Run, Rockingham County, Virginia.

#### Their children:

1. John Benjamin "Ben" Custer born 1849 Rockingham County, VA.
2. David F Custer born 28 April 1854 Rockingham County, VA; married Polly Ann Henry 25 December 1873; died 24 August 1930, buried Ithaca Cemetery near Arcanum, Darke County, OH.

3. Harvey Washington Custer born 28 August 1856 Rockingham County, VA; married 11 June 1889 Leannah Margaret Biller Shenandoah County, VA; died 29 April 1933, buried Tunis Cemetery, Rockingham County, VA.

4. Mattie Jane Custer born 4 April 1858 Rockingham County, VA; married 3 June 1887 Jacob Newton Hoover in Rockingham County, VA; died 24 July 1936, buried at the New Hope Congregational Church Cemetery, Rockingham County, VA.

5. George Washington Custer born 29 February 1860 Rockingham County, VA; married Margaret Elizabeth Roadcap 16 January 1897; died 23 August 1928, buried Oak Grove Church of the Brethern Cemetery near Fulks Run, Rockingham County, VA.

6. Joshua Henry Custer 16 March 1862 Rockingham County, VA; married Amanda Elizabeth Ford 5 February 1887 Rockingham County, VA; died 16 October 1927, buried Tunis Cemetery near Cootes Store, Rockingham County, Virginia.

7. Twin to Joshua was stillborn.

8. Jacob Paul Custer born 16 March 1865 Rockingham County, VA; married Amanda Lee Shoemaker/Shumaker 1 March 1894 Rockingham County, VA; died 23 January 1950, buried at Weaver's Mennonite Church Cemetery, Rockingham County, Virginia.

9. Joseph F Custer born 23 Febraury 1869 Rockingham County, VA; married Segourney Etheline Dovel 26 December 1917 Rockingham County, VA, no issue; died 30 November 1936, buried Weaver's Mennonite Church Cemetery, Rockingham County, VA.

#### Sources:

Custer, Gary L.; The Ancestry and Descendants of Joshua W Custer; (1981), pp 19-29, 32-33 63-64, 99, 109-110, 119-120, 155-156 & 180

1860 census Virginia, Rockingham Co, p 467, #3317

Joshua Custard	37 farmer	Va
Sarah C "	27	"
John B "	11	"
David F "	7	"
Harvey C W "	6	"

Margaret "  
George "

2 "  
4/12 "



Minerva (Custer) Kennedy Ingram

5/97

Paulus 1-1 disk\52-6-3

Minerva Ellen Custer was born 1 May 1835 in Indiana, the daughter of Joshua Wells and Olive (Dow) Custer. She married William Berry Kennedy around 12 November 1850, as a license was issued on that date in Clark County, Indiana. William was born 19 March 1821, the son of David and Priscilla Kennedy. He married Phoebe W. (surname unknown) around 1846. Phoebe was born 10 March 1827 and died 4 March 1850. She is buried in the Borden Cemetery, Borden, Washington County, Indiana. Were Minerva and William divorced? In 1870 Minerva and her children were living with her mother. William died 25 December 1907. Minerva is also said to have married a Mr. Ingraham or Ingram and divorced. She died in 1904.

Children of William and Phoebe:

1. Ovanda A. Kennedy born 1847 IN; married George W. Berry 16 July 1868.

2. Melrena Kennedy born 27 March 1849 IN; married Patrick Looby 16 May 1847; died 30 May 1934

## Chautauqua County, KS.

Children of William and Minerva:

3. Nelson Kennedy born 1852 IN; married; settled CA.

4. Leroy F. Kennedy born 1852 IN; died 20 October 1855, buried Borden Cemetery, Borden, Washington County, IN.

5. Pinkney Preston Kennedy born 25 March 1854 New Providence, IN; married Julia Cordelia Buckles 3 July 1883 ?MO; died 10 February 1944 probably in Chautauqua County, KS.

6. Olive Ellen Kennedy born 1860 IN; married John Russell; living Tacoma, WA 1944.

Sources:

Family Group Sheet - Nadine Maerk; 1997

The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p. 183.

1870 Census Oregon Twp., Clark County, Indiana; p. 23/546.

Olive Kuster	55 CT	
Minerva Canada	35 IN	
Nelson	18 IN	
Pickney	16 IN	
Olive	10 IN	
Wm McClelland	33 TN	farm hand
Christian Weller	65 KY	farm hand

5/97

Paulus 1-1 disk\52-6-4

Joshua Wise Custer was born 12 October 1836 in Indiana, the son of Joshua Wells and Olive (Dow) Custer. He served as second and first lieutenant in the 23rd Indiana during the Civil War. He enrolled at the age of 25 on 8 July 1861 and was discharged 25 August 1864. He was taken prisoner at Raymond, Mississippi on 12 May 1863 and was confined at Richmond, Virginia. He was sent to Macon, Georgia and released 30 April 1864. He never married. He went to New Mexico to work on the railroad, where he was "killed by Mexicans" 14 November 1876 at Ocate, Mora County.

Sources:

Family Group Sheet of Nadine Maerk; 1997.

The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p. 63.



Joshua Wise Custer

10/94 ( file Paulus.1.1.5.2.6.5) Paulus 1-1 disk\5\2-6-5

Noble Victor Custer was born 26 December 1838 in Clark County, Indiana, son of Joshua W and Olive (Smith) Custer. Noble married Mary Elizabeth Ferguson 31 August 1859 in Scott County, Indiana. Mary was born 18 April 1840 in Indiana. They were living in Clark County, Indiana in 1860. Nobel served in the 144th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. After the war the family spent two years in Indiana before moving to Carrol County, Missouri, where they lived for two years. In 1872, they lived in Howard County, Kansas -- at that time they bought 160 acres of land for \$203.33. They were living in Chautauqua County, Kansas in 1880 and 1900. Noble died 25 Novmeber 1927 in Chautauqua County, Kansas. Mary died 11 June 1915 in Chautauqua County, Kansas. They are both buried in Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, Kansas.

#### Their children:

1. Sara Dell Custer born 7 September 1860 Clark County, IN; married Josiah Roberts 28 July 1878

Chautauqua County, KS; died 2 November 1879, buried Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

1. Laura Alice Custer born 4 December 1862 Clark County, IN; married John Closson 13 April 1884 Chautauqua County, KS.

2. William Tecumseh Custer born 24 July 1865 Clark County, IN; married Rosa S. McDonald 21 May 1889 Chautauqua County, KS; moved to OR.

3. Noble Emerson Custer born 9 January 1868 IN; died 10 September 1886, buried Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

4. Frank Pichar Custer born 20 March 1870 MO; married Jane Hager 8 August 1893 Chautauqua County, KS; died 1920 Chautauqua County, KS.

5. Olive Elizabeth Custer born 30 October 1872 KS; married Albert J. Closson 4 Janaury 1890 Chautauqua County, KS.

6. Alonzo C. Custer born 19 July 1875 KS; died 2 June 1883, buried Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

7. Charles E. Custer born about 1876 KS.

8. Minnie W. Custer born 17 April 1879 KS.

#### Sources:

The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p.151.  
Bennett, Charlotte; Chautauqua County, Kansas Marriages, Books A-D; p. 16, 30, 44, 46.  
Bennett, Charlotte; Chautauqua County, Kansas Marriages, Books E-H; p. 4.  
look up 1860 census Indiana, Clark Co, Oregon Twp, p 252  
Noble V Custer

1880 census Kansas, Chautuaqua Co, ED 77, p 15:

Noble V Custer	42	Ind
Mary E "	41 wife	"
Laura E "	17 dau	"
William T "	14 son	"
Emerson N "	12 son	"
Frank R "	10 son	Mo
Ollive E "	9 dau	Ks
Charles E "	5 son	"
Minnie "	1 dau	"
Dora M Roberts	1 SD	"



Harry E Custer 10/12 grandson "  
1900 census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Belleville Twp, ED 1, p  
5

Noble V Custer	Dec 1838	Ind
Mary E "	Apr 1840 wife	"
Harry "	Jul 1879 grandson	Ks

1910 census Kansas, Chautauqua County, Bellville Twp; p. 15A  
10/10

Custer, Noble	71 IN VA IN	md1 50
Mary E.	70 IN IN IN	md1 50 8/4

1920 census Kansas, Chautauqua County, Peru.  
109/118

Custer, Noble V.	81 IN VA IN	wd
Closon, Laura A.	57 IN IN --	wd

5/97 Paulus 1-1\5\2-6-7

Elisha Dow Custer was born 23 December 1840 in Indiana, the son of Joshua Wells and Olive (Dow) Custer. During the Civil War he served in the 23rd Indiana Infantry. He mustered in at New Albany, Indiana as a private 27 July 1861. After the Civil War Dow studied medicine at the University of Kentucky at Louisville. From 1866 to 1869 he was in the lumber business and "reading medicine" in Yazoo City, Mississippi and Charlestown, Indiana. He married Pauline Lutz 11 April 1871 in Clark County, Indiana. Pauline was born in January 1843 in Indiana. In 1871 he traveled in Kansas, trading at different points. He settled in Peru, Howard County (now Chautauqua County), Kansas, where he practiced medicine and pharmacy until 1874. He also owned a saw mill. In 1874 and 1875 he traveled extensively in Washington Territory, Colorado, Utah Territory, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana. From 1875 to 1878 he lived in Hutsonville, Crawford County, Illinois. From 1878 to 1881 he lived in Marshall, Clark County, Illinois. In 1881 and 1882 he lived in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana and Columbus, Bartholomew County, Indiana. By 1886 he was living near Peru, Chautauqua County, Kansas. Dow died in Indiana 29 March 1888 in Chautauqua County, Kansas. Pauline died 16 April 1918 at Columbus, Bartholomew County, Indiana.

If one wonders why Dow lived so many places during his life, the following from an Elk County, Kansas history may explain:

The Boston War was the most dramatic thing that happened in Howard County (Howard County was composed of what is now Elk and Chautauqua Counties). In 1874 the county seat was determined to be Elk Falls, which changed it from Peru. The people of Boston, Kansas claimed that they had won the fight for the county seat, and literally arrived and hauled off the records, furniture and county property to Boston. About this time, E. D. Custer, the County Treasurer, who was a Peru man, was building his own little private empire at the expense of the county tax-payer. He was using the money to finance his cattle herd. When the scandal broke, Custer maintained that he was not guilty and that it was the Bostonians who had taken \$25,000 from his office during the raid. However, his story was proven untrue and he was arrested. But some of his good county official friends helped him slip away.

Although \$2,000 was offered for his return, he was never brought back.

Their child:

1. Clarence E. Custer born 19 March 1878 Hutsonville, Crawford County, IL; married Inez R. (surname unknown); living Bartholomew County, IN 1920; died after November 1935.

Sources:

Letter written by Clarence Custer to William Tecumseh Custer in November 1935.  
Family Group Sheet and letter- Nadine Maerk; 1997  
Paid research of Anita Sickmon, Cheney, KS; 1994  
Elk County, A Narrative History of Elk County and its People (1979); The Elk County Historical Society; p. 15.  
The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p. 63, 151.  
1900 census Bartholomew County, ED6; p.11.  
Pauline Custer Jan 1843 IN NC NC  
Clarence E. Mar 1878 IN IN IN newspaper reporter

5/97 ( file Paulus.1.1.5.2.6.8) Paulus 1-1 disk\5\2-6-8

Jasper Newton Custer was born 19 March 1843 in Clark County, Indiana, son of Joshua W and Olive (Dow) Custer. Jasper served in Company E, 54th Regiment of Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. Jasper married Hester A. Murrah 10 September 1863 in Clark County, Indiana. Hester was born 5 July 1844 in Clark County, Indiana, the daughter of Robert and Matilda (Carrol) Murrah. Jasper was a farmer.

About 1865, they moved to Missouri, but they didn't like it and moved back to Indiana. In 1870 and 1874 they were living in Clark County, Indiana. In 1876 they left Indiana and went back to Missouri, but finally settled in Washington Township of Chautauqua County, Kansas. They had a farm outside of Peru, Chautauqua County, Kansas, and also did farming in the Indian Nation (Oklahoma). In later years they moved to Sedan, Chautauqua County, Kansas. Hester died 16 July 1925 at Sedan, Chautauqua County, Kansas. Jasper died 13 February 1927 at Sedan, Chautauqua County, Kansas. They are both buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Chautauqua County, Kansas.



Jasper Newton Custer

#### Their children:

1. Perry Franklin Custer born 1 May 1864 MO; died November 1865 MO.
2. Robert Wels Custer born 23 December 1865 near St. Joseph, MO; married Nancy Anna Fagg 1 November 1889 Chautauqua County, KS; died 8 June 1951 KS, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.
3. Pinkney Hershall Custer born 14 November 1867

IN; died 21 December 1882 Chautauqua County, KS, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

4. Martha Pauline "Lena" Custer born 19 July/December 1869; married George Jackson Colley 21 March 1904; died 25 October 1933 Sedan, Chatauqua County, KS.

5. Charles Edward Custer born 29 January 1871 Marysville, IN; married Mamie Furnish Ockes 25 December 1902; married Jane (Hager) Custer; died 16 March 1931 Sedan, Chautauqua County, KS (1-1-5-2-6-5); died 1931, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

6. George Benton Custer born 26 February 1872 IN; died 28 August 1872 IN.

7. Allen Wilson Custer born 19 May 1876; married Gertrude May Smart 17 April 1898 Chautauqua County, KS; married Lorena (a widow, surname unknown), divorced; died 9 November 1932, Longview, TX; buried Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.



Allen Wilson Custer

8. Arthur Ernest. Custer born 10 June 1887; died 13 September 1888, buried Peru Cemetery, Chautauqua County, KS.

# Sources:

Family Group Sheet - Nadine Maerk; 1997

The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas; 1992; p. 150-1.

1870 census Indiana, Clark Co, Oregon Twp, p 22/545, #153

Jasper N Custer	26 farmer	Ind
Hester "	26	"
Robert W "	4	"
Pinkney A "	2	"
Martha T "	1	"

1880 census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, ED 77, p 14

Jasper N Custer	37	Ind
Hester A "	35 wife	"
Robert "	14 son	Mo
P H "	12 son	Ind
Pauline M "	10 dau	"
Charles "	9 son	"
Allen W "	4 son	"

1900 census Kansas, Chautauqua Co, Washington Twp, ED 13, p 7

Jasper Custer	Nov 1843	Ohio
Hesster A "	Jul 1845	wife Ind
Charles E "	Jan 1871	son "
Luva "	Dec 1869	dau Ohio

1910 Census Kansas, Chautauqua Co., Sedan City; p. 13A. 233/235

Custer, J. N.	67 IN UK CT	md 47
Hester A.	65 IN OH IN	md 47 8/4

5/97

Paulus 1-1 disk\5\2-6-10

Alonzo Sharon Custer was born about 1849 in Clark County, Indiana, the son of Joshua Wells and Olive (Dow) Custer. Sharon was living in Elk Falls, Howard County, Kansas in 1874. He married Henrietta Johnson about 1875. Henrietta was born about 1858 in Indiana. They lived in Marysville, Clark County, Indiana, where Sharon was a merchant. Sharon died in 1896. According to the family, he was known as Sheridan Custer. Perhaps the census taker didn't hear the correct name when he was taking the 1880 census, or perhaps, he simply changed his name. Further proof that his name was Sheridan is found in the following from an Elk County, Kansas newspaper:

## The Custer Incident

Sheridan Custer, 19 years old, was arrested and held for complicity after his brother E. D. Custer, the county treasurer, had "absconded" with the county funds. As there was no jail in Elk Falls, Sheridan was held in an upstairs room of the Sheriff's home. He was taken fresh water and books to read. "His imprisonment lasted forty days and the time hung

heavily on his hands. There was an extra bedstead stored in the room he occupied. It was the kind with slats. He must have been a boy of some education for he literally covered those slats with verses, quotations, sketches, and old songs; and sometimes wrote on the walls."

The historical significance of this incident is that E. D. and Sheridan Custer were both relatives of General George Armstrong Custer, the Indian fighter of Black Hills fame. Nothing was proven against Sheridan Custer, and the fate of E. D. Custer has not come to light, but his antics as county treasurer were mentioned in the January 29, 1914 issue of the Howard Courant.

## Their children:

1. Rosa M. Custer born 1877 IN; married Mr. Armstrong; lived Geneva, IL.

2. Pearly P. Custer born 1879 IN.

## Sources:

Family Group Sheet - Nadine Maerk; 1997

Paid research by Anita Sickmon, Cheney, KS; 1994

Elk County, A Narrative History of Elk County and its People; (1979) Elk County Historical Society; p. 66.

1880 census Oregon Twp., Town of Marysville, Clark County, IN; p. 15.

Sharon Custer 29 IN VA CT merchant

Henrietaa 22 IN VA KY

Rosa M. 3 IN IN IN

Pearly P. 1 IN IN IN

## Conrad Custer's Deed to His Grandson

The following is a copy of the deed outlining Conrad Custer's instructions for his farm upon his death. Remember that this is not the original deed as deeds were copied into books at the courthouse. Under Virginia law at that time (1772), upon death all property was left to the oldest son. This is the law of primogeniture, and was in force to keep land from being divided up into small pieces..

This particular deed is from Augusta County, Virginia (Rockingham County was split off from this county in 1774) Deed Book 20, p. 317 found on Family History Library (Salt Lake City) microfilm # 0030350.

34  
Sub. to Coll  
Sett. Smith  
A. (rent)  
1771

# This Indenture

made the twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy one  
Between Leonard Custard eldest son and heir at law of Samuel  
Custard deceased who was the eldest son and heir at law of James  
Custard lately deceased all of the County of Augusta & Colony of  
Virginia and Elizabeth his wife of the one part and I Paul  
Custard of the same County & Colony of the other, Part  
Whereas Leonard Custard the elder in his life time had the  
line of his death was seized in his demesne and fee of and in  
one certain Tract of Land situate lying & being in the North  
Branch of Shamokin beyond the Gap of the Mountain  
called Bracks Gap in the County of Augusta & being  
so thereof seized died Intestate whereby the Intention of his  
last decedent to Leonard Custard the Younger as he at  
Law to his Grand Father Leonard Custard the Elder being  
eldest son of Samuel Custard who was the eldest son and heir  
at Law of the said Leonard the Elder who also died Intestate in the  
life time of his Father Leonard Custard the Elder and the said  
Leonard Custard the Elder having by Words expressed  
a devise on his death that his Land above mentioned  
should be sold and the money arising by the sale should  
be divided among his Children as their Representatives the  
said Leonard the Younger being willing to fulfill the  
Intention of his said Grand Father the said Leonard was not  
reduced into Writing or Record by the testimony of Witnesses  
as the Law directs for the Establishment of Noncompetitive  
Wills both freely and Voluntarily consented to the sale of the  
said land for the purposes aforesaid. Now this Indenture  
Witnesseth that the said Leonard Custard and Elizabeth  
his wife for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred  
and <sup>four</sup> pounds current money of Virginia to  
him in hand paid by the said Paul Custard at or before the  
sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is  
hereby acknowledged hath granted bargained sold aliened  
and confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain  
sell alien and confirm unto the said Paul Custard all the  
said tract or parcel of Land above mentioned to him his  
heirs & assigns having more particularly described and  
bounded as followeth to wit Beginning at a fork

Maple. near a white oak thence north sixty four degrees  
west eighty fathoms to four white oaks south eighteen degrees  
west two hundred and sixty fathoms to a Spanish oak & a very  
red black oak on a ridge near the below. Lick south  
sixty four degrees west one hundred and twenty one fathoms to  
to a poplar north fifty eight degrees east twelve fathoms  
near a white oak on the river. Thence up the river to the  
Beginning containing one hundred sixty acres  
conveyed from Joseph Dickson to Thomas Connor Custard  
the Elder by deed of land and release dated the xij and  
xjij day of November M D C C Lij duly recorded in the  
County Court of Augusta and all houses buildings outhouses  
ways roads water water courses profits commons and  
hereditaments and whatever else what is now to Thomas  
Connor is hereby conveyed and sold or to any part or  
part of them belonging or in any wise appertaining  
and the reversions with numerous remainder and  
remainders with issues and profits thereof also all  
the estate right title interest use trust property claim  
and demand whatsoever of them Thomas Connor Custard  
and Elizabeth his wife of in and to the said Thomas Connor  
Custard and his heirs and assigns touching or in any wise  
concerning the same To have and to hold the said  
one hundred and sixty acres of land with all and singular  
other the premises hereby conveyed and sold and every  
part and parcel thereof with their appurtenances  
appertaining unto Thomas Paul Custard his heirs  
and assigns to the only proper use & behoof of him the  
said Paul Custard and of his heirs and assigns forever & the  
said Connor Custard for himself his heirs Executors and  
Administrators doth hereunto grant license to the said  
Thomas Paul Custard his heirs and assigns by these  
present that the said Connor Custard now at the  
time of writing and delivering of these presents is  
single of age sound perfect and of full legal age of  
Inheritance in full possession and in the premises hereby  
conveyed and sold and that the said hath good power  
and absolute Authority to grant & convey the same  
to the said Thomas Paul Custard his heirs and assigns  
and for as much as that the said Thomas Connor Custard doth for



and hereafter shall remain and before Whosoever shall come will  
 forms and other little grants bargains sales done or right killing  
 done Judgments Executions little trouble Charges & Troubles  
 who have or may do or commit or suffer by these and  
 Gustave and Elizabeth his wife (the Justices hereafter to grow  
 and payable to our Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and  
 successors for and in respect of these fees was only accepted &  
 forgiven.) And I certify that the said Conrad Gustave &  
 his heirs all and singular the Mesnees hereby bargained sold  
 with their appurtenances unto the said Paul Gustave & his heirs  
 and assigns against them the said Conrad Gustave & Elizabeth  
 his wife and their heirs against all every other person or  
 persons whatsoever shall and will warrant or defend by  
 these presents and further that he the said Conrad Gustave &  
 his heirs shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter  
 on the reasonable request and at the proper Costs & Charges in  
 the law of him the said Paul Gustave his heirs & assigns make  
 do and execute or cause to be made done & executed  
 all and sundry such for them and their lawful & reasonable Grants  
 acts Conveyances and Observances in the law whatsoever for the  
 better better and more perfect granting of giving & convey-  
 ing all & singular the said tract of land and premises with  
 the appurtenances unto the said Paul Gustave his heirs and  
 assigns as by the said Paul Gustave his heirs or assigns his or  
 their Councils viewed in the law shall be reasonably desired  
 advised or required In Witness whereof the said Conrad Gustave  
 and Elizabeth his wife hath hereunto set their hands & seals the  
 day & year first above written  
 signed & sealed & delivered  
 in the presence of

Conrad Gustave  
 Elizabeth his wife  
 man



At a Court held for Augusta County August 1st 1774  
 Conrad Gustave and Elizabeth his wife the being first  
 personally examined Acknowledged that they did  
 bargain & sell to Paul Gustave what is ordered to be  
 Recorded  
 Test R. Masson D.C.



## Back Issues of *The News-Caster*

by Bernie Clark

### Start Planning Now!!

Start planning now for researching at the world famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City before or after the association reunion next June.

To get the most out of a research trip to the library and optimize your time, you need to start making your "shopping list" now. Just as you make a list of the items you need at the grocery store, you need to write down what problems you hope to solve and what information you hope to find at the library.

Items can be listed such as — Deeds of Conrad Custer; Augusta County, VA. Of course, in this case you would need the entry — Grantor-Grantee Index Augusta County, VA— to begin the search.

After you have made your list, locate the nearest Family History Center near your home and look up the call numbers of the books and microfilms that you would like to look at while in Salt Lake City. Why waste time looking up call numbers while you are in Salt Lake City, when you could spend that time doing the research?

Plan ahead; it will save you a lot of time!

*THE NEWS-CASTER* back issues are available for \$2 each including first class postage. Send a check to the **Treasurer** and indicate which issues you want. Joe Lacy, our Treasurer, now sends me E-mail as soon as he receives your check, in order to save time. Some of the articles update information found in the 1991 book *The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters*. Especially good in this regard are the March 1992, September 1992 December 1993, December 1995 and December 1996 issues. Here is a list of the more interesting genealogy articles since 1990:

#### MARCH 1990:

Keister Families of Pennsylvania, 7 pages  
President Bush honors Edward Castor  
Benjamin, Eston & George Kester Family  
Finding Illinois Land Records

#### JUNE 1990:

Franz Frederick Kuester 3 generations  
Milo Custer 1880-1952  
Military Pension List 1861-1916, 4+ pages

#### SEPT 1990:

Highlights of the Brown Co. Indiana Reunion  
Edward Castor 1789-1841

#### DEC 1990:

Deed Records- Springfield, Illinois  
Marriage Records 1781-1906 Berkley Co. WV  
✓ Arnold Custard/Castor, VA to PA to OH  
How to Research in Ohio

#### JUNE 1991:

Will of Mary "Polly" Custard 1822 Philadelphia

#### SEPT 1991:

Custers Buried in Archer Twp. Harrison Co. OH  
Searching the Court House

#### DEC 1991:

The Westward Expansion, John Caster of Cabarrus Co. NC and his line of descent, fourth generation descendant of Hieni Gerster

**MARCH 1992:**

Family Origins including Paulus & Gertrude  
Latin Terminology for the Genealogist  
Conrad Kuster in Bucks Co. PA with maps  
(ca 1695-1772) son of Arnold

**JUNE 1992:**

Custer Land in Montgomery Co. PA  
Computers and Genealogists

**SEPT 1992:**

Highlights of Irving, TX Reunion  
Mid Atlantic German Society  
Arnold Custer/Custard's Land in Brock's Gap

**DEC 1992:**

Lending Library Book List

**MARCH 1993:**

Kister Court Records in Central PA

**JUNE 1993:**

Sampson VS Paul Lawsuit 1839-1847 Sons of  
Benjamin Custard/Castor (c1741-1867)  
Ira Caster NY Composer, son of John Castorer

**SEPT 1993:**

Thomas Custer, Brother of George A. Custer  
George Armstrong Custer Biography 2 pages  
New Information: John Kester of Union Co. PA

**DEC 1993:**

✓ Kester Burials in Darke Co. OH Cemeteries  
Missing Daughter of Arnold and Bridget Custer

**JUNE 1994:**

William Custer of Virginia (c1730-c1786), 6 pp.  
A Voice From Germany: Guido Kuesters

**SEPT 1994:**

Highlights of Columbus OH Reunion  
Ludwig and George Philip Kuster Arrived 1752  
Philadelphia on the Ship Neptune. 6 pages  
Tips on German Genealogical Research

**DEC 1994:**

Daniel Custard (c1755-1839) An English Family  
Hoggs Fort at Brocks Gap, VA

Index to Military Pensions

Northampton Co. PA Tax Records

**JUNE 1995:**

Castor Lending Library List 8 pages  
Update on Ludwig Kister (1688-1747)  
Kesters & Custers Involved in the Slavery Issue

**SEPT 1995:**

Highway to Harrisonburg VA  
Church Records of Berlin, Somerset Co. PA  
Paul Kester of Solebury Twp. Bucks Co. PA  
Frederick Custer (1773-1841)

✓ Conrad Kester son of Nicholas (c1785-1838)  
Update on Daniel Custard-- An English Family  
Custers Killed at Battle of the Little Big Horn

**DEC 1995:**

✓ Brock's Gap, Rockingham Co. VA  
✓ Conrad, Grandson of Conrad Custer/Custard 7 pages  
John M. "Jack" Kester: Roller Coaster Designer

**JUNE 1996:**

Virginia Families (Continued from March Issue)  
Obituary of Sampson L. Castor 21 Feb 1904

**SEPT 1996:**

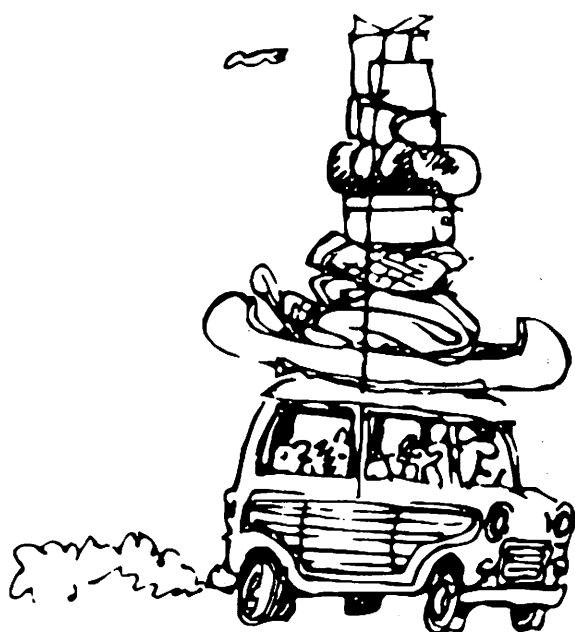
Highlights of Brock's Gap VA Reunion  
Henry B. Keister of Union Co., PA (1774-1837)  
John Kister of Union Co., PA (c1767-1826), 7 pages

**DEC 1996:**

Ancestry of General George Armstrong Custer  
Peter Kister/Keister (1762-1833)  
Lending Library Book & Video Tape List, 8+ pages.

The News-Caster has been published four times a year since 1983, but many issues are depleted. Still available are July, Oct. and Dec. 1983; Mar, July and Dec. 1984; Sept. and Dec. 1985; June and Sept. 1987; all issues from June 1988 thru 1989. The available issues from 1990 on are listed above.

In addition to the genealogical highlights listed, each issue contains information on Association Business, New Members and Address Changes, Queries, Association Archives, and Obituaries.



**8<sup>th</sup>  
National  
Castor Association  
Of America  
Reunion**

**Make Your Plans Now!**

**21 June - 23 June 1998**

**Airport Hilton**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

**The Airport Hilton is only 3 minutes from the Salt Lake City airport via a complimentary Hilton shuttle. The Family History Library is 10 minutes away. For those not interested in searching dead ancestors, the hotel has an 8 acre lake, walking and jogging trails, dock and paddle boats, a sports court, putting green, indoor/outdoor pool, hot tub/spa and a fitness center. Call 1-800-999-3736 now to reserve your room at the special Castor Reunion rate of \$68 per night. This rate will be extended to reunion guests who come before or stay after the reunion.**

## More Evidence in the Tobias Custer Case

Recently, we received a copy of page 394 from *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia for Cambria County, Pennsylvania* in which there is a write up on Jonathan Custer. Jonathan Custer was the son of Frederick and Sophia (Fisher) Custer, and Frederick was the son of John Custer. The article clearly states that Frederick Custer was born in Maryland and that his father, John Custer, was also a native of Maryland. If this John Custer (present designation Tobias disk\3-2) were the grandson of Tobias, he should have been born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, not Maryland.

### Manheim Lutheran Church Lancaster County, PA

The following records are taken from Volume 1 of *Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Church Records of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* by F. Edward Wright.

#### Communion/Confirmations 28 June 1771

Georg Küster  
Elisabeth Küster

#### Baptisms

David of Matth. Kesster and Eva; b. 11 Aug 1781; bapt. 23 Sept. 1781; spon. Nich. Stier and wife Catharina.

David of Henry Kustor and Maria Eva; b. 3 Feb 1768; bapt. 22 Aug 1768; spon. David Rabach and Eva.

Elizabeth of Heinrich Castor and Elizabeth; b. 1772; spon. Peter Brehm and wife Margareth.

Peter of Heinrich Küster and Elisabetha; b. 15 May 1774; bapt. 29 May 1774; spon. Peter Brehm and wife Margaretha.

Michael of Hinerich Kuster and Elisabetha; b. 29 Jan 1776; bapt. 16 March 1777; spon. Mich. Irskramiller [?] and Elis. Baltesssberger.

## DeCastorer

Book to Be Published by  
The Castor Association of America

Send all information to :  
Bruce R. Black, Editor  
355 Maple St. #117  
Burbank CA 91505

Looking for all materials & documentation pertaining to John DeCastorer [1748 - 1835], his wife Anna Calkins [1746 -1833] and the descendants of his nine children:

John Castor [1771-1865]

Christopher Caster [1774-1840]

Cynthia (Castor) Spink [1776-1812]

Ezra Caster [1778-1858]

Asa Castor [1781-1781]

Rufus Caster [1782-1862/5]

Rodolphus Csstor [1784-1864]

Ira Castor [1787-1866]

Harvey Castor [1791-1812]

No date set for publication  
Last known publication was by  
Henry Jean Castor in 1910



Uriah and Mary E. (Rockey) Kiester

### Uriah Kiester (1827-1910)

Merill J. Kiester of San Diego, CA has sent us additional information, along with a photo of his great grandparents.

5/97(file George Kester.4.2.3) George disk \kester\4-2-3

Uriah Kiester was born 25 September 1827 in Pennsylvania, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Kester. Uriah moved to Illinois about 1848. Uriah married Mary E. Rocky 24 February 1855. Mary was born about 1836 in Pennsylvania. They lived in Stephenson County, Illinois where he was a farmer. After his marriage he rented the "Shous" farm until he saved enough to buy a farm of 110 acres from Ezra B. Gillett in 1867. Uriah and Mary belonged to the United Brethren Church. Uriah was a member of the Whig party. Mary died in 1894. Uriah retired and sold the

farm in 1906. He moved in with his son, William. Uriah died 6 May 1910 in Fairbault County, Minnesota.

Their children:

1. William F. Keister born 17 February 1859 Stephenson County, IL; lived Monroe, WI.
2. John W. Keister born 6 September 1860 Stephenson County, IL; married Nellie May Nichols 1890 Garden Prairie, IL; principal of Garden Prairie, IL schools.
3. Quincy E. Keister born about 1863; lived Trosky, MN.
4. Sarah Cordella Keister born about 1866; married Ira Gates; lived Winnabego, MN..
5. Martha Jennie Keister born about 1870; married Mr. Matter; died before 1910.

Sources:

Estate papers of Uriah; Fairbault County, MN.  
Portrait and Biographical Album Stephenson County, Ill.; (1888) Chicago; p. 762, 730.  
Cadwell, George Isaac; History of Eldorado (School).  
1880 census Illinois, Stephenson Co, ED 181, p 17

Uriah Kiester	52	Pa
Mary E "	44 wife	"
William F "	21 son	"
John "	19 son	"
Quincy "	17 son	"
Sarah C "	14 dau	"
Martha J "	10 dau	"

Custer, Kentucky -- Located in the southeast portion of Breckinridge County at the junction of Hwys 86 and 690. It was originally call Crossroads, but was named Custer in 1876 in honor of Gen. George A. Custer. There are three churches, a post office and one store in the town.

