

Route 11 - Vincennes
Indiana
Sunday, July 12

Dear Mr. Thierbach,

I am sorry to be so long answering.
First - I wanted to check my records.
Second - we were busy getting crops
out, third, I have not been at all well
and I just don't seem to get at things
like I should.

When I read your letter - I felt sure
I had record of a Rothemul marrying
^{any} Anna Maria Miller - but so far have
not found it.

A. Mr. Edgar Meek compiled a wonderful
amount of Rothemul family records that
are on file in the Indiana State Library.
They say they are too short handed to
look up information - but you might
write and ask them.

I copied a lot of information when I
was up there 2 years ago + I thought
I might have something for you but
so far have not found anything. I'll be
checking though.

This is about what we know of
our ancestors.

Knox Co
from Ind

My mother - Harriett Rodarmel (1880-1963)
married James O. Williams

Her parents - James Markle Rodarmel (1829-1908) ^{from Knox Co Ind}
Harriett Eliza Houston Rodarmel (1838-1892) ^{from Knox Co Ind}

James M's parents - Abraham Rodarmel ^{from Penn. 1784 died Knox Co Ind}
Nancy Hannah ^{from Penn. 1785-1833 died Knox Co. 1858}

Abraham's parents - John Rodarmel ^{died Knox Co. 1796}
Mrs. Rodarmel ^{died Knox Co. 1796}

That is far back as we can get.

James Markle Rodarmel was always told he was ~~named~~ ^{named} for his grandmother Rodarmel.

I found in "The Blue Book of Schuylk County, Pa." where a Catherine Markle, (Markle) daughter of Peter Markle ^{Burke Co} and Catherine Grim, married a John Rodarmel. No information was given to who John was. We can assume that those might be my great-great grandparents, but I have no proof.

There are so many Johns - but none married Markles.

I traced the Peter Markle and Grim families back 2 or 3 more generations, but I am not sure they are my ancestors.

The reason we know John Rodarmel + wife died here in Knox County in 1796

is the Orphan Court Records 1796 show
where a son of John, deceased, asked to
have guardians appointed for his
younger brothers and sisters. Abraham
was listed as well as other names known
to be his brothers and sisters. In settlement
of estate it showed where Coffins were
bought and grave digging paid for Mr.
+ Mrs Rodamel and a child.

My grandfather was told that when his
ancestors came there were 7 boys in the
family. This would go to the family
of Johann and Sybilla Zimmerman
Rothermel who came here in 1730 from
Wachtel, Germany. So far we cannot get
back from 1796 to 1730. There are about
2 generations missing.

~~to~~ The Church of Latter Day Saints,
Salt Lake City, sent me a pedigree
chart of Peter Merkle - Catherine
Grim family showing their daughter
Catherine, born 1756 Berks Co., marrying
John Rothermel - but no information
on John.

I will keep your information, and
I'll keep looking. If ever get back to
Indianapolis I'll be glad to look at

(His books are Rothammel Family of America - 9 volumes - typed - he got old & never got them printed. They are excellent! Mr. Menk's charts.

Your name Kierbach - struck me. There used to be a B. Frank Kierbach live in Vincennes. He was in oil business. His wife is dead. Their only daughter has been gone away for years.

Thank you for your charts. I'll be glad to hear from you again.

Sincerely,
Jennie O. Butler.

Other children of John Rothammel were: ^{all 190}

John

Joseph

Elizabeth Edwards

Hannah

Leah

Sarah

Rachael

& then - Abraham

Rodearmel, Rodermil, Rodamels, Rodalmels, Rodarmel, Rhodehamil, Rhoadhamel, Rhotehamel, Rotramel, Rhodarmer Families, with some account of them in Berks & Philadelphia Counties, Pa and in Miami & Montgomery Counties in Ohio. Eugene S. Wierbach, Feb 22, 1968.
Balboa Island, California. P.O. Box 331.

Captain Jacob Rodearmel, 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, Berks Co Militia, May 17, 1777 under Lt. Col. Mark Bird & Major John Jones. 1775-1777.
Pa Arch 5th Series Vol 5 pgs 177 & 189.

John Roadarmill, Richmond Tp, Berks Co Pa took the Oath of Allegiance, in 1742. Pa Arch 2nd Series Vol 2, p. 384

The following were naturalized in Pa;

Peter Rodermell, Lancaster Co, a Quaker, 4/12/1743.
Christian Rodarmarle, Philadelphia Co, a Quaker, 9/25/1744.
Paul Rodarmarle, " " " " , 9/25/1744/

Daniel Rothermel & Maria Magdalena Keiser, married July 9, 1765.
New Hanover Lutheran Church Records, Pa-Ger Soc Vol XX, 1909.

Barbara Rothermel & Johannes Phull, married August 16, 1770

Anna Catharine Rothermel & Johan Adam Braus, married July 2, 1765.

Hans Jurg Rothermel, Johan Daniel Rothermel, and Christoph Rothermel were confirmed in 1743 in New Hanover Lutheran Church. (above reference)

Catharina Rothermal, b 11/24/1745 bapt 11/28/1745.
Felicitas Rothermel, b 9/1/1752 bapt 10/22/1752.
Johan Frederick Rothermel b 7/1/1747 bapt 7/12/1747.
Leonhard Rothermel, b 10/24/1750 bapt 11/18/1750.

The above four children of Christophel & Juliana Rothermel.

Eva Rosina Rothermel, b 1/30/1754 bapt 4/7/1754.
Maria Barbara Rothermel, b 4/1/1751 bapt 6/23/1751.
John Christophel Rothermel, b 5/9/1762. (Twins, no bapt date)
John Peter Rothermel, b 5/9/1762. " " " "

The above four children of Daniel & Anna Barbara Rothermal.

Christina Rothermel, b 8/5/1758 bapt 9/3/1758.
Maria Elisabeth Rothermel, b (age 3 weeks today) bapt 6/13/1747.
The above two children of Daniel & Barbara Rothermel.

The following are from, "A List of Deaths" (same source as above)

Wife of Daniel Rothermel 10/29/1764, age 41 years.
Daniel Rothermel 10/23/1765 age 48 years.
Johann Leonard Rothermel, son of Christoph, 11/24/1751.

From, "Forts on the Pennsylvania Frontier", Pa Hist & Museum Com, Harrisburg, Pa. 1960.

Page 299,near Rodalmels on this side of the Mountain, about 18 miles from Fort Henry (Berks Co Pa)
Page 312..... arrived at Peter Rodermils at 2 P M, 15 miles from Reading.

The Arch 25th Series Vol 2 pgs 177 & 189.
 Nov 17, 1977 Under Lt. Col. Mark Bird & Major John Jones. 1975-1977.
 Captain Jacob Rohrschmidt, 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 89th Airborne Co Militia.

