

A GENEALOGICAL RECORD
OF
THE HOUSE OF LOWMASTER
COMPILED BY
REV. VANE H. LOWMASTER
A.D. 1972

Sketches contained herein drawn by
Rev. Vane H. Lowmaster

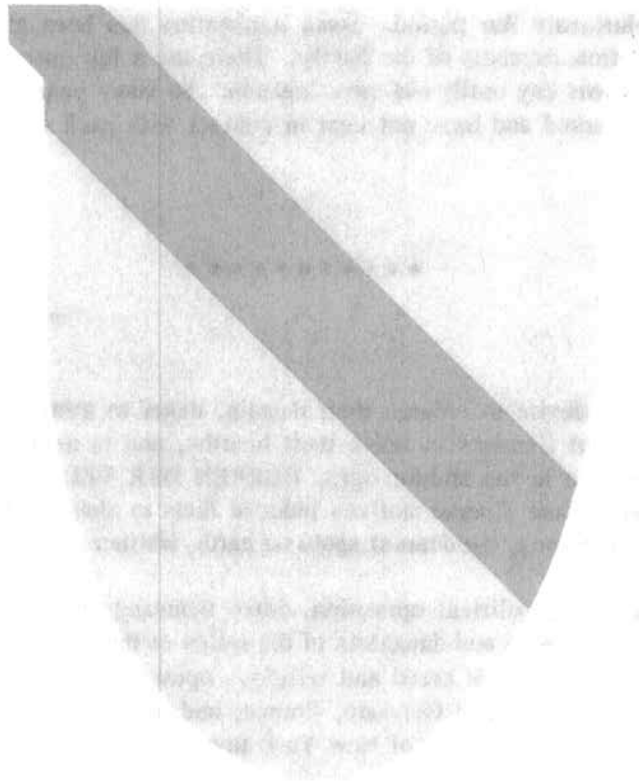
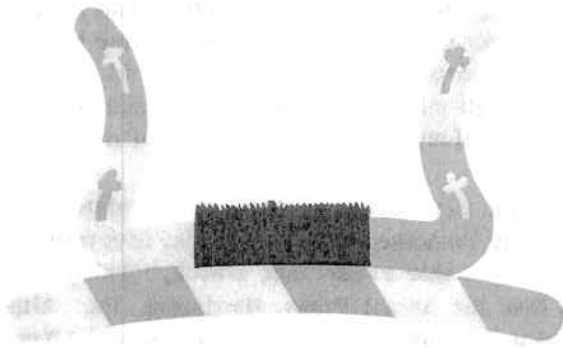
INTRODUCTION

Many years ago when I was about five or six years of age, my Grandfather John Lowmaster, who was then about eighty years of age, and still quite active, had me go with him fishing on the Little Mahoning Creek, which flowed by our little farm. I remember asking him at this time who his grandfather was; and he said Wendel. I remembered that; and as I grew older, began to gather what information I could about our ancestors. Through many years of research and inquiry, I have accumulated enough information to compile a genealogy of my own family and some of its branches.

Since the year 1750, the decedents of Wendel Lawmeister (anglicized to Lowmaster) have become so numerous and so widely dispersed that it would be impossible to trace them all. Some years ago, while living in York, Pa., I was able to purchase a book, "Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants," by Professor I. Daniel Rupp, from the Aurant Press, Harrisburg, Pa. Although it was out of print, they still had the plates and printed a copy for me. In it I found listed the name of Wendel Lawmeister. I am grateful to the Cline sisters of Lewisberry, Pa., for the information given me from the "History of York County," during the Revolutionary War period. Some information has been gleaned from historical and reference works, and some from members of the family. There are a few notes of things remembered that have come down to the present day orally and from legends. So many years have gone by, and families have become so widely dispersed and have not kept in contact with each other, that it has been a difficult task.

Love of fame, the desire to enlarge their domain, eager to sway the sceptre over subjugated nations, influenced the ancient Germans to leave their hearths, and to achieve conquests, thus proving themselves in days of yore, as in the Middle Ages, HERREN DER WELT, Lords of the World. At different periods, various causes and diverse motives induced them to abandon their VATERLAND. Since 1606, millions have left their homes, the dearest spots on earth, whither the heart always turns.