[contributed by Terry O'Connor]

## Meet Your New Vice President

### President's Corner

by Pat Ritchie

It is with regret that I announce the resignations of Trustee Lois E. Castor and Vice President JoAnn L. Kester. Lois has been a Trustee for two years. As part of the Trustee function, she attended the bi-annual Trustee meetings and helped to establish the long-range policy for the Association which is carried out by the officers. A search is underway for a trustee to fill Lois's unexpired term.

JoAnn has been Vice President for seven years; during two of those years her husband Jack also served as President of the Association. As Vice President, JoAnn has maintained the Association's database of memberships which is used for the Directory and to keep track of members' interests and volunteer activities. During her term in office, the Association accomplished two major projects: the genealogy files were translated from Apple to IBM format and the Paulus Kusters book was published. The Association welcomes John T. Custer of Novelty, OH as the new Vice President to fill JoAnn's unexpired term.

Since the last newsletter, sixteen new members have joined the Castor Association for a total of 377 members. Remember to mention the Castor Association to all your interested relatives and your correspondents. Publication Manager Bernie Clark reports that there are 456 available copies of the Paulus and Gertrude Kusters book. If you are in the Paulus family, add the book to your holiday gift-giving lists!

Dear fellow association members:

As the incoming Vice President of the association I have been asked to introduce myself and provide a brief biography. Strangely enough, I have been affiliated with the association for only a few years, and have yet to meet any of you personally. That I was asked to become an officer and participate in the operation of the association was, perhaps, a bigger surprise to me than to many of you. I look forward to this opportunity and, most importantly, to the chance to meet and correspond with a great many of you.

My interest in genealogy began with the reading of research put together by my great-grandfather, Edwin Goodwin, in the 1920's - 30's. That data, though not in complete agreement with that put together by the association, provided fascinating reading. My interest since that time has been directed more toward understanding the forces that shaped the lives of my direct ancestors and brought the family from Paulus Kusters' immigration to my birth in Pittsfield, MA (1958).

Clearly, what I "bring to the table" for the Castor Association lies not in my genealogical research skills or my exhaustive knowledge of the many Kusters descendants, but rather in my facility with computer operations -- database management, number crunching, e-mailings, etc. My educational background (BSBA/Finance, Bryant College & MBA/Finance, Case Western Reserve University) should serve well for keeping track of the many members and your needs.

Finally, I must tip my hat to the outgoing association VP, JoAnn Kester. JoAnn, the assistance you have provided to date has been great. By all accounts I will have a very difficult time filling your shoes. Be prepared to make me look good for quite some time!

Looking forward to becoming acquainted with you all and participating in the operation of the association, I am...

John T. Custer  
c/o Morningstar Custom Homes  
29425 Chagrin Blvd. #201  
Pepper Pike, OH 44122  
216/464-0606 (Work)  
jtc@mail.iagnet.net

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Sugar as long as he may think proper but he  
is not to sell or convey said privilege to any other  
person. Lastly I appoint my three son Ambrick  
Leonard and Miles, my three Executors, to this  
will, this Testament Nov: 9<sup>th</sup> 1828

Witness }  
John Swanson  
John Dodge

Leonard Haster

A Court began and held for Hardin  
County at the court house in Colby, at the town  
on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1829.

The foregoing instrument of writing purporting to be  
the last will and Testament of Leonard Haster  
deceased was produced in court and sworn by  
the oaths of John Swanson & John Dodge the  
two subscribing witnesses thereto, who made oath  
that the said Leonard Haster signed acknowledged and  
published the same as his last will and Testament  
and that they believed he was in his perfect  
mind and memory at the time of doing the  
same and that they subscribed their names  
thereto as witnesses of his presence and in the  
presence of each other, ordered that the said  
will be established and recorded. W. Swanson.  
I have truly recorded the same this 11<sup>th</sup> day  
of March 1829.

Attest  
Saml Hayscraft Clerk.

Mentioned and bequeathed to my other children,  
Elizabeth will and bequeathed to my wife Anne  
and my son Thomas my wagon, gear and  
blacksmith, tools in the same manner  
that I have bequeathed to them my household  
kitchen furniture

Fourthly, I will and bequeath that at the  
Death of my wife and son Thomas that my three  
Daughters shall have Thirty Dollars worth of house  
hold furniture, (viz) my eldest daughter Elizabeth  
McDonaw shall have Twenty Dollars my second  
daughter Mary Ann Hughes Ten Dollars and  
third daughter Anna McLean five Dollars  
all of which is to be paid immediately in the  
Settling of my wife Anna and son Thomas, I fully  
trusting they have nearly as much family dear and  
beloved son Isaac as I feel able to do I will  
bequeath that he shall have property to the  
amount of Three Dollars at the Death of my  
wife and son Thomas,

Fifthly, I will and bequeath that my second son  
Nathan shall have one Hundred acres of land  
from a tract of mine consisting of 275 acres lying  
on the West of the road leading from Wagonville  
the mouth of the Rolling Fork adjoining the tract  
on which I now live - said one hundred  
acres is to include the house and  
improvements I now said situated on now  
lives, to have and to hold the same from  
immediately after my death, I likewise gives him  
the privilege of making sugar at the capison hole  
place where I now live at which he has been  
in the practice of making sugar for some years  
he is to have the privilege of continuing to make

I Oronod Hector Esq. of Herdin County Ky.  
 having through the kind means of God lived to a very  
 old age, and knowing from the course of nature and  
 my present feelings, that this, and perhaps a few  
 more days, and I shall be numbered among the  
 children of this earth do make and publish this as my  
 last and only will or Testament, Item 1<sup>st</sup>  
 I will and bequeath my immortal soul to Him  
 who gave it to me and my body to its mother  
 earth, Item 2<sup>nd</sup> That all my debts shall be  
 paid. They are few in number, and of small  
 amount. Item 3<sup>rd</sup> That Lands belonging to  
 me, by Deeds, bonds, or otherwise, together with all  
 improvements thereon, of which I am the owner  
 or possessor in law or equity, shall descend at the  
 death of my wife and afflicted son Thomas to my  
 three sons, Frederick, Leonard and Miles,  
 except such lands as may be hereafter bequeathed,  
 to my son Nathan Whindley. I will  
 and bequeath that the place on which I now  
 live, situated on the waters of Holston about  
 2 miles North-east of Hodgenville, containing  
 about two hundred Acres more or less, together with  
 all my live stock consisting of ~~horses~~  
 cows, sheep, and pigs, shall remain as they  
 are for the use and benefit of my wife and my  
 son Thomas until both of said persons shall be  
 dead. I like wife will to my said wife, Lina,  
 and my said son Thomas all of my household and  
 kitchen furniture, together with all of my farming  
 utensils of every kind of which I am now possessor.  
 and after their death said property is to descend to  
 my three sons Frederick Leonard and Miles,  
 Except such property as may be hereafter

## Conrad Castor of Hardin Co., KY

Gary Kester of New York City has sent us a copy of the will of Conrad Castor of Hardin County, KY. A copy of the will follows the write-up about Conrad and his family.

7/97  
disk\92\0

(file Paulus.1.1.9.2) Paulus 1-1

Conrad Castor/Kastor was born prior to 1765 in Pennsylvania, son of Isaac Custard/Castor. Conrad had a farm on a branch of Nolynn Creek known as Dutch Fork in Hardin County (now in LaRue County), Kentucky, southeast of Elizabethtown. Conrad was in this area prior to 1783. He and his family used nearby Phillips' Fort as protection against the Indians from time to time. Phillips' Fort was erected 1780 by Phillip Phillips, a surveyor. The fort was torn down 1786 as it was no longer needed by then. Conrad's name appears on tax lists as early as 1785.

A deed recorded by the Kentucky Court of Appeals on 6 August 1801 between Robert Johns and Jacob Larue recites, "...beginning southwest corner of Charles M Thurstons settlement, thence northwest and bounded by Conrad Custer's land..." There was an indenture between Philip Phillips and Susannah Phillips, his wife, and Conrad Kester recorded in Nelson County (Hardin County formed 1793 from Nelson), Kentucky.

Conrad served as ensign 13 June 1801 in the 3rd Regiment and was laid off 10 December 1804 from the 60th Regiment.

Conrad died between 9 November 1828 when he made his will and 2 February 1829 when it was proved in court. He is buried in Pioneer Phillips' Fort Cemetery (this cemetery is located about 1/4 mile north of site of Phillips' Fort). His widow, Sina, died between 1840-1850.

### Children of Conrad and Sina:

1. Isaac Kaster/Caster born about 1788 in KY; married Jane Percefull 16 July 1811, married Amy Miller 26 June 1843 Montgomery County, IN; died 12 March 1875.

2. Elizabeth Kastor born about 1797 KY; married Benjamin Wildman 20 January 1813.

3. Nathan Kastor born 1792 KY; married Nancy Gray 20 February 1814; married Mrs Leah Gray 1854; died 6 May 1865 Adair County, MO.

4. Frederick Kastor born about 1796 KY; married Elizabeth Cann/Conn 4 December 1820.

5. Kitty Ann Kaster born 1801 KY; married Isaac Hughs 21 or 24 January 1817 or 1823; died 1 October 1833, buried Pioneer Phillips' Fort Cemetery, LaRue County, KY.

6. Conrad Kastor born about 1802 KY; married Ellen Coy 28 March 1829.

7. Sina Kaster born about 1805 KY; married Eli McCandles 11 November 1828; died before 1850.

8. Miles Kastor born about 1805 KY; married Sarah Payton 23 February 1830.

9. Thomas Kastor born 1810-1820 KY; died 1831, buried at Pioneer Phillips' Fort Cemetery, LaRue County, KY.

### Sources:

Will of Conrad Castor; Hardin County, KY Will Book D; p. 138.

Cook, Bettie Cummings Cook; Nelson County, KY Records; Vol 1 & 2; p. 165.

The "Cornstalk" Militia of Kentucky 1792-1811; p 96.

McClure, Daniel E., jr.; Two Centuries in Elizabethtown & Hardin County, Ky 1776-1976 (1979); page 212.

Stancliff, Mary Harrell; Marriage Bonds of Hardin County, Ky 1792-1812(1964), page 38.

Stancliff, Mary Harrell; Marriage Bonds of Hardin County, Ky 1813-1822(1968), page 35.

Mather, O. M.; The Mather Papers; pages 2, 3 & 39.

International Genealogical Index

Tax lists of 1785, 1787, 1788; The Nelson County Pioneer.

1800 tax list Ky, Hardin County -- Conrad Custer

1810 census Ky, Hardin Co, p 287

Conrad Caster

1M 45+ 1F 45+

3M 16-26 1F 26-45

3M -10 1F 10-16

2F -10

1820 census Ky, Hardin Co, Little York Twp, p 20

Conrad Castor

1M 45+ 1F 45+

1M 16-26 1F 16-26

1M 16-18 2F 10-16

1M 10-16

1M -10

## Publishing Tips

by Pat Ritchie

My genealogy friends often ask me what is involved in having a book printed. After publishing seven hardback books and about 25 soft-cover one for myself and for others, I've developed some guidelines for potential authors to consider. Here are some comparisons if you are thinking about publishing.

**Self-Publish or Use a Publisher.** Most genealogies appeal to a narrow audience, and publishers are reluctant to foot the bill for a small profit book. If you have a genealogy to print, you will probably self-publish, or pay for the printing yourself.

If your book is a general interest book, such as marriages, will abstracts, or census records for a county, a publisher may be interested. Publishers pay to have the book printed, retain the copyright, market and sell the book, and give you royalties for each copy sold. Usually the author will receive some free copies at publication time, a percentage of the book sales (royalties), and the ability to purchase more copies at a discount price. Some publishers specialize in a certain topic, such as Civil War-related books, and if your topic matches their interest, you have a better chance of having them publish your work. For the rest of this article, we will assume you are going to self-publish.

**Hardback or Soft Cover.** Up-front costs and storage are the considerations here. For a hardback book, you have to order and pay for a specific quantity such as 500 copies. This can run into thousands of dollars depending on how many pages and photos and the size of the page. Then you have to store those heavy books in a dry place until they are sold. The advantages of hardback are a durable, professional-looking product, good reproduction of photographs, and a smaller cost per book than the next option.

To have a much smaller outlay of money up-front, have books copied at the local copy center and bound with plastic spiral GBC binding. A heavier paper like cardstock can be used for the front and back covers, or to make the covers even more durable, clear plastic pages can be used to protect the paper covers. The spiral bindings come in many sizes. The largest book I have printed this way has 350 pages copied front and back which means 175 sheets of paper. The major advantages to this type of soft cover is that you can have a small quantity like 20 copied at a time for an outlay of two hundred dollars or less. When those are sold, you can use the sales money to finance the next batch. Storage of twenty books is not the problem of storing 500 hardbacks. Disadvantages are that each book costs more per copy than a hardback, photos which are photocopied are not as good (unless you pay extra for "half-tones"), and the final product is not as durable.

**Printers.** Not all printers will print small quantities of hardback books. There are good printers who specialize in "small runs" of books, such as the Mennonite Press who printed *The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kusters*.

**Photographs.** Include as many as you can. Identify them well. The printer of a hardback book will turn them into "half-tones" during the printing process to make them look like regular photos in the book. In my last hardback book, each photo added about \$10 to the final cost of the project. The extra interest it adds to the book is well worth it.

In a soft-cover book that is photocopied, the photos will not be as sharp unless you pay extra to have them shot as half-tones. The half-tones will add cost to the initial batch of books you have copied, but then you keep them with your originals, and the next batches will not cost extra.

**Selling Price.** A rule of thumb is to sell the book for two times its cost. Some authors have told me they didn't want people to think they were "making money" off the book. Hogwash! Any genealogist knows book sales may cover the cost of the actual printing but will never come close to covering postage, gasoline, photo copying, and all the other research expenses. Make sure your book price is enough to get back the cost of the printing after half the books are sold.

**Postage & Shipping.** Before you advertise your book, find out how much padded envelopes cost and what book rate postage is for a book the size of yours. It will probably cost between \$4-5 for envelope & postage. Charge extra to cover this cost if you mail books.

**Sales Tax.** If your state charges sales tax, find out if you need to collect sales tax. If so, you will probably need a sales tax number and forms from your state sales tax office. My city insisted the first year that I was a business and needed a business license, too. The next year I was able to explain that it was just a genealogy book & not a for-profit one, and they didn't make me get a business license. Rules in your town may be different.

**Advertising.** As you gather information for your book, keep a list of everyone who expresses interest in having a copy. As soon as you determine your price & availability date, let those people know by phone, letter or postal post card (cheapest way - postcards from the Post Office are only 20 cents each, and that includes the stamp). Tell the Historical Societies in the areas your family lived. See if the local paper will do an article on the new book (smaller papers are usually interested in a feature article). Take out a small ad in the local paper. Ask your genealogy friends if they can tell their friends about the book. *The Genealogical Helper* will write a review about your book if you send them a complimentary copy. (Then be prepared for historical societies to ask you for free copies). There are other printing options available, but this summary may be enough to help a beginning author take the plunge into the printing business.



### The Mystery of Will Castor

New member Iola Homan has sent us a photograph of "Will Castor," which was identified by her mother. The photo is believed to be that of William L. Castor, son of Sampson and Mary Elizabeth (Whitehead) Castor, who apparently died quite young. He is not listed as a child in his father's obituary [see a copy of the obituary sent by Jack K. Castor in *The News-Caster*, Vol. XIV, #2; June 1996]. Iola is trying to link her ancestors to the Castors, and find out why this photo was among the family photos. She knows that her grandparents were neighbors to the Sampson Castors, but are they related in some way? Her grandparents are Hugh Isaac McReynolds who married Amanda Roland in 1882; Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Castor were the witnesses. Let us know if you have any additional information.

Sampson L Castor was born 2 September 1846 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania., son of Lewis Henry and Ellen (Mauck) Castor. Sampson married Mary Elizabeth Whitehead 21 February 1870 Aledo, Mercer County, Illinois. Mary Elizabeth was born in September 1850 in Pennsylvania. The family lived in Marston, Illinois for three years and then moved to Oakland, Iowa. In 1891 they moved to Neola, Iowa.

Sampson was a blacksmith in 1880. He kept a boardinghouse in 1900. Sampson died 21 February 1904 at Neola, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and is probably buried in the Belknap Cemetery, as he was on the board of directors. Mary Elizabeth died after 1904.

#### Children of Sampson and Elizabeth:

1. N. Lewis Castor born December 1870 in IL, married Pauline (surname unknown) about 1896; living Audubon, IA 1904
2. William L Castor born about 1871 in IL; ?died between 1880 and 1904.
3. Winifred Victoria Castor born about 1872 in IA; married D. F. Maxfield; living Council Bluffs, IA 1904.
4. Alma Castor born June 1877 in Iowa; married W. R. Campbell; living Neola, IA 1904.
5. "Frankie" Castor (female) born June 1881 in Iowa; single and living at home 1904.

#### Sources:

Obituary of Sampson Lewis Castor

Letter Iola (Mrs R.E.) Homan to Bobbie McKenzie -- 9 June 1980

Letter Iola (Mrs. R. E.) Homan to Bobbie McKenzie - 1 July 1983

1880 census Iowa, Pottawattamie County, Belknap Twp, ED 185, sht 5

Samuel Castor	33 PA PA PA	blacksmith
Elizabeth	28 PA VA VA	
William L.	9 IL PA PA	
Winifred V.	8 IA PA PA	
Alma	2 IA PA PA	

1900 census Iowa, Pottawattamie County, Neola Town, ED 157, sht 18

Samuel L. Castor	Sep 1846 PA PA PA	boarding house keeper
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Libbie	Sep 1850 PA VA VA	
Elina	Jun 1877 IA PA PA	cook
Frankie	June 1881 IA PA PA	typesetter



532 Herman WIDER

533 Barbara KUSTER

B: ca 1660 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

534 Johannes WIDER

535 Mararet Kuster (may be a sister of Barbara #533)

B: 22 Nov 1659 Schmitter, SG, Switzerland

1038 Leonhart Custer

B: ca 1615 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

M: ca 1659 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

D: Switzerland

1039 Catharina Custer (NB: spouse of #1038)

B: ca 1635 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

Our association genealogical files are not on a genealogy program, such as we all use today. Our computer files were started in 1983 before such programs were developed. In 1991 the files were converted from Apple IIe format to ASCII. We now have over 6,000 families on these files, and searching for a particular name without a date and place is almost impossible. Please give as much information as possible when corresponding with the archives.

## Hannah J. Custer Bible

Donald Custer of Oregonia, Ohio send us the following item. Anyone interested in the Bible should contact Francis H. Howell, 401 N. Bodmer Ave., Strasburg OH 44680-1215.

"As I was browsing through the Dover Flea Market today, I happened across a small Methodist Bible, the size that one would carry to church on a Sunday. Inside the cover, [is] written in a common hand, Hannah J. Custer 1884, Conotton, Harrison Co.

The tiny town of Conotton is only six or seven air miles due west of New Rumley. No one was making any claims about the Bible. It was in fairly good shape and marked, \$25.

Please let me know if you think that this might be a relative or if you have any further interest in this Bible."

## Mysteries

In the Spring 1997 issue of *Krefeld Immigrants* a Henry Koster (carpenter) age 51, wife, sons 17, 13, daughters 10, 6; a Lutheran is listed on a list of poor Palatines who arrived at St. Cathrine's (London, England) on 11 June 1709.

Is this the same Hendrick Koster who had an estate filed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1748 in Albany County, New York? Many of the persons listed on the early London lists ended up in New York.

Did this Hendrick Koster have any descendants? His descendants have not shown up in our files!

## Swiss Lineage of Shirley (Custer) Kaiser

Shirley (Custer) Kaiser of Harrison, Ohio has sent us her Kuster and Custer lineage from the Saint Galen area of Switzerland. Outlined below is just the direct lineage of Shirley showing the vital information only for her Custer and Kuster ancestors. However, if you can trace the various lines, you will find that Shirley has eight different Custer/Kuster lines. Shirley says in her letter that many of the brothers and sisters of her ancestors also married Custers and Kusters to make matters even more confusing. She claims that even she gets confused at times as to what line she is working on. Shirley figures that if she gets back far enough in the records, the lines will begin to connect.

### 1 Shirley Louise CUSTER

B: 31 Mar 1934 Terre Haute, Vigo, IN  
M: 9 Mar 1957 Cincinnati, Hamilton, OH  
Robert Ellison KAISER- Spouse

### 2 Walter John Henry CUSTER

B: 3 Jun 1905 St Louis, St Louis, MO  
M: 8 Jun 1929 Terre Haute, Vigo, IN  
D: 3 Jan 1992 Terre Haute, Vigo, IN

### 4 Johann Jacob KUSTER

B: 7 Nov 1873 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 24 Nov 1897 St Louis, St Louis, MO  
D: 24 Oct 1928 St Louis, St Louis, MO

### 8 Johann Konrad KUSTER

B: 30 Aug 1846 Diepoldsau, SC, Switzerland  
M: 22 Apr 1873(div) Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 20 Nov 1926 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 16 Johann Jakob KUSTER

B: 11 Oct 1821 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 21 Jan 1845 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 7 Mar 1893 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 32 Johann Jakob KUSTER

B: 8 Feb 1794 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 23 Apr 1816 Schnitter, SG, Switzerland  
D: 21 Mar 1877 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
Spouse: 33 Anna Barbara WEDER (see # 66 below)

### 64 Johannes KUSTER

B: 11 Jun 1765 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 11 Jul 1789 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 29 Jan 1843 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

65 Ann Barbara KUSTER (NB: spouse of #64)  
B: 13 Nov 1766 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 3 Jun 1840 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 66 Hans Jacob WEDER

### 67 Anna SCHREIBER

### 128 Johannes KUSTER

B: 4 Jan 1726 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 2 May 1759 Zuerich, Z, Switzerland  
D: Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 129 Anna Maria KUSTER (NB: spouse of #128)

B: 16 Apr 1732 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 130 Hans Jacob KUSTER

B: 9 Feb 1735 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 6 Feb 1759 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: ca 1790 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 132 Hans Jacob SCREIBER

### 133 Anna WEDER

### 256 Christof KUSTER

B: ca 1699 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: ca 1725 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 4 Mar 1759 Zuerich, Z, Switzerland

### 257 Catharina KUSTER (NB: spouse of #256)

B: ca 1703 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 6 Feb 1765 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 258 Johannes KUSTER

B: Jul 1694 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 12 May 1724 Zuerich, Z, Switzerland  
D: 28 Sep 1763 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 259 Anna Maria WEDER (NB: spouse of #258)

### 260 Johannes KUSTER

B: 11 Aug 1699 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 26 Nov 1726 Balgach, SG, Switzerland  
D: 8 Jul 1761 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

### 266 Hans Conrad WEDER

### 267 Anna WEDER

### 518 Magnus WIDER

### 519 Maria Custer (NB: spouse of #518)

B: 28 Jan 1660 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
M: 25 Jun 1682 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland  
D: 6 Feb 1733 Diepoldsau, SG, Switzerland

The pulpit is the finest piece of furniture within the church. Whereas all of the furniture and interior appointments were handcrafted by local cabinetmakers using native woods, the pulpit, made of European red walnut, was imported at the time of the dedication of the church. Also imported, and on display in the Brick Church, were two pewter Communion services (one dating to 1748), a pewter Baptismal laver, two pewter offering plates, and a German Bible published in 1748.

The offering bags displayed on the east wall of the church were also used in the 18th century. Although Pastor Muhlenberg hoped to keep the Lutheran Church neutral in the Revolutionary War, some of the members enlisted in Washington's army. The pastor's eldest son, John Peter, also served, rising to high command and honor. During the 1777 campaign in Pennsylvania, Augustus Church became a barracks for Pennsylvania militia between the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. Veterans of the Revolutionary Army are buried in the cemetery, the most distinguished being General John Peter Muhlenberg.

The first half of the first century ended in sorrow with the death and burial of Pastor Henry Muhlenberg in 1787. The foundations he laid, however, bore a sturdy and thriving congregation. In 1814 the exterior of the church was covered with plaster to halt the deterioration of the exterior and interior walls. Some of the interior wood surfaces were then painted; and a stove, chimney, and wooden floor were installed to give warmth for the winter months where only straw and heated stones had sufficed heretofore. A permanent parsonage was built in 1836, and, renovated and modernized, is still in use today.



## *DeCastorer*

Book to Be Published by  
The Castor Association of America

Send all information to :  
Bruce R. Black, Editor  
3617 Division St  
Los Angeles CA 90065-3336

Looking for all materials & documentation  
pertaining to John DeCastorer [1748 -  
1835], his wife Anna Calkins [1746 -1833]  
and the descendants of his nine children:

John Castor [1771-1865]

Christopher Caster [1774-1840]

Cynthia (Castor) Spink [1776-1812]

Ezra Caster [1778-1858]

Asa Castor [1781-1781]

Rufus Caster [1782-1862/5]

Rodolphus Castor [1784-1864]

Ira Castor [1787-1866]

Harvey Castor [1791-1812]

No date set for publication  
Last known publication was by  
Henry Jean Castor in 1910



The Old Trappe Church  
Collegeville, Pennsylvania  
Erected 1743

## Old Trappe The Church

Elizabeth J. Custer of Creston, Iowa recently visited The Old Trappe Church where Nicholas Kuster (Paulus 1-4) was baptized as an adult in 1745, and where he and his wife, Susannah are buried in unmarked graves. The family of Nicholas Kuster appear often in the journals of the Rev. Muhlenberg. Elizabeth sent us a brochure about the history of the church, which is reproduced in part here.

A small backwoods settlement developed near a tavern on the trail from the Perkiomen Creek on the frontier in 1717. As more and more families settled in clearings in the forest, the community adopted the name of Providence. Religious services were few and far between, especially for Lutherans, since the nearest congregation was that founded by the Falkner brothers at the Swamp, twelve miles west of Providence.

It was not until 1729, with the arrival of John Caspar Stoeber, Jr., that Lutheran religious services were held in the community. By 1730 Stoeber organized a congregation that was loaned a barn by one of its deacons for the worship services. Stoeber, not being a regularly ordained pastor, performed the act for himself in the presence of the Providence congregation about the year 1732. He remained in Providence for a few years and finally moved west to

the country about Lancaster there to organize other congregations under the Augsburg Confession.

The Providence Lutherans were left to the doubtful spiritual care of whatever self-styled pastor ventured onto the frontiers. A series of misfits fastened on to them for whatever fees could be collected for ministerial acts. Considerably discouraged, with congregational morale at low ebb, the deacons joined the Falkner Swamp and Philadelphia Lutherans in a call to Europe for a regularly ordained pastor. After a series of disappointing episodes, the call carried into the hands of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg during the summer of 1741. He had been preparing for the Bengal Mission in India, but was persuaded by his mentor at the Halle Institutions, Augustus Herman Francke, to accept the call from Pennsylvania. Fifteen months passed before Pastor Muhlenberg reached his congregations. He preached in the barn to the Providence congregation on December 12, 1742. Since the congregation was extremely anxious to build a church, early in January, 1743, they began hauling stones to the building site. Working with a will, the congregation erected the structure through the spring and summer months and held the first service in the unfurnished interior on September 12, 1743. The building was completed and dedicated on October 6, 1745, at which time the Dedication Stone was placed over the west portico. The congregation organized formally, adopting the name "Augustus Lutheran Church" in honor of Augustus Francke.

Pastor Muhlenberg moved to Providence with his bride, Anna Maria Weiser, in May, 1745, to a house he had built for her which still remains standing, greatly altered, a few hundred yards east of the church. Eight of their children were born in this house, all of whom were baptized in Augustus Church.

By 1752 the interior of the church building was completed as it appears today with the erection of the east gallery and the installation of a pipe organ. The organ was secured through the efforts of Gottlieb Mittelburger, who came to Providence in 1751 to be the schoolmaster. There was gradually added to his duties the responsibilities of organist, choirmaster, and sexton of the church. The school where he and his successors taught is commemorated by the stone model of the third schoolhouse, erected on the original site on the front lawn of the church.

Jacob Kester

1M 40-50 1F 30-40

1M 15-20 1F 5-10

7/97

William MISC disk/WC/2-2

Nicholas Custard/Kester was born 5 February 1827 in Pennsylvania, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Shook) Custard. He married Catharina Smith 14 July 1850 at Hamilton Union Church, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Catharina was born in January 1829 in Pennsylvania. Nicholas died 3 June 1900 and is buried in the Trucksville Cemetery, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Nicholas filed a will naming all his children except Millard. Catharina died after 1900 and is probably buried at the Trucksville Cemetery, also.

In the 1930's descendants of this family held family reunions in Stroudsburg and Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania area. Wilbur appears as president of the reunions and his brother, C. Norman, hosted the 1939 reunion.

Children of Nicholas and Catharina:

1. Jacob H. Kester born December 1851 PA; married Susan J. (surname unknown) about 1875.
2. Mahlon Kester born 1853 PA; married Elizabeth (surname unknown) about 1879.
3. Mary A. Kester born 1856 PA.
4. George H. Kester born January 1860 PA; married Elizabeth/Lizzie (surname unknown) about 1884.
5. Edward Kester born 1862 PA; married Rosanna C. (surname unknown).
6. Millard Kester born 1864 PA.
7. Francis A. Kester born 1866 PA.
8. Wilbur H. Kester born 1870 PA; married Martha A. (surname unknown) about 1893; living Wyoming Co. 1910, 1920; living in 1939.
9. C. Norman Kester born September 1875 PA; married Elizabeth (surname unknown) about 1902;

living 1939.

Sources:

Letter George Custard 8 July 1997

Reunion notices; Republican & New Age; August 17, 1939; August 1936; August 1934;

September 1 1932

Reunion notice; The Record; September 10, 1935

1860 Census, Luzerne Co, Buck Twp., page 294, line 2

Nicholas Kester 33 PA laborer

Catharine 31 PA wife

Jacob 9 PA son

Mahlon 7 PA son

Mary A. 4 PA daughter

George H. 1 PA daughter

Sarah Butts 22

1880 Soundex Luzerne County, Kingston, PA; page 72, line 8  
Nicholas Kester 53 PA coal miner worked 6 months in last year; broken leg

Catherine 52 PA

George H. 20 PA coal miner

Edward 18 PA coal miner

Millard 16 PA coal miner

Francis A. 14 PA coal breaker

Wilber 11 PA coal breaker

Norman 6 PA

1900 Soundex Luzerne Co., Courtdale Twp., Vol 123, Ed78, Sh 35, Line 44

Cathrin Kester 71 PA Jan 1829

Norman 25 PA Sep 1875 son

## The Custer Elm



This stump at Council Grove, Kansas is all that remains of the tree where General Custer camped with the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in 1867. The stump has been preserved by the towns people and a picnic area built around it.



2. Jacob Custard/Kester born 26 January 1794 Hanover Twp., Lehigh County, PA; married Elizabeth Shook; died 18 November 1845 Hamilton Twp., Monroe County, PA.

3. Elizabeth Custard born 1790-1800; married John Newhart; lived Warriors Run, Luzerne County, PA.

4. George Custard born 1797 PA; married Sara "Sally" Newhart/Neuhardt; married Salome Michael; living Hanover Twp., Luzerne County, PA 1850.

5. Henry Custard/Custer born 11 December 1802 PA; married Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, married second Caroline/Catharine M L Bauer; died 28 November 1889 Hamilton Twp., Monroe County, PA.

6. Adam Custard born 5 September 1805 PA; married Mary Shook; died 18 July 1885 Hamilton Twp., Monroe County, PA.

7. Catherine Custard born 1804-1810; married George Newhart.

According to the census the following children were also living in the household:

8. Male born 1804-1810.

9. Male born 1810-1815.

10. Female born 1810-1815.

11. Male born 1820-1825.

#### Sources:

Letter Dale Berger 3 January 1990

Custard, Mary and George; The Life and Times of Jeremiah S Custard 1862-1931; (1976).

1800 census PA, Northampton Co, Hanover Twp., p. 547.

William Kester

1 M 26-45 1 F 26-45

1 M 16-26 2 F 0-10

2 M 0-10

1810 census PA, Northampton Co, Lower Smithfield Twp., p. 68.

William Kester

1 M 26-45 1 F 26-45

2 M 10-16 1 F 16-26

2 M 0-10 1 F 0-10

1820 census PA, Northampton Co, Hamilton Twp, p. 245

William Kester

1 M 26-45 1 F 26-45

1 M 16-26 1 F 10-16

1 M 16-18 1 F 0-10

2 M 10-16

1 M 0-10

1830 census Pa, Northampton Co, Hamilton Twp, p 180

William Kester

1M 60-70 1F 60-70

2M 20-30 1F 20-30

1M 15-20 1F 15-20

1M 5-10

1840 census Pa, Monroe Co, Hamilton Twp, p 323

William Kester

1M 70-80 1F 60-70

1850 census Pa, Monroe Co, Hamilton Twp, p 17, #211

Margaret Custard 71 widow PA

7/97 (file William Custard.2) William MISC disk/WC/2

Jacob Custard was born 26 January 1794 in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, son of William and Margaret (Sterner) Custard. Jacob married Elizabeth Shook. Elizabeth was born 30 March 1801. Jacob died 18 November 1845 in Hamilton Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth died 3 September 1885.

#### Their children:

1. Margaret Custard born 24 October 1822 (according to the census her birth should be 1832)PA; married John Heller.

2. Nicholas Custard born 5 February 1827 PA; married Catharina Smith 14 July 1850 Monroe County, PA; died 3 June 1900, buried Trucksville Cemetery, Luzerne County, PA.

#### Sources:

Letter George Custard 8 July 1997

Letter Dale E. Berger 3 January 1990

Custard, Mary and George; The Life and Times of Jeremiah S Custard; (1976).