In 1945, Pa Arch and Series Vol 2, p. 384
John Roadman, Jr., Richmond Twp, Berks Co Pa took the Oath of Allegiance.

The following were returned in Pa:
Victor Hobergell, Lancaster Co, a Quaker, 4/13/1793.
Christian Hobergell, Philadelphia Co, a Quaker, 9/25/1794.
Paul Hobergell, " " " " 9/25/1794.

New Hanover Lutheran Church Records, Pa-Ger Soc Vol XX, 1909.
Daniel Rothmeyer & Maria Magdalena Keiser, married July 9, 1765.

Barbara Rothman & Johannes Pauli, married August 16, 1770

Anna Catherine Robinson & John Adam Brown, married July 2, 1865.

Werner Julius Rottgermeyer, Johann Daniel Rottgermeyer, and Christoph Rottgermeyer
were confirmed in 1743 in New Hanover Lutheran Church. (above reference)

The above four children of Christopher & Juliana Rothermel:
Leopold Rothermel, b 10/24/1750, bapt 11/18/1750.
John Frederick Rothermel b 7/1/1747 bapt 7/12/1747.
Helofes Rothermel, b 9/1/1752 bapt 10/22/1752.
Catherine Rothermel, b 11/24/1745 bapt 11/28/1745.

The above four children of Daniel & Anna Barbara Rothermal.
John Peter Rothermal, b 5/9/1782. " " " "
John Christian Rothermal, b 5/9/1782. (Twine, no page date)
Anna Barbara Rothermal, b 11/1781 page 623/1781.
Eva Fosting Rothermal, b 1/30/1784 page 177/1784.

The above two children of Daniel & Barbara Rothermel.
 Maria Elisabeth Rothermel, b (age 3 weeks today) Sept 6/13/1747.
 Christina Rothermel, b 8/5/1758 Sept 2/3/1758.

The following are from, "A List of Deaths" (same as above)

Johnann Leonard Rothermal, son of Christoph, 11/11/1751.
Daniel Rothermal 10/23/1765 age 48 years.
Wife of Daniel Rothermal 10/12/1764, age 41 years.

Page 312..... arrived at Peter Rodemila at 3 P. M. 12 miles
about 18 miles from Fort Henry (Berks Co Pa)
Page 329, near Rodemila on this side of the Mountain,
Harrisburg, Pa. 1900.
From, "Notes on the Pennsylvania Frontier," Is Historic Museum Com.

RODERMEL, RODARMEL, ROTHERMEL FAMILIES, Berks Co Pa.

Researched Aug 5, 1968 Eugene S. Wierbach

Letters of Administration Index (1752-1914) Laura Rodarmel 12/6/1758 vol 1., p 90, Ursula Rodarmel et al, relict of Laurence Rodarmel, Windsor Township. Peter Rodarmel Maiden Creek Tp., John Rodarmel Maiden Creek Tp (Blacksmith). Peter & John brothers of Laurence Rodarmel. Ursula, Peter and John Rodarmel appointed administrators of Laurence Rodarmel's Estate.

1785 John Rodermel Estate, vol 4 p 32. Heirs, Elizabeth (widow) and son Jacob Rothermel/Rodermel.

Dec 23, 1785 John Rodermel Estate. Elizabeth (widow) Jacob one of the sons. Richmond Tp Berks Co Pa.

1777 Abraham Rodermel Estate. Peter Rodermel & John Schlegel (Excetors) vol 2 p 318.

1833 Jacob Rodermel Estate, Joseph Simon & Jacob Rodermel (Jr) Excetors) vol 7 p 118. and

April 1, 1828 Jacob Rodermel Estate, wife Magdalena, Excetor. Sons; Joseph., John., Jacob (Jr)., David., Simon.

Jacob given the home place, 28 acres & 15 perches, also land in Ruscomanor Tp (28 acres).

Daughters; Sussannah m to Daniel Yost., Hannah married to John Deisher., Esther married to Daniel Fagely and Elizabeth (single).

Joseph, Simon and Jacob Rodermel, Excetors. Witnesses to the Will appear in Court to Attest to the Will May 17, 1833.

March 12, 1782 Peter Rodarmel Estate, WILL Bk "B" (1781-1811) p 50. Wife; Maria Magdalena. Children; Daniel., Catharine., Peter., Jacob., and Abraham. Mentions "providing for dear Father & Mother", but their names not mentioned. Names brother Daniel, Excetor. Daniel & George Bryfogle attest to the Will.

October 18, 1777. Abraham Rothermel Will (In German with English translation). Wife; Barbara., Son Abraham age 21 yrs., Catharine daughter age 18 yrs. Peter Rothermel & John Schlegel, Excetors. Will attested 11/10/1777.

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

230 NORTH PRESIDENT AVENUE
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA 17603



February 24, 1966.

Mr. Eugene Studebaker Wierbach,
Box 331, Balboa Island, California.

Dear Mr. Wierbach:

Thank you for the bit of information on Dr. Simon H. Landis and Sarah Studebaker. It all helps as you know.

I do not have a Mohler Family Tree, so I cannot help you there.

About the Rhodehamil, and other spellings, I cannot find this name but do find in Berks County Histories the name Jacob Rothermel. He was a captain during the Revolution Penna Archives Series 5, Vol. 5. p.166. Could this be another spelling? They give one of the early spellings -Rodearmel. Johannes the earliest know ancestor who was born in Wachbach 1688, and crossed the Atlantic 1730 dying enroute to America. He had married in his native land Sybilla Zimmerman. Children:

Anna Maria M. Peter Fetherolf
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Lawrence,
Paul
Peter
John
Christian

There is a Rothermel Burial ground near Fleetwood, Berks County.

From Berks County Pennsylvania compiled by Morton L. Montgomery. pub. J. H. Beers, 1909.. If this is the right family perhaps The Historical Society of Berks County, 940 Centre St., Reading Penna. may be able to help you.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Lundgren
(Mrs. Charles W. Lundgren.)

and
MAY-8-66

23 February 1968

John G. Rothermel, Attorney
31 North Sixth Street
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601

Dear Mr. Rothermel;

Recently, in my research on the Studebakers, I discovered a great grandmother whose maiden name was Catharine Rothamel, and whose grandfather, Jacob Rothamel, believed to have come from (near Dayton, Ohio) Berks Co, Pa settling in Montgomery Co, Ohio by the early 1800's. His Will probated April 6, 1835 mentions his children; Jacob., Peter., Henry., Samuel and daughters; Catharine, Hannah and Mary or Maria. I have the information from a History of Berks Co (Buffalo, N.Y. 1898) regarding the Rothermels, and other information from other Pa sources, a copy of which I am enclosing. Since this history mentions family members settling in Ohio and Indiana, I am hoping to be able to connect my ancestor with the Berks Co, Pa family. As you know, many Pa-German surnames changed through the years, my own surname was originally Weierbacher (Bucks Co Pa)

If you have information as to this possible connection, or know of others who may have, I'd appreciate knowing about it.