Religious persecution, political oppression, drove thousands to Pennsylvania – to the asylum for the harrassed and depressed sons and daughters of the relics of the Reformation, whither William Penn himself invited the persecuted of every creed and religious opinion. From 1682 to 1776, Pennsylvania was the central point of emigration from Germany, France, and Switzerland. Penn's liberal views, and the ILLIBERAL course of the Government of New York toward the Germans, induced many to come to this Province.



ARMS: D' or a la bande de gules.

CREST: Deux cornes de buffle d'or et de gules, omées chacune à l'extérieur de quatre trèfles de l'un à l'autre.

Authority for the above is family history, and the coat of arms of the Margraves (Counts) of Baden may be found in *Armorial General*, J. B. Rietstap, Berlin, 1934. Or it may be possible that it may be found in *Seibmacher's Waffnenbuch*.

There is no motto. This coat of arms may have been in existence long before the College of Heraldry was established, which was in the 12th or 13th Century. Hermann, who became the first Margrave of Baden, came from Verona; which is a city situated in North Central Italy, which was once part of the Roman Empire.

We could surmise that some of the family, one of the tribes of the Goths, took part in the invasion and sack of Rome by the Goths in 410 A.D. or the Vandals in 455 A.D.; and as happens many times throughout history, settled in that country, eventually drifting north and settling after a period of years in Verona. From this city, then, in the year 1112 A.D., Hermann, the son of Hermann, Margrave of Verona; and grandson of Bertold, Duke of Carinthia; and Count of Zähringen, having inherited some of the German estates of his family, called himself Margrave of Baden; and from this date, the separate history of Baden may be said to begin.

MARGRAVE

Margrave (German title meaning literally "Count of the March.")
(Boundry between two countries) (Latin – Marchio comes Marchae, Marchisus)

The Margraves had their origin in the counts established by Charlemagne and his successors to guard the frontier districts of the empire; and for centuries, the title was always associated with this function. The Margraves had within their own jurisdiction the authority of dukes, but they were subordinate to the dukes in the feudal army of the empire. In the 12th Century, however, with the breakup of the great duchies, the Margraves took rank with the great German princes. The title of Margrave very early lost its original significance, and was borne by princes whose territories were in no sense frontier districts. E. G. by Hermann, son of Hermann, Margrave of Verona, who assumed, in 1112, the title of Margrave of Baden

The title retained in Germany its sovereign significance; and has not, like Marquis in France, and Marchese in Italy, sunk into a mere title of nobility. It is not, therefore, in its present sense, the equivalent of the English title Marquess. The German Margraves have now all been absorbed into other sovereignties, and the title is borne only as a subsidiary title in the full style of their sovereigns.

The titles of the nobility in England are inherited according to the custom of primogeniture, that is to the eldest son, and in some instances to a daughter.

* * * * *

Over a period of many years, from oral tradition and research and search of historical documents and records, I have established the fact that we of the House of Lowmaster (Lawmeister) Lowmaster family, are the paternal descendents of the Margraves or Counts of Baden. Several years ago I consulted a Heraldist, and from the information I was able to furnish him, I obtained a drawing of the coat of arms of the Margraves of Baden, which we are entitled to bear.

A SHORT GEOGRAPHICAL
AND HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN

GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN

A Sovereign State of Germany, lying in the southwest corner of the empire, bounded on the north by the Kingdom of Bavaria and the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, west, and practically throughout its whole length by the Rhine, which separates it from the Bavarian Palatinate and the Imperial Province of Alsace-Lorraine, south by Switzerland, and east by the Kingdom of Wurtemberg (of which it was once a part) and part of Bavaria. The country has an area of 5823 square miles, and consists of a considerable portion of the eastern half of the fertile valley of the Rhine and of the mountains which form its boundry. The greater part of Baden belongs in the basin of the Rhine. In the north portion, lies the Black Forest or Schwarzwald. Baden has some lakes, none of any size, among which are Mummel, Wilder, Eicher, and Schluch. The mineral wealth is not great. Baden produces some coal, iron, zinc, a good quality of lead, some copper, gold and some sulphur. Peat is found in abundance, as well as gypsum, china clay, potters earth, and salt. Baden has some mineral springs, and they are well known. Those of Baden-Baden, Badenweiler, Antogast, Griesbach, Freiersbach, and Petersthal being the most frequented.