1830 census Pa, Northampton Co, Hamilton Twp, p 180

Jacob Kester

1M 30-40 1F 30-40

1M 5-10

1840 census Pa, Monroe Co, Hamilton Twp, p 323

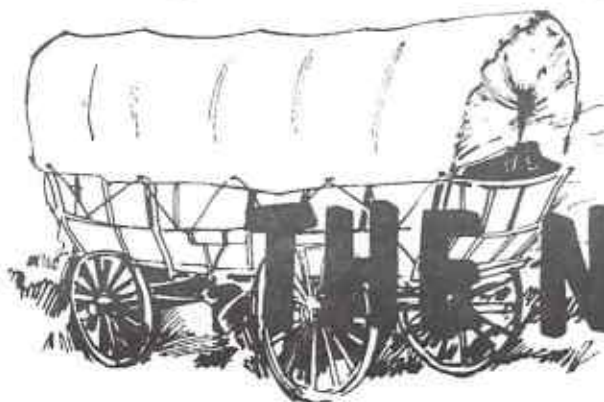


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Custard Kustard Kistard Kister Gerster  
Caster Castor Kastor Koester Kiester Keister



# NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

The News-Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10. If renewal dues is paid before 10 February, there is a \$2 discount. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of the News-Caster for that year. Members receive four issues of The News-Caster per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

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## New Connection to William Custard (1766-1844)

George Custard of Denver, CO has been working for years to discover the ancestors and descendants of his William Custard of Northampton County, PA. Some time ago some notes of Newton Keister came into the association archives. The notes say that William Custer came to Monroe County, PA prior to 1810, and the family has descendants who hold yearly reunions. The reunions alternate between Monroe County and is called the Custard Family Reunion, and Tunkhannock in Wyoming County and is called the Kester Family Reunion. This past spring George Custard went to Tunkhannock found several of the newspaper articles about the reunions held in the 1930's. As a result of this research he was able to tie Nicholas Custard/Kester (1827-1900) to his father Jacob Custard (1794-1845) and his grandfather, William Custard.

7/97

(file William Custard) William MISC disk/WC/0

William Custard was born 22 November 1766. William married about 1791 Margaret Sterner. Margaret was the daughter of Nicholas Sterner. William married second Margaret (Hoenshield) Shook, widow of Abraham Shook. Margaret was born about 1779. Margaret's children were George Shook, and perhaps Elizabeth Shook, wife of Jacob Custard. Margaret was born 9 May 1777, daughter of J George Hoenshield. William conveyed land to his son, Adam Custard, 21 May 1838 in contemplation of his death, and directs Adam to make payments to William's other children, and then to Margaret's children. William died 13 September 1844. Margaret died 10 September 1858.

#### William's children:

1. Susanna Custard born 21 June 1792 Hanover Twp., Lehigh County, PA; married Daniel Swartwood; died 13 December 1866 Luzerne County, PA.

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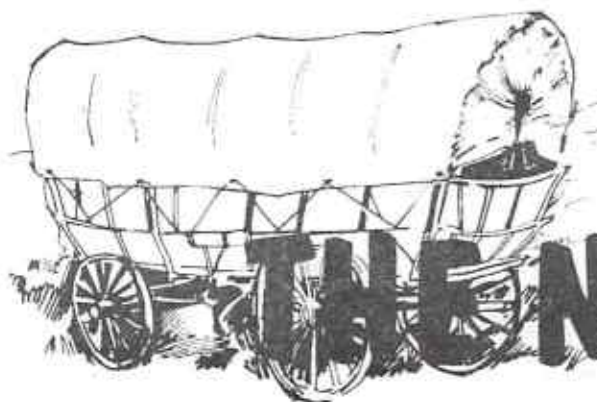
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OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY



# THE NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

The News-Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10. If renewal dues is paid before 10 February, there is a \$2 discount. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of the News-Caster for that year. Members receive four issues of The News-Caster per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

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8<sup>th</sup> National

## Castor Association of America Reunion

19-21 June 1998

(Friday, Saturday & Sunday)



**Airport Hilton  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

Turn to page 12 for details and registration

OCCGS



## Grandchildren of Noah Castor

Continued from December issue

In the last issue we started to publish the latest information on Noah Castor and children. In this issue we continue with Noah's grandchildren, which will be concluded in the June issue.

1/98

(file Noah.1.1) Noah disk\1-1

John H Castor born 22 October 1810 in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, son of Nathan and Freelove (Castor) Castor. He was raised in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, and rode horseback to Hamilton County, Indiana, arriving there 1 February 1834 to buy government land which was then selling at \$1.25 per acre. He married 11 February 1834 Sarah Beatty, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cascadden) Beatty. The Beattys came from Ireland to Pennsylvania. Sarah was born 31 March 1814 in Butler County, Pennsylvania. The Beattys later moved to Holmes County, Ohio, where John met Sarah and became engaged. John bought the northeast quarter of section 27 in January 1837. John finally acquired 625 acres in Hamilton County, Indiana. Tradition is that John buried thousands of dollars about 1850, but this has never been found. John organized the Union Methodist Church which was 3 1/2 miles northeast of Noblesville, Indiana. At the time of John's death, he owned about 1500 acres of farmland which was distributed to his children. Wade received the 240 acre home farm. John died 1 January 1883. His will was proved in court 11 January 1883:

State of Indiana Hamilton County

In the name of the Benevolent Father of all Amen I John Castor of the age of seventy years. Being of sound mind and disposing memory do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament hereby making void all other wills or codicils by me at any time made

Item 1 I direct that after my decease that my funeral shall be conducted in manner according to my work and station in life

Item 2 I direct that all my just debts shall be paid out of my estate

Item 3 I give and bequeath all my estate both real and personal to my wife Sarah Caster

Item 4 I further devise that after the decease of my wife that all the money and property that may be on hands her decease shall be equally divided among all of my heirs to share and shall alike the following heirs W H Caster, S P Castor Margaret Simmermon, J M Castor Freelove Crull, Nancy Sylvester, Sarah McKinzey, W P Castor, all to be all to be equal as tenants in common

Item 5 I desire that after my decease that Earl Beatty may still have a home in my family. I hereby appoint Sarah Caster my wife and William H. Castor as my executors of this my last will and testament giving them full power to sue and be sued, to collect and pay out in accordance with this my last will and testament and I further direct that my executors shall not be required give or execute bond but that they have full, authority to administer on my estate without bond. Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of March 1881 Witness names his signature in own presence our signature in his presence  
L W Hestelgessor  
James Rowdebush  
John Caster seal

State of Indiana Hamilton County ss

Before me J R Christian, personally came James Rowdebush one of the subscribing witness to the fore going instruments of writing who being by me first duly sworn upon oath depose and say that John Caster, the testator named in the instrument of writing purposing to be his last will and testament did sign, seal publish and declare the same to be his last will and testament on the day of the date thereof, that the said testator was at the same time of the full age of twenty one years and of sound and disposing mind and memory and that he was not made coercion compulsion as restraint, and that he was competent to devise his property. And that the said testator so signed, sealed, published and declared the same to be his last will and testament in manner and forever as aforesaid in the presence of officiant and of L W Hestelgesser, the other subscribing witness thereto and that they each attested the same and subscribed their manner as witness thereto in the presence and at the request of said listator and in the presence of each other  
James Rowdebush

Subscribed and sworn to before me I witness of which I hereunto affix the seal of said Court and subscribe my name at Noblesville the 11 day of January AD 1883 L S  
J R Christian Clerk State of Indiana Hamilton County

I James R Christian Clerk of the Circuit Court of County Hamilton in the State of Indiana do

Sarah died 14 August 1888 in Hamilton County. They were both buried at Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, Indiana.

Their children:

1. William H Castor born 24 March 1835 Hamilton

County, Indiana; married 18 December 1856 Martha J. Castor, married Mary C. Benham 14 February 1878 Hamilton County, IN; died 26 May 1912.

2. Nathan Castor born 2 November 1836 Hamilton County, IN; died 12 August 1856.

3. Samuel Beatty Castor born 10 October 1838 Hamilton County; married Frances Ellen Wilson 22 June 1862 Hamilton County, IN; died 7 March 1907, buried Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, IN.

4. Margaret Jane Castor born 24 November 1840 Hamilton County, IN; married John Sullivan Zimmerman/ Simmermon 4 November 1860; died 27 February 1909 Hamilton County, Indiana.

5. Celesta F Castor born 18 March 1843; died 10 February 1844.

6. John Marion Castor born 28 November 1844; married Sarah McDonald 24 June 1866; died 29 or 30 July 1897 Hamilton County, IN, buried Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville.

7. Freelo M Castor born 21 March 1847 Hamilton County, IN; married William Crull 4 October 1874 Hamilton County, IN; married William Abney; died 3 May 1918, buried Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, IN.

8. Nancy Elizabeth Castor born 20 July 1849 Hamilton County, IN; married Henry McKinzey, married Charles R Sylvester 10 August 1873; died 1 June 1915, buried Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, IN.

9. Mary R Castor born 8 November 1851 Hamilton County, IN; died 1 January 1852.

10. James E Castor born 17 November 1852 Hamilton County, IN; died same day.

11. Sarah Ruth Castor born 20 December 1853 Hamilton County, IN; married James D. McKinzey 28 July 1871; died 26 December 1904, buried Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, IN.

12. Wade P Castor born April 1856 Hamilton County, IN; married Margaret "Maggie" C. Pruitt 27 December 1884 Hamilton County, IN.

#### Sources:

Haines, John; Hamilton County. Indiana (1915) p 962-4.

History of Hamilton County, Indiana; Kingman Bros (1880) p 140-2.

Cascadden, Edith V.; History of Lapel & Fishersburg (1938) pp 9, 10 & 179.

Roberts, Nelle; Hamilton County Ancestors & Their Descendants (1973) Vol 2, page 79.

Anderson Morning Herald, Anderson, Indiana, Sunday 28 Feb 1909, p 3, Col 7.

Hamilton County Will Record Book E, pages 353-5 dated 17 March 1881 proved 11 Jan 1883.

Tombstone reading at Crownland Cemetery by Sarah Jane Eaton -- 29 July 1984.

Register of Interments, Crownland Cemetery 1867-1950.

Bible record of Nancy E Sylvester now in possession of Hallie Jessup, Noblesville, Indiana.

Letter Jean White -- 10 July 1985.

1840 census Indiana, Hamilton County, p 306

John Castor

1M 20-30

1M 5-10

2M -5

#### 1850 census Indiana, Hamilton County,

John Castor	39 PA	farmer
Sarah	36 PA	
William	15 IN	farmer
Nathan	13 IN	
Samuel B	12 IN	
Margaret	10 IN	
John M	6 IN	
Freelove	5 IN	
Mary O	1 IN	
Margaret Shuward	32 OH	

#### 1860 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp.

John Castor	50 PA	farmer
Sarah	47 PA	
Samuel B	21 IN	
Margaret N	18 IN	
Marion	15 IN	
Freeloy.	12 IN	
Nancy	10 IN	
Sarah	7 IN	
Wade	5 IN	

#### 1870 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp.

John Castor	60 PA	farmer
Sarah	56 PA	
Freelove	21 IN	
Sarah	17 IN	

Wade 13 IN

1880 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne

John Castor, Sr	69 PA	farmer
Sarah	66 PA	wife
Freelove	33 IN	dau
Wade P	24 IN	son
Hester Sylvester	20 IN	servant
Earl Beatty	55 OH	bro-in-law

1/98 (file Noah.1.2) Noah disk\1-2

Rebecca Castor was born 1818 in Ohio, daughter of Nathan and Rebecca (Castor) Castor. Rebecca married Jonathan Fisher 30 June 1836 in Hamilton County, Indiana. Jonathan Fisher was born 10 November 1817 in Clermont County, Ohio, son of Samuel and Rebecca (Wilson) Fisher. They lived in Wayne Township of Hamilton County. Jonathan died 27 January 1850 in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Their children:

1. Female Fisher born about 1837 Hamilton County, IN.

2. Male Fisher born about 1839 Hamilton County, IN.

3. Freelove Fisher born about 1840 Hamilton County, IN; married James Swassick (Noah 3-4-1) 25 December 1869.

4. Samuel Fisher born about 1845 Hamilton County, IN.

5. Sarah Fisher born about 1847 Hamilton County, IN.

Sources:

Letter Jean White -- 30 Nov 1984

1840 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 161/208

Jonathan Fisher

1M 20-30 1F 20-30

1M -5 2F -5

1/98 (file Noah.1.4) Noah disk\1-4

Nancy Castor was born about 1819, daughter of Nathan and Freelove (Castor) Castor. Nancy married

John Shearer 5 September 1839 in Hamilton County, Indiana. John was born about 1813 in Pennsylvania.

Their children:

1. Olive Shearer born about 1843.

2. Florinda/Florida Celeste Shearer born December 1845 IN; married Albert Castor (John.6.6) 23 August 1863 Whitley County, IN; died 18 July 1921, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

3. Angeline Shearer born about 1848.

4. Martha Shearer born about 1852; married Mr. Burchell, lived in St Charles, IL.

5. Sarah V Shearer born about 1854.

6. Orrel Shearer married 27 May \_\_\_\_ Hezekiah Robinett.

Sources:

1860 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 122, #872

Gibbs, Pat; Early Marriages of Hamilton County, Indiana. letter Jean White -- 10 July 1985

1/98 (file Noah.1.5) Noah disk\1-5

Susannah Castor was born 2 October 1822 in Ohio, daughter of Nathan and Freelove (Castor) Castor. Susannah married 11 June 1840 Samuel Stanton Teeters. Samuel was born 24 July 1811 in Pennsylvania. They lived in Wayne Township of Hamilton County, Indiana. Samuel was a farmer. Susannah died 17 July 1894. Samuel died 14 September 1898. They were buried at Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Their children:

1. Margaret J Teeters born 1840 Hamilton County, IN; married Charles Anderson 1863 ; died 14 March 1922, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

2. Mary Elizabeth Teeters born about 1843 Hamilton

County, IN; married 1862 Solomon Reddick.

3. James Irving Teeters born 5 September 1844 Hamilton County, IN; married Elizabeth Ann Huffman 31 May 1868 Hamilton County, IN; died 1 September 1930, buried Brookside Cemetery, Lapel, Madison County, IN.

4. Calista "Lista" Florida Teeters born 23 September 1846; married Jasper Huffman 1867; died 1 April 1925, buried Brookside Cemetery, Lapel, Madison County, IN.

5. Nathaniel Henry Teter born 14 June 1849 Hamilton County, IN; married Anna Eliza Roudebush 24 April 1873 Hamilton County, IN; died 4 April 1940.

6. Luther Martin Teeters born 26 October 1851 Hamilton County, IN; married Mollie Harrison 8 October 1876; married Artilda Redick 1880; died 29 April 1892, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

7. Celistine Teeters born 2 January 1854 Hamilton County, IN; died 10 October 1859.

8. Samuel Douglas Teeters (twin) born 17 April 1857 Hamilton County, IN; married Arilla "Mattie" Barnett 24 January 1886 Hamilton County, IN; died 17 January 1931, buried Brookside Cemetery, Lapel, Madison County, IN.

9. Alice Teeters (twin) born 17 April 1857 Hamilton County, IN; married Melvin Harrison 1 September 1878 Hamilton County, IN; died 1925.

10. Artalisa Teeters born 25 September 1859 Hamilton County, IN; died 5 September 1865.

11. Frank Aline Teeters born 1864 Hamilton County, IN; died 1865, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

#### Sources:

Letter Jean White -- 30 Nov 1984 & 10 July 1985  
Note from Deanna J Miller - 16 June 1990  
Family Group Sheet - Kelly Folkestad 1994  
Noblesville Ledger; Noblesville, Ind, 2 September 1930.  
Hamilton County, Indiana Ancestors; Vol 7, p 335.

1850 census Indiana, Hamilton Co, Wayne Twp, p 75/150, #106

Samuel Teters	37 farmer	Pa
Susan "	27	Ohio
Margaret J "	9	Ind
Mary E "	7	"
James "	5	"
Lista "	4	"
Nathan "	1	"
John "	52 laborer	Pa

1870 census Indiana, Hamilton Co, Wayne Twp, p 31/240

Samuel Teter	58 farmer	Pa
Susannah "	49	Ohio
Nathan "	20 farmer	Ind
Luther "	18 "	"
Samuel "	13	"
Alice "	13	"

1880 census Indiana, Hamilton Co, Wayne Twp, ED 42, p 11, #91

Samuel Teeters	68 farmer	Pa	Pa	Pa
Susannah "	57 wife	Oh	"	"
Samuel "	22 son	Ind	"	Oh

## Association Library

**The last word as to the location of the association books belonging to our lending library was that they had not left former Librarian, Jeff Custer's, home. We are working on this problem and hope that those members who have ordered books from the lending library will be patient while this is being resolved.**

1/98

(file Noah.1.6) Noah disk\1-6

James Castor was born 18 May 1825 in Ohio, son of Nathan and Freelove (Castor) Castor. James married Mary "May" (surname unknown) around 1854. Mary was born 2 February 1836 in Ohio. They lived in Wayne Township of Hamilton County, Indiana. James was a farmer.



Mary died 7 May 1867. James died 9 May 1876. They are buried at Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, Indiana.

**Their children:**

1. Hester Jane Castor born September 1855 Hamilton County, IN; married George W. Castor (John.1.10.2) about 1878; died 1 July 1919 Lapel, Madison County, Indiana.

2. Nathan C Castor born 22 October 1857 Hamilton County, IN; married Daisey Reddick 25 October 1902 Hamilton County, IN; died 30 December 1912, buried at Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery.

3. Martha Castor born about 1863 Hamilton County, IN.

4. Alice Castor born about 1865 Hamilton County, IN.

Either Martha or Alice died Aug 1875, buried Prairie Baptist Church

**Sources:**

Letter Jean White -- Nov 1984

WPA; Index to Death Records Madison County, Indiana 1882-1920 (1938).

The Noblesville Ledger, Noblesville, Indiana, 13 Aug 1875, p 1, col 7.

1860 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 124, #880

James Castor	34 OH	farmer
Mary "	24 OH	
Hester J "	5 IN	
Nathan "	2 IN	

1870 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 25, #175

James Castor	45 OH	farmer
Hester "	14 IN	
Nathan "	9 IN	
Martha "	7 IN	
Alice "	5 IN	

Milo was a blacksmith. They lived in Wayne Township of Hamilton County. He died in 1850 in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Ruth married Jordan Castor (see John.6.1) 18 July 1852. Jordan was born about 1827 in Ohio, son of Reason and Esther (Clark) Castor. Jordan was a farmer. Jordan died 28 October 1854, and was buried at Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery.

Ruth married Sampson Shearer 3 October 1872 in Hamilton County, Indiana. Sampson was born 30 March 1825 in Holmes County, Ohio. No children were born to this union. Ruth died 27 August 1902. Sampson died 19 June 1907.

**Child of Milo and Ruth:**

1. Filena McDaniel born about June 1850 IN; married George Passwater.

**Child of Jordan and Ruth:**

2. Clark Castor born 1853 IN.

**Sources:**

Gibbs, Pat; Early Marriages of Hamilton County, Indiana

WPA; Index to Marriage Record Hamilton County, Indiana 1850-1879 Inclusive; Vol 1, -- Book 1, p 85; Book 4, p 203.

Obituary of Sampson Shearer

1850 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 75/149, #96

Ruth McDaniel	22 OH	
Filena "	4/12 IN	
Milo "	26 OH	blacksmith

1860 census Indiana, Hamilton County, Wayne Twp, p 120, #857

Ruth Castor	39 OH
Phylena "	10 IN
Clark "	7 IN

1870 census Indiana, Hamilton Co, Wayne Twp, p 32, #237

Ruth Castor	42 OH	keeping house
Clark "	17 IN	farmer

1/98

(file Noah.1.7) Noah disk\1-7

Ruth Castor was born about 1828 in Ohio, daughter of Nathan and Freelove (Castor) Castor. Ruth married Milow/Milo McDaniel 7 March 1849 in Hamilton County, Indiana. Milo was born about 1824 in Ohio.

1/98

(file Noah.3.1) Noah disk\3-1

Tobias Castor was born 20 July 1814 in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, son of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. Tobias came to Ashland County,

Ohio with his parents in 1816 or 1817. Tobias married Sarah Miller about 1839.

Tobias married Cordelia Hickox 5 April 1849 in Ashland County, Ohio. Cordelia was born 15 April 1828 in Ohio. Tobias was a farmer all his life. He owned 160 acres in section 23 of Green Township, Ashland County, Ohio. He was township clerk of Green Township and constable for several years. In 1880 he was president of the Mutual Aid Association of Jelloway, Knox County, Ohio, as well as being an adjuster for Farmers' Home Insurance Company. Cordelia died 10 December 1892. Tobias died 18 March 1897. They are buried at Old Perrysville Cemetery, Ashland County, Ohio.

#### Child of Tobias and Sarah:

1. Tobias Castor born 22 October 1840 Ashland County, OH; married Catherine M Hunt 22 October 1858 Vinton, Benton County, IA, divorced 22 July 1885 Crete, Saline County, NE; married Mary Ann "Mollie" (Remington) Cooper 24 January 1889 Sioux City, Woodbury County, IA; died 12 December 1901 near Lincoln, Lancaster County, NE, buried on the Castor homestead, Wilbur, Saline County, NE.

#### Children of Tobias and Cordelia:

2. Irene Castor born March 1850 Ashland County, OH; married Levi Maurer about 1879.

3. Edmund M Castor born 1853 Ashland County, OH; married Mary J Boyd around 1872 OH; died probably NE.

4. Ida Emma Castor born 7 September 1855 Ashland County, OH; married W H Bushnell, married George Williams Tracy 7 February 1904 Omaha, Douglas County, NE.

5. Bertha Castor born April 1860 Ashland County, OH.

6. Allie Castor born 1 May 1862 Ashland County, OH; died 25 August 1863, buried Old Perrysville Cemetery, Ashland County, OH.

#### Sources:

Castor, Gaylord B.; Castor/Custard The Progenitors and Other Kinsfolk of Henry and Nancy Castor (1984) p. 56.

History of Ashland County, Ohio; Williams Bros (1880) page 273.

Caldwell, J. A.; Caldwell's Atlas of Ashland County, Ohio (1874) p 94.

DAR; Early Vital Records of Ohio; Vol III, pp 31-45.

Tracy, Sherman W.; The Tracy Genealogy (1936) p 81.

Family Pedigree Chart compiled by Gaylord B Castor, Pa Gen Hist Soc of W Pa, No 941.

1850 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, p 116, #268

Tobias Castor	39 PA	farmer
Adaline "	22 OH	
Irene "	2 OH	

1860 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, p 196, #1489

Tobias Caster	44 PA	farmer
Cordelia "	31 OH	
Irene "	11 OH	
Edmund M "	9 OH	
Ida "	5 OH	
not named	3/12 OH	

1870 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, p 18, #144

Tobias Castor	54 PA	farmer
Dillie "	42 OH	
Irene "	20 OH	
Edward "	18 OH	
Ida "	14 OH	
Bertha "	10 OH	

1/98

(file Noah.3.2) Noah disk3-2

Noah Castor was born about 1817 in Richland County, Ohio, son of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. After leaving home, Noah lived in Loudonville, Ashland County, Ohio. Noah attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio in 1843-1844. Noah married Maria J. Miles 6 October 1847 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Maria was born about 1828 in New York. Noah was a painter. They lived in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### Their children:

1. George Freeman Castor born 24 May 1851 in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, OH; married Julia (surname unknown) about 1876.

2. Frank G Castor born about 1853 OH.

#### Sources:

Letter Mrs Helen G Clear -- 18 July 1981

LDS International Genealogical Index, Ohio

1860 census Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, Ward 6, p 38, #297

Noah Caster	43 OH	painter
Maria J "	32 NY	
George F "	9 OH	
Frank G "	7 OH	

1/98

Noah disk\3-3

Eunice Castor was born 30 June 1820 in Green Township, Ashland County, Ohio, the daughter of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. She married Cyrus Hiram Goodell 5 July 1838 in Richland County, Ohio. Cyrus was born 13 September 1815, the son of David and Electa (Milliman) Goodell. Eunice died 30 November 1888 in Loudenville, Ashland County, Ohio and was buried in the Old Perrysville Cemetery, Ashland County, Ohio. Cyrus died 1 May 1890.

Children of Eunice and Cyrus:

1. Sarah Goodell born 9 July 1839 Ashland County, OH; married Humphrey Snyder 11 December 1856 Ashland County, OH; died after 1880.
2. Mary Goodell born 8 September 1840 Ashland County, OH; married William Hamman 30 September 1858 Ashland County, OH; died 15 March 1874.
3. Elizabeth Goodell born 20 November 1842 Ashland County, OH; married Andrew Mathews 14 February 1867.
4. Rebecca Goodell born 10 November 1846 Ashland County, OH; married Hiram Baker 26 February 1867 Ashland County, OH; died 1917 OH, buried IOOF Cemetery, Monroe, Richland County, OH.
5. Coonrod Goodell born 15 September 1846 Ashland County, OH; married Ellen Baker 12 December 1874 Richland County, OH; died 18 December 1922 Richland County, OH, buried IOOF Cemetery, Monroe, Richland County, OH.
6. Rocksena Goodell born 29 August 1849 Ashland County, OH; died 24 November 1850 OH.
7. Ruth Goodell born 18 June 1851 Ashland County,

OH; married Joseph McClure.

8. Benjamin Goodell born 12 August 1854 Ashland County, OH.

9. Andrew Clinton Goodell born 20 August 1856 Ashland County, OH.

10. Anna Jane Goodell born 19 September 1858 Ashland County, OH; married Almond D. Wiggins 15 September 1875 Ashland County, OH; died 5 November 1940 Jeromesville, Ashland County, OH.

11. Hattie Goodell born 1 August 1862 Ashland County, OH; married Norman Smith 16 September 1879 Richland County, OH; died 1931, buried IOOF Cemetery, Monroe, Richland County, OH.

Sources:

Marsicano, Patti; Descendants of Eunice Caster (1997).

Copies of family pages from Goodell Family Bible sent by Patti Marsicano - 1997

1/98

(Noah .3.4) Noah disk\3-4

Susan Castor born 29 September 1822 at the old Castor home, three miles east of Perrysville, Ashland County, Ohio, daughter of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. Susan married 1 January 1846 William Swissick. William was born 1821 in Ohio. William bought 10 April 1852 from Conrad Castor an 80 acre farm for \$1000. They were members of the Greentown Baptist Church. When the Perrysville Baptist Church was organized, Susan was one of the charter members, and remained a member there until her death. They had eight children. William died 10 February 1877. Susan died of cancer 20 January 1895 at her home in Lucas, Richland County, Ohio.

Their children:

1. James Swassick born 1847 OH; married Freel Fisher 25 December 1869, lived Perrysville, Ashland County, OH.
2. Conrad Swassick born 1848 OH; died in infancy.
3. Anna Swassick born 18 May 1849 OH; married 25

May 1872 A. Judson Treace; died 24 August 1928.

4. Thomas Swassick born 1851 OH; died in childhood.

5. Martha Jane Swassick born 1853 OH; did not marry, lived Lucas, Richland County, OH

6. George Swassick born 1855 OH; married Minnie (surname unknown) lived Loudonville, Ashland County, OH.

7. William Allen Swassick born 1857 OH; did not marry; lived Columbus, Franklin County, OH.

8. Tobias Swassick. born 1859 OH; lived Peoria, IL.

Sources:

Letter Jean M White - Jan 1988

The Pastfinder; November 1987; p. 43.

Obituary of Susan (Castor) Swassick

1/98

Noah disk\3-6

Ruth Castor was born about 1827 in Ohio, the daughter of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. Ruth married Aaron Kindle 16 June 1853 in Ashland County, Ohio. Aaron was born in 1828 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, the son of William and Elizabeth (Burrell) Kindle.

Children of Ruth and Aaron:

1. Edwin Kindle.

2. Emma Kindle.

1/98

(file Noah.3.7) Noah disk\3-7

Martha Castor was born 28 July 1830 in Ashland County, Ohio, daughter of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. Martha married John Smith 17 February 1848 in Ashland County, Ohio. John died in Colorado. Martha married David Lee Snyder 7 August 1856. David was born 13 July 1832 in Ashland County, Ohio, son of David and Mary (McManus) Snyder. In 1865, David and Martha settled in Hamilton County, Indiana. David died 6

February 1903 in Hamilton County, Indiana. Martha died 8 May 1905 in Hamilton County, Indiana.

Child of Martha and John:

1. Jane "Jennie" Smith born 26 April 1849 Ashland County, OH; married George Douglas Teetters 10 December 1868 Hamilton County, IN.

Children of Martha and David:

2. Charles Lee Snyder born 1861 Loudenville, Ashland County, OH; married Mary Elizabeth Stephenson 28 July 1883 Hamilton County, IN; died 15 February 1914 Hamilton County, IN, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

3. Thomas Wade Snyder born 7 March 1863/4 Ashland County, OH; died 29 May 1887 in Wayne Township, Hamilton County, buried at Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery.

4. Sarah Luella Snyder born 1865 Hamilton County, IN; married Henry Stephenson.

5. James Oscar Snyder born 2 June 1869 Hamilton County, IN; married Lillie Belle Morris 10 June 1894; died 15 January 1927 Hamilton County, IN.

6. Josephine Snyder born 1873 Hamilton County; died 8 January 1879, buried Prairie Baptist Church Cemetery, Hamilton County, IN.

Sources:

Letter Joan Snyder Love - 14 August 1991

1/98

(file Noah.3.8) Noah disk\3-8

Thomas E Castor was born 1835 in Ashland County, Ohio, son of Conrad and Anna (McDaniel) Castor. Thomas married Louisa C Webb, of Ashland County, 20 March 1856 in Stark County, Ohio. Louisa was born January 1836 in Ohio. Thomas owned 93 acres in section 23 of Green Township of Ashland County, Ohio. Thomas was a farmer. Thomas died 1899. Louisa died 1917. They are buried at Old Perrysville Cemetery, Ashland County, Ohio.

Their children:

## Castor Family

1. Frank L Castor born about 1857 OH.
2. Ella M Castor born about 1859 OH.
3. Willoughby "William" Castor born December 1860 OH; married Mary (surname unknown) 1899.

### Sources:

Caldwell, J. A.; Atlas of Ashland County, Ohio (1874) p. 94.  
History of Ashland County, Ohio; Williams Bros (1880) p. 273.  
DAR; Early Vital Records of Ohio; Vol III, pp. 31-45.  
International Genealogical Index- Ohio (1984)

1860 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, p. 188, #1427

Thomas Caster	27 OH	farm laborer
Louisa "	25 OH	
Frank "	3 OH	
Ella M "	1 OH	
Peter "	6/12 OH	

1870 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, p 23, #158

Thomas Castor	38 OH	farmer
Louisa "	34 OH	
Frank "	13 OH	
Ella "	11 OH	
William "	10 OH	

1880 census Ohio, Ashland County, Green Twp, ED 80, p 32, #339

Thomas Castor	44 farmer	OH PA PA
Louisa C "	42 wife	OH — —
Frank L "	22 son	OH OH OH
Ella M "	21 dau	OH OH OH
Willoughby W "	20 son	OH OH OH

1900 census Ohio, Ashland County, Hanover Twp, Loudonville Village, ED 3, p 3, #73

Louisa Castor	Jan 1836 widow 3-3	OH PA IN
Mary Teaters	Mar 1850 cousin	OH PA OH

Some of the files in this issue for Noah Castor descendants were found to be lost in the association conversion from Apple IIe to IBM format several years ago. They were recovered from paper files using a scanner and OCR software. Thank goodness for modern technology.

Your Editor

## OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY New Members

Terrence Caster; 634 Crest Drive; El Cajon CA 92019-2709

Lloyd Caster; 7406 Cascade Drive; Everett WA 98203-5733

Gerald Caster; 2575 West 6th. Street N-6; Fayetteville AR 72704-7655

Richard Caster; 1872 Lupine Avenue; Monterey Park, CA 91754-6508

Brenda Caster; 1967 Lilac Lane; Alpine CA 91901-2930

Denise Caster; 2239 Black Canyon Road #42; Ramona, CA 92065-5534

LaVonne Fleming; 809 W. Discovery Street #113; San Marcos CA 92069-4133

Joanna Maher; 1029 Birch, Escondido CA 92025-3904

Elizabeth Brooks; 1750 W La Habra Boulevard #163; La Habra CA 90631-5100

Michelle Marcos; 520 Pepper Tree; Brea CA 92821-3314

Prof. Dr. Michael Kastor; In den Hopfengärten 12, D-67067 Ludwigshafen - Maudach, Germany

Gary Chantry; P.O. Box 841; Ione WA 99139-0841

Ronald Lee Juvinall; 2513 Kilkenny Drive; Modesto CA 95355-4024

Lauren E. Kester; 1006 East Irvington Avenue; South Bend IN 46614-1308

Johnnie Faye Varner; 202 North Hood; Lake Providence LA 71254-2104

Nadine Thompson; 228 S Harvey Avenue; Oak Park IL 60302-3312

Kenneth Anderson; 673 Federal; Henderson, NV 89015-6333

## Change of Address

Bryan Kester; PO Box 913, Amelia VA 23002-0913

Norma Jean Leinow; 243 S. Escondido Blvd. #140; Escondido CA 92025-4116

Daniel R. Klink; 130 N. Antrim Way #3;

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## Update on Uriah Castor and Rachel Gwin Children of Noah Castor (1764-1829)

by Jean M. White

In the last issue of *The News-Caster*, the entries on the internet site of Michigan Death Records were published. Among the entries was one for Uriah Castor born in Ohio, who died in Branch County, Michigan on 10 December 1876. This entry set "the wheels a'rollin," so to say. It just so happened that Bernie Clark and I had been working on our mutual line of Ruth Castor (another daughter of Noah), who married Datus Ensign Studley. We had tracked the father of Datus Studley to Branch County, Michigan from Richland County, Ohio. Bernie had found a Studley descendant on the internet, and Merlene Black of Battle Creek, Michigan had helped us round out the Studley family.

Quickly checking the 1860 and 1870 census for Branch County, Michigan, I found the following entries:

### 1860 Census Sherwood, Branch County, MI

page 790

1557/1557

Uriah Caster	64 [blank]	farmer
Fidelia	42 NY	
Adeline Davis	16 MI	
Henry Davis	14 MI	
Stephen Davis	9 MI	
?Aorman Davis	8 MI	

### 1870 Census Sherwood, Branch County, MI

page 298

5/5

Castor, Uriah	73 PA	farmer
Fidelia	52 NY	

page 299

26/26

Robins, Chester	31 NY	farmer
Philena	28 OH	keeping house
Mary J.	8 MI	
Lara	1 MI	
Gwin, Rachel	68 PA	works in house

I then e-mailed Sally Peterson, one of our members willing to do research at the Michigan State Library in Lansing, to check the Sherwood Cemetery book for us

on her next research trip. Sally did this and e-mailed me the information. In the mean time I mentioned to Merlene Black about my findings and she sent copies of the pages from the book on the Sherwood Cemetery in Branch County, Michigan. From this book the following is found:

Joseph Gwin d. Apr 15 1868 [age under ground]  
Rachel, his wife d. 24 Oct 1876 age 74y 8m 4d  
Urich [sic] Castor b. 6 June 1803; d. 18 Jan 1878  
Fidilla, his wife b. 3 Oct 1819; d. 8 Mar 1888

Upon checking the internet site for Michigan deaths (<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/PHA/OSR/gendis/index.htm>) for Gwin entries, I found:

### GWIN, RACHEL

Date of death: 4-Oct-1877  
Ledger Page: 87  
Record Number: 64  
Place of death: Sherwood  
County of Death: Branch  
Sex: Female  
Race: White  
Marital Status: Widowed  
Age: 75 years 2 months 5 days  
Cause of Death: Old Age  
Birthplace: Richland Ohio  
Occupation: Housewife  
Father's Name: Castor, Noah  
Father's Residence: Richland Ohio  
Mother's Name: Castor, Rebecca  
Mother's Residence: Not Recorded  
Date of record: 24-May-1877

You will note many discrepancies in the above information. While the death dates of Rachel (Castor) Gwin vary, it is proven that she is the daughter of Noah and Rebecca Castor of Richland County, Ohio. One must remember that reading grave stones is difficult at best, and that the old stones made of limestone have just washed clean with the acid rain problem. On the death entry from the state the date of death can not be in 1877, as entered, as the date of the record is before the date of death.