Kindest regards

THE STUDEBAKER FAMILY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

781 WEST DRIVE, WOODRUFF PLACE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46201



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ROTHERMEL Family

Donated by
Eugene Wierbach

REFERENCE ONLY
NOT TO BE CIRCULATED

The Orange County California
Genealogical Society

BOOK OF BIOGRAPHIES

THIS VOLUME CONTAINS

Biographical Sketches

— OF —

LEADING CITIZENS

— OF —

BERKS COUNTY, PA.

"Biography is the only true history." — Emerson.

aining a good public school education, taught for one year. He then engaged in the milling and mercantile business at Griesemer's Mills, where he also conducted a saw mill. Later he moved to Exeter township, where he engaged in farming and conducted a saw mill until his removal to Brumback Mills, where he conducted a store during the latter years of his life. He passed into the unknown beyond in 1860. In religious attachments, he was a member of the Reformed Church. He was united in the holy bonds of wedlock with Rachel Schmehl, and they reared the following children: Adeline, who married H. Seidel; Jefferson, the gentleman whose name heads these lines; Emma (Green); Amelia, deceased; Agnes; Mary O., the wife of Isaac DeTurck; and Stockton.

Jefferson Snyder, after attending the common schools by way of preparation for college, attended Lafayette College, graduating therefrom in 1872. He then taught school for one year, after which he read law under the preceptorship of George F. Baer, Esq., of Reading, being admitted to the bar in 1875. He has acquired a good clientage and has no reason to regret his choice of profession. He is held in high esteem by his fellow members of the bar and also by his fellow citizens.

Mr. Snyder was united in marriage October 16, 1877, with Anna L. Jaeger, a daughter of Rev. Thomas L. Jaeger, and their union has been blessed by the birth of three children: Mary; Thomas; and John K. Politically, Mr. Snyder was a Republican until 1884, when he became affiliated with the Democratic party. In religious belief he is a member of the Reformed Church.

THE ROTHERMEL FAMILY. The Rothermel family, which has been closely identified with the growth and development of Berks County for more than a century and a half, traces its ancestry back some 400 years to one Johannes Rothermel, a brave soldier who won fame and a name in the early German wars. Johannes, as the legend has it, was foremost in battle, and bathed his arm in the blood of his enemy.

His valiant deeds won for him the title of *Rothermel* (red sleeve), and thus he became known as Johannes Rothermel.

The first American ancestor of this well-known family was John Rothermel, who was born in Wachbach, a Dutch province, in 1688. In 1708 John Rothermel formed a matrimonial alliance with Sybilla Zimmerman, a native of the same province, and a sister of the famous General Zimmerman, of the Netherlands Army. After the birth of six children, he emigrated to America, on account of the unsettled political condition of his native country and a desire for the greater freedom of the western world. In company with a large number of other emigrants from that country, he set sail for America with his wife and children. But Providence willed that John Rothermel should never see the hospitable shores of the new world. He became ill on the voyage, died, and was consigned to a grave in the watery deep. The remainder of the family landed safely in Philadelphia August 29, 1730, and in the following year they located in what is now Berks County, then Philadelphia County. The six children which blessed the union of John and Sybilla Rothermel were: Anna Maria; Lawrence; Paul; Peter; John; and Christin.

Anna Maria Rothermel was born in February, 1712, and was the eldest child and only daughter born to her parents. In 1729, prior to the emigration to this country, she was joined in wedlock with Peter Fetherolf, who was born in Wachbach, March 20, 1699, and was a son of John Jacob Fetherolf. They did not locate with the rest of the family in Berks County, but purchased a tract of 150 acres in Macungie township, Lehigh County, where Peter Fetherolf died August 15, 1784, and where his wife died a few years later. They were both laid to rest upon their farm, which is still in the possession of their descendants.

Lawrence Rothermel bought a tract of 150 acres in Windsor township, Berks County, in 1738, upon which he settled and became one of the leading men of that community. In 1746 he was united in marriage with Miss Kuhns, a daughter of David Kuhns of Alburts, Lehigh County, by whom he had two children, as follows: Leonard; and Maria, who married John C. Romig. From this

sturdy old branch of the family are descended the many Rothermels of that section of Berks County.

Paul Rothermel purchased 250 acres of land in Maiden Creek township in 1738, and resided upon it until the time of his death. He married Catharine Maurer in 1747, and unto them were born: Peter; Leonard; Paul; John; Jacob; and Barbara.

Peter Rothermel, who was the fourth child born to his parents, was an extensive land owner in Berks County. In 1737 he became the owner of 100 acres; one year later he acquired 250 acres more, and in 1743 he purchased an additional tract of 100 acres. All of his lands lay in the fertile valley watered by Maxatawny Creek. He married and became the father of four children, several of whom went west and became founders of homes in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The names of his children were: Daniel; Peter; Margaret; and Abraham. Peter Rothermel was the great-grandfather of Israel H. Rothermel, John H. Rothermel and Abraham H. Rothermel, attorneys, and Dr. Wilson H. Rothermel, the present coroner of Berks County, and also the great-grandfather of Ira P. Rothermel, attorney, Dr. John P. Rothermel and Dr. Abraham K. Wanner, all of the city of Reading.

John Rothermel, the fifth child of John and Sybilla Rothermel, was born in Wachbach, January 21, 1722. He purchased a tract of land consisting of 25 acres, adjoining the estate of his brother Lawrence, in Windsor township, Berks County, in 1747. There he resided until the time of his death, in 1785. His companion in life was Mary Sigfried, by whom he had the following children: Abraham; Jacob; Daniel; and John. Mrs. Rothermel passed away in 1809, and was laid to rest with her husband in the family burying ground upon the land now owned by Lewis Schaeffer. John Rothermel was the great-grandfather of Silas R. Rothermel, of the Reading Bar, and of Prof. A. C. Rothermel, vice-principal of the Keystone State Normal School of Kutztown.

Christian Rothermel, the youngest of John and Sybilla Rothermel's children, purchased, in 1742, a fertile tract of land, consisting of 250 acres, in Maiden Creek township, Berks County, adjoining the property of his broth-

er Paul. He married, and was the father of seven children, namely: Margaret; Sybilla; Magdalena; Amanda; Peter; and John. From this branch of the family are descended Peter F. Rothermel, the famous artist, and Peter F. Rothermel, Jr., the well-known attorney of Philadelphia.