HISTORY

During the Middle Ages, the district which now forms the Grand Duchy of Baden was ruled by various Counts, prominent among whom were the Counts and Dukes of Zahringen. In 1112, Hermann, Margrave of Verona (d1074), and grandson of Bertold, Duke of Carinthia and Count of Zahringen, having inherited some of the German estates of his family, called himself Margrave of Baden; and from this date, the separate history of Baden may be said to begin. Hermann appears to have called himself by the title of Margrave, and not the more usual title of Count, owing to the connection of his family with the Margrivate of Verona. His son and grandson, both named Hermann, added to their territories; which about 1200, were divided and the lines of Baden-Baden and Baden-Hochberg were founded; the latter of which was divided about a century later into the branches of Baden-Hochberg and Baden-Sausenberg. The family of Baden-Baden was successful in increasing the area of its possessions; which, after several divisions, were united by Margrave Bernard I in 1391. Bernard, a soldier of some renown, continued the work of his predecessors, and obtained other districts, including Baden-Hochberg, the ruling family of which, died out in 1418.

Wendel Lawmeister, of the Grand Duchy of Baden, once a district in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg.

Listed in the book, "Thirty Thousand Immigrants," is found the following:

September 12, 1750. Ship, Priscilla; William Wilson, Captain; from Rotterdam, last from Cowes - 210 passengers.

September 12, 1750. Schiff, Priscilla; Captain William Wilson; von Rotterdam, uber Cowes - 210 Reisende.

Wendel Lawmeister.

Legend says that his wife was of the House of Von Beulow.

Date of birth unknown. Died in 1779.

He settled in York, Pa., and was a member of Christ's Evangelical Church, of that place.

There were two sons. Frederick Lowmaster, born (ca) 1754, died November, 1798. He was married to Mary Magdalena Reissinger (sometimes spelled Risinger), who died April 23, 1819 or 1821. Their children were: Catherine Magdalena Lowmaster, born August 2, 1756, died 1761 of smallpox. John Lowmaster, born (ca) 1758, soldier in American Revolutionary War, and probably deceased by 1790. Maria Magdalena Lowmaster, born October 1, 1761, died March 11, 1762. Christian Lowmaster, born October 1, 1762, baptized October 2, 1763. No further record.

Wendel Lowmaster was an active member of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church of York, Pa. From the well preserved records of this church, we get this fine history of the family in York County. Wendel Lawmeister died in 1779. His Will being drawn September 16, and probated November 8, 1779; in which he leaves all his property, personal and real, to my child Frederick, and to my granddaughter, Elizabeth, child of my son Frederick.

Frederick Lowmaster was a wagon and carriage maker, and had a shop in York, Pa. He employed six persons, and paid a tax of £ 176.

A replica of one of his Conestoga type wagons may be seen at the York Historical Society on East Market Street, York, Pa.

In looking over the Genealogical record of the Shirey Family, it is recorded that Magdalena Shirey was married to George Lowmaster. It is recorded in the court record of York County, dated December 12, 1813, that in settling the estate of her father, John Shirey, Magdalena was named as one of the heirs. As stated elsewhere, Magdalena died April 23, 1819, or 1821.

The name of Magdalena has come down to us shortened to Mary. From the records of The Historical Society of York, Pa. It seems certain that most, if not all, of the Lowmasters of America are descended from this single immigrant, Wendel Lawmeister (Lowmaster); and until 1875, practically all of them lived in York County, Pa.

The above date is not entirely correct. Some of them left York much earlier. One went to Richmond, Virginia, and a descendant left two daughters. One is reported to have gone to Ohio. John Lowmaster bought his farm in what is now Canoe Township, Indiana County, in 1845.

There was until recent years, he is now probably deceased, a man living in Richmond, Virginia, named A. T. Lowmaster, who was said to be President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, one of the descendants of the Lowmaster's of York, Pa., who had no sons, but had two daughters. My brother, Leroy, met one of the daughters, while in camp during World War I.

John Lowmaster, born September 28, 1816, in York, Pennsylvania, or in Virginia, place uncertain; died February 2, 1911; age 94 years, 2 months, 29 days. He was married to Sarah Ann Barnhart; born 1824; died August 17, 1895; age 71 years, 6 months.