Figuring the birth date of Rachel from the two sources produces the following birth dates: from her gravestone, 19 February 1802 and from the state death record 4 August 1804. Using census records, it appear that the 1802 date is more accurate.



With the records of Uriah, the first problem is that his name was misread on the Sherwood Cemetery reading. This is understandable for the reasons listed above. His birth date is given as 6 June 1803. However, using census records he is much more likely born in 1797 or 1798, which is what the state death record figures out to. The records also point out that Uriah had a second wife, Fedelia or Fidilla, had first married a Mr. Davis.

My mother told me an interesting fact about Michigan vital records, as her birth date was entered incorrectly. In the country, a person came around once a year and asked if there had been any births or deaths, and then recorded what the informant remembered. Since this was done months after the event, the margin of error increased immensely and was only as reliable as the person giving the information remembered.

While more information needs to be found on these two families, just locating where they moved to and died is an important step in the research process.

## Update on Isaac Kester of Arkansas

In the September 1998 issue of *The Newscaster*, there was an article about Isaac Kester and his descendants based on the information sent to us by Gary Kester of New York City. Since then Jean White has found two articles on this Kester family and has done some additional research. She also found two people on the internet working on this same family. We still have a lot of work to do, but at least we now know a lot of the names of the members of these families. Hopefully, some of our members can help us out with some of this research.

2/99

Henry MISC disk\Isaac

Isaac Kester born 1770-1780 in either Tennessee or Kentucky, according to his children on later census. He is first found on a petition in the St. Genevieve District 88, Louisiana Territory in 1806. He is found on the tax list of Lawrence County, AR in 1816. He served on a jury in 1817 in that county. (Another marriage was recorded on the same day by the same Justice of the Peace; Sally Kester married Joel Perryman 21 June

1833 Lawrence County, AR. Who is she?) He married second Nancy Gray 26 September 1833 in Lawrence County, Arkansas.

Isaac or Isaac, Jr. bought two parcels of land from the federal government in 1834 and 1835. This land combined was about 80 acres and lay in Sections 18 and 20, Township 19-N, Range 4-W, which is now in Sharp County, Arkansas. Isaac Kester, Sr. appears on the Lawrence County, Arkansas tax lists from 1828 to 1837. He died in 1843 in Lawrence County, Arkansas. On 16 December 1843 Lemuel Beasley was appointed administrator. Nancy died 4 October 1845 in Lawrence County. Ferguson Booth was appointed her administrator. Her heirs were listed as: Sarah Jan Winstead, William Gray, Riley Gray, Nelson Gray and (?) (should be Josiah) Kester; all residing on Spring River, Lawrence County, Arkansas.

Children of Isaac by first wife:

1. Isaac Kester, Jr. born 1800-1810; living Marion County, AR 1843.
2. Frederick Kester; married Mary "Polly" Humphrey 10 December 1831 Lawrence County, AR; died 1833 Lawrence County, AR.
3. Arnold Kester married Dolly (surname unknown); died February 1843 Lawrence Co. AR.
4. Elizabeth Kester; married Joseph Brewer 29 May 1841 Lawrence County, AR; living Lawrence County, AR 1843.
5. William Kester; living Marion County, AR 1843.
6. Susan Kester; living Marion County, AR 1843.

Children of Isaac and Nancy:

7. Josiah Kester born 1841; married Arsena (surname unknown) about 1881; died 1928 Claremore, OK.

Sources:

Carter, Clarence Edwin; *The Territorial Papers of the United States*; Vol. XIII (1948) US Government Printing Office; Washington; p. 468-9.

Lawrence County, AR Marriages; Book A, p. 36; FHL film #1290702.

Information from Gary Kester. New York City - 1998  
 e-mail Charlotte Lucas - 6 Feb 1999  
 Bureau of Land Management Web site; Arkansas Patents  
 Web page Steve Bemrich; Family Tree Farm - 1999  
 1830 Census Lawrence County, AR; p. 15  
 Isaac Kester, Sr.  
 1 M 50-60 1 F 20-30  
 1 M 20-30 1 F 15-20  
 3 M 15-20 2 F 5-10  
 1 M 0-5 1 F 0-5

1. Isaac William Kester, jr. born 1800-1810, the son of Isaac Kester. He married Union Everett in September 1833 at Randolph County, Arkansas. Union was born about 1815, the daughter of Jeremiah and Alay (Saunders) Everett. Isaac appears on the tax lists of Lawrence County, Arkansas from 1828 to 1838. It appears that there were other persons living in his household in 1840 besides his immediate family. Both Isaac and Union died between 1842 and 1850 at Marion County, Arkansas.

#### Children of Isaac, Jr.:

1. William Kester born 15 November 1833; married Angeline McClland 15 September 1853; died 1907. [editor's note: This information came from Gary Kester of New York City. According to the article by Buck Kester, William was the son of Joseph Kester].

2. Alsey Elizabeth Kester born 5 August 1834 AR; married Rev. Joshua Reeves 16 October 1852 Marion County, AR; died 29 Jun 1926 Holly Twp., Van Buren County, AR.

3. Mary Kester born October 1836 AR; married Esias Calvin Baker about 1858; died after May 1910.

4. Thomas "Ewell" Kester born 1838 AR; married Louisa (surname unknown); living Searcy County, AR 1880.

5. Isaac Wilson Kester born 15 October 1839 Marion County, AR; married Sinia Louisa Price; died 11 February 1882 AR.

6. Louisa Jane Kester born 1842 AR; married Isaac Woodard.

#### Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p.

13.  
 1830 Census Lawrence County, AR; p. 15.  
 Isaac Kester, Jr  
 1 M 20-30 1 F 15-20

1840 Census Lawrence County, AR; p. 13  
 Isaac Kester  
 2 males 5-10 1 female 0-5  
 1 male 20-30 1 female 5-10  
 1 male 40-50 1 female 10-15  
 1 female 15-20  
 1 female 30-40

1850 Census Marion County, AR; p. 327  
 259/260  
 Ailsey Kester 17 AR  
 Polly 14 AR  
 Ewell 12 AR  
 Isaac W. 10 AR  
 Louisa J. 8 AR

2. Frederick Kester was born about 1808, the son of Isaac Kester. He is on the tax lists of Lawrence County, Arkansas from 1829 to 1831. He is not found on the census in Arkansas or Missouri after that date. He married Mary "Polly" Humphrey 10 December 1831 in Lawrence County, Arkansas. Frederick died before 6 May 1833, when his administrators, Mary Kester and James Humphrey, were appointed.

#### Sources:

Lawrence County, AR Marriages; Book A, p. 24; FHL film#1290702  
 E-mail from Charlotte Lucas - 1999.

3. Arnold Kester/Custer, born about 1814, the son of Isaac Kester. He is on the tax lists of Lawrence County, Arkansas in 1835 and 1836. He married Dolly (surname unknown) around 1825 to 1829. Dolly was born in 1812 in Kentucky. Arnold died about February 1843 at Lawrence County, Arkansas. Dolly Dolly was named his administrator. Dolly remarried to John Ellison about 1845 and was living in Fulton County, Arkansas in 1850.

#### Children of Arnold:

1. ?William Kester born 1833 AR; married Angeline Evans 14 November 1853 Lawrence County, AR.

2. Male Kester born 1835-1840 AR.

3. Male Kester born 1835-1840 AR.

4. Isaac Kester born 1838 AR.

5. Mary Kester born 1841 AR

1840 Census Miatt, Lawrence County, AR; p. 13

Arnold Kester [census very difficult to read]

3 males 0-5

1 male 10-15

1 male 20-30

1850 Census South Fork, Fulton County, AR; p. 154

24/24

John Ellison 52 NC farmer

Dolly 38 KY

Samuel T 20 TN

John 18 TN

Rachel A. E. 15 TN

Isaac Kester 12 AR

Mary Kester 9 AR

Roena Ellison 4 AR

7. Josiah Kester born November 1841 in Arkansas, the son of Isaac and Nancy (Gray) Kester. Josiah was listed as a minor heir in both his father's and mother's (Nancy Gray) estates. George Wells was appointed his guardian in 1848, and Matthew Summerville was appointed in 1852 because George Wells had died. Josiah fought for Confederacy. Josiah married Arsena (surname unknown) about 1880. Arsena was born in April 1867 in Alabama. She died between 1906 and 1910, probably in Texas. Josiah died in 1928 at Claremore, Oklahoma.

Children of Josiah and Arsena:

1. William Kester born Jul 1881 AR.

2. John W. Kester born March 1883 AR.

3. Serrefa A. Kester born September 1884 AR.

4. Ader Kester born July 1887 AR.

5. Josiah R. Kester born July 1887 AR.

6. Nathaniel J. Kester born March 1891 AR.

7. Tempie B. Kester born July 1892 AR.

8. Elijah Jeremiah Kester born March 1894 AR.

9. Nancy J. Kester born January 1896 AR.

10. Susie A. Kester born January 1898 AR.

11. Arrena Angeline Kester born January 1898 AR.

12. Benjamin R. Kester born April 1900 AR.

13. Rey Kester born 1902 OK.

14. May Kester born 1902 OK.

15. Willie Kester born 1904 OK.

16. Dora Kester born 1906 OK.

Sources:

1900 Census Union Twp., Crawford County, AR; 57-2

Josiah Kester Nov 1841 AR KY KY M19 farmer

Arrena Apr 1867 AL GA AL

William Jul 1881 AR AR AL

John W Mar 1883 AR AR AL

Serrefa A Sep 1884 AR AR AL

Ader Jul 1887 AR AR AL

Josiah R Mar 1890 AR AR AL

Nathaniel J Mar 1891 AR AR AL

Tempie B Jul 1892 AR AR AL

Elijah J Mar 1894 AR AR AL

Nancy J Jan 1896 AR AR AL

Susie A Jan 1898 AR AR AL

Arrena A Jan 1898 AR AR AL

Benjamin R Apr 1900 AR AR AL

Mary J. Willey Oct 1879 MS GA AL neice

Minnie Willey Dec 1881 MS GA AL neice

1910 Soundex Montague County, TX; 165-133

Josiah Kester 70 AR head

Jeremiah 16 AR son

Nancy J. 14 AR dau

Odahna (f) 12 AR dau

Angeline 12 AR dau

Rey 8 OK son

May 8 OK dau

Willie 6 OK son

Dora 4 OK dau

1-1 William "Billy" Kester born 15 November 1833 in Arkansas. He married Angeline McCelland 15 September 1853. Angeline was born in 1834 in Tennessee. The family moved to Ava, Douglas County, MO. William served in the Civil War for the

Union, enlisting in Company B, 16th Regiment, Missouri Cavalry. He enlisted on 1 November 1863 and was discharged at Springfield on 1 July 1865. Angeline died 10 January 1892. William married Melvina Paraler Jenkins on 17 October 1897. He died 18 October 1907 in Douglas County, Missouri. He and Angeline are buried in the Butler Cemetery, Douglas County, Missouri.



William and Angeline Kester

#### Children of William and Angeline:

1. Isaac Kester born October 1854; married Isabelle "Belle" Baxter 1872; died 1931.
2. Jeremiah M. Kester born April 1858 MO; married Margaret Baxter about 1880; married Cordelia Taber.
3. Frances "Seigle" Kester born 1861 MO; ?married Mary L. (surname unknown); died before 1900.
4. William B. Kester born 1864 MO; married Louisa Nowlin 3 September 1882 Douglas County, MO.
5. Margaret Kester born 1867 MO.
6. John Lewis Kester born October 1870 MO; married Lilly Bradley; married Jane Adams; married Hulda Bates.
7. Josiah "Joe" Kester born July 1875 MO; married Rosa Bradley; married Emma Adams.

#### Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.  
Ellsberry, Elizabeth Prather; Douglas County Missouri Marriage Records 1866-1889; Chillicothe, MO; 1961; p. 3

1870 Census Washington Twp., Douglass County, MO; p. 690 1/1

William Kester	36 AR	farmer
Angelina	34 AR	
Isaac	15 MO	
Jery	15 MO	
Siegel	9 MO	
William	6 MO	
Margaret	3 MO	

1880 Census Washington, Douglas County, MO; ED2; p. 8.

William Kester	47 AR TN TN
Angeline	46 TN TN TN
Sigel	19 MO AR TN
Wm B	16 MO AR TN
John L.	9 MO AR TN
Josiah	5 MO AR TN

1-4 Thomas Ewin Kester was born in 1837 in Arkansas, the son of Isaac and Union Kester. He married Louisa (surname unknown) about 1879. Louisa was born in 1850 in Arkansas. She may have been married to a Mr. Brown first. Ewin was living at Tomahawk, Searcy County, Arkansas in 1880.

#### Sources:

1880 Soundex Tomahawk, Searcy County, AR; V12 ED174 S8 L41  
Kester, Thomas E 43 AR  
Louisa 30 AR  
Brown, Emanuel 6 AR

1-5 Isaac Wilson "Big Isaac" Kester was born 15 October 1839 in Marion County, Arkansas, the son of Isaac William and Union (Everett) Kester. He married Sinia Louisa Price about 1866. Sinia was born June 1847 in Arkansas, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Brewer) Price. Isaac died 11 February 1882 in Arkansas. Sinia was living with her son, Lindsey, in 1900.

#### Children of Isaac and Sinia:

1. Lucinda Jane Kester born 17 August 1867 Searcy County, AR; married David Joshua Shipman 8 July

1888 Searcy County, AR; died 22 September 1943 OK.

2. Martha Ann Kester born 22 January 1869; married Thomas M. Shipman; died 14 April 1943.

3. Thomas Ewell Kester born 17 September 1871 Searcy County, AR; married Hannah E. Adams; died 5 January 1914.

4. Belle Kester born 11 January 1875 Searcy County, AR; died 30 September 1926.

5. Isaac Wilson Kester, Jr. born 14 December 1876; married Louise Mary McNair; died 18 October 1903 St. Joe, Searcy County, AR.

6. Sarah Elizabeth Kester born 22 September 1878 Searcy County, AR; died 7 March 1971 Harrison, Searcy County, AR.

7. Lindsey Brewer Kester born 23 January 1881 Searcy County, AR; married Lucinda Baker; died 8 February 1951 Cleveland, Osage County, OK.

#### Sources:

Web page of Steve Bemrich; Family Tree Farm - 1999.

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1880 Soundex Tomahawk Twp., Searcy County, AR 125-19

Isaac W. Kester Dec 1876 AR

Mary P. Apr 1880 KS

1900 Soundex St. Joe Twp., Searcy County, AR 126-1

Linsey B. Kester Jan 1881 AR

Rebecca L. Jan 1881 AR

Mattie C. Feb 1899 AR

Sinia L. Jun 1847 AR

1-1-1 Isaac Kester born October 1854, the son of Isaac and Angeline (McCelland) Kester. He married Isabell M. "Belle" Baxter 1872. He died in 1931.

#### Children of Isaac and Belle:

1. Mary Margaret "Maggie" Kester born August 1874 MO; married Ulysses Barnes.

2. William R. "Will" Kester born 1876 MO; married Mary (surname unknown).

3. George "Everett" Kester born 1878 MO; married Hattie Faubion.

4. Newton Virgil "Bird" Kester born 1880 MO; married Lilly Turner 1906.

5. Arthur J. Kester born January 1884 MO; married Nell Turner.

6. Luthie Angeline "Lue". Kester born Nov 1886 MO; married James Felton.

7. Lonzo H. "Loney" Kester born October 1888 MO; married Kate Pratt.

8. Luther Raymond Kester born September 1890 MO; married Edith Dunn; married Ruth Dunn.

9. Ethel Mae Kester born April 1893 MO; married Ona Hughes.

#### Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p.13-20.

1880 Soundex Campbell Township, Douglas County, MO; Ed28; p. 11.

Isaac Kester 26 MO

Isabel M. 26 GA

Mary M. 7 MO

Wm R. 4 MO

Geo E 2 MO

Newt. V 3/12 MO

1900 Soundex Campbell Township, Douglass County, MO; ED100; p. 2.

Isaac Kester Oct 1854 MO

Isabell M. Sep 1854 GA

Maggie C. Aug 1874 MO

Arthur J. Jan 1884 MO

Lou A. Nov 1886 MO

Lonzo H. Oct 1888 MO

Luther R. Sep 1890 MO

Ethel M. Apr 1893 MO

1-1-2 Jeremiah M. Kester was born April 1858 Missouri. He married Margaret Baxter about 1880. He married Cordelia Taber.

#### Children of Jeremiah and Margaret:

1. Ellis Kester married Lizzie Pratt.

2. Bertha Kester married John P. Johnson 18 February

1906 Douglas County, MO.

3. Lizzie Kester married Owen Haden.
4. Zada Kester married Smile Denney.
5. Elzie Kester married Rhoda Hughes.
6. Ernest Kester married Carrie Denney.
7. Elmer Kester died in France.
8. Ola Kester married Walter Brummett; died in her 20's.

Children of Jeremiah and Cordelia:

9. Loyd Kester married Alma Prine.
- 10 Grace Kester married Owen "Buddy" Roller.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-4 William B. Kester was born 1866 in Missouri. He married Louisa Nowlin.

Children of William and Louisa:

1. Oscar Kester married Bertha Sweeper.
2. Louis Kester married Mae Murray.
3. Harrison Kester married Stella Glass; died Palm Springs, CA age 99.
4. Ivy Kester.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-6 John Lewis Kester was born October 1870 in Missouri. He married Lilly Bradley. He married Jane Adams before 1900. He married Hulda Bates.

Children of John and Lilly:

1. Earl Kester born March 1893 MO; died 1904 at age 11.

2. Cecil Kester died at age 4 before 1900.

Children of John and Jane:

3. Myrtle Kester born after 1900; married Corbett Brown.
4. Mable Kester married Ralph Phillips.
5. Tressie Kester married Clair Schmidt.

Child of John and Hulda:

6. Lavon married Dave Seaman.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1900 Soundex Washington Twp., Douglas County, MO; p. 13

John L. Kester	Oct 1870 MO
Jane	Mar 1871 MO
Irl C.	Mar 1893 MO

1-1-7 Josiah "Joe" Kester was born July 1875 in Missouri. He married Rosa Bradley. He married Emma Adams before 1900.

Children of Joe and Rosa:

1. Tina Kester born November 1894 MO; married Roy Turner.
2. Lillie Kester born November 1896 MO; married Ottie Stafford; died in childbirth.

Children of Joe and Emma:

3. Edith M. Kester born August 1899 MO; married Charlie Gunneis.
4. Cecil "Buck" Kester born after 1900 MO.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1900 Soundex Washington Twp. Douglass County, MO; p. 9.

Joseph Kester	Jul 1875 MO
Emma	Jan 1876 MO
Tiney E	Nov 1894 MO
Lillia A	Nov 1896 MO
Edith M	Aug 1899 MO

1-1-1-2 William R. Kester was born in 1896 in



Missouri. He married Mary (surname unknown).

Child of William and Mary:

1. Betty Jean Kester.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-1-3 George Everett Kester was born in 1870 in Missouri. He married Hattie Faubion. He married Lizzie Gentry. He married Maurine Hooker.

Children of Everett and Hattie:

1. Mabel Kester.
2. Cecil Kester married Hazel Nave; married Elva Dixon.

Children of Everett and Lizzie:

3. Vernon Kester married Ruthene Riley; died Springfield, CO.

4. Lela Kester married Richard Farmer.

Children of Everett and Maurine:

5. Kenneth Kester married Virginia Smith.
6. Franklin Kester married Marie Dean.
7. Marybelle Kester married Jack German.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.



N. V. "Bird" Kester

1-1-1-4 Newton Virgil "Bird" Kester was born 1881. He married Lilly Turner 1906. He died in 1972.

Children of Newton and Lilly:

1. Ruby Kester married Orland Mankin; divorced; married Thelma Spurlock Waters.
2. Zella Kester married Orla Atteberry; married Frank Isbell; married Lester Renegar.
3. Virgil Raymond Kester born 19 March 1916; married Charlene Gray 1938.



Virgil Kester

Sources:

Family Group Sheet of Gary Kester; New York, NY - 1998.  
Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-1-5 Arthur J. Kester was born January 1884 Missouri. He married Nell Turner.

Children of Arthur and Nell:

1. Orvil Kester.
2. Helen Kester married Al Remington.
3. Ray Kester
4. Barbara "Bobby" Kester.
5. Paul Kester; died in an accident.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-1-6 Luthie Angeline "Lue". Kester was born November 1886 in Missouri. She married James Felton.

Children of Lue and James:

1. Ruth Felton married Omer Turner.

2. Mildred Felton married Homer Haden.

3. Russell Felton married Wanda Pratt.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-1-7 Lonzo H. "Loney" Kester was born October 1888 in Missouri. He married Kate Pratt.

Children of Loney and Kate:

1. Lowell Kester married Dorothy Beam.

2. Naomi Kester married Buck McGill; married John Neal.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

1-1-1-8 Luther Raymond Kester was born September 1890 Missouri. He married Edith Dunn. He married Ruth Dunn.

Children of Raymond and Edith:

1. James Kester married Barbara Garton.

2. John Kester.

Sources:

Kester, Buck; Kester Family History; Douglas County Historical Society Journal; May 1991; p. 13-20.

## Joseph Kester of Arkansas

Who is Joseph Kester born 1815 in Arkansas? He married about 1829. His wife's name is unknown. She died before 1840. Was Joseph living in Illinois around 1830? Joseph then married Margaret (surname unknown) about 1841. Joseph was living in Madison County, Arkansas in 1850.

Children of Joseph:

1. Drucilla Kester born 1830 IL.

2. Julia Kester born 1832 AR.

3. Isaac Kester born 1839 AR; married Armanda (surname unknown) about 1857; living Madison County, AR 1860.

Children of Joseph and Margaret:

4. Sarah Kester born 1841 AR.

5. Anna Kester born 1843 AR.

6. Amanda Kester born 1847 AR.

Sources:

1840 Census Madison County, AR; p. 31

Joseph Kester

2 males 0-5 1 female 5-10

1 male 5-10 2 females 10-15

1 male 20-30

1850 Census Richland, Madison County, AR; p. 271

345/345

Josephus Kester 35 AR

Margaret 40 NC

Drucilla 20 IL

Julia 18 AR

Isaac 11 AR

Sarah 9 AR

Anna 7 AR

Amanda 3 AR

1860 Census King River, Madison County, AR; p. 468

826/826

Isaac Kester 20 AR farmer

Armanda 22 TN

Jas S 2 AR

## Who is Emma Kester?

Another Kester came to light during the research on Isaac Kester. Emma Kester is listed in both the 1900 and 1910 census of Pawnee County, Oklahoma. She was born in 1893 in Oklahoma and is listed as a full blooded Pawnee Indian. Her Indian name was sou-re-ker. She is listed as a step-daughter on each census, but it does not appear that she is living with the same family on both enumerations. In 1900 she is living with Chief Spotted Horse and his wife, Marry. They had been married sixteen years and had a son born in 1893, the exact year of Emma Kester's birth. In 1910 Emma is living with Webster Fox and his wife, Nannie. They have a son Guy Fox born in 1905 living with them. Webster Fox says that he has been married five times and his wife three times. They have been married to each other for only three years. Nannie has had five children and three are still living. Mary Sherman age 60, listed as the step mother of Webster Fox, is living with them. Do any of our members have further information on this Emma Kester?

1900 Census Buchanan, Pawnee County, OK; ED 173, Sheet 15	
Horse, Chief Spotted	1861 39 OK NE NE M16 Pawnee
Marry	1877 23 OK NE NE M16 5/1
Delbert	1893 7 OK NE NE
Kester, Emma	1893 7 OK NE NE

1910 Census Pawnee Twp., Pawnee County, OK; ED 179	
Fox, Webster	46 M5 3 NE NE NE full Pawnee
Nannie	34 M3 3 OK NE NE 5/3
Guy	5 OK NE OK
Kester, Emma	15 OK NE NE
Sherman, Mary	60 W 9 NE NE NE step mother

## Arkansas Land Patents

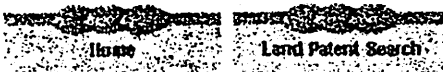
The following list of land patents for the state of Arkansas was obtained from the Eastern Division of the Bureau of Land Management site on the internet. This site is found at: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>. It lists records of sales (patents and grants) from the federal government (NB: deeds for land transactions will be found at the county

courthouse where the deed was recorded) for the following states: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida. After finding the listing of the patent, one can download the actual document from the internet or send for a certified copy of the patent. If the land was obtained through the homestead act, then the case file, found at the National Archives, can contain valuable genealogical information. Use form NATF 84 for ordering these files.

Isaac Kester	1 Nov 1835 Sharp Co. cash entry
Isaac Kester	1 Nov 1834 Sharp Co. cash entry
William W. Kester	10 Jan 1883 Franklin Co. Homestead
George L. Castor	1 Oct 1820 Benton Co. cash entry
John A. Caster	3 Nov 1876 Franklin Co. Homestead
William W. Caster	1 Jul 1875 Franklin Co. Homestead
Jacob Custer	1 Feb 1861 Hempstead Co. cash entry
Jacob Custer	1 Mar 1855 Howard Co. cash entry
Jacob Custer	1 Mar 1861 Hempstead Co. cash entry
Jacob Keister	1 Sep 1846 Sevier Co cash entry
Thomas E. Kester	18 Apr 1898 Marion Co. Homestead
James J. Kester	1 May 1861 Marion Co. cash entry



## Land Patent Report



## Patent Description

AR0480\_\_093

Cancelled: N	Document Nr. : 879	Misc. Document Nr. :
Patentee Name: KESTER, ISAAC		
Warrantee Name:		
Authority: April 24, 1820: Cash Entry Sale (3 Stat. 566)		
Signature Present: Y	Metes/Bounds: N	Subsurface Reserved: N
Signature Date: 11/1/35	Survey Date:	
Land Office: BATESVILLE		Comments:

## Legal Land Descriptions

Nr.	Aliquot Parts	Sec/Blk	Township	Range	Fract. Sect.	Meridian	Acres	Counties
1	SE	18/	19-N	4-W	Y	5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN	44.53	SHARP

The electronic image of the Federal land patent record described above is maintained by the BLM in a TIFF format. You will need an image viewer to view the document. Image viewer plug-ins are available that allow you to view documents within your web browser. However, if you do not have an image viewer plug-in, you may save the document on your computer and use any TIFF compatible image viewer. To get more information about obtaining freeware or low-cost image viewer plug-ins click [here](#).

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## **The Castor Association of America Webpage**

**by Patricia Caster**

The Castor Association of America webpage has moved to a new address on the internet. It is <http://users.cwnet.com/maverik/castor/index.htm>. It is divided into sections for easy access.

The Welcome section has a message from Ken Custer, President. Other contacts are listed in this section, as well as the CAOAA General Store, where you can order items imprinted with all CAOAA associated names.

In the Membership section there is information about how to become a member and a printable membership application is right there. Now you can share membership applications by just letting people know they can find it on the web.

The Archives section explains what is in the CAOAA archives and how information is received. I hope to expand this section in the future.

The Reunions section is a work in progress. I am hoping to get stories and pictures from the past reunions to put in this section. It does contain information on the upcoming reunion in 2000, with some web sites to check out about the area where it will be held.

The News-Caster section gives information about what is in the quarterly newsletter and how to obtain back issues. A work in progress is the index for all issues of *The News-Caster*. If you can help by putting the data into a text file it would help speed up the process of getting the index onto the web.

In the Other Links section you will find web pages of members and other interested parties, as well as web pages that may be of interest to you. If you have a genealogy page or other site which would be of interest to Castor Association members, I would be happy to add your link to our list.

**Look for an article on a major genealogical break through and additional descendants for the Paulus Küsters line in the next issue of The News-Caster, coming in June.**

## **The Castor Mail List - Hosted by Roots Web**

**by Patricia Caster**

A mailing list is a way of forwarding messages to others who are interested in the same genealogical research as you. You send your message to the list and it is sent to everyone who has subscribed to that list. And everything that anyone else sends to the list will be sent to you. It is a great way to find others who are researching in the same area or are researching the same surname.

Our mailing list is dedicated to those who are researching the descendants of Kuster, Koster, Kuster, Kusterd, Kuester, Kester, Custard, Kustard, Kistard, Kister, Gerster, Caster, Castor, Kastor, Koester, Kiester, Keister.

The list was started late last summer after the reunion in Salt Lake City, and it has grown to having eighty subscribers who are all interested in genealogical research.

You can join or quit the mailing list simply by clicking on the following address and sending an e-mail: [Castor-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com](mailto:Castor-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com). To Join: Put the word SUBSCRIBE in the body of the note. Do not put anything else in the subject line. To Quit: Put the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the body of the note. Do not put anything in the subject line.

When you are ready to send an e-mail to the list, send it to the address: [Castor-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:Castor-L@rootsweb.com)

**ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



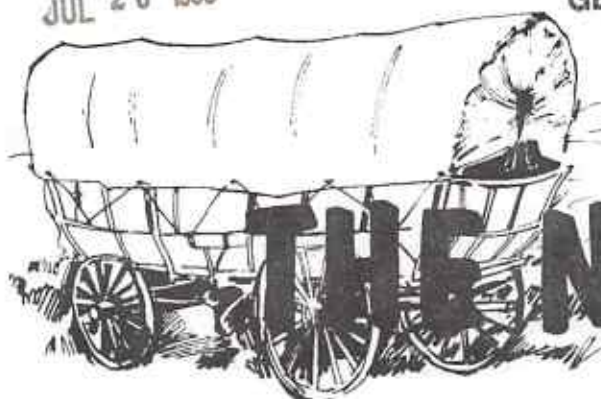
JUL 26 1999

ORANGE COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PERIODICAL

Cb 929-2  
CJS  
D

Kuster Koster  
Custer Kusterd Kuester Kester  
Custard Kustard Kistard Kister Gerster  
Caster Castor Kastor Koester Kiester Keister

OCGGS REFERENCE ONLY



# THE NEWS-CASTER

Publication of The Castor Association of America

**The News-Caster** is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America, a non-profit association, open to all who are interested in genealogy and history. A reunion and business meeting is held biennially on even numbered years at various locations throughout the US. Dues are \$10. If renewal dues is paid before 10 February, there is a \$2 discount. A membership directory is published in June of each year for an additional \$3. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December for all members. Those joining in mid-year will receive the back issues of *The News-Caster* for that year. Members receive four issues of *The News-Caster* per year; genealogical material from the association files on their line; use of the association lending library and notices of pre-publication of books published by the association. Members are expected to donate their research, time and talent for the benefit of all.

Membership applications may be obtained from the Vice-President. Yearly dues should be paid directly to the Treasurer. Please send changes of address, e-mail or phone to the Vice President. Please notify the Vice President of change of address, as *The News-Caster* will not be forwarded to you by the post office. Back issues of *The News-Caster* are available for \$2 each. All checks should be made out to The Castor Association of America and sent to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will then forward your request to the proper person.

## Tobias Loses; Paulus Wins

by Jean M. White

In the March 1997 [Vol. XV, Number 1] issue of *The News-Caster* appeared, "A Case for Removing Most of the Descendants of Tobias Custer (1710-1765)." More research has been done on this problem and the following conclusion was reached, that indeed Tobias Custer was not the father of John Custer of Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Instead this John Custer is son of Paul Custer (Paulus 1-5), and had been previously listed in the association notes as "having little or no evidence of his birth."

Several years ago I corresponded with a lady in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, who insisted that the John Custer, who we said was a son of Tobias Custer, was a son of Paul Custer of the Paulus line. I never could get her to send me any documentation on this, so I finally gave up in frustration trying to prove the issue.

But the problem kept bothering me; there was something wrong with the association records on this family. The biggest factor to me was the fact that John's descendants all belonged to the Church of the Brethren, while none of the other descendants of Tobias appeared to belong to this church. Meanwhile, George Custer (Paulus 1-5-4) who lived in the same area of Pennsylvania as John Custer, also belonged to the Church of the Brethren. George was an elder in this church. George's second wife, Catherine Leatherman, was the daughter of one of the leaders in this church.

The connection to the Brethren Church is also brought out by observing the estate of John Custer. An inquisition taken "at the house of John Custard" on 13 May 1813 was sworn to by six of his friends and neighbors, while being affirmed by six of his other friends and neighbors. When one finds affirmations to a legal document, one can assume that the person who made the affirmation is a member of the Mennonite, Quaker, Amish or Brethren Church. The members of these denominations do not swear to anything.



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This was reconfirmed when I compared notes with John Post, who is retired from the Brethren Press in Elgin, Illinois. He has collected information on the Brethren families of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania area for years and has an immense collection of genealogical information on these families, including the Custers. However, he had no information on the parents of John Custer, only information on John and his descendants. [This collection is currently housed in the West Valley/Sun Cities Genealogical Society Library, Youngtown, AZ]

Integrating the information from John Post and the information from Chester Custer's, *Tobias Custer (ca 1710-1765)* into the association files gave me greater insight into the problem. It was at this time that I wrote the article for *The News-Caster*, "A Case for Removing Most of the Descendants of Tobias Custer (1710-1765)."

When Pat Caster was getting the association web site up and running, she asked me to look the various pages over and make suggestions. One of the web pages linked to our site is managed by Brian Cartwright. You can access this site by going to the association web page at: <http://users.cwnet.com/maverik/castor/index.htm>, and then clicking on "other links." I contacted Brian via his e-mail address at: [blcart95@erols.com](mailto:blcart95@erols.com) and asked what he knew about the parents of John Custer.