Peter Rothermel, son of Peter Rothermel, and grandson of John and Sybilla Rothermel, was born on the old Rothermel homestead in Richmond township, Berks County, September 1, 1773. He was reared upon the farm, and lived there all of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died February 1, 1856, in the eighty-third year of his age, and was buried on the homestead, near Fleetwood, which was in the possession of the Rothermel family for 165 years, and which recently became the property of Lewis Schaeffer. On February 11, 1795, he was married to Magdalena Jaeger, who was born January 13, 1777, and was a daughter of Frederick Jaeger. Their union was abundantly blessed, as follows: Maria, born May 28, 1796; Catharine, October 30, 1797; Daniel, July 7, 1799; Susanna, January 10, 1801; Peter, November 7, 1802; Sarah, March 27, 1805; Anna, February 15, 1807; Esther, September 15, 1808; Jacob, January 14, 1811; John, April 8, 1812; Hannah, June 17, 1814; Elizabeth, December 2, 1816; Sybilla, March 6, 1820; and Abraham, February 11, 1822.

Abraham Rothermel, the youngest of the above family, was born in Richmond township, Berks County, where he was reared and spent the early days of his life. He was educated in the schools of the neighborhood and in the old Pricetown Academy. Soon after his marriage he removed, with his family, to Amity township, where he reared his children. He is now spending the advanced years of his life in happy retirement in the midst of many friends, with whom he has been associated in business and socially for many years. He is a Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in political affairs, being a man of pronounced views. In religious faith he is a member of the Reformed Church. He was married, on February 7, 1848, to Magdalena Heckman, who was born June 22, 1828, and their union resulted in the following issue: Catharine, wife of Abraham B. Griesemer of Monocacy.

Berks County; Daniel, a well-known stock dealer, and a prominent citizen of Exeter township; Sarah A., who married Amos D. Updegrave, an enterprising business man of Philadelphia; Emeline, the wife of William Moyer of Alsace township, this county; Harriette, the wife of George A. Brunner of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; Rebecca, who died unmarried; Adam, engaged in farming in Amity township; William, who lives in Amity township, and who married Grace Ludwig, a daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth Ludwig of Amity, and who is also a descendant, in the fifth generation, of John and Sybilla Rothermel; and Abraham H., a prominent attorney in the city of Reading.

Magdalena Heckman, the wife of Abraham Rothermel, was the daughter of Adam and Katharine Heckman of Alsace township. Mrs. Rothermel was a lady of great piety and refinement, and was widely known for her benevolence and sweet womanly virtues. As a wife and mother, she was loving and beloved; the true queen of her home, which she ruled by the law of love and noble Christian example. Her sympathies and interests were not confined to her family alone, but extended over a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Her death, August 15, 1888, was a genuine sorrow to many hundreds who had come under the influence of her charity, goodness and love. She was a member of the Lutheran Church.

ABRAHAM H. ROTHERMEL. Perhaps no man of his years is more widely or more favorably known in the city of Reading and the county of Berks than Abraham H. Rothermel, the recently elected district attorney, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page. Since his admission to the bar in 1888 he has been a prominent figure in the public eye, as one of the recognized leaders of the Democratic party, and as one of Reading's ablest lawyers and most eloquent advocates.

Mr. Rothermel is the youngest son of Abraham and the late Magdalena Heckman Rothermel, and was born in Maiden Creek township. When he was but two years of age his parents removed to the peaceful Quaker community in Amity township, where, surrounded by the purest home influences, he spent his early years. In his boy-

hood he attended the schools of his township, and at the immature age of fifteen he is found as the dignified master of a village school, giving direction to the budding genius of fifty boys and girls, one-half of whom were older than their youthful teacher. After teaching several years, he entered upon a course of preparatory study at Palatinate College, Myerstown, and later at the Franklin and Marshall Academy. In September, 1883, he entered Franklin and Marshall College, at Lancaster, Pa., from which institution he was graduated, in 1887, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The same institution has since conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts. Immediately after his graduation from college, Mr. Rothermel took up the study of law under the proceptorship of the late Judge Augustus S. Sassaman. He was admitted to practice in the Courts of Berks County on November 24, 1888, and on February 26, 1893, on motion of Richmond L. Jones, Esq., was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In November, 1889, Mr. Rothermel entered into a partnership in the practice of law with David F. Mauger, Esq., under the firm name of Rothermel & Mauger. The partnership has continued to the present time, and has been abundantly successful. The important business interests which are represented by them, as well as the character and number of their clients, bear witness to the capacity and standing of this firm of lawyers.

In politics Mr. Rothermel has always been a consistent Democrat, and he has done valuable service for his party in many campaigns. He is a forceful public speaker, and his services are eagerly sought on all public occasions. In the last presidential campaign alone he delivered more than thirty public addresses in Berks and adjoining counties. His fame as an orator is not confined to his native county, nor to political circles only. He has many calls for public addresses elsewhere, and upon other subjects. In May, 1897, he delivered the oration at the laying of the corner stone of the Watts de Peyster Library, at Franklin and Marshall College, as the representative of the donor, General J. Watts de Peyster, of New York; and again in June, 1898, he was selected by Gen-

National Genealogical Society Quarterly

Vol. XV

SEPTEMBER, 1927

Number 3

INSCRIPTIONS IN THE WEIDNER PRIVATE BURYING GROUND NEAR THE HOCH CEMETERY, BERKS CO., PA.

8. Veronica Weidner/
Born Berto/
Wife of Jacob Weidner/
Born June 8, 1793/
Died May 8, 1865/

*June 1927
NATL Gen Soc
Berks Co. Pa
Inscriptions*

Veronica/
and/

- Jan. 30, 1800, 10/
Catharine Borkert lived/
with her 33 yrs. had/
two sons and 1 daughter/
Died Aug. 2, 1836, aged/
80 yrs. 6 mo. 16 da.

13. William Albert son of/
John and Sarah Weidner/
Born Dec. 16, 1861/
Died Sept. 7, 1874.
14. Sarah Ellen daughter of/
John and Sarah Weidner/
Born July 28, 1869/
Died Aug. 17, 1874.

INSCRIPTIONS KEIM PRIVATE BURYING GROUND, BERKS CO., PA.

1. Jacob Keim son of John Keim/
Born October 24, 1724/
Died October 18, 1799/
Aged 75 years lacking six days.
2. Magdalena Keim, born Hoch/
Wife of Jacob Keim/
Born December 21, 1730/
Died April 21, 1804/
Aged 73 years 4 months.