Copy of Marriage Certificate

This certifies that: John Lowmaster and Sarah A. Barnhart were solemnly united by me in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony at New Washington, Pennsylvania, on the Third Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Five, conformably to the Ordinance of God, and the Laws of the State.

In the presence of:

Signed,

James Weaver

Jos. McMurry, Peace Justice

Sarah A. Weaver

By—J.H.B.

On July 13, 1847, he bought of Gourley and Gaskell, land agents of the heirs of William Penn, 67½ acres of land in Canoe Township in Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

The children of this union were as follows:

Mary Catherine Lowmaster, born February 4, 1846; died August 17, 1912; age 66.
Elizabeth Lowmaster, born August 9, 1847; died November, 1927; age 80.
Sarah Ann Lowmaster, born May 29, 1849; died December 2, 1856; age 7.
Nancy Ann Lowmaster, born August 22, 1851; died (c) 1918; age 67.
Daniel Lowmaster, born December 23, 1853; died March 20, 1856; age 3.
Anna Maria Lowmaster, born February 17, 1856; died January 8, 1935; age 79.
John H. Lowmaster, born August 12, 1857; died January 27, 1940; age 83.
William Lowmaster, born June 14, 1860; died September 23, 1863; age 3.
George Washington Lowmaster, born June 1, 1863; died February 6, 1882; age 19.
Clark Lowmaster, born October 2, 1865; died February 16, 1934; age 69.
Thomas Allison Lowmaster, born September 9, 1870; died April 15, 1959; age 89.

John Lowmaster, Sr., died February 2, 1911; age 94 years, 2 months, 29 days.

Sarah Ann Lowmaster, died August 17, 1895; age 71 years, 6 months.

Mary Catherine Lowmaster, daughter of John Lowmaster, Sr. Mary Catherine, born February 4, 1846; died August 17, 1912; was married to William Spencer, a veteran of the Civil War and a prisoner of war in Libby Prison. They had but the one child, Emma Spencer, who was married to John Ira Brickell.

Sarah Ann Lowmaster, daughter of John Lowmaster, Sr. Sarah Ann, born May 29, 1849; died December 2, 1856; age 7.

Elizabeth Lowmaster, daughter of John Lowmaster, Sr. Elizabeth Lowmaster, born August 9, 1847; died November, 1927; age 80; was married to August Gascel Rishell. Their children were:

Mary Adaline, born February 27, 1868; died May 8, 1954; age 86.
William Clark Rishell, born March 13, 1870; died ?
Charles Harvey, born March 25, 1876.
John Wesley, born July 21, 1874; died (c.) 1955.
Linus Sylvester, born April 18, 1878; died June 7, 1957.
Thomas Monroe, born January 24, 1882; died June 8, 1958.
Sarah Rebecca, born August 30, 1885; died April 21, 1969.
George Washington, born January 23, 1890; died (c.) 1944.

Nancy Ann Lowmaster, daughter of John Lowmaster, Sr. Nancy Ann, born August 22, 1851; died (c.) 1918. Married to William Hawk. Their children were:

William Hawk
Charles Hawk
Leonie Hawk
Robert Hawk
David J. Hawk
Sara Hawk
Clark Hawk
Frank Hawk
George Hawk

Daniel Lowmaster, son of John Lowmaster, Sr. Daniel Lowmaster, born December 23, 1853; died March 20, 1856; age 3.

Anna Maria Lowmaster, daughter of John Lowmaster, Sr. Anna Maria, born February 17, 1856; died January 8, 1935; age 79. Married to Frederick Rish. Their children were:

Linus Sylvester Rish
Silas Rish
Russell Rish
Iva Rish

John H. Lowmaster, son of John Lowmaster. John H. Lowmaster, born August 12, 1857; died January 27, 1940; age 83. Married to Mary Jane Pierce, born 1861; died 1949; age 88. A daughter was born to them, but died in infancy.

William Lowmaster, son of John Lowmaster, Sr. William, born June 14, 1860; died September 23, 1863; age 3.

George Washington Lowmaster, son of John Lowmaster, Sr. George Washington, born June 1, 1865; died February 6, 1882, of pneumonia.

