



Sister Grace Reichelderfer, Miss Martha Hitler, Nephew Philip Reichelderfer, and Grand Nephew Dean.



Built by Thomas Hitler, 1878, located at 7318 Old Tarlton Pike, Circleville



Built by Abraham Hitler, 1849, located at 6476 Tarlton Road, Circleville



Built by George Hitler Jr., 1843, located at 1711 Hitler No. 1 Road, Circleville



Mr. and Mrs. P. Dean Reichelderfer Home and the Jacob Hitler Homestead.



Nelson Hitler House

Hitler Continued:

It was this Martha who was interested in her ancestors, the hearty pioneers of the Pickaway Plains. She left in her will a stipulation that twenty-six (26) acres of her land be used as a park (Martha Hitler Park) for future generations to enjoy and remember the name Hitler. Today you cannot find the name of Hitler on any mailbox in Pickaway County, but on some roads leading to the Martha Hitler Park you may find a sign "Martha Hitler Park". How confused the mail carriers must have been for in those days there were no numbers on the rural boxes and on Rural Route 4 there were three Martha Hitlers. There must have been a lot of exchanging of mail when it was left in the wrong box. On the park site there are seven trees planted to represent the seven children of George and Hannah Hitler.

Thomas Hitler, Martha's father, was born in the stately brick residence in Circleville Township, known now as the Luther List farm. Here he resided until a year after his marriage to Martha Lindsey. He then moved to the fine brick home on the Old Tarlton Pike, now the home of Bob & Karen Clark. This farm joins the Martha Hitler Park. This land was owned by her grandfather, George Hitler, and was willed to the children.

Martha was never married and remained at home to care for her parents and upon their deaths moved to Circleville. She was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church and like her forefathers, she was honest and upright in everything she did, and took great pride in the name Hitler. If you would have visited her home in Circleville you would have seen a large portrait of her grandfather over the mantle of her living room fireplace. His hard work and endurance was the key to accumulation of many acres of land, part of which is the the Martha Hitler Park. Washington Township was good for the Hitlers and it has been said that at one time you could walk from Circleville to the Fairfield County Line and never leave Hitler land. Most of their land was on the Pickaway Plains.

We must not forget some of the Hitler ladies that lived in the grand old homes in Washington and Pickaway Townships. On November 6, 1873, the marriage of Benjamin F. Dresbach and Mary Hitler (daughter of Abraham, brother of George and Jacob) took place in the brick home on Abraham Hitler's farm. This is now the home of Ronald & Joanne List.

In 1874-74, a fine large brick residence was erected by B.F.Dresbach, on the Kingston Pike in Circleville Township. On February 7, 1878, Clifton R. Dresbach was married to Lina L. Hitler, daughter of Abraham & Eleanor Morris Hitler.

On the Gay-Dresbach Road, you will see a stately house known as "Lawndale Farm". At the time of his death the estate of Clifton Dresbach aggregated 635 acres of land.



GEORGE HITLER



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS LUDWIG HITLER.

St. Joseph Continued:

Early in 1979, St. Joseph's Club was established for the oldern parishioners. In 1980, the school was sandblasted and the side entrance to the church was redesigned.

The years 1981 through 1984 brought many improvements to our church. The church roof was replaced and the church basement kitchen was remodeled. The school classrooms were improved. The cemetery roads were repaved and the Stations of the Cross were erected in the cemetery. The summer of 1984 brought air conditioning to St. Joseph's Church.

The 75th Anniversary celebration of our current church building was held on June 9, 1985. Holy Mass was celebrated at 2:00 PM preceded by organ and choir music.

A reception followed in the church basement. A tour of the school and rectory were also held.

In July 1986, Fr. Robert F. Reilly was assigned to St. Joseph's Parish. Being an educator, he has encouraged the people of the parish to further educate themselves in Church and spiritual knowledge. He initiated the RENEW program for spiritual renewal.

This concludes a brief look into our historic past. With each passing day, we create a new heritage for the future parishioners of St. Joseph parish.

Parish History compiled by Mary Kay Wood

The Dedication of the Martha Hitler Park

The history of this 26 acre tract of land, being dedicated today as the Martha Hitler Park, was first owned by Win Winship and Benjamin Miller. They received a patent #87, dated May 8, 1801, from United States of America.

It was subsequently owned by several others, until 1864, when George Hitler, grandfather of Martha Hitler, bought it at a Sheriff's Sale, February 1864, for \$51.90 an acre.

It has been in the Hitler family since then. When Thomas L. Hitler, son of George Hitler, died in 1920, he gave this tract of land, along with some other land, to his daughter, Martha Hitler. She still owned all the land given to her by her father when she died in 1981.

In her will, she requested that this tract of land (26 acres), be given to the Trustees of Washington Township for the sole and only purpose of the development and use

of said land as a public recreation park and picnic area, and to be called the Martha Hitler Park.

She was the youngest of the seven children of Thomas L. Hitler and Martha Ann Lindsey Hitler, who lived on their farm on the Old Tarlton Road, and joins this tract. Robert and Karen Clark now own and live there.

She was devoted to caring for her widowed mother, who died in 1940. Soon after the death of her mother, she bought a house in Circleville and lived her remaining years there.