Cg
R
32

6. Debora Rothermel/
Born De Turk wife of/
Johannes Rothermel/
Born Aug. 9, 1782/
Died Feb. 24, 1844/
Aged 61 y. 6 mo. 15 da.
7. Johannes Rothermel/
Son of/
Johannes and Debora/
Rothermel/
Born June 24, 1802/
Married Sarah Hinterleiter/
Died May 4, 1826/
Aged 23 y. 10 mo. 10 da.
8. Peter Rothermel/
Son of Johannes and Debora
Rothermel/
Born Mar. 7, 1806/
Died Oct. 20, 1810/
Aged 4 y. 7 mo. 15 da.
9. David Rothermel/
Son of Johannes and Debora/
Rothermel/
Born Dec. 30, 1809/
Died Apr. 28, 1826/
Aged 17 y. 5 mo. 28 da.
10. Peter Rothermel/
Born August 12, 1761/
Married March 30, 1793/
Susanna De Turk and had/
3 sons and 4 daughters. Died
Sept. 10, 1825/
Aged 62 y. 29 da.
11. Susanna Rothermel/
Born De Turk/
Wife of Peter Rothermel/
Born Feb. 19, 1773/
Died Oct. 25, 1817/
Aged 44 y. 8 mo. 6 da.
12. Catharine Rothermel/
Daughter of Peter and Susanna
Rothermel/
Born June 2, 1794/
Died Oct. 22, 1825/
Aged 29 y. 4 mo. 20 da.
13. Susannah Rothermel/
Daughter of Peter and Susanna
Rothermel/
Born Aug. 24, 1795/
Died Apr. 3, 1839.
14. Maria Rothermel/
Daughter of Peter and Susanna
Rothermel/

- Born Feb. 6, 1799/
Died Oct. 1, 1823.
15. Peter Rothermel/
Son of Peter and Susanna Roth-
ermel/
Born Aug. 12, 1804/
Died Mar. 28, 1856.
16. Frederick Maurer/
Born Mar. 16, 1746/
Died Oct. 9, 1825/
Aged 82 y. 6 mo. 25 da.
17. Here lies in Jesus Christ/
Esther Maurer, a born Levan/
Born May 1732, Died 1793/
Aged 60 y. 6 mo. 17 da. Had a
wedded/
life of 19 y. 11 mo. 11 da. with/
Frederick Maurer—2 sons 1
daughter.
18. Here Rests/
Ruben Zacharias son of/
Johannes and Catherine Zacha-
rias/
Born Sept. 22, 1824. Died Dec.
21, 1847.

STUMP PRIVATE BURYING GROUND INSCRIPTIONS, NEAR BERNVILLE, PA.

*Copied by Mrs. C. M. Steinmetz,
Reading, Pa.*

1. Johannes Stump/Born Feb. 18,
1746/Died Aug. 9, 1822.
2. Barbara wife of Johannes
Stump/Born Oct. 9, 1746/Died
Aug. 17, 1805.
3. Daniel Stump/
Son of Johannes Stump/
Born Sept. 14, 1789/
Died Dec. 1806.
4. Samuel Stump/
Born Oct. 9, 1777/
Died July 27, 1850.
5. Anna Maria Stump / wife of
Samuel Stump / Born Nov. 30,
1786/Died Sept. 24, 1842.

(Continued on page 33)

June 1927
NATL Gen Soc
Berks Co. Pa
Inscriptions

ristian and/
ser/
8/
52/
o. 16 da.
/ /
n. 4 da.
Daniel Levan/
7.

INSURPTIONS
HOCH PRIVATE BURYING
GROUND NEAR PLEASANT-
VILLE, BERKS CO., PA., ON
FARM OF GIDEON HOCH

- Wife
Born Oct. 29, 1809/
Died March 12, 1833/
Aged 23 yrs. 4 mo. 14 da.
3. Willi De Turck/
Wife of Daniel De Turck/
Born Oct. 19, 1814/
Died Jan. 5, 1885/
4. Infant son of Daniel/
and Willie De Turck/
Born Nov. 18, 1835.
[Nov. 15, 1831, Daniel De Turck
m. Catharine Levan, both Oley]
Berks and Schuylkill Journal, Read-
ing.
5. Daniel Levan/
Born May 16, 1782/
Died Dec. 31, 1848/
Aged 66 yrs. 7 mo. 15 da.
6. Magdalena Levan/
Wife of Daniel Levan/
Born Oct. 20, 1784/
Died July 8, 1863/
Aged 78 yrs. 7 mo. 18 da.
7. Daniel Manwiller/
Born March 19, 1773/
Died June 26, 1810/
Aged 67 yrs. 3 mo. 6 da.
8. Sara Manwiller/
Wife of Daniel Manwiller/
Born Feb. 23, 1780/
Died May 23, 1831.
9. Christian Weiser/
Born March 5, 1741/
Died Jan. 22, 1803/
Aged 65 yrs. 10 mo. 17 days.
10. Magdalena Weiser/
Wife of Christian Weiser

1. Grand-Father/
Rudolph Hoch/
Died Jan. 8, 1748.
2. Grand-mother/
Veronica Hoch/
Died in 1728.
3. John Hoch/
Died July 11, 1777/
Aged 77 years.
4. Sussana Hoch/
Wife of John Hoch/
Died Feb. 22, 1763/
Aged 65 years.
5. Abraham Hoch/
Born Sept. 5, 1745/
Died Mar. 4, 1826/
Aged 80 yrs. 5 mo. 29 da.
6. Sussana Hoch (born Weiser)/
Wife of Abraham Hoch/
Born Mar. 12, 1750/
Died Feb. 21, 1824/
Aged 73 yrs. 11 mo. 9 da.
7. Abraham Hoch/
Born Sept. 5, 1771/
Died Nov. 31, 1838/
Aged 67 yrs. 2 mo. 26 da.
8. Sussana Hoch (nee Schneider)/
Wife of Abraham Hoch/
Born May 29, 1772/
Died Dec. 14, 1836/
Aged 64 yrs. 6 mo. 15 da.

- Susanna Hoch (nee Weidner)/
Wife of Gideon Hoch/
Born July 13, 1797/
Died Oct. 12, 1881/
Aged 84 yrs. 2 mo. 29 da.
[Sept. 27, 1818, Gideon Hoch m.
Susanna Weidner, Oley. (Trinity
Lutheran Church, Reading, Pa.)]
11. Esther Hochin/
Born Nov. 1768/
(rest of stone illegible)
12. Israel Hoch/
Son of Gideon and Susanna
Hoch/
Born March 4, 1829/
Died March 10, 1835.
13. Sarah Hoch daughter of/
Abraham and Susanna Hoch/
Born March 19, 1795/
Died Dec. 8, 1816.
14. Magdalena Brandigam/
Daughter of George and Eva/
Brandigam/
Born Jan. 4, 1798.
Died May 22, 1820.
15. Elmira Breidigam/
Daughter of Benjamin &/
Rebecca Breidigam/
Born Dec. 25, 1815/
Died Oct. 30, 1851.
16. Jacob Hoch son of Isaac/
Hoch and Rahel Brumbach/
Died Dec. 22, 1852 aged/
15 da.
17. Joshua Hoch/
Born June 17, 1799/
Died June 30, 1845.
18. Lydia Hoch (born Dieroff)/
Wife of Joshua Hoch/
Born April 26, 1809/
Died Oct. 29, 1861.