Clark Lowmaster, son of John Lowmaster, Sr. Clark Lowmaster, born October 2, 1865; died February 16, 1934. Married on April 22, 1892, to Minnie Florence Dunmire, born December 30, 1873; died April 27, 1918. Their children were as follows:

Albert Purl, born August 7, 1893; died (c.) 1902.
Zelda, born April 10, 1896.
William Lee, born June 29, 1897.
Infant son, born March 1902, dead.
Gale C., born June 30, 1900, died.
Blair, born February 8, 1904.
Alta Florence, born July 15, 1906.
Forest Ray, born April 18, 1908.
Benjamin Franklin, born October 22, 1909.
Lester A., born April 14, 1911.
Valjean, born August 31, 1917; died December 26, 1917.

Thomas Allison Lowmaster, born September 9, 1870; died April 15, 1959. A farmer, he was born in Canoe Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. He was married to Rosella Emerick, born June 3, 1870, in Canoe Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania; died February 23, 1948. They were married on the 25th day of December, 1891. The children of that union were:

Vane H. Lowmaster, born October 6, 1892.
Lee Roy (Leroy) Lowmaster, born June 2, 1894.
Walter Glen Lowmaster, born September 2, 1897; died January 11, 1948; age 51.
Jessie May Lowmaster, born April 4, 1900; died August 22, 1939; age 39.
William Thomas Lowmaster, born October 4, 1902.
Charles Boyd Lowmaster, born March 14, 1905.
Mary Edna Lowmaster, born December 5, 1908.
Leola Grace Lowmaster, born September 29, 1910.

George Lowmaster, Sr., as near as I can determine from studying all available records, was a son of either Frederick or John Lowmaster, sons of Wendel Lowmaster.

It is recorded in the Genealogical Record of the Shirey family that Magdalena Shirey (the name has come down through oral tradition shortened to Mary) was married to George Lowmaster, Sr. The children of that union were as follows:

John Lowmaster, born September 28, 1816, in York, Pennsylvania, or Virginia; died February 2, 1911.
George Lowmaster, Jr., born May 15, 1820; died September 23, 1902.
Jacob Lowmaster

Daniel Lowmaster
Levi Lowmaster
Lana Lowmaster, born September, 1802; died in 1900.
Leah Lowmaster, born September, 1802; died in 1904.
Rebecca (Becky) Lowmaster
Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowmaster
Mary Lowmaster

* * * * *

George Lowmaster, Jr., born May 15, 1820; died September 23, 1902. He married August 24, 1842, Susannah Snyder, born June 9, 1826; died February 9, 1911. The children of this union were as follows:

Harriet Jane Lowmaster, born September 25, 1843; died July 16, 1925.
Margaret S. Lowmaster, born March 28, 1845; died August 17, 1921.
Nancy M. Lowmaster, born June 9, 1848; died.
Joseph Lowmaster, born September 6, 1853; died August 11, 1932.
Sara J. Lowmaster, born December 5, 1858; died 1858.
George W. Lowmaster, born June 22, 1862; died June 2, 1928.
Emah F. Lowmaster, born May 4, 1871; died May 4, 1873.

* * * * *

Jacob Lowmaster went west and settled in Mercer County, Missouri, and was living there in 1866. There is but little information of him.

Daniel Lowmaster died at the age of 34 years. He is buried in the family plot at Fairview Church Cemetery and the grave is marked by a tall slim sandstone marker that was cut from native sandstone, probably cut by a local stonemason.

* * * * *

Levi Lowmaster was a shoemaker and lived in Marion Center, Pennsylvania. He married Margaret Caroline Baker. He died in 1907. Their children were:

John Lowmaster, Youngstown, Ohio.
Mary Lee (Mrs. Albert), Miami, Florida.
Elizabeth (Mahaffey), Jennings, Louisiana.
Lucy (Lu) Taylor, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
William D., Bentonville, Arkansas.
Agnes (McGregor), Indiana, Pennsylvania.
Agnes married Elsworth McGregor of Indiana and they had seven sons.

Lana Lowmaster, born September, 1802; died 1900. She was married to John Keith.