Brian has several references from old county histories, pertaining to the lineage of John Custer, posted on his web page. There are several references in the *History of Bedford and Somerset Counties* (1906) Lewis Pub. Co.; 3 vols. On page 508; "John Custer, Sr., who came to Somerset county from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and had been a Revolutionary soldier, having been present at the Battle of Bunker Hill. John Custer, Sr. was the son of Paul Custer..." On page 507 there is a sketch on John Custer, born 1867, son of William. "The family...was founded in this country by Paul Custer, who came from Holland about 1717 and took up his abode in New York. He was accompanied by his sister, Mary, and the two, after remaining in New York, moved to Philadelphia, where Mary Custer became the wife of Colonel Ball, of that city. Paul Custer subsequently settled in Lancaster county, where he died at an advanced age. His sister, Mrs. Ball, who had been for some years a widow, died before her brother." [author's note: this information has been garbled and the generations shoved together, but there is some truth to this; see below.]

In the *History of Cambria County* by Henry W. Storey; Vol. III (1907) Lewis Pub. Co. on page 353 is a write up on Jacob P. Custer. "Paul Custer, the direct ancestor of Jacob P. Custer, was an English gentleman, but it is not definitely know whether he was born in this country or in England [author's note: it was fashionable to be English in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, this is pure fiction.] He resided in Pennsylvania about the beginning of the eighteenth century, and married Sarah Martha Ball, daughter of Colonel Ball, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. [author's note: this is mostly true. For information on this Ball family see: *The Descendants of Paulus and Gertrude Kuster of*

*Kaldekirchen and Germantown, Pennsylvania* (1991) Jean M. White, editor or *Ball Cousins* (1981) by Margaret Kinsey] Mrs. Custer had a brother — Jonathan— and a sister — Mary --who became the second wife of Augustine Washington, and grandmother of the illustrious George Washington. [author's note: this is pure fiction. The closest George Washington ever got to this family was to order his fire backs for his fireplaces at Mt. Vernon from their iron works.] John Custer, son of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer, had a son, John." [author's note: this is true]

Not one of these county histories mentions John Custer as being the son of Tobias. They all say he is the son of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer. The association file on this Paul Custer lists a son, John, but then goes on to say that there is little or no evidence of this birth. I say there is plenty of evidence. Besides the county histories mentioned above, Ernest Spofford in his *Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography*, page 341, lists the children of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer as: John, Jonathan, Paul, George and William. *Reading and Berks County, Pennsylvania*, Vol. II (1925) by Cyrus T. Fox; Lewis Pub. Co. on page 17 lists the children of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer as: John, Jonathan, Paul, George and William. They all agree that there was a John who was the son of Paul and Martha (Ball) Custer.

It is interesting to note that the settlement of the estate of Joseph Ball (subject of two books - *A Pennsylvania Pioneer: Report of the Executive Committee Pt. 1 & 2 of the Ball Estate Association* (1900) by Emmett William Gans and *Ball Cousins* (1981) by Margaret Kinsey) does not mention John Custer as an heir to the estate. It does not mention his brothers Paul Custer or William Custer, either. However, it does mention an additional brother not mentioned in either of the lists above, Nicholas Custer. Perhaps the lawyers searching the missing heirs of Joseph Ball's widow, never found John and William. Having done missing heirs research myself, it would be an easy thing to miss finding a couple of the heirs, especially in the those days with no internet or telephones. The association has been able to build files on all the children of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer, except Paul.

Brian Cartwright sent one more bit of evidence that John Custer was the son of Paul, or at least not a son of Tobias Custer. He sent a copy of a message received from Judy Tucker of Albion, New York: "My interest in the Custer research was the family story on my dad's side of our connection with General George Armstrong Custer. I had heard that my great grandfather, Jacob Hershberger, used to joke with his family about his wife being related to the famous general. Several of the relatives went to Little Bighorn shortly after the battle to pick up some arrowheads and a minnie ball. These were kept in a clock Jacob gave to his daughter just before he died.

Brian's comments on Judy's message are well taken, "She mentions her great-grandfather talking about being related to General Custer, whose ancestors did live in an adjacent county (Garrett County, MD). Did they jokingly assume because the surname was the same, or were they in contact with the General's relatives who still lived in the area? And the trip to the Little Bighorn, this was no small venture for the late 1870's. I don't think they would have made the trip on a whim."

A cousin of Judy's, Marji Worsham, wrote: my mother gave me the family lineage; she never did any genealogical research to learn this information. She grew up listening to the stories about her great-grandfather, John Custer (1825-1915 m. Polly Berkey), who had told his great - granddaughter stories about his great-grandfather, Paul Custer, and that the name was spelled Kuster and not Custer. Her lineage as given to her by her mother is: Bertha (Hersberger) Good (1885-1961); Mary "Polly" (Custer) Hershberger (1859-1928); John Custer (1825-1915); Frederick A. Custer (1775-1848); Jonathan Custer (1738-1823); Paul Custer (1720-1783) who married Sarah Martha Ball. She also quotes the book published on the Berkey family as listing Polly Berkey's husband as a cousin of General George Custer.

Marji's mother is absolutely correct with her lineage down to Frederick A. Custer being the son of Jonathan Custer. However, Frederick Custer was the son of John Custer, as clearly stated in the estate settlement of John. No Frederick Custer appears as a son of

Jonathan Custer. There has been some disbelief that there could be a John and a Jonathan in the same family. Having these two names is quite common, especially in Scotch-Irish families. It is a bit unusual for German families to use both John and Jonathan in naming their children. They are two distinct first names, and not a nickname or alternate one to the other. However, the end conclusion is the same, that this lineage stems from Paul Custer and his wife Sarah Martha Ball.

Brian Cartwright has pointed to some of the naming patterns in the family, as a way of sorting out the father of John Custer. Quoting him: "John Sr had sons John, Abraham, Jacob and Frederick. John Jr. has sons Henry, Jacob, Abraham, Philip, Frederick and John. Abraham had Jacob, Abraham, Henry and Emanuel. Jacob had John, Jacob and Samuel. Frederick had Jacob, Frederick, William, John and Michael." According to the naming patterns, John's father should be Jacob or John. The Paulus Küster family has never used the traditional German naming patterns for naming their children. I think this is probably because the Küsters are from the northern part of Germany almost to the Holland boarder. Most of the other German settlers to Pennsylvania came from southern Germany, along the Rhine River.

While no primary source states who the parents of John Custer are, there are numerous secondary sources and family traditions which build the case for his parents being Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer. Here is the association file on John:

4/99 (file Tobias.3.1) Tobias disk\3\0  
moved to Paulus 1\5\3

John Custer was born about 1731 in Pennsylvania, the son of Paul and Sarah Martha (Ball) Custer. John married Margaret. Is this Margaritha Bleistein who married John Philip Custer 28 November 1752 at Christ Church, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania? He was enrolled sometime during 1780-1781 at Private Fifth Class in Captain John Moore's Second Battalion, Lancaster County Militia in which he served at a substitute for Abraham Sebolt. This tour of duty went to Bucks County according to the Muster Roll of the 5th, 6th and 7th Classes dated 1781. During

1780-1783, he enrolled in Captain Wendel Weaver's Seventh Company, Second Battalion, Lancaster County Militia. In 1790, they lived in Franklin County, Pennsylvania in that part of the county which was said to lie outside of the named townships of Fanett, Hamilton, Letterkenny, Montgomery and Peters. In 1790, there were eleven persons in his household. John died in 1812 at Quemahoning Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. His will was dated 13 July 1811, and was proved 24 August 1812:

[Will is written in German -- translation]

I, Johannes Kustert, of Strassbache, write this will for the benefit of my housewife, Margretta. Margretta is to have my house and stable as long as she wants it or lives there or can hold it, and any one cow that she wants. Ond bed, one large kettle, one small kettle, one spinning wheel, all kitchen utensils that she brought, one large chest and all that is in it, one dozen pewter spoons. Witness this, my hand an seal this day, July 13, 1811. If she leaves the farm she is to have \$300 in cash, with the above mentioned articles.

Johannes Custert (seal)

Christian Blauch  
Jacob Blauch

His estate papers (#1812) name his wife, Margaret, and the following children: Abraham, Jacob, John, Frederick, Barbara and Catherine:

Somerset County SS The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

To Frederick Kuster -- Take notice that the last will & Testament of John Kuster decd has this day been proven in the Register's Office for said County & you are hereby cited to appear at the next Orphans Court to be held for said County on the last Monday in August inst at Somerset to shew cause if any you have why the Letters of Administration granted to you should not be revoked & disannulled. Witness my hand and seal of office this 24th day of August 1812.

Alexander Ogle, Register

-----

I, Margaret Custer, widow of John Custer, decd late of Quemahoning Township Somerset County, do herby renounce my right to the administration upon the Estate of my said husband & also I acknowledge I have recd from Frederick Custer the administrator with the will annexed & the several articles bequeathed to me by the will of my said husband which

is in full satisfaction of my dower or third of the pension of Estate of said deceased. Witness my hand & seal the eleventh day of September AD 1812.

her

Margrate X Kustard (seal)

mark

Witnesses

Peter Berkey

Johanes ( \_ ? \_ )

-----  
To the honorable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Somerset now comprising an Orphans Court in & for Said County 28th December Anno Domini 1812 --

The Petition of Frederick Custard on of the heirs of John Custard late of Comenough Township in said County deceased --

Humbly Sheweth -- That your Petitioners said Father lately died Intestate leaving a Widow to wit Margaret and issue six children to wit, Fredk (your Petitioner), John, Jacob, Abraham, Barbara intermarried with Henry Reed & Catharine intermarried with William Fenlow, and that the said Intestate decd seized in his demesne as of fee of and in a certain messuage or one undivided half of two hundred and sixty acres of land or thereabouts situate in Comenmaugh Township in Said County with the appurtenances, Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your honours to award an Inquest to make partition of the premises aforesaid to and amongst the children and Representations of the said Intestate in such manner and in such proportions as by the laws of this Commonwealth is directed if such partition can be made without prejudice to or Spoiling the whole, but if such partition cannot be made thereof as aforesaid, then to value & appraise the same & make Report of their proceedings according to Law. And he will ever prayed etc.

his

Fredk X Custard

mark

-----  
Inquisition indicted and taken at the house of John Custard in the County of Somerset on the thirteenth day of May eighteen hundred & thirteen. Before Frederick Neff Esquire high Sheriff of the County aforesaid, by virtue of a writ of Partition or Valuation to him directed and to this Inquisition amen, \_\_\_ the oaths of Joseph Berky, Daniel Shaver, Philip Cocker, Henry Gibler, William LaDoras, and Andrew Wertz. Amd the solemn affirmations of Peter Berky, Micahel Spitzer, Peter Spitzer, Christian Kaufman, Joseph Miller and John Bumdryer. \_\_\_ free honest & lawful men of this Bailiwick who on their oaths and affirmations aforesaid do say that they went to the messuage & premises whereof John Custard in the writ named decd seized

& possessed then & there did find that the same could not be divided & parted to and among the parties in the said writ named without prejudice to & spoiling the whole thereof: And therefore the Inquest aforesaid on their oath and affirmations as aforesaid have valued & appraised the same at the sum of three Dollar per acre. In Testamony whereof as well the said Sheriff as the Inquest aforesaid have to this Inquisition interchangeably set their hands & seals. Dated the day & year first above written.

his

Joseph e Berky (seal)

Frank Neff Shff (seal)

mark

Daniel Shaver (seal)

Peter Berky (seal)

other signatures

Their children:

1. Marie Barbara Custer born about 1759; confirmed 1773 age 14, Christ Lutheran Church, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, PA; married Henry Reed.

2. John Custer born about 1762; confirmed 1779 at age 17 Christ Lutheran Church, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, PA; married Elizabeth (surname unknown); died 1828 in what later became Paint Township of Somerset County, PA.

3. Abraham Custer born 1764 Cumberland County (in a part that later became Franklin County), PA; married Susanna Long; died 1834 in Quernahoning Township, Somerset County, PA.

4. Jacob Custer born 1765 Franklin County, PA; married Catherine (surname unknown); died 1819 Jenner Township, Somerset County, PA.

5. Catherine Elizabeth Custer born about 1768; confirmed 1782 at age 14 Christ Lutheran Church; married William Fenlow; died after December 1812.

6. Frederick Custer born 6 July 1773 PA; married Molly Staehr Stare/Starr, married second Elizabeth Stover about 1800; died 24 April 1841 Conemaugh Township, Somerset County, PA.

Sources:

Custer, Chester Eugene; Descendants of Tobias Custer ca

1710-1765, Volume 28.

Post, John; Some of the Descendants of John Philip Custer and Margaret Bleistein; page 1.

Somerset County, Pa Will Files #13 & #21, Book \_\_, p 483  
letter Shirley Michael - 6 March 1985

Pennsylvania Archives\Fifth Series, Vol 7, pp 135, 161 & 182  
Coleman, Earnes H.; A Custer Family (1957), pp 17-18,  
138-139, 145, 148, & 151.

1790 census Pa, Franklin County

Jno Custard

4M +16 5F

2M -16

1800 census Pa, Franklin County, Lt, p 43/315/925

John Custard Senr

1M 45+ 1F 26-45

1M -10

1810 census Pa, Somerset County, Quemahoning Twp, p 413

John Kuster Sr

1M 45+ 1F 45+

to her tombstone, but her death certificate says the date of death is 8 August 1877) in Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia, and is buried in the Custer Cemetery, Harrison County, West Virginia. She was 94 years old. She was a woman of remarkable physical constitution and mental vigor, according to a local newspaper.

FAMILY RECORD  
MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE IN

Marriages.

*John Kuster and Catherine*  
*Valentine were married August*  
*16th 1801.*

Bible record of Ruth Ellen Dawson Custer

## Catherine (Valentine) Custer

### Grandmother of Gen. George Custer

Catherine Custer Burke of Rowlesburg West Virginia answered the query in the last issue and supplied us with the proof that Catherine Valentine did marry John Custer. John and Catherine were the great-great-great grandparents of Catherine Burke. Hoyer's Pioneer Families of Garrett County (MD) on page 161 incorrectly lists John Custer as marrying a member of the Garlitz family. According to Catherine Burke, Hoyer took this misinformation from an earlier publication (1896), "Brown's Miscellaneous Writings," by Jacob Brown.

3/99

(file Paulus.1.4.9.2) Paulus 1 disk\49-2

John Custer was born 26 February 1782 in Colebrookdale Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, son of Emanuel and Anna Maria (Fedele) Custer. John married Catharine Valentine 11 May 1801. Catharine was born 10 October 1783 in Pennsylvania. John was a blacksmith. John died 16 December 1830 at Cresaptown, Allegany County, Maryland. Catharine died 15 August 1877 (according

Their children:

1. John W. Custer born 29 February 1803 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; died August 1803.
2. Ann Custer born 26 June 1804 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Frederick Wagner 6 September 1821 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; died 10 November 1848 Leachtown, Wood County, WV.
3. Emanuel Henry Custer born 10 December 1806 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Matilda Viers 7 August 1828 New Rumley, OH; married Maria (Ward) Kirkpatrick 23 February 1836 New Rumley, OH; died 17 November 1892 Frenchtown, Monroe County, MI.
4. Mary Custer born 23 February 1811 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married John George Isenhardt 24 November 1829 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; died 7 February 1895 Clarksburg, Harrison

County, WV.

5. George Washington Custer born 21 November 1815 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Sidney Ann Reed; died TX.

6. James Cresap Custer born 11 June 1817 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Ruth Ellen Dawson 24 November 1836 Frostburg, Cumberland County, MD; died 16 February 1881 Clarksburg, Harrison County, WV, buried Custer Cemetery, Harrison County, WV.

7. Alexander S Custer born 15 April 1819 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Elizabeth Logston 21 September 1837 Frostburg, Cumberland County, MD; died 22 November 1891 Clarksburg, Harrison County, WV, buried Custer Cemetery, Harrison County, WV.

8. Ellen Custer born 22 February 1825 Cresaptown, Allegany County, MD; married Jefferson Franklin Pierce 7 June 1849 Wood County, VA; married William Vinden; died 1893, buried Rowlesburg, Preston County, WV.

#### Sources:

Death certificate of Catherine (Valentine) Custer.  
Family Bible owned by Ruth Ellen (Dawson) Custer.  
Biographical sketch of Catherine Custer; Clarksburg Telegram; 8 April 1876.

Printout of the Custer Cemetery, Harrison County, WV, p. 432.  
Custer, Chester Eugene; Descendants of John Custer (1782-1830)

Custer, Milo; Custer Genealogies (1944), pp 59, 61, 62 & 64.  
1810 census, Maryland, Allegany County, 5th Dist, p 36.

#### John Custer

1M 26-45	1F 45+
1M 16-26	1F 26-45
2M -10	1F -10

1820 census, Maryland, Allegany Co, p 22

#### John Custer

1M 45+	1F 45+
1M 26-45	1F 16-26
1M 10-16	1F 10-16
3M -10	

1870 census West Virginia, Harrison Co, Clark Twp, p 87, #190

John E Isenhardt	63 MD	blacksmith
Mary "	60 MD	

Eppa S "	18 VA	
Catherine Custer	80 VA	
James "	25 MI	engineer
Sidney E "	23 VA	
Virginia Henderson	18 VA	servant

## Carra Lindsey (1898 - 1999) Our Oldest Member



Carra Lindsey's daughter has notified the association that her mother passed away a few days before her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. "Carra would have been 101 on March 3, 1999 but I am sorry to report that she passed away on February 26, 1999. We had the funeral on her birthday. It was upbeat, sad though joyous and warm. The church was nearly full, which meant a lot, as she had outlived most of her friends. The church women put on a buffet and we had a birthday cake as part of the buffet."

Carra was born March 3, 1898 in Conway, Iowa, daughter of William H. and Lucy E. (Custer) Nendick. Her lineage is: Paulus Küster (1644 - 1708); Arnold Kuster (1699 - 1739); Nicholas Kuster (1706 - 1784); John Custer (1736 - 1812); Christian Custer (1780 - 1852); Paul Custer (1822 - 1898); Lucy Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Custer) Nendrick (1857 - 1938); Carra (Nendrick) Lindsay (1898 - 1999). Carra was a long time member of the association and always had her dues paid at least two years in advance, so she wouldn't miss an issue of *The News-Caster*. Her daughter will continue membership in the association and her research.



## Missing Cousins

The association archives contains a number of old photos which are unidentified. The notebook with these photos has been to several association reunions with some success. However, to get more coverage we plan to publish several of the photos in each issue of The News-Caster and Patricia Caster will post the photos on our association web page. If you recognize the people in any of these photos please contact our archivist, Jean M. White, either by e-mail or snail mail.

The following three photos were taken by Geo. Burgoyne in Manhattan, Kansas.



pamphlet listing the microfilm that is available at the Clayton Library in Houston, Texas. Donated by Clayton Library.

Notes From the Society Of Friends On Quaker Records, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19107.

*New Jersey From Colony To State, 1609-1789*, by Richard McCormick (1964), 191 pages.

*O'Toole's Obediant Orb*, by Gaylord B. Castor.

"Paulas Kusters From Kaldenkirchen and His Ancestors" (1954), by William Niepoth, translated by Guido Kusters.

"Pennsylvania Records and Notes," donated by Marilyn Miller. Three (3) pages of notes taken from Pennsylvania files.

*Pioneers Of Crawford County, Pennsylvania, 1788-1800*, by Robert D. Ilisevich (1985), 47 pages.

"Platte Valley, Nebraska Books, Gifts, and Genealogical Supplies", a (January, 1982) catalog.

Publications Of the Pennsylvania German Society, Volume III (1970), 179 pages.

*Seven Marstellers And Their Lineal Descendants*, by John Andrew Thompson Marsteller (1938), 32 pages. Donated by Addie Ludwig of Ottumwa, Iowa.

*\*Some Caster/Castor Genealogies*, Castor Family Association (1985)

*\*\*Tobias Kuster Descendants*, compiled by Garry L. Custer (1992), 219 pages.

*Vom Rhein zum Delaware, Krefelder grundeten, 1683, Germantown* [From the Rhine To the Delaware, Krefelders Found Germantown In 1683], by Ernest Koppen (1983), 82 pages (in German). Donated by Leo Wastler of WastlerEscorted Travel, Inc.

Windber-Johnstown Area Genealogical Society Newsletters (August, 1889 and November, 1989).

\*Another copy is being made from personal books of some of the members.

\*\*A copy of this is in the archives and will be moved to the lending library when the information is integrated into the family files.

## Martha Anna Custer

Kimberly Ann Sanchez, a new member, sent us the following obituary and biographical sketch of her ancestor. Using the information in the articles and the loose files in the archives, a file was constructed on the parents and grandparents of Martha Anna.

Seattle Post Intelligencer - July 23, 1958

Mrs. Mattie Zobrist, 95, State Pioneer, Succumbs

Mrs. Mattie Custer Zobrist, 95, a Washington State pioneer of Acme, Whatcom County, died in the Sedro Woolley Memorial Hospital Monday.

Biography: Born in Indiana; related to General Custer and the pioneer Denny family; came to Park, Whatcom County, as a bride more than 70 years ago. She and husband Fred Zobrist, who died in 1944, established a trading post and pack train at the head of Lake Whatcom in 1886, furnished supplies and transportation to persons from the East who came out to take

up timber claims. Later they opened a hotel and a general store at Acme.

Survivors: One daughter: Mrs. Ida Everts, Lake Whatcom four sons: Fred of Park; Herb, Seattle, Paul, Los Angeles; and Ralph Zobrist, San Diego; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Services: Jones Funeral Home, Bellingham, 1p.m. today; burial, Saxon Cemetery, Whatcom County.

## Biographical Sketch of Martha Anna Custer written by a family member.

The Fred Zobrist family has to be described as a unique family for the times in which they lived and grew up. Most children didn't get through the eighth grade but went to work on the farm or apprenticed to the grocer, or in the mills, or the woods at an early age, which was hardly into the teens.

Martha Anna Custer was born in Napoleon, Indiana on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 1863. Napoleon was a Swiss settlement. She had a third grade education. Of course, those were the days of the Civil War and the country was in chaos. She told of wanting to go to school and of eventually being hired to work for a Jewish family when she was in her early teens.

Mattie had three brothers, Jacob, Henry and John as well as a cousin Albert, who became the first postmaster of Custer, Washington. Fred Zobrist preempted a timber claim at the head of Lake Whatcom while the Custer Brothers started a store at Blue Canyon. In 1886 Fred went back to Versailles, Indiana and married Martha Anna Custer. Her father gave her \$100.00 as a dowry or wedding present. She said that her new husband used it for their train fare out west. They

came back to the south end of Lake Whatcom at Blue Canyon to prove up on his claim in 1891. They established a store, a way station (inn), and a pack train to pack goods and travelers into the south Fork of the Nooksack river valley. Mattie (she didn't like the name Martha) lost one baby due to an accident. She said that she fell in one of the rowboats causing the loss of the baby. Her first born daughter was Ida Magdalene born April 29, 1889. Ida was 15 months old when they were forced to move to Acme due to the fact that J. H. Bloedel was building a railroad from Bellingham to Wickersham to connect with the Northern Pacific Railroad there. The railroad would go through their home and yard disrupting their enterprise. So they packed and went to

Acme to settle down in a well used log cabin. Two more daughters were born, Gertrude M. in 1890 and Esther in 1892. Then came the first born son Frederick Jacob, July 31, 1894. He was possibly the

last of the brood to be born in the log cabin as the next we heard of the family was that they were living in the hotel where Mattie, with some help, ran the boarding house and post office. Another son was born, Paul Henry, then Mildred Elizabeth, then two more sons, Herbert and Ralph.

All the children, from their stories, had a happy childhood, although the older girls complained that they had to care for the younger children and new babies as they came along. The family condition improved with the passage of time. A new home was built in 1901 or 2 before the last son, Ralph was born. Mother Zobrist now spent all her time taking care of her house and growing family.

Mattie believed in and wanted education for her children and she spurred them on in that direction. She instilled in them a sense to do better and a pride that they were someone and the Zobrist family was a notch above. All of the children had a better than average education for the times in which they lived. Two girls were teachers, one had a business schooling training. Two of the boys graduated from the University of Washington. Fred, because there was no high school in the area, went with Cousin Hugh Custer to Washington State University to complete his high school courses.

While the association has no file on Mattie's family, the following was put together from the loose notes in the Ripley County, Indiana file:

Casper Custer was born 11 April 1830 in Brienz, Switzerland, the son of John and Margaret Kuster. He emigrated to the United States in 1855 with his parents and settled in Napoleon, Ripley County, Indiana. He married Anna Flick about 1861. Anna was born 17 July 1828 in Brienz, Switzerland. They were members of the German Reformed Church. Casper died 19 February 1914. Anna died 2 May 1895 near Holton, Indiana. They are both buried at Holton, Indiana.

Their children:

1. Jacob D. Kuster born 1 January 1862 IN; married Maggie Warman.

2. Martha Anna Kuster born 16 February 1863 IN; married Fred Zobrist; died July 1958 Bellingham, WA, buried Saxon Cemetery, Whatcom County, WA.

3. John C. Kuster born 1865 IN.

4. Peter "Henry". Kuster born 1867 IN; married W. Bertha Bluethgen 15 November 1887 Ripley County, IN.

5. Ida S. Kuster born 1872 IN.

#### Sources:

Toph Miscellany: Notes & Incomplete Scraps of Miss Violet E. Toph 1878-1956; Ripley County Historical Society; Versailles, IN; FHL film #1312796.

1870 Census Ripley County, IN; p. 210.

133/134

Casper Kuster	40 Swit farmer
Anna	42 Swit
Jacob D	8 IN
Anna M	7 IN
John C	5 IN
Peter H	3 IN

1880 Census Otter Creek Twp., Ripley County, IN; ED159; p. 15/494

#143

Casper Kuster	50 Swit Swit Swit	farming
Anna	52 Swit Swit Swit	
Jacob D	17 IN Swit Swit	works on farm
Martha	16 IN Swit Swit	
John C	14 IN Swit Swit	works on farm
Peter H	12 IN Swit Swit	works on farm
Ida S	8 IN Swit Swit	

John Kuster was born in 1794 in Switzerland. He married Margaret (surname unknown). John and his family emigrated from Switzerland to Ripley County, Indiana in 1855. John died before 1870, as he is not on that census.

#### Their children:

1. John Kuster born 1826 Switzerland; married Barbara (surname unknown).

2. Casper Kuster born 11 April 1830 in Brien, Switzerland; married Anna Flick about 1861; died 19 February 1914, buried Holton, IN.

3. Margaret Kuster born 1837 Switzerland; married Peter Eckler about 1858.

#### Sources:

1860 Census Jackson Twp., Ripley County, IN; p. 22 156/156

John Cooster	66 Swit farmer
Margaret	63 Swit
Casper	30 Swit farmer
Peter Eckler	30 Swit farmer
Margaret Eckler	23 Swit
Margaret Eckler	1/12 IN

p. 23

158/158

John Cooster	34 Swit farmer
Barbara	33 Swit
John	12 Swit
Barbary	9 Swit
Margaret	7 Swit
Elizabeth	3 Swit
Peter	1 IN

## Quilt Project for Reunion 2000

From the desk of Marilyn Posten Conference Coordinator:

I propose putting together a quilt to tell the family histories of the CAO members. It can then be a traveling Ambassador for the Castor Association. Each host site will retain custody of the quilt for two years and then pass it on to the next conference site. While the host site has the quilt it can be displayed at the local libraries, genealogical societies and other events where people can see it.

How can you help? The quilt needs 66 14" squares of unbleached muslin. Each square needs to have something that depicts family history. This could be a family tree, a picture of someone, a picture of a significant building or ...you can use your imagination. These would be embroidered onto the square. The center of the quilt will be a 41" by 28" rectangle of unbleached muslin which will have a tree with the wording Paulus and Gertrude Kuster Descendants.

## Queries

**Need information on the family of James T. and Cynthia (Johnson) Kaster. James born 1801 OH; died about 1868, buried Aspen Grove Cemetery, Burlington, Des Moines County, IA. Family moved to IA about 1840 from Shelby County, IN. Eleven children including: Louisa m. Alexander W. Gordon 1840 Des Moines County, IA.**

**Janis Goodnow Taylor; 10619 W 96; Overland Park KS 66214-2211.**

**Need information on the descendants of Gerhard Evert and Anna Gesina (Aldekamp) Koester family. Gerhard b. August 1796 Hanover, Germany; d. 27 August 1846 Minster, Auglaize County, OH. Emigrated from Germany 1845 on ship "Albert" to Baltimore. Seven children including: Louisa b. 16 July 1837 Oden Camp, Germany; m. Joshua Rohr 27 November 1856 Miami County, OH.**

**Elaine Musick; 243 Crystal Valley Dr; Cibolo TX 78108.**

**Who are the parents of Peter Keister b. about 1813 York County, PA; d. 5 November 1891 Decatur, Macon County, IL. He m. Susan Fetrow about 1838. Children: Mary (1839-1918), John F. (1843-1918)& Julius (1847-1898).**

**Carol Warren; PO Box 835193; Richardson TX 75083-5193**

When planning your design be sure to leave a 2" border for the quilting process. This means your design will fit within a 12" by 12" square even though the material is 14" square.

NOTE: So that your design on the web please send with your choice of square to:

Patricia Caster  
PO Box 955  
Windsor, CA 95492-0955

She will be forward forward the designs to me.

Assigned Squares:

Square 19 -- Denise Kester  
Square 20 -- Ken Custer, Brenda Randall, Doris Custer  
Square 21 -- Ken Custer, Brenda Randall, Doris Custer  
Square 55 -- Virgil Kester  
Square ?? -- Polly Custer

## New Members

Carolyn Lindsey Ferguson; P.O. Box 13676; Spokane WA 99213.

D. Bruce Custer; 1405 N. Green; Hoisington KS 67544-1533; (316) 653-4575 sncuster@ink.org.

David Martin; Longstreet House; PO Box 730; Hightstown NJ 08520-0730

Dean L. Williams; 1104 Alenwood Ave.; Hagerstown MD 21742-3027; (301) 733-1454 DWILL11719@aol.com

Donald Mark Phillips; 31 Eleven O'Clock Rd; Weston CT 06883-2548 (203) 454-3800 research@snet.net

## Missing Cousins

The following photos are in the association archives, but nothing is known about their identity or lineage. If you recognize any of the photos please contact the association archivist with the information.



*Ranchard Photo. Co.* HUTCHINGS.



*W. H. Stone, Leland, Ill.*

Written on back: Noah Arnold  
Caster born April 24<sup>th</sup> 1864





Custer  
fam.

# Proofs of the Wife's Maiden Name

Alexander J. Hall of Fairview Village, PA has sent us copies of two wills from Montgomery County, PA that prove the wife's maiden name of two of the descendants of Hermanus Custer. The first will is that of George Shutt, father-in-law of Peter Custer [Paulus 5-1-1-2]. The second will is that of Elizabeth Arp, mother-in-law of William Custer [Paulus 5-1-1-2-4]. Alex writes that there is some confusion as to the name of William's wife, as she is listed as Mary Ann on her tombstone and in this will, while her obituary and the cemetery record lists her as Mary Elizabeth.

Be it Remembred that <sup>209</sup> George Shutt of the township of Berkeomer and Skippack in the County of Montgomery in Pennsylvania German being Sick and Weak in Body but of Sound Disposing mind and Memory and calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and that it is appointed for all Men once to Die Do think fit this nineteenth Day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight to make and Ordain this my Last will and Testament the which I do in the following Manner and form that is to Say -

1st in the first Place it is my will and I do Order that all my Just Debts and funeral expences shall be fully paid and Satisfied out of my Estate

2 I Give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Barbara our left Bed, Bedstead and all the furniture thereunto belonging our Dresser with all the Pewter, Dishes Plates Cups and spoons thereunto belonging our Copper teakettle two Cups and Saucers our Side Saddle & our walnut Chest two of the best Chairs & our Left Iron pot and also the Sum of five Pounds lawfull gold or Silver Money at the rate which such Money now passes in Pennsylvania to be Paid to her out of our Personal Estate by my hereafter named Executors yearly and Every year During the time she remains my widow and no longer all which so given to her is in Liew of her Dower

3 I Give & bequeath unto my son John it is my will and I do Order that my Personal Estate not already given to my said wife



Shall be appraised and sold as soon after my  
Decease as my said Executors shall think  
fit out of which whole Sum I give and  
bequeathe unto my three Children namely  
Magdalena John & Rebecca Each Nine Dollars  
to Lawfull Money as aforesaid to be taken  
of first and foremost and all the Rest  
& Residue thereof to give to be Equally Divided  
to and amongst all my Children namely  
Henry Margaret Elizabeth Magdalena John & Rebecca  
Share and Share alike - - - - -

and I do hereby Nominate Constitute and  
appoint my Son in Law Peter Hutter &  
my Friend Henry Barnebecke Jr Executors  
of this my Last will and Testament - - -

and Lastly I do hereby Utterly Disallow revoke  
and Disannul all and every other former  
wills testaments Legacies and Executors  
by me in anywise before this time named  
wills or bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming  
this and no other to be my Last will and  
Testament in witness whereof I have  
hereunto set my Hand and Seal the Day  
and year first above written.

Signed Sealed Published Pronounced  
and Declared by the said George Shurt George Shurt  
for and as his Last will and Testament Marks  
in the Presence of us the Subscribers

Isaac Hunnicher

Henry Hunsicker

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In the name of God amen. I Elizabeth Sharp  
 wife of George Sharp of Norriton township in the  
 County of Montgomery and State of Pennsylvania  
 Being of good health of body, and of sound  
 mind and memory. Do make and  
 declare this to be my last will and tes-  
 tament in manner following, That is  
 to say, Whereas Mrs. Miller, my sister late  
 of Norriton township, deceased  
 did in her last will and testament  
 bequeath the amount of which I have  
 yet administered. Now I give  
 bequeath the same to my eight  
 children namely Mary Ann, married to  
 John Custer, Josiah, Hannah married  
 to Jonathan Johnson, Susanna, wife of  
 Andrew Entz, Elizabeth, wife of David  
 Pollock, Emaline, wife of Joseph Johnson  
 Anna, Rebecca, (single), and George  
 and to them heirs and assigns, to be  
 equally divided amongst them share  
 and share alike. I do hereby  
 nominate John Custer  
 Josiah Sharp of Norriton township of record  
 Executor of this my last will and testament  
 in witness whereof I the said testatrix have  
 to this my last will and testament set  
 my hand and seal this thirteenth day of  
 April A.D. 1866.