Children of Joshua and Lydia Hoch:

19. Lydia Hoch, 1832-1833.
20. Abraham Hoch 1835-1836.
21. Infant son died 1842.
22. Infant son.
23. Infant son.
24. Gideon W. Hoch/
Born May 1, 1835/
Died Dec. 29, 1893.

Children of Gideon W. and Naomi
Hoch:

26. Willi S. Hoch, born Nov. 15,
1860, died Sept. 5, 1862.
27. Seth E. Hoch, born Aug. 9,
1862, died Sept. 7, 1863.
28. Mahlon S. Hoch, born Aug. 27,
1864, died Jan. 31, 1865.
29. Walton M. Hoch, born April 5,
1868, died June 21, 1868.
30. Naomi Hoch, born July 30, 1872,
died Aug. 11, 1872.

INSCRIPTIONS

De TURK ROTHERMEL PRIVATE
BURYING GROUND NEAR
FLEETWOOD, BERKS COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

Copied by Mrs. C. M. Steinmetz,
Reading, Pa.

1. Susan Daughter of/
Jacob and Margaret Deisher/
Born July 21, 1844/
Died Nov. 4, 1847.
2. Here rests in his/
Savior Jesus Christ (Die B—)/
Daniel De Turk/
Born Sept. 8, 1742/
Died June 27, 1791/
Wedded 22 ys. 6 months and
with his/
Wife Catharine had 1 son and 7
daughters/
Aged 48 y. 3 mo. 9 da.
3. Catharine De Turk/
A born Levan born June 18,
1746/
Married Daniel De Turk and
with/
him had 1 son and 7 daughters/
Died April 25, 1819 aged 72 y.
10 mo. 7 da.
4. Here rests/
Catharine De Turk/
Born December 20, 1776/
Died May 6, 1795/
Aged 18 y. 5 mo. 6 da.
5. Johannes Rothermel/
Born October 1766/
Died April 30, 1826/

M. Debora De Turk
age - 26-5-29 Wedded
4 sons 4 dau
age - 60 y. 4-6 mo

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THE PIONEER ROTHERMEL FAMILY OF BERKS COUNTY.

A Paper read before the Historical Society December 12, 1911,
by ABRAHAM H. ROTHERMEL, Esq.

That John Rothermel and his wife, Sybilla Zimmerman Rothermel, of Wachbach, were the ancestors of all the Rothermels of Berks County, Pennsylvania, has always been known by nearly every member of the family in America. Family traditions, printed pamphlets relating to the family history, and the records contained in the original family Bible, owned by the late Samuel H. Rothermel, of Philadelphia, until it was destroyed by fire, about 1880, all agree upon Wachbach as the home of John and Sybilla Rothermel before taking voyage for America. It is also equally well established that John Rothermel was born in 1688; that he married his wife, Sybilla Zimmerman, in 1708; that, after the birth of six children in Wachbach, the entire family set sail on the ship *Thistle*, from Rotterdam, for America; that the father died and was buried at sea, and that the remaining members of the emigrant party landed in the city of Philadelphia on August 29, 1730. The children of John and Sybilla Rothermel included one daughter and five sons, Lawrence, Paul, Peter, John and Christian. The daughter, Anna Maria, was the oldest, having been born in February, 1712. In 1729, prior to the embarkation for America, Anna Maria married Peter Feterhoff, who was born in Wachbach, March 20, 1699, and who was the son of John Jacob Feterhoff. Peter Feterhoff came with the family to America and, with his wife, settled in Macungie Township, Lehigh County, where they bought 150 acres of land. Peter Feterhoff died August 15, 1784, and his wife several years thereafter. Both were buried in a private cemetery upon their farm, which until very recent years was, and may still be, owned by their descendants.

Lawrence Rothermel, the oldest son, settled in Windsor Township, Berks County, where, in 1738, he purchased 150 acres

of land. In 1746 he married a daughter of David Kuhns, of Alburtis, Lehigh County. He had two children, a son, Leonard, and a daughter, Maria.

Paul Rothermel bought 250 acres of land in Maiden creek Township, Berks County, in 1738, and lived there until the time of his death. He married Catharine Maurer in 1747, and had six children, Peter, Leonard, Paul, John, Jacob and Barbara.

Peter Rothermel settled in Richmond Township, Berks County, where he purchased the following tracts of land: One hundred acres in 1737, 250 acres in 1738 and 100 acres in 1743. He married Magdalena Dreibelbis, a daughter of Jacob Dreibelbis, and became the father of four children, Daniel, Peter, Margaret and Abraham.

The writer is a great-grandson of Peter Rothermel, through his son, Peter Rothermel, and grandson, Abraham Rothermel, the latter having been the writer's father.

John Rothermel (1722-1785) bought 25 acres of land in Windsor Township adjoining the tract of his brother Lawrence, and settled thereon. His wife was Mary Siegfried, the first white child to be born in Maxatawny Township. Their children were Abraham, Jacob, Daniel and John.

Christian Rothermel, the youngest child, settled in Maiden creek Township, Berks County, where, in 1742, he purchased 250 acres of land, adjoining the farm of his brother Paul. He married and became the father of six children, namely, Margaret, Sybilla, Magdalena, Amanda, Peter and John.

Notwithstanding the fact that much of the history of the pioneer family has been preserved, the location of Wachbach, their home in their mother country, was forgotten by their descendants in America. The writer's father and other members of the family were long of the opinion that Wachbach was a village or province of Holland. This impression arose, doubtless, from the fact that the place of embarkation for America was a Dutch port, the family having sailed from Rotterdam, as previously stated. The error thus begun was given wider circulation by the monograph of a charlatan, who, about the middle part of the preceding century, pretended knowledge of a fortune awaiting the call of the family in Holland.

When, in 1910, the writer determined upon a European journey, and, incidentally, a visit to the home of his ancestors, the location of Wachbach upon the map of Europe was not an easy matter. A letter of inquiry sent to Holland brought no information. Fortunately, on a previous trip abroad in the summer of 1908, the writer had met Paul Rothermel, of London, England. Mr. Rothermel was found to be a gentleman of education and culture, and although he had lived in London 25 years, was a native of Luxemburg. Through the courtesy of Mr. Rothermel, Wachbach was definitely located as a village in the extreme northeast part of the kingdom of Wurtemberg, in Germany. It lies in the division of Wurtemberg which is known as the "Circle of the Jagst," and is found between the 49th and 50th degrees of north latitude. It is, therefore, in the same latitude as central, or northern Newfoundland.

A traveler entering the place whence his ancestors had come to America 180 years before, during which time, as far as is known, no communication has been obtained between his kin in the old and in the new world, finds much to interest him and much to reflect upon. The Tauber Valley Railway carries the tourist to Mergentheim, a town of 5000 inhabitants, the railway station nearest to Wachbach. The village lies three miles to the south.