Leah Lowmaster, born September, 1802; died 1904. She was married to Lewis Keith. At the time of her death, there were five of her children surviving. They were:

Mary Ann Boring of Grip.
Mrs. Joseph McDonnell, of Grismore.
Levi Keith of Grip.
Mrs. John McDonnell and Jacob Keith of Greensburg.

Rebecca Lowmaster (Becky) married to Lewis Rishell. Born 1811; died July 3, 1894; age 83 years, 6 months, 12 days.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowmaster, born 1825; died 1907; was married to George Rishel, born 1819; died 1858. Their children were as follows:

William Daniel
Catherine
Wesley
Agustus Gaskell

Daniel Lowmaster is said to have been a Circuit Rider or a local Preacher.

Mary Lowmaster died 1893. She was married to Abraham Dehaven.

OBITUARY OF MRS. LEAH KEITH

Copied from the Indiana Progress, and sent to me by Mrs. Dorothy Sellers of Anderson, Miss.; a great grand daughter of Levi Lowmaster and a grand daughter of William D. Lowmaster, son of Levi Lowmaster. It was not dated.

"Mrs. Leah Keith of Green Township, the oldest resident of this area and/or adjoining counties, died Friday, after an illness of four weeks. During the illness, she refused to leave her rocking chair, or to remain in bed until she became too weak to sit up. She was residing with her daughter, Mrs. Joseph McDonnell. The funeral was at Nebo Presbyterian Church near Grisemore; buried in McDowell Cemetery beside her husband. The deceased was of German decent, born in September, 1802; York County, Pennsylvania; the daughter of George and Mary (Magdalena) Shirey Lowmaster, Sr. When about 8 years of age, she came to this county with her parents, who located in what is now known as East Mahoning Township. In 1822, she was married to Lewis Keith, who was a local preacher. Soon after marriage, they located in Green Township, in the neighborhood of Grip. Her husband died in 1859, and she continued to live in her house till four years ago. She went to the home of her daughter. Five children survive: Mrs. Mary Ann Boring of Grip; Mrs. Joseph McDonnell of Grisemore; Levi Keith of Grip; Mrs. John McDonnell and Jacob Keith of Greensburg. Her twin sister, Mary Ann Dehaven, died at Grip four years ago. Two brothers and three sisters survive: Levi Lowmaster, 89; John Lowmaster, 80; Mrs. Betsy Rishel, 77; Mrs. Katherine Snyder, all of East Mahoning Township, near the old Lowmaster homestead. A sister (?) Mrs. John Keith, 97, of Grip.

Until a few months before her death, she assisted with light housework. During pleasant weather, she lived much of the time outdoors, taking long walks and roaming the hills, communing with nature. She had never traveled more than 10 miles from her house nor visited Indiana. She was a Christian woman; and while she had not attended public service for many years, she found great pleasure reading the Bible. Prayer Meeting was often held in her home at her request. The only photograph ever taken was when a representative of the Progress visited her home near Grisemore, in June."

This is part of the article. A photograph accompanied the article and was still quite plain. She didn't appear to show more age than a woman of 80 or so, dressed quite plain, of course, and holding a cane. Parts not quite sure of marked with (?).

Taken from the files of the York Gazette. The editors said that, "We have been requested to insert the following complimentary notice of a bridge recently constructed by Mr. Laumaster, of this place. We publish it with much pleasure as a gratifying and just tribute to the skill of one of the excellent mechanics of our borough."

"The undersigned, appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of York, as viewers of the bridge erected by Mr. Jacob Laumaster over the Codorus Creek at Louck's Mill, after performing the duty enjoined on them by the Order, feel as if something more than the naked requirements of the law were due to the workmanlike and admirable manner in which it is constructed.

A single arch of one hundred and ninety-five feet in length, resting on stone abutments, embraces the whole width of the stream. With this arch are connected the braces and counter braces; which, by their combination and mutual dependance, support the whole and give to the structure all the strength and stiffness obtained by the rim and spokes of a wheel. Every part is fitted in the most masterly and perfect manner, and the points of contact of all the timbers are made with the precision of cabinet work. The eye detects no swerving from a right line in the lateral stretch of the arch, and it is said that the whole massive pile was depressed but two inches in settling to its bearings on the removal of the false works upon which it was built.

The best materials have been chosen; which, united with the most elaborate care and exercise of all the best skill, have resulted in the production of the most perfect wooden bridge ever seen by either of the undersigned.