Elizabeth <sup>her</sup> Sharp  
 mark





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read, sealed, published and declared by the said  
 testating as and for her last will and testament  
 in the presence of us who in her presence and at  
 her request and in the presence of each other  
 have subscribed our names as witnesses Christy

*John Hoffman*

*James Hoffman*

County of Orange

Personally appeared before me John Hoffman and James Hoffman

sworn the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing will, who being  
sworn according to law, did depose and say that they were present, so  
 and heard the testatrix in said will named, sign, seal, publish and declare the same to be her  
 last will and testament, and at the time of so doing she was of a sound mind, memory and under-  
 standing, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that they signed as witnesses to the same

and subscribed before me this  
11th day of April 1877

*John Hoffman*  
*James Hoffman*

*John Hoffman*

**Peter Keister**

2/99

P-Peter MISC disk\Keister\2

Much of the following information came from member Carol Warren. Can any of our other members add to this or document the parents of Peter Kesiter?

2/99

(file Peter Keister) P-Peter MISC disk\Keister\0

Peter Keister was born about 1813 in York County, Pennsylvania. Is Peter the son of Jacob Kister who was enumerated in Fairview Township in 1820 and 1830 census? Peter married about 1838 Susan Fetrow in York County. Susan was born in 1818 in York County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Abraham and Mary Fetrow. They located 1849 in Macon County, Illinois. Peter died 5 November 1891 at Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. Susan died 4 March 1901 at Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. They are both buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Paint Township, Macon County, Illinois.

## Children of Peter and Susan:

1. Mary Keister born 1839 PA; died 1841.
2. John F Keister born 1843 PA; married Nancy Weaver 31 May 1866 Macon County, IL; died 12 January 1918 Macon County, IL.
3. Julius Keister born 1847 PA; married Matilda "Tillie" Good 15 May 1869 Macon County, IL; died 4 December 1898 Macon County, IL.

## Sources:

E-mail Carol Warren, Richardson, TX - 1999  
letter Carol L Arrowood -- 11 May 1991  
1840 census Pa, York Co, Fairview Twp, p 190  
Peter Kester  
1M 20-30      1F 20-30  
                 1F -5

Not found on 1850 Illinois Census

look up 1860 census Illinois, Macon Co, p 123  
Peter Kiester

John F. Keister was born 16 May 1842 in Pennsylvania, the son of Peter and Susan (Fetrow) Keister. He married Nancy Weaver 31 May 1866 in Macon County, Illinois. Nancy was born in 1854 in Pennsylvania. John died 12 January 1918. Nancy died 26 December 1925. They are both buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Township, Macon County, Illinois.

## Children of John and Nancy;

1. Charles Keister born 1867 IL; married Verna Taggart 21 November 1888 Macon County, IL; died 4 March 1891, buried Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Twp., Macon County, IL.
2. Mary Keister born 1870 IL.
3. Samuel Keister born 1874; died 7 December 1878, buried Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Twp., Macon County, IL.
4. Franklin Keister born 1877 IL
5. Harriet Keister born 1879 IL; married Fred Moore 21 September 1898 Macon County, IL; died about 1906.

## 1880 census Illinois, Macon Co, ED 157, p 12

John F Keister	37	Pa
Nancy "	31 wife	"
Charley "	13 son	Ill
Mary "	10 dau	"
Franklin "	3 son	"
Harriet "	1 dau	"
Jacob Billett	31	Pa
Julius Keller	18	Ill
Anna Strophe	15 adopted	"

2/99

P-Peter MISC disk\Keister\3

Julius Keister was born in 1847 in Pennsylvania, the son of Peter and Susan (Fetrow) Keister. He married Matilda "Tillie" Good 15 May 1869 Macon County, Illinois. Tillie was born 17 February 1849, the daughter of Peter and Catherine (Zorger) Good.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Castor Jan*

Julius died 4 December 1898. Tillie died 11 December 1929. They are both buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Township, Macon County, Illinois.

Children of Julius and Tillie:

1. John L. Keister born 1870; died 1946, buried Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Twp., Macon County, IL.
2. Emma S. Keister born 8 November 1871; married Henry McDermott 15 August 1889 Macon County, IL; died 14 September 1942.
3. Peter Keister born 15 March 1874; married Minnie Trimmer 24 October 1900 Macon County, IL; died 9 November 1943, buried Boiling Springs Cemetery, Hickory Point Twp., Macon County, IL.
4. Norman Keister born 1 June 1875; died 26 December 1862.
5. Arthur Keister born Oct 1881.
6. Frank Keister.

Sources:

E-mail Carol Warren, Richardson, TX - 1999  
1880 census Illinois, Macon Co, ED 154, p 16

Julius Keister	32 PA
Tillie "	31 PA
John "	10 IL
Emma "	8 IL
Peter "	6 IL
Norman "	4 IL

## James A. Castor of NY and Ontario

This is one of the association's many miscellaneous files, which do not appear to fit into a particular line. However, the clues are evident that James probably is a descendant of John DeCastorer. There two unrelated Castor lines who live in the Red Fern, New York area. However, the descendants of John DeCastorer are ones who go into occupations which are artistic

or musical. They are also the ones who list their background as Spanish (although John DeCastorer was French) on the Canadian census.

5/00 (file James A Castor) John MISC disk/JamesA/0

James Albert Castor was born about 1832 in Red Fern, New York. Joseph married first \_\_\_\_\_ McDonegal. James married second \_\_\_\_\_ McCallister. One wife was named Ruth. Ruth was born about 1843 in Quebec Province. In 1855, James was a steward on a steamer that plyed between Chicago and Collingwood, Ontario, and settled in Collingwood. James started the first laundry in Collingwood. In 1857, the steamer discontinued and James took up plastering, and fishing for a time. Early in the seventies, James entered the photography business and associated with a Mr Davis. James later assumed the business, and about 1900 retired leaving the business to his sons. James died March 1901 in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, and was buried at the Collingwood United Church (Methodist) Cemetery.

Their children:

1. Sarah Castor born about 1860 in Ontario.
2. Robert John Castor born about 1862 in Ontario; lived in Marshall, Oklahoma, was a photographer.
3. Harvey B Castor born about 1864 in Ontario.
4. Albert Godfrey Castor born about 1867 in Ontario; married A Cobern in Pike, New York, he was a photographer.
5. Ira Castor born about 1871 in Ontario; lived in Chicago, Illinois, was a mason..
6. Emma Castor born about 1873 in Ontario.
7. Sherman Castor born about 1875 in Ontario.
8. Paul Castor born about 1879 in Ontario; married 25 December 1901 Maude P Moore in Kentville, Nova Scotia, was a photographer, died 1948 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



#### Sources:

1881 census, Ontario, Collingwood (reel C13251, p 13)  
 James A Castor 49 m US Spanish photographer  
 Ruth 38 f Quebec Scotch  
 Sarah 21 f Ont Spanish  
 ?Robt J 19 m " "  
 Harvey B 17 m " "  
 Albert G 14 m " "  
 Ira 10 m " "  
 ?Emma 8 f " "  
 Charman 6 m " "  
 Paul 2 m " "

#### 1891 census, Ontario, Collingwood (reel T6368, p 74)

James Castor 59 US US photographer  
 Ruth 49 wife Que Scotland  
 Godfrey 29 son Ont US photographer  
 Sherman 16 son " "  
 Paul 12 son " "

*Collingwood Enterprise Messenger*; 21 March 1901, p 1, col 5.

Death called James A Castor rather suddenly last Sunday Morning. While he had been in poor health for some time, nothing serious was anticipated, and he was around the house as usual on Saturday. The deceased was 69 years of age and leaves a wife and grown family to mourn his loss.

The subject of this sketch was one of the best known photographers in this section and his work compared favorably with that produced from the best studios of the larger cities.

Mr Castor came to Collingwood in 1855 as steward on one of the steamers then plying between this port and Chicago and was the first man to start a laundry in Collingwood. After the line was discontinued in 1857 he drifted into several occupations. Fishing occupied his attention for one or two seasons. He then took up plastering and completed several contracts, one of the last being that of the Manitoba House. Early in the seventies he entered the photography business associated with a Mr Davis and afterwards assumed the business himself, conducting it successfully until about a year ago, when he retired in favor of his sons.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, to the Methodist Cemetery.

letter Dr Wm R Castor -- 23 Feb 1988

letter Gordon Carter -- 17 Apr 1988

5/00 (file James A Castor.4) John MISC disk/JamesA/4

Albert Godfrey Castor was born about 1867 in Ontario, son of James Albert Castor. Albert married A Coburn of Pike, New York. Albert was a photographer.

#### Their children:

1. George Castor no issue.
2. Ruth Castor no issue.
3. Naomi Castor no issue.
4. Eunice Castor, married Mr. Veale, one son: H Veale.
5. Martha Castor no issue.
6. Ana Castor, married Mr. Spaford, two children: Shirley & Ronald.
7. Albert Castor -- one son: Donald Castor.
8. Wesley G Castor born 8 September 1909 in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.

9. Ada Castor, no issue.

#### Sources:

letter Dr Wm R Castor -- 23 Feb 1988

letter Gordon Carter -- 17 Apr 1988

5/00 (file James A Castor.8) John MISC disk/JamesA/8

Paul Castor was born about 1879 in Ontario, son of James Albert Castor. Paul was a photographer. Paul located in Kentville, Nova Scotia and was in charge of the Platinum Photo Gallery there. Paul returned to Collingwood, Ontario in 1900 to participate in his father's photography business. Paul married 25 December 1901 Maude P Moore in Kentville, Nova Scotia, Reverend Charles deW White officiated. Maude was the eldest daughter of E T Moore, Esq. Paul died 1948 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

#### His child:

1. Paul Castor was a cartoonist for Hearst newspapers, lived in Glendale, California.

#### Sources:

Collingswood Enterprise Messenger; 2 January 1902

The holiday festivities of Christmas were graced in town by one wedding on Christmas day.

It was the wedding of Miss Maude P, eldest daughter of the late E T Moore, Esq. of this town to Mr Paul Castor of Collingswood, Ont. The event took place at the Rectory, the knot being tied by the Rev Charles deW White.

The bride, who was given away by her mother, looked charming in a dress of blue silk, trimmed with veiling and chiffon which was very becoming. She was attended by her sister, Miss Jessie, who looked very attractive in a dress of pink and white muslin. The groom was supported by his friend, Mr William Sarsfield.

The bride is one of Kentville's popular fair sex and a late student of Acadia Seminary. The groom lived in this town a little over a year ago, and had charge of the Platinum Photo Gallery. Both the bride and groom have many friends here and all extend to them the best wishes for a long and happy wedded life.

After the ceremony, the happy couple drove to Wolfville behind Moore's greys where the afternoon express was boarded for Halifax. After a few day's honeymoon in that city, they will leave for their future in Collingwood, Ont, where the groom does an extensive business in photography. -- Kentville (Nova Scotia) Advertiser.

The happy couple arrive home tonight. The ENTERPRISE extends congratulations.

letter Dr Wm R Castor -- 23 Feb 1988

letter Gordon Carter -- 17 Apr 1988

5/00 (file James A Castor.4.8) John MISC disk/JamesA/4-8

Wesley G Castor was born 8 September 1909 in Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, son of Albert Godfrey and A (Coburn) Castor.

His children:

1. Robert Castor ;three children: Darrel, Douglas, & Debra.

2. Elizabeth Castor, married Mr. Toderick ; three sons

3. Barbara Castor, married Mr. Palichik; two daughters & five sons.

4. William Ross Castor born 12 August 1935; married Eleanor F (surname unknown); three children: Ross, Richard & Catherine.

Sources:

— letter Dr Wm R Castor -- 23 Feb 1988.

## John Custer of Berkeley County, VA/WV

5/00

(file John) John MISC disk\John\0

John C Custer was born 5 May 1819 in Berkeley County, Virginia, son of parents born in Tennessee (his father may possibly be Finley Custer). John married 16 April 1844 Martha Casler in Morgan County, Virginia. Martha was born 1821 in Morgan County, Virginia. John was a saddler and farmer. They lived near Bath, Virginia (later became West Virginia). Martha died 2 October 1852, aged 31 years and 1 month, and was buried at Coolfont Cemetery in Morgan County. John married 1 June 1854 Mary E Vanorsdale in Morgan County, Virginia. Mary was born 1835 in Morgan County, Virginia (now West Virginia), daughter of Reverend William G Vanorsdale. Mary died 10 May 1892. John died 6 August 1901. They were buried at Greenway/ Woodrow Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

John and Martha's children:

1. Mary J Custer born 15 June 1845; died at age 4 months 9 days, buried at Coolfont Cemetery in Morgan County.

2. Algernon W C Custer born 16 June 1845; died at age 6 months 18 days, buried at Coolfont Cemetery in Morgan County.

3. Emily F Custer born about 1847 in Bath, Virginia.

4. Jonathan Albert Custer born about 1847 in Bath.

5. William Henry Custer born October 1852; married Elizabeth E (surname unknown), married about 1899 Fanny G Beall; died 1926, buried at Union Chapel Church Cemetery in Morgan County, West Virginia.

John and Mary's children:

6. John Cassidy Custer born 23 April 1855 in Morgan County; married 17 April 1878 Annie Elizabeth Ambrose; died 26 August 1926, buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

7. Tennie V Custer born about 1858; married John H Payne; died 1932.

8. Mary Virginia "Jennie" Custer born February 1859; did not marry; died 1932, buried at Greenway Cemetery.

9. Watson/Walter S "Watt" Custer born about 1861 (Is this Watson S Custer who married 24 January 1884 Etta Meneffer in Berkeley County?).

10. Melvie E Custer born about 1864; married William Dill.

11. Loudusky/Lucinda C Custer born about 1867; married Lou Johnson.

12. Clem Thomas Custer born 1869; married 20 October 1896 Florence May Bird in Berkeley County, West Virginia; died 1951, buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

13. Nannie Custer married Samuel McGee.

14. Snow A Custer born about 1873.

15. Lillian May Custer born January 1875; married Reverend William Isaac Cowell.

16. Iona May Custer born August 1881; died 1929, buried at Greenway Cemetery.

#### Sources:

*Custer Family History - Focused on Ancestors and Descendants of John Cassidy Custer (1855-1926) and spouse Annie Elizabeth Ambrose (1861-1956)* by Ray R Rice Jr (1990).

*Marriages of Berkeley County, Virginia and West Virginia (1854-1906)*; p 64-65.

*International Genealogical Index (1984) - West Virginia 1850 census Virginia, Morgan Co, Distr #42, Bath, p 85, #21*

John Custer	32 saddler	Berkeley Co, Va
Martha "	23	Morgan Co, Va
Emaly "	3	Bath, Morgan Co, Va
Jonathan "	1	"
Jane Ring	26	Va

1860 census Virginia, Morgan Co, #330

John Custer	41 saddler	Va
Mary E "	24	"

Emily F "	13	"
J Albert "	11	"
William H "	9	"
J C "	5 (m)	"
T V "	3 (f)	"
Mary V "	1	"

1870 census West Virginia, Morgan Co, Bath Twp, p 120, #59-61 Post Office: Berkeley Springs

John Custer	51 saddler	Va
Mary E "	33	"
John C "	15 laborer	"
Teny V "	13 (f)	"
Mary V "	11	"
Watson S "	9	"
Melery E "	6	WVa
Ludousky C "	3	"
Clem Thos "	1	"

1880 census West Virginia, Morgan Co, Berkeley Springs, Bath Dist, ED 19, p 14/24, #136-136

-- Fairfax Street

John Custer	61 farmer	Va	Tenn	Tenn
Mary E "	49 wife	"	Va	Va
Teny V "	23 dau	"	"	"
Mary V "	21 dau	"	"	"
Walter S "	18 son	"	"	"
Melery E "	16 dau	WVa	"	"
Louduska C "	13 dau	"	"	"
Clem T "	10 son	"	"	"
Snow A "	7 dau	"	"	"
Lillian "	5 dau	"	"	"

1900 census WVa, Morgan Co, Berkeley Springs, ED 88, p 6, #125-128

John Custer	May 1819 wd saddler	WVa	Pa	Pa
Mary V "	Feb 1859 dau	"	WVa	WVa
Lillian M "	Jan 1875 dau	"	"	"
Ona M "	Aug 1881 dau	"	"	"

letter Lloyd Ambrose - 30 May 1987

letter Ray R Rice, Jr - 11 July 1987

5/00

(file John.5) John MISC disk\John\5

William Henry Custer was born October 1852 in West Virginia, son of John C and Martha (Casler) Custer. William married Elizabeth E (surname unknown). They lived in Morgan County, West Virginia. Elizabeth was born about 1856 in West Virginia. About 1899 William married Fanny G Beall. Fanny was born July 1859 in Maryland, daughter of William and Rebecca Beall.

Children of William Henry and Elizabeth:

1. William Albert Custer born November 1871 in

West Virginia; married about 1896 Mary A

2. Sarah Belle Custer born about 1876.

3. Nannie Custer born June 1887.

Sources:

1880 census WVa, Morgan Co, Rock Gap District, ED 20, p 11

William H Custer	28	WVa
Elizabeth E "	24 wife	"
Wm Albert "	8 son	"
Sarah Belle "	4 dau	"

1900 census WVa, Morgan Co, Rock Gap District, ED 90, p 4

William Beall	Jan 1822 physician	Md Md Md
Rebecca "	Jan 1831 m 52yrs, 7-3	" " "
Fannie G Custer	Jul 1859 dau m 1yr, 0-0	" " "
William H "	Oct 1853 son-in-law, farm laborer WVa WVa WVa	

5/00 (file John.6) John MISC disk\John\6

John Cassidy Custer was born 23 April 1855 in Morgan County, Virginia (now West Virginia), son of John and Mary (Vanorsdale) Custer. John married 17 April 1878 Annie Elizabeth Ambrose in Morgan County, West Virginia. Annie was born 3 June 1861 in Morgan County, Virginia, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Ann (Baxley) Ambrose. John died 26 August 1926. Annie died 7 September 1956. They were buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Their children:

1. Bertha Viola Custer born 10 December 1879 in Morgan County, West Virginia; married James Walter Miller, lived in Oldtown, Maryland; died 8 April 1949.

2. Asenath Grace Custer born 28 January 1881 in Morgan County; married 24 June 1903 Harry William Yonkers; died 8 February 1926 on a visit home to Morgan County.

3. Bessie Elizabeth Rae Custer born 19 March 1883 in Piedmont, Mineral County, West Virginia; married Roy M Kesecker in Morgan County, lived in Morgan County; died 30 June 1914 in Morgan County, buried at Spohr's Cross Roads

Cemetery.

4. Edith Mae Custer born 22 July 1884 in Morgan County; married James R Ware; died July 1975, buried Mt Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, Virginia.

5. Dora Maud Custer born 27 April 1886 in Morgan County; married 25 December 1910 Jerome Bascome Hartley at Berkely Springs, West Virginia, married 3 June 1950 Henry Chester Huhn at Rockville, Maryland; died 20 January 1985 in Clearwater, Florida, buried National Memorial Park Cemetery, Falls Church, Virginia.

6. Alvin Boyd Custer born 7 December 1887 in Morgan County; married 27 June 1916 Bertha Virginia Bullock in Washington, DC, married Elva Daugherty in Washington, DC; died 22 April 1981 in Cape Coral, Florida, buried at National Memorial Park Cemetery, Falls Church, Virginia.

7. Jessie Rae Custer born 27 December 1889 in Morgan County; married 23 March 1913 William L Folk, married second Albert C Drake; died 25 September 1987 in Clearwater, Florida, buried at National Memorial Park Cemetery, Falls Church, Virginia.

8. Della Florence Custer born 3 July 1891 in Morgan County; died 1 January 1892, buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

9. Rilla Miree Custer born 5 February 1893 in Morgan County; married 15 September 1917 George William Mehlfelt, lived in Washington, DC; died 19 September 1957 in Washington, DC, buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suitland, Maryland.

10. Clarence Calvin Custer born 19 January 1897 in Morgan County; married 1 February 1920 Edna Louise Kerns at Berkeley Springs, West Virginia; died 11 November 1969, buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

11. Elsie Victoria Custer born 15 October 1899 in

Morgan County; married 31 December 1919 Ray Roscoe Rice in Morgan County; died 13 December 1972 in Winchester, Virginia, buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

12. John Ralph Custer born 23 October 1901 in Morgan County; married 30 May 1922 Edna Lee Howard, divorced 11 October 1932, married second Helen Louise Grover; died 13 October 1977 in Winchester, Virginia, buried at Mt Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, Virginia.

## Sources:

Custer Family History -- Focused on Ancestors and Descendants of John Cassidy Custer (1855-1926) and spouse Annie Elizabeth Ambrose (1861-1956) by Ray R Rice Jr (1990).  
1880 census West Virginia, Morgan Co, Berkeley Springs, Bath Dist, ED 19, p 13/24, #128-128, Fairfax Street  
John C Custer           25 clerk       Va Va Va  
Annie E "               19 wife       " " "  
Bertha V "             6/12 dau     WVa " "

1900 census WVa, Morgan Co, Bath Dist, ED 88, p 14

John C Custer	Apr 1855	WVa
Annie E "	Jun 1861	wife "
Bertha V "	Dec 1879	dau "
A Grace "	Jan 1881	dau "
Bessie E "	Mar 1883	dau "
Edith M "	Jul 1884	dau "
Dora M "	Apr 1886	dau "
Alvin B "	Dec 1887	son "
Jessie R "	Dec 1889	dau "
Rilla R "	Feb 1893	dau "
Clarence "	Jan 1897	son "
Elsie V "	Oct 1899	dau "

letter Lloyd Ambrose -- 30 May 1987

letter Ray R Rice, Jr -- 11 July 1987

5/00 (file John.12) John MISC disk\John\12

Clem Thomas Custer was born 1869 in Virginia, son of John and Mary E (Vannosdall) Custer. Clem married 20 October 1896 Florence May Bird in Berkeley County, West Virginia. Florence was born 2 April 1872 in Berkeley County, West Virginia, daughter of John Ashbury and Mary Elizabeth (Gallaher) Bird. Florence died 1915. Clem died 1951. They were buried at Greenway Cemetery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

## Their children:

1. Melvin C Custer born 31 May (year unknown); died 16 August 1907, buried at Greenway Cemetery.
2. Pearl Custer born 11 June 1902; died 26 June 1903, buried at Greenway Cemetery.
3. Maud E Custer born 29 July 1903; died 25 May 1904, buried at Greenway Cemetery.
4. Freda V Custer born 2 January 1910; died 3 November 1911, buried at Greenway Cemetery.

## Sources:

International Genealogical Index; (1984) West Virginia.  
letter Lloyd Ambrose -- 30 May 1987.

## New Members

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# The News-Caster

Publication of the Castor Association of America

Volume XVIII No. 4

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The NewsCaster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America. Past issues of the NewsCaster may be ordered from the Archivist.

## The Castor Association of America

is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the discovery and preservation of family history for all variations of the family surname:

Kuster Koster Custer Kusterd Kuester Kester  
Kustard Kustard Kaster Kistard Kister  
Gerster Caster Castor Kastor  
Koester Kiester  
Keister

The CAO Archives has records for over 5000 names with some dating back to the sixteenth century.

## Rediscovering Elizabeth Custer

George Davis, CAO member and Trustee, through serendipitous circumstances and some hard work, has rediscovered the grave of Elizabeth Custer. Elizabeth Custer was born about 1788 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer.

"An article in today's *Indianapolis Star* regarding cleaning up an old cemetery on the south side of Indy featured a photo of the headstone of Elizabeth Custer. Near the end of the article it mentions that she was born in 1788 and died in 1885 at age 97," wrote George Davis to the Castor-L mail list.

George's message sparked an exchange of emails by subscribers interested in finding out who Elizabeth was and who else might be buried in this old cemetery. This old graveyard is called "The Fowler-Mundy Cemetery". Researchers believe it contains about 15 graves with death dates ranging from 1841 to 1885.

Someone on the Castor-L list asked if anyone local could check the cemetery. George did just that. He reported in another email:

"Well, I went down to the Fowler-Mundy cemetery anticipating that I'd figure out who this Elizabeth Custer was. She died in 1885 at the age of 97 as I said previously. Her headstone reads: "Grandma at Rest - Sacred to the Memory of - Elizabeth Custer - Died March 7, 1885 in the 97th Year of her age." Her side of the stone faces more or less east. On the south side of the stone it reads: "Our Baby - Samuel W. - son of Hezekiah and Rebecca Hinkson - Born Nov. 6, 1850. Died May 18, 1851, aged 6 Mos. and 12 Dy's". From that, I figured that Elizabeth Custer was probably Rebecca's mother."

"I then went to the Indiana State Library on the way home. The 1860 Census for Marion County IN (Perry township) has



Hezekiah Hinkson, age 32, farmer; "Rebeca" Hinkson, age 32; Francis, female, age 7; Catharine, female, age 3; Camefort, female, age 1; and a Wm. Nash (or Nashe?), male, age 19 listed as a farm laborer. All the Hinksons are listed as being born in Indiana. Rebecca's mother would therefore have to have been in Indiana in 1828. So far I have not found Elizabeth Custer of the right age in Indiana. She does show up in the Marion County Indiana, Perry Township census of 1870, where it lists her as age 78, born in Virginia. I then looked for marriage records for Hezekiah Hinkson and a Rebecca Custer. What I found was Hezekiah Hinkson marrying a Rebecca Anne Woodfill in Marion County, IN on Jan 22, 1850, which seems to fit well with Samuel's date of birth, assuming he was their first child. So, now I don't know if Rebecca was previously married, and was Rebecca Custer or if Elizabeth Custer was previously married to a Woodfill."

"In the 1870 census, Elizabeth Custer shows up with a female named Jones, whose first name I am unable to read (starts with an M though) who is listed as 50 years old, housekeeper. She has a 27 year old son Hezekiah and a 24 year old son named John M. Jones. In the same dwelling and family are what I read as Chas. Smith and Susan Smith aged 28 and 19, another 10-year-old female whose name I can not read, but looks like Emma Tacey, and Elizabeth Custer, aged 78. The males are all listed as farm hands, and the women are listed as either housekeeper or "one of family" (Elizabeth and "Emma")."

"I can't remember if I looked in an index of the 1870 census for the Hinksons or not. I expected to find them with Elizabeth and when I didn't I was pretty surprised. The library was fixing to close, and I didn't get a chance to think that I should go back to the indexes. I also got distracted looking for Kisters in the out of state indexes. Next

time I guess. Hey, if it was easy, it wouldn't be so much fun, would it? Most of the other graves around seem to be Fowler's and Mundy's. The cemetery is undergoing restoration, and many of the headstones are damaged or missing. Hopefully we'll know more in the future. Somewhere there is supposed to be a survey of this cemetery done around 1940. I'll try to find a copy."

"Don't you think it is kind of strange that they would put her maiden name on her headstone?"

George then sent the photos to Patricia Caster for the CAO Archives, which are included in this article.

"This one is the infant, Samuel Hinkson's inscription which is on the left (South I think) side of the stone as you read Elizabeth's inscription. There is no "entrance" to the Cemetery but I figured I had driven that far and I was not going home empty-handed. The Cemetery was over-grown for years with brush and

trees, and was surrounded by farmland. It is now in the middle of one of the largest housing additions in Marion County I wonder if I can find out where the cemetery is in relation to the farm that her family operated? I'm wondering if it is on the property line, and two or more families decided to use the area, or if they are all related somehow."

He also sent the following news articles from the *Indianapolis News*, dated March 9, 1885.

"Grandmother Custer, as she was familiarly known, died Saturday, in Perry township,

where she had resided for fifty-six years. She was aged 90."

"Dead at the age of 98

Mrs. Elizabeth Custer died at the age of 98 at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Myers, in Perry Town-



*Elizabeth Custer's Gravestone*

ship, on Friday, and was buried yesterday. She was born in Virginia in 1787, and moved to this county in 1828, and has since lived here. Her husband had been dead over sixty years and two widowed daughters - aged 74 and 72 survive her. Mrs. Custer lived just long enough to have been under the protection of every administration, including the present, but for only two days, since the republic was founded. Even in her advanced age she devoted much of her time to charitable purpose, and was particularly active in caring for the sick of her neighborhood. (Indianapolis News March 9, 1895 (Morning Edition))"

From the Castor Association of America Archives:

Lineage for Elizabeth Custer:

0 Paulus Kuster born about 1644 in Kaldenkirchen, Germany, son of Aret/Arnold and Catharine (von Haren) Kuster.

1 Arnold/Aret Kuster born 1669 in Kaldenkirchen, Germany

1 Conrad Custer/Custard born about 1695 in

Germantown, Pennsylvania.

2 Arnold Custer/Custard born about 1718; married Bridget Strauder; died March 1759 in Augusta County, Virginia.

1 Conrad Custer/Custard was born in 1742.

4 Elizabeth Custer born about 1787/8; died 7 March



*Gravestone for Infant Samuel Hinkson*

1885 Perry Twp., Marion County, IN, buried Fowler-Munday Cemetery, Perry Twp., Marion County, IN.

Elizabeth Custer was born about 1788 in Rockingham County, Virginia, the daughter of Conrad and Elizabeth (Lair) Custer. She married a Mr. Millers about 1804-5. Did she then marry a Mr. Custard about 1814-1816? She came from Harrison County, Kentucky to Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana in the fall of 1828 with her son-in-law, David Hinkston. They purchased in Section 16 from John Belger. Elizabeth died 7 March 1885 and is buried in the Fowler-Mundy Cemetery, Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana.

Children of Elizabeth:

1. Eliza Miller born 20 January 1806 KY; married Elijah McBride 10 November 1829 Marion County, IN; died 18 November 1861, buried Round Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Marion County, IN.



*This marker has Elizabeth's name on one side and Baby Samuel Hinkson's on the other.*

2. Comfort Miller born 27 May 1810 KY; married David Hinkston 15 January 1826 Bourbon County, KY; married John Myers; died 4 January/14 February 1893, buried Round Hill Cemetery Marion County, IN.

3. Margaret Miller born 1814 KY; married Larkin Myers (son of Henry Myers) 14 October 1841 Marion County, IN; living 1885.

4. Mary Miller born 11 December 1815 KY; married James Tracy (son of John Tracy) 25 December 1834 Marion County, IN; died about October 1844 Miami County, IN; buried Fowler-Mundy Cemetery, Perry Township, Marion County, IN.

5. Amanda Custard born 1816 KY; married Saulsbury Jones (son of William Jones, Welshman) 23 August 1838 Marion County, IN; died 22 November 1894 Indianapolis, Marion County, IN.

#### Sources:

Glasser, Karen. *Ancestors and Descendants of Conrad and Elizabeth Custer*. Research of Karen Glasser, Indianapolis, IN - 1995.

Custer, Chester E.. *Descendants of Arnold Custer ca1718-1759*; Vol. 22, part 1.

Sulgrove, Barry; *History of Indianapolis*,

*Indianapolis News*, Monday, 9 March 1885

#### U.S. Census

1810 Census Harrison County, KY:

Elizabeth Custard

1 male -10 3 females -10 1 female 16-26

1840 Census ?Marion County, IN; p. 314.

Elizabeth Custard

1 male -10 2 females -5 1 male 10-15 1 female 20-30 1 female 30-40

1860 Census Marion County, IN; p. 831

124/121

George McClain 50 KY

Rachel McClain 51 NY

Saulsbury 23 IN

Cornelius 21 IN

Elizabeth Custard 72 VA

Jane Custard 27 IN

William Jones 79 Wails, ENG

Catherine Jones 57 NY

#### Bibliography

Hall, Scott. "Sprucing up old cemetery" July 10, 2000, *The Daily Journal*, Johnson County, Indiana's Daily Online Newspaper.

Masson, John. "Volunteers tear down trees, clear weeds from Far-Southside site". July 16, 2000, *Indianapolis Star*. (Article featured a picture of the headstone of Elizabeth Custer.)

Email from George Davis

CAOA Archives ♦

## Fowler-Mundy Cemetery

From Indiana State Library Genealogy Section

Call No.: GENEAL 977.201 M341SM

g PF 977.201 m341 NO. 1 PT.24

(book of cemetery surveys)

### Marion County -Perry Twp Fowler-Mundy Cemetery (sic).

Go about one mile west of Harding street on the Southport road, then 1/2 mile south thru(sic) a little cornfield road.

Cemetery(sic) is well fenced in, but most of the stones are on the ground, and broken.

One large stone on ground shows two inscriptions.

OUR BABY

Samuel W. son of Hesikiah and Rebecca Hinkston-B-  
Nov.6,1850—D-May 18, 1851

GRANDMA. AT REST.

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Custer who died  
March 7, 1855 in the 97<sup>th</sup> year of her age. - (B- 1788  
The side on the ground may have had an inscription  
but couldn't move it to see.

Asa Fowler—D-Oct 28, 1863 in the 51<sup>st</sup> year of his  
age.



**Fowler-Mundy Cemetery**  
*Housing Development is visible in background.*

Robert Fowler-D-May 7, 1861 age 22y.9m.21d.  
 Lidia Margaret, daut. of A.& Sarah Fowler-B-May  
 23,1841—D-Aug.23, 1844  
 James, son of A & Sarah Fowler—D-July 19,1858 age  
 1y.11m.13d.  
 In memory of Mary,wife of James Tracy—B-  
 Dec.11,1810—D ?stone broken.

In Memory of Susannah Bell who departed this life  
 May 17,1847 in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age- ( B-1782)  
 James A son of William G. and Mary O L Miles-D-  
 May 13, 1848 age 13 years. (B-1835 )

Lydia, wife of Henry G Mundy-D-Feb.14,1847 age  
 23y 26d. (B-1824 )  
 Nelson H, son of Henry (overstrike may be "S"-Geo.  
 Davis note in transcription 21 Nov 2000) and Nancy  
 Mundy-D-May 13, 1848 age 13 years. ( B-1835 )  
 Nancy M wife of Henry Mundy—D-Mar 20,1869 age  
 64?y.11m 2d. (1804 )

Henry W., son of H G & Lydia Mundy—D-May 21,  
 1853 age 7y.5m.20d.  
 Margaret, daut.of Henry & Lydia Munday-D-  
 Jan.24,1852 age 8y.3m.19d.

John W Brumfield—D-Feb.1,1855 age 30 years

Mrs. Ransom Griffin  
 December 1940  
 ◆

#### Finding Fowler-Mundy Cemetery

The cemetery is located off Southport Road near Ind.  
 37. According to the July 16, 2000, Indianapolis Star  
 article by John Masson, the Southern Dunes residential  
 development will surround it. The developer has  
 promised plant to a girdle of trees around the perimeter  
 and improve it with grass, a sidewalk and a 6-foot fence.  
 Let us know if you visit and what you saw!