She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, and was very active in church activities. She, also, was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Researched and written by
Martha Hitler Ebenhack
Niece of Martha Hitler



Local Officials who attended the Martha Hitler Park Dedication July, 1989

The Seven Trees

by Martha Hitler Ebenhack

Hitler Family

There are records in the *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, a publication of the original list of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808, of a Georg Horthler, translated George Hitler, in the list of foreigners imported in the ship *Peggy*, Capt. James Abercrombie, from Rotterdam, Qual. 16th October, 1754. On this same date, *A Collection of Thirty Thousand Names, German, Swiss, Dutch, French*, states that the passengers of the ship *Peggy* were inhabitants from the Palatinate and Wirtenburg, Germany.

Our Pickaway County history books tell us that a George Hitler was born in Maryland, May 15, 1763, and we have reason to believe that he was the son of the Georg Hitler from Germany. When George Hitler was a young boy, he moved with his parents to Franklin County, PA. and there he married Susanna Gay. In 1793, he moved his family and two small children to Somerset County, PA.

In April, 1799, his family consisted of four children and a wife, and in that year he came to Ohio. He sent his family down the Ohio River on a flat boat to the mouth of the Scioto River, while he traveled by land with a number of horses. At Portsmouth, he met his family, and the rest of the journey to Pickaway County was made with a team of horses, with the household goods coming up the Scioto River by keelboat.

George Hitler first located in the lower Pickaway Plains in Pickaway Township west of Route 23. This farm was later known as the Fryback Farm. Records in the Pickaway Country Records Office show a patent from United States of America, issued to George Hitler, for land located in Pickaway Township, Section 6, dated Dec. 22, 1808.

In 1804, he left to settle on a tract of land consisting of 160 acres on the western edge of Section 33, in Washington Township. Here he died April 2, 1818. His wife survived him by 30 years and died at the age of 76 years.

If one might venture a short distance off the Kingston pike across Scippo Creek you will find a cemetery on a hill in the woods of the Montelius Farm. Here are buried George Hitler, his wife Susannah, and more hearty pioneers of the Pickaway Plains. Eleven children were born to George and Susannah Gay (Susannah was the daughter of John Gay of London, England, who lived to the age of 102 and is also buried in Pickaway Township). Names of their children are: John Hitler (1793-1877), Catherine (1795-1853), Jacob (1796-1879), George (1798-1884), Peter (1800 died as an infant), Abraham (1803-1868), Elizabeth (1805-1879), Susannah (1807-1832), Sarah (1810-1896), Mary (1813- ?), Joseph (1816-1899). All remained in Pickaway County except the three youngest who went to Indiana.

The Pickaway Plains have been called "The Garden of the State". These plains embrace lands, which when the first settlers came into the county, produced a hundred bushels of corn or fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, long before hybrid seeds were around. It has been said the grass was so high it could be tied over a horse's back. Those pioneers must have seen fields of weaving golden grain and fields of green corn, but nothing to suggest the turmoils of savage war and the wild scenes that have been enacted here. Here burned the council fires of the Indian. On these plains, at the old Indian villages, prisoners of war were put to death with horrid tortures. These hunting grounds were turned into fertile farm fields.

Shortly after the death of their father, George, Sr., George and Jacob Hitler bought a quarter of section of land for \$23 an acre, only having a few hundred dollars apiece. Their wheat was worth seventy-five cents per bushel and maybe only twenty-five cents later. So they manufactured their wheat into flour for the New Orleans market and for eleven years they conveyed their flour down the Ohio and Mississippi in a flat boat. Here they sold it for more than twice the price they could get at home. The first trip was made by Jacob in 1819 when he was twenty-three years of age. The boats cost approximately \$120 and could carry four to five hundred barrels of flour. The boats were disposed of at New Orleans where maybe they got a few dollars for them. Jacob made five trips to New Orleans and after that his brother George alternated to make this trip. On the first trip Jacob returned to this county on foot and was only twenty-two days on the way, which was the time it took a boat to come from New Orleans to Louisville, KY.

At the time of his death Jacob owned nearly two thousand acres. George, Martha's grandfather, became the owner of one thousand acres with improvements of all kinds. The result of the flour shipments and other business ventures made them wealthy men.

George Hitler married Hannah Ludwig and the following children were born to them: Elizabeth (1830-1831), Mary (1831-1876), Catherine (1835-1858), Eleanor (1833-1837), Susannah (1838- ?), Thomas (1842-1920), George W. (1845-1928). Thomas Hitler and Martha Lindsey had seven children.

Now we come to the title of this article, "The Seven Trees". These trees represent the seven Hitler children: **Clay** - the father of Martha Ebenhack and Lewis Hitler; **Turney Gay** - who spent his adult life in Idaho, father of two sons, Turney Hitler, Jr., and Gene Douglas Hitler; **Grace** - wife of Cliff Reichelderfer, mother of Thomas and Phillip Reichelderfer, and grandmother of Dean Reichelderfer; **George T.** and **Sterling Hitler** - no children; **Mary** - wife of Ralph May and mother of Roger May; and **Martha** - the youngest, never married.



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