This testimonial to Mr. Laumaster's competency is furnished without any hint or solicitation on his part, and we hope it may be the means of making his merits more widely known, and of their being reciprocally beneficial to the public and himself.

Signed - Jno. Bamitz, Abraham Gartman, George Shetter, Charles Epply, Jacob Dietz, and James B. Webb."

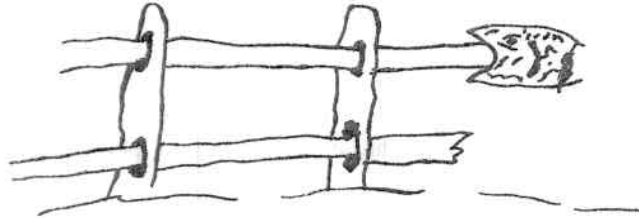
John Laird of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania; with whom I became acquainted in the 1930's; he was then in his late seventies in years; when I showed him this clipping, told me that he had crossed this bridge when he was a young man. The bridge has been gone now these many years.



SOME RANDOM NOTES OF THINGS REMEMBERED

I remember my Grandfather John Lowmaster telling about one of the relatives of the family, a nobleman, coming from Germany on a visit; and while here, a group of them went, by horse and wagon, or carriage, fishing on the Sesquehanna River for salmon. There were, at that time, no dams on the river to interfere with the annual salmon run to spawn. I never learned the date or year when this occurred, but it must have been in the 1830's or 40's. He did not like the country, it was too wild, so he returned to Germany, his home.

He also told of visiting his brother Jacob Lowmaster, who then lived in Mercer County, Missouri, and of going fishing there, and of the large pike they caught; the heads of which would go over the end of a fence rail.



Once, when visiting Lucy (Lowmaster) Cummings, she recalls a time when her father, Joseph Lowmaster (who was a student of history), when the family was seated around the dining table, it was during World War I, saying that the Lowmaster's were related, through marriage, to several well-known German families. The Von Beulow's, the Von Hindenburg's, and the William Hohenzollern's (The German Kaiser), with a bemused look, and added, but I am not boasting about it.

GEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF HESSE

(Latin, HESSIA; German, HESSEN)

HESSE-CASSEL (In German, Kurhessen)

Now the government district of Cassel in the Prussian Province of Hesse-Nassau. It was till 1866 a landgraviate and electorate of Germany, consisting of several detached masses of territory, to the northeast of Frankfort-on-the-Main. It contained a superficial area of 3699 sq. miles, and its population in 1864 was 745,063.

HISTORY

The line of Hesse-Cassel was founded by William IV, surnamed the Wise, eldest son of Philip the Magnanimous. On his father's death in 1567, he received one half of Hesse, with Cassel as his capital, and this formed the landgraviate of Hesse-Cassel. Additions were made to it by inheritance from his brothers' possessions. His son, Maurice the Learned (1592-1627), turned Protestant in 1605, became involved later in the Thirty Years War.

Charles (1670-1730) whose chief claim to remembrance is that he was the first ruler to adopt the system of hiring his soldiers out to foreign powers, as mercenaries; as a means of improving the national finances. From Frederick II (1760-1785), 22,000 Hessian troops were hired by England for about £ 3,191,000 to assist in the war against the North American colonies. This action has often been bitterly criticized.

It is argued that the troops were, in any case, mercenaries and that the practice was quite common. Whatever opinion may be held as to this, it is certain that Frederick spent the money well. He did much for the development of the economic and intellectual improvement of the country. The reign of the next landgrave, William IX (1785-1821), was an important epoch in the history of Hesse-Cassel. Ascending the throne in 1785, he took part in the war against France a few years later. But in 1795, peace was arranged by the Treaty of Basel. For the loss in 1801 of his possessions on the left bank of the Rhine, he was in 1803 compensated by some of the former French territory around Mainz; and at the same time, was raised to the dignity of Elector (Kurfurst) as William I. In 1860, he made a treaty of neutrality with Napoleon.

When John and Eva (Groff) Emerick came to the United States in 1825, he was then about 45 years of age, on a sailing ship, it is said that they were six weeks in making the voyage with their few possessions that they could bring with them. In those days, immigrants paid their fare, and in many instances, furnished their own food for the voyage.