## Will of Richard Adams whose Daughter Susannah Kistard was married to Conrad Kistard

Kathy Kelly, CAO member, forwarded this with the following email:

*SUSANNAH Kistard, late wife of Conrad Kistard  
beneficiary of Richard Adams.*

*Found this on the Original 13 list (Email list). Researchers of Conrad may find it interesting. The information on Gertien Op Den Graff as the 1st wife of Richard Adams being confirmed in the 1698 land Record is correct, but I'll let the following records speak for themselves. Kathy Kelly KKelly106@aol.com*

Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Will Book H.  
Page 528: Will of Richard Adams, written Feb. 1,  
1747, probated March 24, 1747 In the name of God,  
Amen:

I, RICHARD ADAMS, of Providence in the County of Philadelphia, yeoman, being very sick and weak in the Body, but of a Sound Disposing mind and memory, Considering the uncertainty of this Transitory Life and the Certainty of Death, Do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following (viz)

1. I give and Bequeath to my Eldest Daughters children, SUSANNAH Kistard, late wife of Conrad Kistard, DECEASED the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania, to be Equally Divided between them, Share and Share alike, to be paid within 12 months after my decease.

2. I give and Bequeath unto my daughter Catherine, Widow of John Morris, the sum of Ten Pounds of like lawful money to be paid by my Executors within Twelve months after my decease.

3. I give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Mary, Widow of Israel Morris, the sum of Ten Pounds of Like Money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve months after my decease.

4. I give and Bequeath unto my daughter Margaret, now Wife of Paul Casselberry, the Sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve Months by my Executors.

5. I give and Bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth, now Wife of Thos. Bull, the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money aforesaid to be paid within Twelve Months after my decease by my Executors.

6. I give and Bequeath unto my daughter Ann, the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money aforesaid to be paid to her, or her husband Jacob Umstatt by my Executors within Twelve Months after my decease.

7. I give and Bequeath unto my Son Abrams Children the sum of Ten Pounds Lawful Money aforesaid to be paid them or the survivor of them, Equally Share and Share alike (viz) Ann and Abigail, to be paid within Twelve Months after my decease by my Executors.

8. Imprimise: I give and Bequeath and Devise unto my two sons, viz., William and Isaac, the moiety, or half-part, of all the Remainder of my estate after the above Legacies, Debts and funeral Charges is paid, to be equally Divided between them Share and Share alike. That is to say, each one is to have a quarter part to hold to them, their Heirs and Assigns forever.

9. Imprimise: I give, Bequeath and Devise unto my well beloved wife Alse and youngest Daughter Hannah the other Moiety, or half-part, of my estate after the aforesaid Debts and Legacies is paid and Discharged as aforesaid to be equally Divided between my said Wife and Daughters Hannah Husband Owen Evans to hold them their Heirs and Assigns for ever, each one quarter part.

10. And Further: It is my will that if Either of my aforesaid two sons William and Isaac shall be able and have a mind to keep my Plantation and Lands situated in the Township aforesaid, containing one hundred and fifty acres, I give, Devise and Bequeath the same to one of them to hold to them, their Heirs and Assigns for Ever. Provided they pay the three parts in four of the value thereof to my other Son that shall not Chuse to keep the said Lands and to my wife and Daughter Hannah or her aforesaid Husband Owen Evans, to each of them a quarter part as aforesaid within two years after my decease, otherwise I order and Impower my Executors, or the survivor of them, to Sell and Convey my Plantation and Lands to the Highest Bidder or for the Best price that can be got for the same, and the Money arising therefrom to be Divided in four Equal parts after my debts and seven first Legacies are paid and discharged aforesaid (viz) one Quarter part to my said Wife, and one to my Daughter Hannah or her Husband Owen Evans, and one to my son William and the other Quarter part to my son Isaac.

11. Lastly, I do make and ordain my aforesaid two sons and my said son-in-law Owen Evans to be Executors of this my Last Will and Testament, Disallowing, Revoking and Disannulling all other former Wills, Legacies and Executors by me in any wise before this time named or bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this First Day of February Anno Domini one Thousand seven hundred and forty seven (eight).

his

Richard (X) Adams

Witnesses:

mark

Richard Bull

James Betsen

Peter Tyson

Salford, March 24,

1737, James Betsen

and Peter Tyson

declared they saw and

heard

Richard Adams declare the

same to be his will.

In her will dated Aug. 3, 1769, and proved Feb. 7, 1770 by the witnesses John Bull and John Umstat, Also (X) Addams widow of Richard Addams of Philadelphia County appointed her friend Jacob Umstat her executor and directed that her property be given to her daughter Hannah; her grandchildren Also and Hannah Evans, and her granddaughter Margaret wife of John McCorkle. She also remembered her friends John and Ann Tyson. (Book O, p. 454) ♦



Steve Alexander as Gen. Custer, Don Custer as Wells Custer of the Pendleton County (Virginia) Scouts, Jim Horn as Sgt. Fought

## Bethel Moore Custer & His Descendants

New member Harris Custer is hoping someone will recognize his ancestors. If you have any information, please let me know as we are anxious to learn more about Harris' lineage. Patricia maverik@cwnet.co and/or Harris Custer.H@FLRN.edu

### Generation One

1. Bethel Moore<sup>1</sup> Custer<sup>1</sup> was born on 10 Jan 1828 in Duncannon, PA.<sup>1</sup> He married Martha Homas.<sup>1</sup> He died on 1 Dec 1902 at age 74.<sup>1</sup>

Martha Homas<sup>1</sup> was born on 1 Jan 1836 in Ripley Twp., PA.<sup>1</sup> She died in 1894.<sup>1</sup>

Known children of Bethel Moore<sup>1</sup> Custer and Martha Homas were:

2. i. Lewis Bayard<sup>2</sup>, born 3 Jun 1881 in Glenolden, PA; married Clara Trimmer Hutchinson.

### Generation Two

2. Lewis Bayard<sup>2</sup> Custer (Bethel Moore<sup>1</sup>)<sup>1,1,1</sup> was born on 3 Jun 1881 in Glenolden, PA.<sup>1</sup> He married Clara Trimmer Hutchinson.<sup>1</sup> He died on 22 Mar 1960 in Sanford, FL, at age 78.<sup>1</sup>

Clara Trimmer Hutchinson was born on 1 Dec 1889 in Boiling Springs, PA.<sup>1</sup> She died on 1 Jan 1982 in Meridan, CT, at age 92.<sup>1</sup>

Known children of Lewis Bayard<sup>2</sup> Custer and Clara Trimmer Hutchinson were:

3. i. Richard Holmes<sup>3</sup>, born 27 Feb 1918 in Mt. Vernon, NY; married Mary Marie Ricardson.

### Generation Three

3. Richard Holmes<sup>3</sup> Custer (Lewis Bayard<sup>2</sup>, Bethel Moore<sup>1</sup>)<sup>1,1,1</sup> was born on 27 Feb 1918 in Mt. Vernon, NY.<sup>1</sup> He married Mary Marie Ricardson.<sup>1</sup> He died on 26 Nov 1994 in West Hartford, CT, at age 76.<sup>1</sup>

Mary Marie Ricardson<sup>1</sup>

### Endnotes

1 "Family Group Sheet of BMCuster MID#545", 01 Sep 2000 (Contact CAO for Address). ♦





Because the photos in the September 2000 issue were so dark, we are reprinting a sample of those pictures. Enjoy!

## Confrence & Reunion June 6-8, 2000

*left: JoAnn and Jack Kester and June Herron helping CAOA members register.*

*Second Row  
Left: Bruce Black  
conducting seminar  
on Masonic genea-  
logical records.*

*Right:  
Demonstration by  
Patricia Caster of  
CAOA database.*

*Center Row  
Left: CAO A  
members working  
with archives.  
Right: Lunch!*

*Bottom Row:  
Left: Jean White  
conducting seminar  
"The Correct  
Spelling of a Name".  
Right: Lunch!*





# The News-Caster

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## Keisters Survive Fort Seybert Massacre

Frederick and Hannah Keister decided to join their friends on the trek down to the Shenandoah Valley to Brock's Gap on April 27, 1758. When they left the Dyer settlement around Fort Seybert, they had no reason to know that this 20 mile walk over the mountains would save their lives and spare them from one of the bloodiest massacres of the French and Indian Wars.

Hannah was the daughter of Roger Dyer, the patriarch of the settlement in what is now Pendleton County, West Virginia. Roger Dyer, with seven other men and their families, entered the Potomac high-land country when he purchased land on



1750 House known as "Hogg's Fort" is now used as a summer house by the owner.

November 7, 1747. Frederick Keister married Roger and Hannah Dyer's daughter, Hannah, about 1755 and they made their home within the settlement located around Fort Seybert.

Jacob Seybert built Fort Seybert, on the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, on land he had purchased from Roger Dyer. Fort Seybert, like most of the other small forts, was not an effective deterrent to the Indian attacks. It consisted of a



View of the area around Hogg's Fort.

two story central blockhouse in the middle of a 90-foot diameter stockade. Hogg's Fort, near Brock's Gap, on the eastern side of the mountains, was a similar structure. This fort, along with Fort Upper Tract, and Hogg's Fort, were part of a string of small forts along the western frontier built to protect settlers from the random attacks of the Indians and French during the French and Indian Wars.

France and Britain had been engaged in a series of wars commencing in 1689 with King William's War. The struggle in North America involved control of the fur trade and access to trading routes. While the British had colonized the eastern seaboard, the French had moved inland via the St. Lawrence River.

By the time Britain officially declared war on France in 1756, the fighting had raged in America for two years. After the large French force moving out of Fort Duquesne forced Major George Washington to surrender his small band of less than one hundred men at Fort Necessity, the British sent General Braddock to command the British regulars. The Battle of the Wilderness took place in 1756. Braddock and over half his army of two thousand men were killed. Braddock believed that the French would fight like gentlemen, not engage in the guerilla tactics of frontier.



The offset logs above the doors and windows were for rifle slits. The logs were removed when needed.

After Braddock's ignominious defeat, British colonial defenses on the western frontier completely collapsed. Settlers were left to fend for themselves. Washington had been trying to protect the western borders of Virginia with little success.

(Continued on page 42)

*Frederick and Hannah Keister (Continued from page 41)*

The House of Burgess', dominated by Tidewater planters, continually kept him shorthanded. They had large plantations with many slaves and feared that the fighting would spread east, encouraging a slave uprising. Thus, the largest numbers of Virginia militiamen were assigned to the eastern part of the colony.

The Linville Creek Baptist Church records for January 1758, near Brock's Gap, contain this desperate entry:

"After this Time, the Spring coming on, the Indian Troubles continued, and all Opportunites of Meetings were taken from us; and not only so, but the whole Neighbourhood forced either to go into Forts or over the Mountains, to escape their Rage, in the month of June following."

"During which time of Troubles, divine Providence seem entirely against us, and the whole Neighbourhood; and some Disorders happened in these troubles amongst our own Members..."<sup>1</sup>

Brock's Gap was attacked in 1757 and Washington recorded "three Dutch people, one killed, two prisoners." The settlers were terrified and many fled back over the Blue Ridge, south into the Carolinas or back to Pennsylvania away from these attacks. Contemporaneous accounts tell of so many people fleeing eastward that it was nearly impossible to travel the roads westward into the Valley of Virginia.

The course of the war altered dramatically when William Pitt, King George II, and the Duke of Devonshire resolved the political stalemate that had paralyzed the British government for most of 1757. Pitt gained control of policy and determined that Britain would not engage France in Europe but would concentrate its efforts in the North America. To this end he set about making drastic changes to British policies to both strengthen the military effort and to gain the enthusiastic support of the Colonies. However, Pitt's new strategies did nothing to protect the settlers in the mountains and valleys of Virginia from Indian raids during 1758.

Killbuck, by all accounts a very intelligent and educated Shawnee<sup>2</sup> chief, led the attack on Fort Seybert in the early morning hours of April 28, 1758. Fog hung low in the river bottom around the fort. Oren Morton tells, in his *History of Pendleton County, West Virginia*, that about 40 people were "forting" at inside the walls. Through deviousness and treachery, he convinced Captain Seybert to open the gates. As soon as the gates were

opened, Killbuck rushed at Seybert, striking him in the mouth with the butt end of his tomahawk. Killbuck's warriors herded the settlers away from the burning fort and divided them into two groups. They proceeded to club and scalp those deemed too weak or otherwise undesirable in front of the chosen captives.

The number of settlers killed at Fort Seybert is uncertain, but usually is given as between 17 and 21. Killbuck or part of his war party, completely destroyed and killed everyone at Fort Upper Tract, a fort about 20 miles from Fort Seybert, on April 27. Washington estimated that the total number of persons lost in both raids to be around 60. Those not killed were taken prisoner and marched into the Ohio country. Hannah Keister's younger brother, James Dyer, escaped and eventually helped his sister Sarah Dyer Hawes escape the Shawnee as well. James' bravery is an integral part of the Fort Seybert tradition.

Frederick Keister and Hannah returned to the Dyer settlement, where she inherited, by will, 427 acres of land from her father. Frederick and Hannah sold this land in 1763 and moved to land Frederick had acquired by patent about 1757 near Brandywine, West Virginia. They made their home here for the rest of their lives. They are buried in the Keister Cemetery, near Brandywine. Part of the village stands on Keister land.

Custards from the Brock's Gap area also came into Pendleton County and Morton includes Arnold, his sons Paul, Conrad, and George and Arnold's daughter Susannah in his *History*.

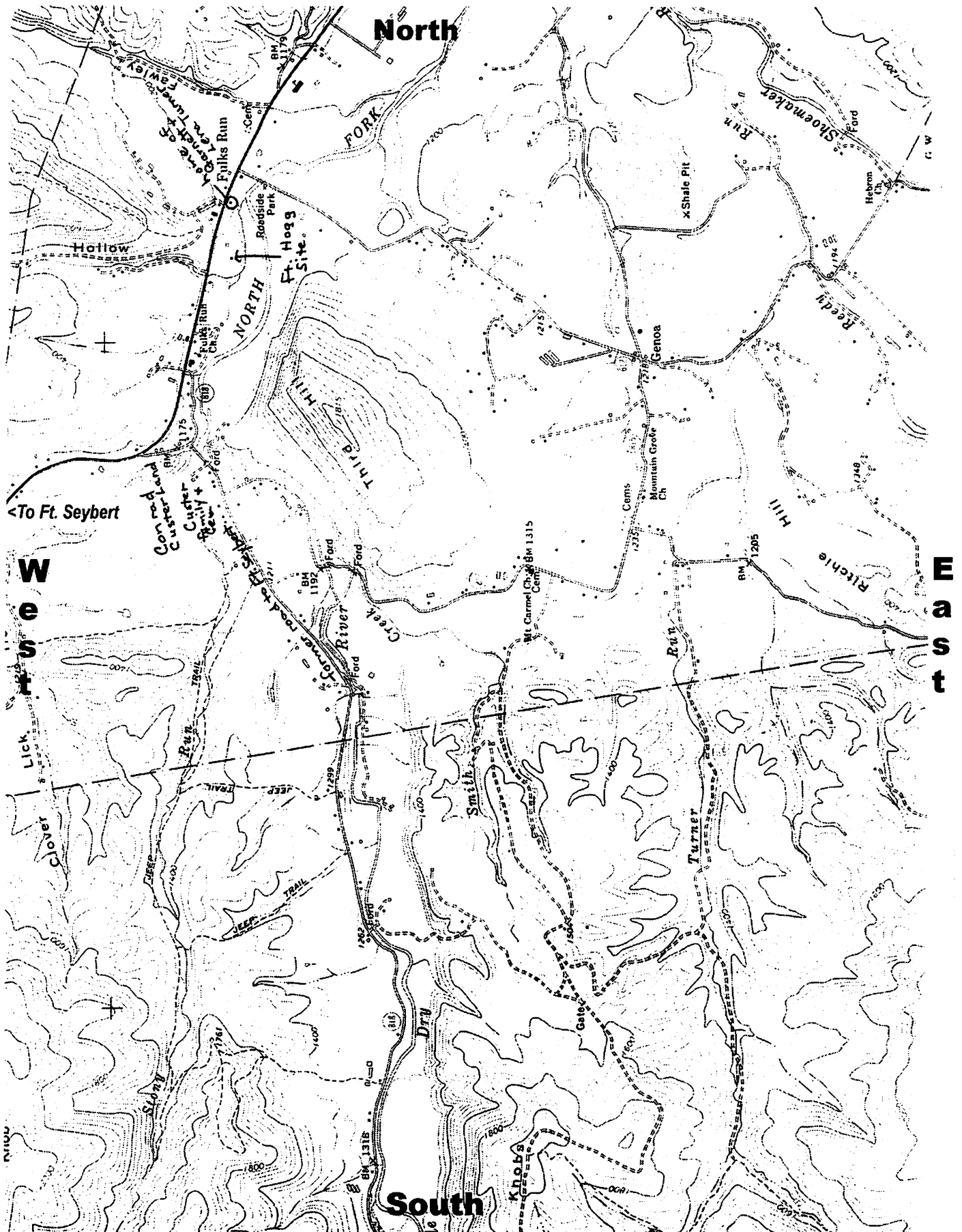
The Fort Seybert Massacre is part of the lore of Pendleton County and visitors to the county can visit the sites, which are marked by historical markers. The Pendleton County forts are Fort Hinkle, Fort Seybert and Fort Upper Tract. If you can read only one book about the Seven Years War, make certain it is Professor Fred Anderson's *Crucible of War*. This must be close to being the definitive work for this time period, 1754-1766, in North America.

#### Notes

1. Wayland, JohnW. *Virginia Valley Records, Genealogical and Historical Materials of Rockingham county, Virginia and Related Regions (with Map)*. (1930: reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975), 51.
2. Commentators differ as whether the attackers were Shawnee or western Delaware. Morton reports they were Shawnee while Draper writes in his annotation

(Continued on page 44)





(Continued from page 42)

of the 1895 edition of Withers that Killbuck was a Delaware chief.

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White, Jean M., Editor. *The Descendants of Paulus and*  
(Continued on page 47)

## From the CAO Archives: FK.0 Frederick Keister

FK.0 Frederick Keister was born in 1730. It is believed he was born in the Palatinate, and arrived 1737 in Philadelphia with his father, Friederich Kiester, aboard the ship *Virginus Grace*. "Rupp's list of immigrants to the port of Philadelphia includes: 'September 24, 1737, Palatines imported on the ship *Virginus Grace*, John Bull, Master, first from Cowes. In all 225: Friederich Kiester' The Pennsylvania Archives records the same: 'List of foreigners imported in the ship *Virginus Grace*, John Bull, Master, from Rotterdam. Qualified September 24, 1737: Frederick Kiester.'

Boyd B Stutler and Roybird Cook, both descendants of Frederick Keister, and distinguished historians, authors, and collectors of West Virginia History, were of the opinion that the Friederich Kiester mentioned in both lists of immigrants to Philadelphia, was the father of our Pendleton County Frederick.

Friederich Kiester took the oath of allegiance to the King of England as a colonist, at Philadelphia on the same day he landed, and made a settlement in York County, Pennsylvania. Frederick of Pendleton was naturalized at Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia in 1762, as shown by court records. According to family records, and borne out by the period of his activity, this Frederick was born about 1730, which would make him seven years old at the time of his landing -- too young to be sworn in.

By 1753, he located on the South Branch of the Potomac in Rockingham County, Virginia (now Pendleton County, West Virginia). Court records show that in 1753, Frederick Keister made a survey in the Walnut Bottom of the North Fork. Frederick married 1755 Hannah Dyer. Hannah was born about 1735 in Pennsylvania, daughter of Roger and Hannah (Green) Dyer. Roger and Hannah Dyer migrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Augusta County, Virginia (now Pendleton County, West Virginia) where Roger purchased land 4 November 1747. Roger was killed at the Ft. Seybert Massacre 28 April 1758. Hannah received 427 acres of land in Hampshire County from her father's will dated 24 February 1757, which was proved 21 March 1759.

(Continued on page 45)



In 1761, Frederick bought 256 acres of land adjoining his holding for #213.33. Frederick bought 67 acres of land 14 April 1761 on a branch of the Potomack adjoining his own land. Frederick received his certificate of oath of allegiance 18 May 1762. Frederick sold 35 acres of Little Walnut Bottom on the mountain between South Forks and South Branch of the Potomack 17 August 1764 to George Fults.

He served as a soldier in the Colonial Wars in the Augusta Militia. He served in the Revolution and qualified as Lieutenant 28 September 1778. He is listed as furnishing supplies in an account dated 29 May 1782.

Pendleton County Records show him as a voter in 1791, 1794 and 1795 -- they also show him on the land tax rolls for the years 1789, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1802, 1803 and 1804. Frederick died 1814, and was buried on his homestead in Pendleton County, West Virginia.

"The will of Frederick Keister, dated August 10, 1806, and witnessed by John Davis, Robert Davis, and Henry Puffenberger, was probated at the March court of 1815. He willed that, '...all my just debts and funeral charges be paid...to my dearly beloved wife one Negro wench named Poll, two beds and bedding, two pair bedsteads, one-third of all my movable property...to my beloved sons, Frederick and George Keister all my lands on this side of the river...to my son James Keister all my lands on the side of the river he now lives on by paying 35 pounds...equally divided amongst all my daughters...appoint my wife, Hannah Keister and James Keister executors...'"

Today, the village of Brandywine stands on a part of the Keister farm. The tombstone of his wife, Hannah Dyer Keister, shows she died 181\_\_, the last figure is chipped from the stone. Hannah was still living in 1815, so she died between 1815 and 1820.

Their children:

1. **James Keister** born 1756; married Elizabeth Jane Davis; died 12 June 1834.
2. **Hannah Keister** born about 1757; married George Hull about 1786; died 1837.
3. **Sarah Keister** born 1762; married Burton Blizzard (he was born 1757) December 1780; died 17 March 1837.
4. **Esther Keister** married Adam Hull; died 1836.

5. **Mary Keister** married Gabriel Kile/Kyle 1797.

6. **Frederick Keister Jr** born 1774; married Anne E Propst 1791, married Malinda Grim or Green/Belinda Gum/Grim 3 June 1851 Highland County, VA; died 1857.

7. **George Keister** born 5 February 1776; married Susannah Peck 18 February 1800, married Mary Ann Jordan 12 October 1843; died 18 July 1854.

8. **Elizabeth Keister** married Henry Hull.

#### **FK.0.01 James Keister**

James Keister was born in 1756, son of Frederick and Hannah (Dyer) Keister. James married Elizabeth Jane Davis. James died 12 June 1834. James' will was dated 12 November 1827, and was probated 5 February 1834 (death and probate dates are not consistent). He left to James, Jr a section of the plantation adjoining George Keister's "wash place" on the South Branch, embracing the dwelling house. The balance was to be sold and divided among "my six children; Ruth Hevener, Hannah Hoover, Jane, Mary Findlay, Betsy Hetzel, and James Keister, Jr." James and his wife, Jane; James, Jr; and Henry (grandson) and his wife are buried on the farm of Laban Davis near Brandywine, West Virginia.

Their children:

1. **James Keister Jr** born 1797; married 14 August 1828 Susan Swadley in Pendleton County, Virginia; died 1849.
2. **Ruth Keister** married 1807 John Hevener.
3. **Hannah Keister** married 1810 George Hoover.
4. **Jane Keister** did not marry.
5. **Mary Keister** married 4 August 1825 Samuel Findley.
6. **Elizabeth Keister** married 12 February 1824 Philip H Heltzel.

#### **FK.0.02 Hannah Keister**

Hannah Keister was born about 1757, daughter of Frederick and Hannah (Dyer) Keister. Hannah married about 1786 George Hull. George was born 15 October 1757 at Cub Run, Rockingham County, Virginia, son of Peter Thomas and Margaret (Deffenbach) Hull of Crab Bottom. George was a Revolutionary War soldier. Hannah died 1837. George died in the fall of 1849 at Anthony's Creek.

*(Continued on page 48)*

# Researching in Cowley County, Kansas

So what do you do if you have a day or two to spend in Southern Kansas, Cowley County to be exact? Fortunately for you, there are several excellent collections of interest to the genealogist, and all of them are underutilized and staffed by friendly folk.

First stop, if you are in Winfield on a weekend afternoon, is the Cowley County Museum. This small museum, housed in an old elementary school, is staffed completely by volunteers. Its hours and general character reflect this relaxed, folksy approach. It houses not only treasures illustrative of the history of Cowley County but it has some books and other materials of interest to genealogists. If you are lucky, one of Cowley County's old timers may be working and give you first hand memories and assistance.

Your second stop, since you are in Winfield, should be the Winfield Public Library, located at the corner of Eighth and College. Although the Library's collection is small, it does have books of interest to genealogists, including some census and cemetery records as well as county histories.

If you are searching for a graveyard and perhaps know the name of the person you are looking for, stop at Dawson Company on South Main Street on your way to the Cherokee Strip Museum in Arkansas City. The helpful people at Dawson's will answer questions about cemetery locations and may even have a cemetery

map to help you locate the grave before you drive to the cemetery.

For me, the best collection in Cowley County is located in the Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum located on Highway 77, just south of Arkansas City on the Kansas-Oklahoma border. Over 110,000 people raced for a piece of the 7 million acres in the Cherokee Strip and Arkansas City was the largest registration point, with over 75,000 eager land seekers and their families moving to southern Cowley County to participate in this extraordinary event. The Museum showcases the history of the Cherokee Strip Land Rush and also houses the collection of the Cowley County Genealogical Society. Although you will have to pay an entrance fee to the museum, you may decide that it is well worth your while.

The genealogical collection includes records of claims filed with the various land offices, tax records, records from the monument works (there are several others besides Dawson), newspapers clipping from many of the extinct small town newspapers, cemetery records, records from funeral homes and more. A good place to stop!

*Mary Margaret Ward*

Cowley County Historical Museum  
1100 Mansfield  
Winfield, Kansas

Hours: 2-5 Saturday and Sunday and by appointment  
Admission free, donation appreciated  
<http://www.skyways.lib.ks.us/towns/winfield/museum/html>

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Winfield Public Library  
605 College Avenue  
Winfield, Kansas

Hours: M-Th 9:30 – 8:30  
F-Sa 9:30 – 6:00  
Sun 1:00-5:00  
<http://users.hit.net/~wpl1/home/home/html>

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Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum  
Highway 77 south of Arkansas City

Hours Summer: T- Sa 10:00 – 5:00 Sun 1:00 – 5:00  
Hours Winter: T-Sa 10:00 – 4:00 Sun 1:00 – 4:00  
Admission: \$3.50, seniors \$3.25, youth \$1.50  
<http://www.arkcity.org.csm.html>

In less than a year we will all be heading for Kansas City, Missouri for our 10th Reunion. Kansas City has a lot to offer so be sure to come a few days early and not miss any of it.

Volunteers are needed to distribute Reunion Flyers. They can be placed in local genealogy or historical societies or libraries. Also, if the local newspaper has a genealogy column it could be sent to the person writing the column.

If you live in the Kansas City area or near there and you would like to help Mary-Margaret with the reunion let her know.

At the last reunion in Maryland, a couple of members shared their experiences in researching their family and



publishing the results through their genealogy software programs. It was a success so we would like to continue the sharing.

In 1996 at the reunion in Harrisonburg, VA members brought displays showing photo's and stories about their ancestors. These displays were a hit. Do you still have them? We

have a lot of new members who would love to see them. Don't have one? How about making one and bringing it with you and if you can't make it to the reunion you could send it for display. In case you are wondering what I am talking about here are some pictures from the 1996 reunion.+

(Continued from page 44)

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## Castor Association of America 2002 Conference & Reunion

**Make your Reservations by 1 May 2002  
To receive the special CACA Room Rate at  
the**



Their children:

1. **Elizabeth Hull** born 1787; married 1806 David Bird; died 1857.
2. **George Hull, Jr**
3. **Mary Jane Hull**
4. **Rachel Hull**
5. **Peter Hull** married Elizabeth Oldham.
6. **William Hull**
7. **Hannah Dyer Hull** married Charles Perkins.
8. **James Keister Hull**
9. **Jesse Hull**

#### **FK.0.04 Esther Keister**

Esther Keister was the daughter of Frederick and Hannah (Dyer) Keister. Esther married Adam Hull. Adam was born about 1766, the son of Peter Thomas and Susanna Margaretha (Dieffanbach) Hull. Adam was a Revolutionary War soldier, serving in Capt. Peter Hull's Company, 2nd Battalion, August County, Militia in 1779. Adam died in 1836.

Their children:

1. **Hannah Hull** born around 1790; married Adonijah Ward 21 June 1814, Pendleton County, VA; lived in what is now Tucker County, WV.
2. **Sarah Hull** born 1792; married 12 Benjamin Fleisher November 1812 Pendleton County, WV; lived Highland County, WV; died 1881.
3. **Peter Adam Hull** born 1794; married Rachel Tallman between 7 April 1816 and 10 September 1816 Bath County, VA; died 1838 Pendleton County, VA (now Highland County, WV).
4. **John Hull** born about 1795; married Margaret Warwick 12 July 1821, Bath County, VA; lived in Highland County, WV.
5. **Susan Hull** born about 1797; married John Long 20 November 1817 Pendleton County, VA; lived Randolph County, VA.
6. **Esther Hull** born about 1799; married Robert Warwick 18 October; lived Pochantas County, WV.
7. **Catharine Hull** born about 1802; married Jacob Hidy.
8. **Jacob Hull** born about 1806; married Mahala Hoover; died 1861.
9. **Elizabeth Hull** born about 1808; married Jacob Warwick 6 April 1826 Pendleton County, VA (now WV).
10. **Frederick Keister Hull** born 1810; married Mararet

Amelia Wilson 15 December 1836 Bath County, VA; married Julia Whitelaw after 1850; lived Highland County, VA (now WV).

#### **FK.0.06 Frederick Keister**

Frederick Keister, Jr was born 1774 in Virginia, son of Frederick and Hannah (Dyer) Keister. Frederick married 1791 or 1793 Anne E Propst. Anne was a daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Coplinger) Propst. He married 3 June 1851 Malinda/Belinda Gum/Grim in Highland County, Virginia. Malinda was born about 1820 in Ohio. He was a great hunter. When he had obtained a substantial amount of game in the Shenandoah Mountain, he would build a signal fire on High Knob to signal for help to pack the kill to his home. Frederick died 1857. His flintlock, "old Wallace," is in the possession of one of his descendants.

Children of Frederick and Anne:

1. **John Keister** married 9 September 1821 Susan Crummett/Cromet in Pendleton County, Virginia, D Shirer officiated.
2. **Hannah Keister** married John Miller.
3. **Christina Keister** married 26 July 1818 Esthemus Campher/Kampfer, married second \_\_\_\_\_ Daggs.
4. **Eli Keister** married Ann Propst.
5. **Jacob Keister**
6. **Mary Keister** married 23 September 1830 Jacob Clayton.

Children of Frederick and Malinda:

7. **Bird D Keister** born about 1852 in Virginia; married Carrie Everly; died 1875.
8. **Martha C Keister** born 4 October 1853.

#### **FK.0.07 George Keister**

George Keister was born 5 February 1776 in Pendleton County, Virginia, youngest child of Frederick and Hannah (Dyer) Keister. George married 18 February 1800 Susannah Peck. Susannah was born 4 March 1780, daughter of Garrett and Margaret "Peggy" (Croddy) Peck. George was a farmer.

George enlisted 14 September 1813 for service in the War of 1812 at Franklin, Virginia (now West Virginia) in Captain Johnson's Company of the 6th Regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by Colo-

(Continued on page 49)

nel Dan'l Coleman. George's military description was 5' 8" tall, black hair, blue eyes and fair complexion. George was discharged 14 March 1814 at Norfolk. George received 3 September 1851 Warrant #14,243 for 80 acres for his service.

Susannah died 18 July 1843, leaving twelve children. He married 12 October 1843 Mary Ann Jordan at South Fork, Pendleton County, George Schmucker officiated. Mary Ann was born 17 November 1823 in Virginia. George died 18 July 1854 at South Fork. Mary Ann died 18 April 1899.

Children of George and Susannah:

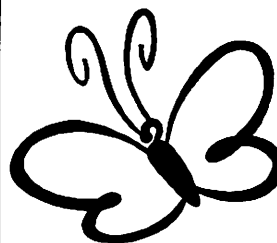
1. **William Keister** married Elizabeth Bowman, daughter of Peter Bowman.
2. **George Keister** born 12 January 1805 in Pendleton County; married 4 November 1824 Sarah Propst, F Lair officiated; was buried near White Sulphur Springs.
3. **John Davis Keister** born 3 May 1815; married 24 May 1839 Elizabeth Bodkin, S Zickefoose officiated; died 16 January 1896.
4. **Jacob Peck Keister** born 1817; married 24 March 1836 Mary "Polly" Lockridge, S Zickefoose officiated; died 1895 in Pendleton County.
5. **Polly Ann Keister** born 12 April 1820 or 1821 in Pendleton County; married 25 November 1837 Jesse Cowger; died 3 July 1896.
6. **Susan Keister** married George Hoover.
7. **Margaret Keister** married George Dean.
8. **Sarah Keister** married William Hull (son of George Hull & Hannah Keister).
9. **Elizabeth Keister** married 20 November 1823 Jacob Bowman.
10. **Hannah Keister** married Captain Silas Hinton.
11. **Hester Keister** married 31 October 1840 Jeremiah Jordan.
12. infant **Frederick Keister** died young.

Children of George and Mary Ann:

13. **James K Polk Keister** born about 1845; died young.
14. **Jesse Keister** born about 1846; died young.
15. **Martin V Keister** born 1848; married Louisa Evick.
16. **Mary Ann Keister** born 1849; married Samuel P Nelson, married second Hopkins Teter.
17. **Benjamin Keister** born 5 October 1851; died 27 July 1858.
18. **Solomon G Keister** born 9 October 1853; married Sarah Lough.

Sources: Contact Patricia Caster Archivist for a listing of the sources or more information.

## New Books in the CAO A Library



**Donated by  
Mary-Margaret Ward**

Withers, Alexander Scott. *Chronicles of Border Warfare or A History of the Settlement by the Whites, of Northwestern Virginia, and of the Indian Wars and Massacres in that section of the State.* Clarksburg, VA: Joseph Israel, 1831. New Edition edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites. Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1895. Reprinted Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company, 1961.

Forman, Elva Dyer, compiler. *Roger Dyer Pioneer Settler of the Virginia Frontier.* Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1999.

*History of Early Settlement & Indian Wars of West Virginia*

## Member Updates

\*\*\*\*\* New Member

**PK.0.01.01.05.02.06.01.06.0?.0?.0?**

Margaret Williams

1035 Placid Court

Arnold, Maryland 21012-1629

\*\*\*\*\* Change of Address

None

\*\*\*\*\* Change of Email

Mary-Margaret Ward

Mmward2001@mindspring.com

Please remember to let us know of any address changes.