The Tauber Valley is one of the most beautiful and picturesque parts of Germany. Every foot here is historic ground. It suffered severely in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). In 1688, 1692, 1703 and 1707 the French entered Wurtemberg "with fire and sword, annihilating whole villages in their brutality, and leaving deserts in their track." When not beset by foes from without, the inhabitants, spurred on by princes who were ever on the watch for territorial aggrandizement, engaged in religious wars among themselves. The moated castle at Mergentheim was the seat of the ancient Teutonic Order, affiliated with the Roman Church. The castle at Wachbach was the home of the Fre Herren von Adelsheim, who allied themselves with the Protestant Church. The very name of Wachbach was first applied to the little stream of water which runs by both places, because along its banks pickets or soldiers were constantly on the watch; or,

as expressed in German, "wacht." There are many present-day reminders of the religious fervor which glowed and throbbed and burned out in this community. In Mergentheim the public fountains and monuments are surmounted by crucifixes and other sacred emblems, and many houses are adorned, on their exterior, by figures of the Virgin and Child, and other like tokens. The highway from Mergentheim to Wachbach follows, in the greater part, the sinuous course of the Wachbach Creek. On this road still stand three crucifixes, life-sized, and carved in marble. The time of their erection appears to be unknown, but every man in the community raises his hat in reverence when passing these sacred memorials.

The Mergentheim of to-day is a summer resort, famous for the waters of a medicinal spring, which are taken by persons suffering from stomach and liver troubles. There is a large "Kurhaus," with baths, and the reputation of "Bad Mergentheim" in Germany is eclipsed only by Carlsbad and Wiesbaden.

The postman makes two trips daily between Mergentheim and Wachbach and when one rides with him in the diligence which the rural mail carrier provides in Germany, he is carried to the Lamm Hotel in Wachbach. The Lamm is chosen for two reasons: It is the largest and presumably the best hotel in the village, and Alouse Dietzel, the postman, is a brother of Michael Dietzel, its proprietor.

Wachbach is distinctively a farming village. It has 860 inhabitants, whose principal occupation is the tilling of the outlying lands. There are a half dozen small stores, three hotels, three bakeries, two tailors, two blacksmiths' shops, several shoemakers and a grist mill. The buildings are all of stone and plaster, and are covered with an earthen tile, which was originally red in color. Many of the buildings show the frame-work of the heavier timbers, producing a pleasing effect in architecture, somewhat similar to the Old English style, as instanced in the Shakespeare house at Stratford. As is the case in many other parts of rural Germany, man and beast are housed under the same roof. This mode of living is less objectionable than it may seem to be. In Wachbach, at least, the living apartments are clean and tidy, and

the quarters reserved for the cattle are better kept than the stalls for cattle in the barns of the average farmer in Berks County. There are no buildings of whatever kind on the farm lands. As crops ripen they are brought to the village and stored there. Farm machinery is likewise kept in the farm buildings, which are all in the village. There are few horses in Wachbach, cows being employed as the beasts of burden. It is a novel sight, in the harvest time, to see these faithful animals bringing home to the village load upon load of unthreshed grain. The cows, notwithstanding the double service to their owners, are fat and sleek and show evidence of kind treatment. Corn is seldom grown, the summers being too cool to permit it to attain perfection. When grown at all, it is sown broadcast for fodder purposes.

Wachbach is interesting from a purely historical point of view. Every house has the stamp of antiquity and seems to fit into the landscape like the surrounding hills. New buildings are rarely erected in it and the neighboring towns. Within driving distance from Wachbach is Rothenberg, a town much visited by tourists, particularly architects, and famous for its ancient style of architecture; no new buildings having been erected therein, it is said, for 300 years.

The hereditary lords of Wachbach are the Freiherren von Adelsheim. They still maintain and occupy an ancient castle, which stands in the heart of the village, and was built in 1525. The castle was originally surrounded by a moat, fed by the waters of the Wachbach Creek. The foundation walls of a still more ancient castle are to be seen on the hillside overlooking the village; but the date of the erection of this fortress is lost in antiquity. The present holder of the Freiherren von Adelsheim title is an aged maiden lady, deaf and nearly blind. She lives almost alone in the great pile of stones and is seldom seen in public.

A very ancient building in Wachbach is the grist mill of Christian Pfeiffer. According to Mr. Pfeiffer's stepson, Hugo Barnichel, who is the miller, the mill was erected by the Freiherren von Adelsheim in 1267. It is operated by the waters of the Wachbach Creek, which, though not large in volume, have a fall of about twenty feet at this point.

A more modern institution, held in high esteem by the people, is the "Bibliothek," or public library. The library was founded only a few years ago, largely through the efforts of Josef Heuberger, the leading tailor of the village, who serves as librarian. The library contains more than 600 volumes to which the writer has added "Harbaugh's Harfe," Daniel Miller's publications and several other books touching upon Pennsylvania German life.

The cemetery in Wachbach is an enclosure of about four acres, well filled with graves. All are marked by large, white, wooden crosses, excepting the graves of several of the Freiherren von Adelsheim, which have monuments of stone. The cemetery has been buried over several times, it being the custom to fill up and regrade the entire plot when it becomes filled with graves. Bodies are laid side by side, in the order of death, without regard to church or creed.

There are two churches in Wachbach, one Catholic, the other Protestant. The village maintained a Hebrew synagogue until a few years ago, when several hundred persons of that faith, whose forefathers had lived in Wachbach for centuries, made an exodus from it. Three or four Hebrew families remain.

The Catholic Church is a handsome new building erected a few years ago. It replaced an older church, which was then taken down. Father August Weber, the priest in charge, is about thirty-six years of age and is a man of pleasing personality and kindly nature. The writer dined with him at the Lamm. He asked many questions which showed an intelligent interest in things American. He stood in prayer before and after the meal.

The Protestant Church is of interest because of the age of the building, which according to the pastor, Rev. Carl Weiss, is 700 to 900 years. The building is rectangular in shape and has a bell tower and steeple upon the end fronting upon the street. The tower also shelters the town clock, the striking of which can be heard over the entire village. The walls of the church are about six feet thick, built of stone and plastered with a grayish colored mortar. An enclosed gallery, or passageway, connects the church tower with the third floor of the adjoining house, giving a quaint but pleasing appearance to the whole of the church property. The passageway was erected many years ago and is still used for the

convenience of the sexton when ringing the church bell. The interior of the church is equally interesting. The pews in the nave and upon the gallery, which runs along three sides, are constructed of plain boards, unpainted, but polished to a lustre by the comings and goings of the worshippers for hundreds of years. The pulpit is of the "wine goblet" variety, such as was formerly contained in the old Spies' Church, in Alsace Township, and in the old St. John's Church, at Gibraltar, Robeson Township, this county. The choir comprises the room, or recess, under the tower, and is far more ornate than the remainder of the interior. It contains a life-size image, in stone or plaster, of the Savior upon the cross; also several smaller crucifixes and numerous tablets and monuments to the dead. The most striking memorial is a bas-relief, carved in stone, of one of the early Freiherren von Adelsheim. The Freiherr of the bas-relief had two wives, who pre-deceased him. To their memory he erected a tablet, in which they are both made to kneel before him in suppliant attitude. The pew of the Frierherren von Adelsheim is a large, enclosed box, containing chairs instead of benches.