I have heard my Grandmother Mary Ann Emerick tell about the time the stars fell. That was in November, 1833. People were terrified, and many thought that the end of the world had come; that it was the day of Judgment. It was a heavy shower of meteorites that burned as they entered the earth's atmosphere.

I have also heard her tell of a niece, Louise Huff, who was drowned in the Johnstown flood in 1889.

EMERICK

John Emerick, born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, about 1780; died in the United States about 1873. He was married to Eva Graff in Germany, and there were three children born to that union in Germany – John, Henry, and Eliza – before they emigrated to the United States in 1825, and settled in Canoe Township, near Rochester Mills, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

John Emerick married Anna Barbara Wortman. Their children were:

John Emerick, Jr.

Mary Catherine Emerick, married to McGraw.

George Emerick, never married.

Harvey Emerick, never married.

When John Emerick and his wife Eva (Graff) Emerick died, they were buried in the Cemetery at Old Zion Church about a mile north of Rochester Mills. Their graves are side by side along the upper edge of the cemetery, which is now overgrown and neglected. The church has been gone for many years.

Henry Emerick, born November 11, 1822; died December 25, 1899. Son of John and Eva (Graff) Emerick, came to the United States in 1825 with his parents, a brother and a sister. He was a charcoal burner and farmer; and while working at Morrison's Cove as a charcoal burner, he met and married Mary Ann Hoover, who was born November 11, 1822. The children of that union were:

David Emerick, born April 22, 1847; died 1930; age 83.

Mary Jane Emerick, born February 5, 1852; died June 23, 1941; age 88.

Henry Emerick, born May 28, 1854; died May 30, 1855; age 1.

Jacob Emerick, born August 30, 1854; died?

Eva Emerick, born May 2, 1857; died 1919; age 62.

Joseph L. Emerick, born April 5, 1859; died October 4, 1865; age 6.

Sara M. Emerick, born December 26, 1861; died May 9, 1943; age 82.

Clara Louisa Emerick, born January 11, 1866; died May, 1916; age 50.

Rosella Emerick, born June 3, 1870; died February 23, 1948; age 77.

David Emerick, son of Henry and Mary Ann (Hoover) Emerick, born April 22, 1857; died 1930. Married to Miss Meanor of Marion Center. Their children were:

William Emerick

Mary Emerick married to Harry Simkins. Their children were:

Harry, Jr. and Nellie

David Emerick's wife died, and he remarried the second time. Two children were born to this union: Anna, who was married to Lee Miller. Their children were: Annice, Thelma, and Raymond.

Olive Emerick
William Emerick, single

Mary Jane Emerick, daughter of Henry Emerick; born February 5, 1852; died June 23, 1941; age 88 years. Married to William Smith. Their children were:

William Smith
Charles Smith

Henry Emerick, son of Henry Emerick, born May 28, 1853; died May 30, 1854.

Jacob Emerick, son of Henry Emerick, born August 30, 1854. Went west, was heard from once. It is thought that he died or was killed. There are some Emericks, thought to be his descendants, in Iowa.

Eva Emerick, daughter of Henry Emerick, born May 2, 1857; died 1919. Was married to John McCaffery. There was one daughter, Margaret, who was married to John Cargo. There were no children.

William Emerick, son of Henry Emerick; born February 20, 1858; died September 15, 1864.

Joseph L. Emerick, born April 5, 1859; died October 4, 1865.

Sara M. Emerick, born December 26, 1861; died May 9, 1943; married to Coster Spencer.

Clara Louisa Emerick, born January 11, 1866; died May 1916.

Rosella Emerick, daughter of Henry and Mary Ann (Hoover) Emerick; born June 3, 1870; died February 23, 1948; age 77. Married on the 25th day of December to Thomas Allison Lowmaster. The children of this union are listed in the section of this book in the Lowmaster family.

Jacob Emerick left home and went west, was heard from but once in a letter he wrote home, and was never heard from again. But there are some Emerick descendants of the family living in Iowa. My mother, Rosella Emerick, was of the opinion that her brother was killed or murdered.

THE END,

not yet. There are a number of blank pages for you to continue the genealogical record of your branch of the family for many years in the future.