In May I attended the National Genealogy Society Conference in Portland, Oregon. In preparation for the trip I thought it would be great if I could stop and visit some cemeteries along the way. I did a web search and found the following information. Patricia

#### **Eagle Point National Cemetery Eagle Point, Jackson County, Oregon**

Casten, Zola P, b. 04/29/1917, d. 11/28/1991, Plot: AA 354, bur. 12/10/1991  
 Caster, Marion Bertram, b. 01/24/1913, d. 02/13/1996, US Army, LTCOL, Res: Medford, OR, Plot: 22 0 487, bur. 02/16/1996  
 Caster, Marion Bertram, b. 01/24/1913, d. 02/13/1996, US Army, LTCOL, Res: Medford, OR, Plot: 22 0 487, bur. 02/16/1996  
 Caster, Wrex E, b. 08/16/1936, d. 05/01/1995, US Air Force, MSGT, Res: Grants Pass, OR, Plot: 21 0 1586, bur. 05/05/1995  
 Custer, George William, b. 07/10/1900, d. 04/19/1988, PFC USMC, Plot: A 49, bur. 04/25/1988

#### **Willamette National Cemetery Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon**

Castor, Joe Dennis, b. 12/27/1906, d. 08/30/1962, US Army, PFC, Plot: F 0 3560, bur. 09/04/1962  
 Castor, John, b. 12/15/1915, d. 01/15/1993, US Army, PVT, Plot: Q 0 433, bur. 01/19/1993  
 Castor, Manson R, b. 09/14/1942, d. 06/29/1977, US Marine Corps, LCPL, Plot: L 0 3722, bur. 07/05/1977  
 Custard, Maurice L, b. 12/03/1887, d. 03/24/1965, US Army, PFC, Plot: H 0 1263, bur. 04/06/1965  
 Custer, Carlyn B, b. 04/20/1907, d. 09/18/1967, US Army, TEC 4, Plot: A 0 1572, bur. 09/21/1967  
 Custer, Donald, b. 08/12/1925, d. 01/29/1953, US Army, SSGT, Plot: K 0 22, bur. 02/02/1953  
 Custer, Eugenia M, b. 04/04/1918, d. 04/01/1991, US Army, S SGT, Res: Milwaukie, OR, Plot: COL-236 D, bur. 10/03/1997  
 Custer, Francis P, b. 07/05/1918, d. 09/23/1997, US Navy, CM3, Res: Milwaukie, OR, Plot: COL-236 D, bur. 10/03/1997  
 Custer, George, ...  
 Custer, George, b. 06/26/1891, d. 10/02/1967, US Army, PFC, Plot: A 0 1572, bur. 10/05/1967  
 Moore, Edward Custer Jr, b. 09/24/1902, d. 04/30/1967, PVT US ARMY, Plot: S 1529, bur. 05/04/1967, \*  
 Kaster, Fred W, b. 04/25/1895, d. 10/11/1967, US Army, PFC, Plot: A 0 438, bur. 10/16/1967

I managed to stop at a few of the cemeteries and I will add the photo's when there is room for them.



**Eastwood Cemetery**  
**Medford, Jackson Co., Oregon**  
 Pictures taken 10 May 2001  
 By Patricia Caster

At Rest  
**Nathaniel M.**  
 July 18, 1841  
 Oct 28, 1892  
 Mary A  
 Feb 25, 1846  
 April 17, 1922  
 W. Jesse  
 Oct 2, 1878  
 Oct 28, 1898  
 CASTER



**John T Caster**  
 1872-1917  
**Effie J. Caster**  
 1884-1976



**M B Caster**  
 Died  
 May 5 1909  
 Aged  
 28 Yrs 3 MS  
 14 Days



**Effie B. Pruett**  
 1875-1960

**John W. Pruett**  
 1873-1934



Daughter of Charles J. and Elva Catherine Caster Laird

# Notes from Members

*Anita Johnson Castor*, wife of Jack K. Castor passed away on 8 July 2001.

Sadly, I tell you that Anita died today (Sunday) at 1:40PM. She had Hospice help and died peacefully at home after two and a half years of misery and pain. Saturday she enjoyed a gorgeous day on the patio with family and during the late evening slipped into a coma from which she did not arouse. The long battle is over and she was one hell of a fighter. Jack (Jack Kreible Castor is one of the founders of the Castor Association of America)

*Mae Audry Custer* mother of Barbara Custer Vaillencourt passed away 8 October 2000.

*Mary-Margaret Ward* has been commuting back and forth from Kansas for about a month or more now. She has been helping take care of her mother *Emily Kaster Moore*, our oldest member, who fell and broke her right femur and left hip. Emily is healing as well as can be expected. She is not able to move around much as you can imagine. If you would like to send her a card or note, please mail them to: Emily Moore, Cumbernauld Village, 716 Tweed Street, Winfield, KS 67156

*Sandee Lacy* will do look ups for Morgan County, West Virginia. She has the following books:

Morgan County, West Virginia Obituaries 1936-1953, 1954-1967, 1968-1979

Morgan County, West Virginia Red Book published 1995

Morgan County Death Records 1865-1903

Sandee can be contacted at 302 CR 6720 Natalia, Texas 78059-2113

*Bryce and Sue Wanless* announce New Life on the Planet —see below.

*Sandra Kaster Lee* is sharing a picture of Reuben Fletcher Kaster with us. See also articles in News Caster Vol XVIII No. 3 page 56 (September 2000) and News Caster Vol XVIII No. 4 page 70 (December 2000) . See below.

If you have news that you would like to share please send to Mary-Margaret Ward at 2214 Clay Street San Francisco, California 94115-1930. Her email is mmward2001@mindspring.



PK.0.01.01.10.04.02.01.01  
Reuben Fletcher Kaster 1841-1907

Thought I would share this picture of my great grandfather, **Reuben Fletcher Kaster**, with you. I have no clue when it was made.  
Sandra Kaster Lee

Thanks Sandra for sharing the picture with us. If anyone might know when it was taken please let us know. Patricia as Archivist.

**Christopher Jacob Urban** was born at 10:44pm, August 2, 2001 in San Marcos, Texas. He weighed 7 lbs. 15.4 oz. and was 20 inches long. He is the first child of **Christopher Urban** and **Paige Lynnette Wanless Urban**.



Paige is the oldest daughter of Bryce Wanless (treasurer) and Vickey Sue Caster Wanless (Publications Manager). All are doing well and very proud of "Jake".

I am attaching a picture for your appreciation of this new person. He is about 19 hours old in the picture. That is Sue holding him. Thanks Bryce





Montgomery County was host to Washington's army for nine months during the Revolution and was the site of early lime, paper, iron and textile industries. Canal and railroad systems provided transportation for the industries products and residents. Montgomery County was a part of Philadelphia County until 10 September 1784. In 1881 on Washington's birthday a group of prominent citizens met to form a historical society and plan a centennial celebration. On 11 May 1883, the flourishing historical society was chartered "to preserve the civil, political and religious history of the county and to promote the study of history."

The library contains a treasure trove of more than thirty thousand books and pamphlets, many of them are rare or one of a kind. The resources are continually supplemented by family, church and cemetery records, newspapers, diaries, letters, ledgers, and other manuscript materials. Early deeds, tax records, wills, naturalization papers and other public documents. The Norristown newspapers are available in microfilm from 1800 to the present. Volunteers are available to do research. If you are a member (\$20/yr) there is no charge. Non-members pay a fee of \$4.00.

A large card catalogue is provided and contains an every-name, every-subject index to books, periodicals, genealogies and scrapbooks. A second card catalogue contains all published books while the third one indexes early documents of the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Quarter Sessions.

Family files are maintained of the work done by other researchers. A files is kept listing researchers who are willing to exchange information with others working on the same family.

The Reading Room Collection contains Pennsylvania Archives, Montgomery County histories and biographies,

Census records 1790-1910, Passenger Lists, Immigration and Naturalization Papers, 1798 Window Pane Tax, Indices and abstracts of wills of Montgomery, Philadelphia and some neighboring counties, Sketches and Bulletins of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, Publications of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Gazette 1729-1789, Maps and Atlases.

The Microfilm collection contains Marriage License Dockets 1885-1943, Birth Registrations 1893-1915, Death Registrations 1893-1915, Grantor/Grantee indices 1784-1919, Sheriff Dockets, Prothonotary Dockets, Will Books 1-10, Norristown Newspapers (Herald and Register), Veterans Affairs Burial Applications 1865-1943, Montgomery County Tax Books 1785-1846, Church and Cemetery Records, and Original Land Warrants.

The Special Collections contain Church and Cemetery Records, Naturalization Papers, Bible Records, Road Petitions, Tavern Licenses, Court of Quarter Sessions Records, Family, township and county histories, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware Archives, Scrapbooks of Edward Mathews, and Edward Hocker, Obituaries, Collections of Jones Detwiler, William Summers, and Charles Barker, Military Duty Enrollment Books 1887-1921, Civil War regimental Histories, Montgomery County Deed Books 1-299, Montgomery County Mortgage Books 1-31, Montgomery County Sheriff's Deed Poll Books A-S, Montgomery County Miscellaneous Deed Books 1-87, Montgomery County Delayed Birth Registrations, Montgomery County Marriages & Deaths published in the Herald, and City Directories for Norristown, Bridgeport, Conshohocken, Pottstown and Philadelphia.

The Society also sponsors a genealogy study group which meets six times a year.

**Thanks to Alexander Hall for the Library Spotlight.**

Does anyone know how to obtain a copy of the 1000 page notebook written by Donald Marion Custer on Paulus Kuster and his descendants? I am willing to cover the costs.

Please contact Richard P. Dunbar at [rpdnmd@aol.com](mailto:rpdnmd@aol.com). Thank you.

**FOR THE ARCHIVES**  
**SUBMITTED BY TERRY O'CONNOR:**

**Mahaska Co. IA Marriages 1880-1889**

Groom	Age	Bride	Age	Marriage Date	[Archive
Caster, H. G.	32	Brooks, Mary A.	24	30 May 1886	[PK.0.01.04.02.07.09.03
Caster, J. E.	22	Phelps, Lida M.	20	23 Mar 1882	[No information found
Caster, William M.	21	Warinner, Bernice	20	22 Aug 1883	[PK.0.01.04.02.07.02.08.01

**Mahaska Co., IA Births 1880-1889**

Child	Parents	Date of Birth	
Caster, Female	Horace G. - Mary Alice Brooks	20 Jul 1889	PK.0.01.04.02.07.09.03

**Mahaska Co., IA WPA Burial Records**

Castor, Geo. Born 19 Sep 1856 died 19 Mar 1873	Union Mills Cemetery, Union Twp.	[PK. 0.01.04.02.07.08.05
Castor, Jevva Born 9 Nov 1858 died 9 Jan 1875	Union Mills Cemetery, Union Twp.	[PK. 0.01.04.02.07.08.06

**Deeds:**

Mahaska Co., IA 17 June 1854 Aaron Custard bought land from Samuel M. and Caroline Walker.  
 Mahaska Co., IA 7 July 1859 John M. Custer and Samuel Williams bought land from Wesley McKein.  
 [No information found for Aaron Custard or John M. Custer.

**Sheriffs Deed:**

Mahaska Co., IA 16 December 1861 Stewart F. Custer received a Sheriffs Deed for land sold at a public auction.  
 [No information found for Stewart F. Custer.

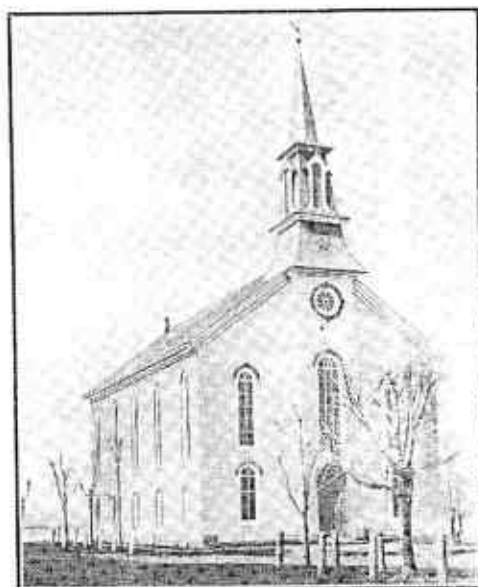
**Thank you Alexander Hall** for responding to Mary Lou Wentz Salomon's request for more information about the Wentz Church. He has sent an article titled "The History of the Wentz Church" It is a very interesting article about the life and times of those who built the church. Alexander has obtained permission from the Historical Society of Montgomery County in Norristown, Pennsylvania for us to reprint the article.



Quilt block by Doris Foster Custer to whom the quilt was dedicated for her hard work, determination and love that went in to making sure this quilt was completed. She passed away 22 October 2000

mission from the Historical Society of Montgomery County in Norristown, Pennsylvania for us to reprint the article.

Due to the size of the article it will be presented in a continuing series starting in the December 2001 issue.



Wentz Church in 1880

See also Library Spotlight page 52.

## Looking for updates on **WR.0 William Custer possible son of George Custer PK.0.01.03**

Thanks to Melvin and Eileen Myers we have some photographs for us to have faces to names

**WR.0 William Custer** was born 1729/1732 in Pennsylvania, possibly the son of George and Mary (Rhodes) Custer. Family tradition states that William was the son of George Custard. Whether these are the correct parents for William or not is not proven. It is known that George and Mary (Rhodes) Custer had nine children from a court petition found in Berks County, Pennsylvania Orphans Court records. Only eight of these children are known. If this William is the son of George and Mary (Rhodes) Custer, then he would have been their oldest child, born in 1732.

William married about 1753 -----. His wife was born about 1733. They lived in Virginia. Family tradition is that his wife was captured by Indians about 1766 when she was returning home from a neighbor's where she went to warp a piece of cloth. She is supposed to have had three sons and three daughters while in captivity. She was taken to Canada by the Indians where after a long period of time she was sold to a French doctor along with several other captives. The doctor gave the captives their freedom after twenty years of captivity. William learned of his wife's release and started out to find her. He had been gone only a few days when she returned home to find him gone. She began backtracking and soon met some men digging a grave. When she asked who the men were burying, they replied that it was William Custer from Virginia, a stranger. So William died about 1786. He was listed as a resident of Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1781. William was at Mathews Trading Post in Rockbridge County, Virginia along with Edmond and James Cain between 8 April 1771 and 26 January 1773.

After Williams death, his wife returned to the Shenandoah Valley where she lived for a short time, and then moved to Kentucky to live with her son, Arnold, where she died before 1791. This account was told by Ruel Custer, a grandson, and published in the Madison Courier, Bryantsburg, Indiana 15 April 1913. The account is also in Land of Our Fathers History of Clark County, Kentucky by A. Goff Bedford, although it is off by one generation (it relates that Elizabeth Scholl who married Arnold Custer was the one captured by the Indians). Ruel stated that his great-grandfather, William Custer, had six children, three sons and three daughters.

### **Their children:**

1. **Arnold Custer** born 29 April 1755 in the Shenandoah Valley; married Elizabeth Scholl 1788 KY; died 14 May

1840 Jefferson County, IN, buried Hebron Cemetery, Belleview, IN.

2. **Mary "Polly" Custer** born about 1753/1757 in the Greenbrier District; married Edmond Cain about 1784 Greenbrier County, VA; died after 1830 OH.

3. **William Custer** born about 1765 Augusta County, VA; married Anna Smith 16 June 1785 Mason County, KY; died 28 February 1828 Miami County, OH.

?4. Solomon Custer appears on the tax list for Clark County, KY in 1794-1795.

**WR.0.01 Arnold Custer** was born 29 April 1755 in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, the son of William and (/) Custer. Arnold bought 230 acres on Great Levels in Botetourt County (now Greenbrier County) in 1774 adjoining Daniel Murley, James Caine, James McClurgy & George Davison, on Warrior Road. Arnold was a Private in the Virginia Troops. Arnold served in the Greenbrier Militia in 1781 under Captain George Davidson and Major Thomas Quirks and marched into Kentucky that spring. Arnold Custer entered a claim for 1000 acres on the North Fork of the Elkhorn in Fayette County, Kentucky which was surveyed 21 March 1784. He had a 1400 acre farm near where the city of Lexington, Kentucky now stands. He lost this farm due an older claim to the land being brought into court. He went to Tennessee for the winter, and then came back to Barron County, Kentucky where he purchased a 600 acre tract. He also lost this land due to an older title to the land brought into court. Arnold and his family finally moved to Indiana Territory where he purchased land in Jefferson County.

Arnold also served under General George Rogers Clark and Colonel Benjamin Logan in the expedition against the Indians who harrassed the early settlers of Kentucky in the years immediately following the Revolution. Arnold was elected a Lieutenant of the 10th Kentucky Regiment 28 June 1792 according to Governor Isaac Shelby's Journal. The "Cornstalk" Militia of Kentucky 1792-1811 by G Glenn Clift, p 3, shows Arnold serving on 9 August 1792.

Arnold married Elizabeth Scholl/Shull 1788 in Kentucky. Elizabeth was born 1755 in Augusta County, Virginia, the daughter of William and Leah (Morgan) Scholl. William Scholl lived in Augusta County, Virginia and later in Rowan County, North Carolina, and

*(Continued on page 56)*



## Page 25

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05 Elizabeth Cain Humble (1776)-(1833)

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05.01 Delilah Humble Rankin (1795)-(1833)

## Page 26

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05.01.06 Sarah Rankin Kistler (1828)-(1889)

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05.01.06 .06 Charles Kistler (1867)-(1927)

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05.01.06 .06.03 Hattie Kistler St. Clair (1900)-(1995)

PK.0.01.01.02.05.05.01.06 .06.03.01 Patricia A. St. Clair Ostwald (1926)-(0)



## Page 55

### Groom

PK.0.01.01.01.02.02 Uriah Humble

### Bride

PK.0.01.01.02.05.01 Bridget Cain

Have you visited our web page lately?

*As of 28 August 2001 we have had 3519 visitors.*

[Http://maverik.rootsweb.com/caoa](http://maverik.rootsweb.com/caoa)

### What you can find on the web page

CAOA 2002 Reunion Updates

CAOA Library Index

CAOA News Caster index -2000 index coming

CAOA Photo-Albums -pictures added as requested

CAOA Sponsored Mail lists

CAOA Bylaws

CAOA Member Home Pages

And much more . . . . .

You can help add to the web page by sending us new links, photos, stories, suggestions. You can help us keep it working properly by letting us know when links are not working or corrections need to be made.

Some of those visitors have signed our guest book. Check it out, you may find a new cousin. A lot of them are not members of CAO. Unfortunately I have not been able to monitor the Guest Book and looking at it today there are a lot of requests for information that have gone unanswered.

I thought it might be a good thing to have a person to monitor the guest book. It would mean logging in to the web page once a week and checking for new entries and working with me to answer the questions.

If this is something you can help me do please let me know. Patricia as temporary Vice President

I am trying to find the burial place for the following persons:

**JOHN CUSTER/CUSTARD**, son of Peter and Ann (Godschalk) Custer b abt 1731/32 Philadelphia Co., PA (now Montgomery Co., PA). He was supposedly born Worcester Twp. d 22 February 1794 Whitpain Township, Montgomery Co., PA bur'd ? (John is PK.0.07.01.03 (Paulus Kusters, He manus Custer, Peter Custer, John Custer) **MARY (Umstead/Umstat) CUSTER**, his 1st wife. b abt 1735 probably Philadelphia Co., PA d c1779 Whitpain Township., Montgomery Co., PA bur'd ?

**SARAH (Styer/Steyer) CUSTER**, his 2nd wife m c1780 d 11 April 1819 Whitpain Township., Montgomery Co., P bur'd ?

Am trying to locate records, etc. in Whitpain Twp. I feel they must be buried in Worcester Township.

Bettie Confer bconfer@ruraltel.net

*(WR.0 William Custer Continued from page 54)*

still later in Schollville, Clark County, Kentucky. William Scholl's wife, Leah, was a sister of Squire Boone's wife, Sarah Morgan. Squire and Sarah (Morgan) Boone were the parents of Daniel Boone. Elizabeth Scholl's brothers occupied the settlement (Schollville, Clark County, KY) and preemption of Daniel Boone, which he had assigned to their father, William Scholl. In an old notebook, written by the grandson of Peter Scholl, the Scholl family is documented:

Arnold and family settled in Jefferson County, Indiana in 1814 near Mud Lick. Elizabeth died 10 June 1825 at Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. Arnold died 14 May 1840 at Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. They were buried at the Hebron Cemetery near Belleview, Jefferson County, Indiana.

Their children:

1. **Reuel Custer** born 7 October 1790 Lexington, KY; married Martha Allen 31 October 1816 Barren County, KY; died 9 August 1880 Jefferson County, IN, buried Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery, Jefferson County, IN.
2. **William Custer** born 6 September 1792 Lexington, KY; married Sally Downer/Donner 4 May 1820 Jefferson County, IN; died 22 October 1881 ?Decatur County, IN.
3. **Sarah "Sally" Custer** born 5 September 1794 Lexington, KY; married James Fielding 21 February 1813 Barren County, KY, married Mathew Robertsen.
4. **James Custer** born 15 December 1796 KY; married Catherine Ross 26 February 1828 Jefferson County, IN; died 10 July 1887 Jefferson County, IN, buried Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery, Jefferson County, IN.
5. **Polly Custer** born 28 April 1798 KY; spinster.
6. **Jesse Custer** born 25 April 1800 KY; married Nancy Spurgin 1 April 1830 Jefferson County, IN; died 16 February 1885 Jefferson County, IN.
7. **Rachel Custer** born 15 October 1802 KY; married Gideon Jackson 10 June 1819 Jefferson County, IN; died 19 February 1874.
8. **Elizabeth Custer** born 5 October 1805 KY; married John "Jack" Denny 7 January 1827 Jefferson County, IN; died 14 January 1860.
9. **Arnold Custer** born 2 March 1808 KY; married Leanna Moore 7 April 1831 Jefferson County, IN, married Malinda Jane New 11 May 1839 Jefferson County, IN; died 1887, buried Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery, Jefferson County, IN.
10. **Elijah Custer** born 8 January 1810 KY; died 1825 (killed by falling tree).
11. **Isaac Custer** born 10 September 1814 KY; married

Peggy Nichols 4 May 1829 Jefferson County, IN, married Maria Felter 1 October 1840 Jefferson County, IN.

**WR.0.01.06 Jesse Custer** was born 25 April 1800 in Kentucky, son of Arnold and Elizabeth (Scholl) Custer. Jesse came to Jefferson County, Indiana with his parents in 1814. Jesse married 1 April 1830 Nancy Spurgin in Jefferson County, Indiana. Nancy was born 22 February 1802 in Kentucky, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Perry) Spurgin. Nancy died 15 April 1883 in Jefferson County. Jesse died 16 February 1885 in Jefferson County.

**Their children:**

1. **George Spurgin Custer** born 18 January 1831 IN; died 21 March 1847.
2. **Ruell Fountain Custer** born 18 July 1832 IN; married Elizabeth Denny 14 October 1857 Jefferson County, IN; 3 January 1918.
3. **James William Custer** born 29 March 1834 IN; married Gertrude Van Buren 11 December 1856; died 6 March 1915.
4. **Jordan Custer** born 20 April 1836 IN; died 15 February 1864.
5. **Isaac Custer** born 8 May 1838 IN; married Elizabeth //.
6. **Elizabeth Ann Custer** born 6 May 1840 IN; married John Meisner 12 February 1867 Jefferson County, IN; died 13 December 1886.
7. **Martha Allen Custer** born 7 July 1843 IN; died 29 March 1847.
8. **Jesse Boone Custer** born 22 February 1845 IN; married Janette "Nettie" Royce 18 June 1892 Jefferson County, IN; died 27 October 1924.

*(Continued on page 57)*

If you have any new information to help us prove the line to George Custer please let us know. If you have any information that will help us update the archives please let us know. We are dedicated to keeping the archives as up to date as possible —Patricia



**Ruel Fountain Custer**

**WR.0.01.06.02 Reuel Fountain Custer** born 18 July 1832 in Indiana, son of Jesse and Nancy (Spurgin) Custer. Ruel married 14 October 1857 Elizabeth Denny in Jefferson County, Indiana. They located in Jennings County, Indiana.

**Their children:**

1. **Mary A Custer** born about 1861.
2. **John Boone Custer** born 3 March 1862 d 17 December 1911 married Nora Ellen Smith.
3. **Jesse L Custer** born May 1864; married Nora Etta Anderson.
4. **James A Custer** born September 1865.
5. **Clarence T Custer** born November 1874.



**John Boone Custer**



**Nora Ellen Custer**

**WR.0.01.06.02.02 John Boone Custer** born 4 Mar 1862 died 17 Dec 1911 son of Reuel Fountain and Elizabeth (Denny) Custer married Nora Ellen Smith

**Their Children:**

1. **Linnie Custer** born 3 May 1888 died 3 Feb 1971 married Charles S. Myers



**Young Linnie Custer**



**Clarence T. Custer**  
brother of John Boone  
Known as Uncle "Tommy"



**Linnie and Jesse**  
(Jesse Boone Custer born  
22 February 1845)



**John B and Nora Custer**

## CAOA Officers

*President* ..... Patricia Caster  
*Vice President* .....  
*Secretary* ..... Arlene Castor  
*Treasurer* ..... Bryce Wanless  
*Editor* ..... Mary-Margaret Ward

## CAOA Trustees

Harold Castor (2002) Mary-Margaret Ward;  
 (2002); Jack K. Castor (2004) Charles Marsteller  
 (2004); Sandee Lacy (2006) George Davis (2006);

## Appointed Positions

*Librarian* ..... Mary-Margaret Ward  
*Publications Manager* ..... Sue Wanless  
*Reunion Chairs*  
     2002 ..... Mary-Margaret Ward  
     2004 ..... Sandy Alexander  
*Historian* ..... Phillip Castor  
*Web Master* ..... Thomas Weingart  
*Archivist* ..... Patricia Caster

## Queries

*Membership Inquires*      *Archive Questions*  
*Change of Address*      *CAOA Questions*  
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     PO Box 955  
     Windsor, CA 95492 -0955  
     Maverik@cwnet.com

*Borrowing CAO Books — Librarian*  
     Mary-Margaret Ward  
     2214 Clay Street  
     San Francisco, CA  
     Mmward2001@mindspring.com

*Membership Dues*      *Book Purchases*  
*Library Deposits*      *News Caster Issues*  
     Bryce Wanless  
     21731 Luisa  
     San Antonio, TX 78259-2159

The News Caster is published quarterly by The Castor Association of America. Past issues of the News Caster may be ordered from the Treasurer.

The Castor Association of America  
 Is a non-profit corporation dedicated to  
 the discovery And preservation  
 of family history for all variations  
 of the family surname:

Kuster Koster Custer Kusterd Kuester Kester  
 Custard Kustard Kaster Kistard Kister  
 Gerster Caster Castor Kastor  
 Koester Kiester  
 Keister

Hi Everyone!

As President of CAO A I wish to express on behalf of the CAO A our co n-  
 dolences to Jack Castor and Barbara Vaillencourt on the loss of their loved  
 ones. If you wish to send a note to them their addresses are in the member-  
 ship directory.

In my last message I said that the CAO A is faced with some challenges.  
 I am happy to say that I received two responses from members with offers  
 to help and the only positions for the election of officers that are not filled  
 are President and Vice President. According to the bylaws we have to an-  
 nounce the slate of officers in the December issues. We only have 2  
 months to fill the nominations. Please let us know if you are willing to  
 serve in either office for the years 2002-2004. If you have any ideas on  
 how we can keep the CAO A going without a President and Vice President  
 please let me know.

On a brighter note the plans for the reunion are zooming along. Mary-  
 Margaret is going to be in KC soon to finalize some of the events that will  
 be happening next summer. She plans to have everything in place in time  
 for the December issue for everyone to know what will be happening in  
 KC. I am looking forward to it this year some exciting things are planned.

Mary-Margaret has accepted the position as CAO A Librarian. The books  
 have all arrived and have been set up so that she can send out books as they  
 are requested. Brenda sent the books in numbered packages so it will be  
 easy to find the books and made for a smooth transition. Mary-Margaret  
 will be able to fill the outstanding requests when she returns from her trip  
 to Kansas. If you have requested a book and not received it please let her  
 know. Patricia

### President Duties

The President will conduct all business of the Association and oversee the co-  
 ordination of all genealogical information received. The President shall make a  
 quarterly report in writing to the trustees and officers concerning all aspects of  
 Association business. The President sends a welcoming letter to new mem-  
 bers with their lineage.

### Vice President Duties

Work closely with the President and be able to take over the duties of the  
 President when necessary. Be in charge of membership and actively recruit  
 new members. Provide the Publications Manager accurate member addresses  
 for mailing of the New Caster. Issue the Membership Directory each June.  
 Provide the Editor quarterly updates of address changes and new members to  
 be published in the News Caster.

# Memorial

## Obituary Listings

**CASTOR, Anita Johnson**, of San Rafael, passed away. Chapel of the Hills, San Anselmo, 415-453-8440.



**Anita Johnson Castor**

A zest for life, learning, seeing the world, working with and helping others punctuated the life of Anita Johnson Castor.

She was born in Fairfield,

Connecticut to Carl Helge Johnson and Kirsten Viola Branding. The grand niece of Hjalmar Branding, first Socialist Premier of Sweden, she was raised bilingual and her early life brought honors through grade and high school. She was graduated from Vassar College, followed by a Masters in Languages at Fairfield University. Later in life, she received a second Masters in Drug and Alcohol Counseling. Her lifelong love of learning prompted a barrage of Associate Degrees from Marin and Sonoma colleges and fluency in five languages.

Travel began early when her parents took her to Europe. Since that time she has visited over 100 countries. Exotic and out of the way places were high on her list. Some of those were Nepal, Kashmir, Ladakh, all of Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, Easter Island, The Galapagos and Southeast Asia. Train travel: From the sublime Blue Train of South Africa to the narrow gauge Colombian train through the marijuana fields from Bogota, to the coastal resort of Santa Marta were common.

On August 28th, 1966, Anita married Jack K. Castor of San Rafael and moved across the country with her three sons, Jeffrey, Craig and Scott Ashmun. Jack and Anita continued to live in the house that they built 35 years ago.

In California, Anita became active in teaching Spanish, and continued her learning career, as well as working at Lincoln House Detox Center in San Rafael. She also volunteered at the old Ross Hospital and most recently at the Kaiser Hospital in Terra Linda.

Early American Indian art and artifacts caught her eye. With the usual determination, she studied, listened and researched and became an art historian and collector of Native American Art. She loved sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with anyone

interested.

Anita's inquisitive mind and quick recognition of "the whole picture" made her a winner with her many friends. Her passion for Bridge also brought her many friends.

Anita lived an incredibly full life that did not go unnoticed. She loved her kids and supported them in the way she knew best: in their time of need. She is survived by her husband, Jack; son, Jeffrey and wife, Chris of Medford, Oregon; and son, Craig and wife, Mickey Ashmun of San Rafael. She had two grandsons, Dylan (16) and Connor Ashmun (2) of Medford, Oregon. Son, Scott Ashmun preceded her in death.

Anita and Jack had one Helluva Trip.

Bon Voyage Anita!

A Memorial will be held at Monte's Chapel of the Hills, 330 Redhill Avenue, San Anselmo, on Friday, July 13, at 2 p.m.

Donations to Hospice of Marin, 150 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Monte's Chapel of the Hills  
Family Owned and Operated  
San Anselmo 453-8440



Here is a snapshot of Mom, it has been my favorite since childhood. It was taken at her future mother-in-law's home when she was eighteen years old. The picture above her is of Charles Arthur Custer, Sr., s/o Charles Arthur Custer, Sr. & Martha Clara Ogger.

*Barbara Vaillencourt*



**Mae Audry Cecil Custer**

**MAE AUDRY CUSTER, 72, EDMORE** — Mae Audry Custer, 72, Vestaburg, passed away Sunday, Oct. 8, 2000, in Saline.

She was born May 23, 1928, in Lawton, W.Va., the daughter of Charles and Halley Butrick Cecil.

Mrs. Custer was a member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mount Pleasant.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Arthur Custer Jr., and two daughters, Debra Jean and Tammy Sue Custer.

Mrs. Custer is survived by her children, Barbara Custer Vaillancourt, William Arthur Custer, both of Saline, John Gordon Custer of Redford, David Roy Custer, Daniel Lee Custer, Charles Arthur Custer III, all of Vestaburg; 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Kathleen and Cecil Patterson of Wayne, Erma and Cecil Nielson of Lansing; and one brother, Elmer Cecil of Edmore.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Stebbins-McCullough Chapel, Edmore. Interment will be in Vinewood Cemetery, Edmore.

Friends may call from 3:30 to 5 and 7 to 8:30 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Juvenile Diabetes Association.

Corrections to the obituary:

2nd paragraph: Omitted my grandmother's middle name, should read Halley Evelyn Butrick Cecil.

3rd paragraph: Spelled my sister's name incorrectly, should read Deborah Jean

4th paragraph: Spelled my surname incorrectly, should read Vaillancourt; gave wrong middle name for brother, David, should read David Ray. Should have read ...two sisters, Kathlee (Cecil) Patterson of Wayne, Erman (Cecil) Nielsen of Lansing



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## **Learn more about CAO A!**

Are you interested in learning more about the Castor Association of America? Visit the CAO A web-site: [Http://maverik.rootsweb.com/caoa](http://maverik.rootsweb.com/caoa) and find out about the CAO A and download a membership form. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year (\$20 the first year). As a member you will receive four issues of the News Caster and a CAO A Membership Directory. Please contact Patricia Caster whose name and address are listed under "Queries" on page 2. Or if you prefer, send an email to [maverik@cwnet.com](mailto:maverik@cwnet.com).

## **Members**

The Castor Association of America does have a central email address ([Castor-Assoc-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:Castor-Assoc-L@rootsweb.com)) which is used to help keep the membership informed about the CAO A. It is a very quiet list until we have something to discuss. It gives the members a chance to voice their thoughts about what is happening in CAO A. If you would like to be on the list please send a note to [maverik@cwnet.com](mailto:maverik@cwnet.com) and let us know. Only CAO A members are on this list.

The Editor welcomes original articles from members of the association. Articles may be submitted via email, by disk in IBM format and/or typewritten. Pictures are welcomed as is documentation. All materials submitted for publication is subject to editing. Every effort will be made to publish accurate material. The Castor Association of America and the editorial staff assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or judgment on the part of the contributors, nor are they responsible for the publishing rights of the contributed material.

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