Rev. Carl Weiss, the Protestant clergyman, is a man of high talents and great charm of manner. He and Rev. Father Weber are warm personal friends. After Rev. Weiss had shown the writer the property of the Protestant Church, he proposed showing him the Catholic Church also, which he did with perfect freedom and unstinted praise of the priest and people.

The records of the births, baptisms and marriages of the Protestant Church were searched with great care by the pastor for entries relating to the Rothermel family. The search, however, shed no additional light upon the history of the family. According to Rev. Weiss, the records of this church were all destroyed in the Thirty Years' War, which extended from 1618 to 1648. After that troublesome period, the keeping of records was not resumed for nearly 100 years. The earliest records in the possession of Rev. Weiss were made in the year 1733, which was three years after John Rothermel and his family sailed for America. It is remarkable, however, that the name of Rothermel nowhere occurs in these records from 1733 to the present time. This fact argues conclusively that the family of John Rothermel

was the only Rothermel family in Wachbach, in 1730, when he and his family removed from the village, never to return.

Inquiry from Father Weber was equally fruitless, his church records dating from 1806, prior to which time the Catholic Church of Wachbach had been successively a part of the congregation of the neighboring villages of Apfelbach and Stuppach. Again, upon visiting the "rathhaus," or town hall, and inquiring of Herr Pflueger, the "schultheiss," whose office conforms largely to that of burgess in the State of Pennsylvania, it was learned that the civil authorities in Germany have kept family records only since the year 1876, prior to which time such records were kept exclusively by the ecclesiastical authorities.

The names of the present inhabitants of Wachbach and Mergentheim do not seem strange to a Pennsylvania German. Besides those elsewhere mentioned in this article, the following were also noted: Ohlinger, Schell, Wiessner, Stahl, Kurz, Hoffman, Merz, Werner, Riegel, Brunner, Holl, Schoener, Strohacker, Roesser, Kreuz, Busch, Schuettler, Kaiser and Kantner. The courteous postmaster at Wachbach is the ubiquitous John Smith, who writes his name, as is to be expected, Johann Schmidt.

The name of Rothermel is not unknown in Wachbach and representatives of the family are now living in a number of nearby places. One of the residents of the village has a son-in-law by the name of Rothermel, who lives in a neighboring town. It is also interesting to note that the names of Zimmerman and Feterholf are still found among the residents of the village.

At the suggestion of Rev. Weiss, the writer called upon Rev. Schnizer, pastor of the Protestant Church in the nearby town of Mergentheim. Rev. Schnizer had no records of the Rothermel family, but referred the writer to Wallhausen, a village somewhat larger than Wachbach, and situated about twenty American miles to the southeast. Here was found Gotthilf Rothermel, a "schlosser," or blacksmith and wheelwright. He was an intelligent man of forty, of good appearance and presence. He received the writer with candor and hospitality and altogether impressed him very favorably. He owns his home and blacksmith shop, both of which have been newly rebuilt within a few years. His ancestors

have been of the same occupation for several generations and have lived in Wallhausen continuously since the time of Gotthilf Rothermel's great-grandfather, and perhaps longer. The Wallhausen Rothermels are Protestants in religion.

Mr. Rothermel is the inventor of a system of springs for use on automobiles intended to supply the resiliency and take the place of rubber tires. His invention is patented by the German government and he is desirous of having it introduced in America. He has a wife and two daughters.

At Frankfort-on-the-Main, about seventy-five miles distant from Wachbach, the writer met by a mere chance, two men of his own name, with both of whom he was greatly pleased. The one was Jacob Rothermel, who has a large "moebelgeschaeft," or furniture factory, at No. 30 Meisengasse, and a furniture store at No. 4 Bethmann strasse. The other was Claus Rothermel, who resides at No. 15 Hamburger strasse, and is bookkeeper and buyer for a mercantile house. They are both members of the Protestant Church. Claus Rothermel's ancestors lived in a place near Wachbach, and, although he had never heard of any American Rothermels before, he thought the probability of kinship with them was strong. The writer was in the home of Claus Rothermel and met his wife and daughters, two lovely children, named Lulu and Helma.

The only other European Rothermels met by the writer were a "landwirth," farmer, and a "meisterschuhmacher," in Heidelberg. They were cordial and showed much interest upon learning that there were Rothermels in America. A chance remark made by the "landwirth" Rothermel was a bit surprising and is worthy of mention. Said he, "I never knew that any of the Rothermels had gone to America, but I have often heard that we have a fortune to get from there." The Rothermels of Heidelberg are members of the Catholic Church.

It is probable that the Rothermels of Wallhausen and Frankfort are remote kinspeople of the Rothermels of Berks County. This theory is supported by the proximity of their places of residence to the home of the pioneer family, and is further strengthened by the fact of their religion, they having adhered to the Protestant faith from time immemorial.

The Rothermels of Europe, wherever met with, were found to be law-abiding, respectable citizens. They were all engaged in honorable occupations, and appeared to enjoy the respect of the communities in which they live. They all spell their names as the Rothermels of Berks County spell it.

The Wachbach of to-day is no doubt but little changed from the Wachbach which John Rothermel left in 1730. Many of the houses then standing, are standing yet. It has all the evidence of antiquity now, but it was an ancient village then. The old castle, which was two centuries old in his day, is still intact and occupied, although its moats are sunken gardens and the necessity for a stronghold no longer remains. The old mill, with its eaves almost touching the ground, was more than 400 years old when John Rothermel was born, but it is still grinding grain for man and beast. The old church, which doubtless was the shrine in which the pioneer family sat and worshipped, is still the center of a zealous religious life. The changes that have come are the resistless changes of the centuries. Electric lights are now in the village. The McCormick reaper has supplanted the sickle. Sec-tarian bitterness has died out and the descendants of those who once waged bloody wars in the name of religion live side by side in peace and good-will, each apparently realizing that all have been journeying upon the same road, which, like all human high-ways, leads now through the wilderness and now through the open fields and sunshine.

While the descendants of John and Sybilla Rothermel may not regret that their ancestors sought a new home in a new country, none who may visit Wachbach will fail to appreciate the open-hearted hospitality of its people and their apparent freedom from all insincerity, falsehood, pride and guile.