

## THE WOLFERSBERGER FAMILIES

(Compiled and revised to March 15, 1947, by John B. Heffelfinger, 720 East Seventh Street, Newton, Kansas.)

So far as we have studied the records available to us, two families of Wolfersbergers appear early in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. When book references are used, B refers to Brendle's History of Schaefferstown; and E refers to Egle's History of Lebanon County.

We are certain of two early immigrants of this name; namely, Adam and John. We believe these two immigrants are the ones referred to in Vol. I, pages 31, 33, 34, in Strassburger's Pennsylvania Pioneers. One Wolfersberger without a given name and one with the initial "A" were qualified August 29, 1740, at Philadelphia, as coming to America on the ship, "Thistle of Glasgow," last from Dover. We believe these two were brothers, for similar names are found in the two families. However, Adam and his family were members of the Lutheran Church. John and his family were members of the Reformed Church.

This name is spelled in a half dozen different ways, but it seems to have evolved now into Wolfersberger.

### Adam Wolfersberger

We have not done original research on this family because he is not our ancestor. What we give below, we have secured from Brendle and Egle, as indicated above.

Adam Wolfersberger is buried in the Lutheran cemetery at Schaefferstown, with the date of his death as 1777. His wife, Margaret Wolfersberger, was born September 21, 1697, died December 1, 1775. B, page 172; E, page 299.

Philip, son of Adam and Margaret, was born February 14, 1739, in Heidelberg township, now in Lebanon County, Pa. He served in the French and Indian War and the War of the Revolution. He was a lieutenant under Colonel Curtis Grubb of the Flying Camp and the Long Island Campaign of 1776. He died July 4, 1824. His son Frederick was sheriff of Dauphin County from 1806 to 1809. See Egle, page 299.

We believe, at this time, that the data on the Wolfersbergers given by Egle on page 220, also given by Egle on page 356, and where given in Brendle under the Lutheran Church records, refer to descendants of Adam and Margaret. Only research from the original records could clear up ancestral lines.

### John Wolfersberger

John Wolfersberger is one of my ancestors, as will be

indicated below. We think he came to Philadelphia August 29, 1730. We do not know the name of his wife.

(NOTE: Anna Marie Wolfersberger, the daughter of John above, married Martin Heffelfinger the second, which Martin was a son of the immigrant Martin and his wife Anna Maria Gysin.)

Thomas Penn, on February 20, 1734, at Philadelphia, granted a warrant with a survey for one hundred acres of land between Coalico and Muddy Creek, Lancaster Co., to John Wolfersberger. On March 1, 1737, the proprietaries of Pennsylvania acceded to the request of John Wolfersberger of then County Lancaster, who applied for 350 acres more in Lebanon township, adjoining the land of Hans Knoll. See warrant 205. The survey book see page 234 and 240, shows that this land, with more acreage, was surveyed to John Wolfersberger and contained 671 acres. See also page 540, Patent Book AA, Vol. I. Here the limits and boundaries of this land are set out in full.

This John was naturalized at Philadelphia, April 1, 1744. From various court records, we know that this John died intestate before July 6, 1761. No wife is mentioned; probably deceased. Four sons and two daughters are named, which will be given below. We get this data from page 540, Patent Book AA, Vol. I, and from Deed Book of Lancaster County UU, page 209, recorded October 1, 1761. This land was finally given by the court to the six children, and several dates are recorded of exchanges of sales among the six. From the above sources in the official records, we know the children were as follows, named in the order as named in the records:

- (1) Peter, who married Apollonia;
- (2) Frederick, a smith;
- (3) John, a wheelwright, who married Hannah;
- (4) Philip, a smith;
- (5) Catharine, wife of Jacob Frey;
- (6) Anna Marie, wife of Martin Heffelfinger.

From church records given by Brendle, we know that later, (in 1769) Philip was married with wife named Margaret; also that Frederick was married and his wife was named Catharine. For further accounts of these sons, one should read through the History of Schaefferstown and through Egle's History of Lebanon County, keeping in mind always that, so far as the records show, John Wolfersberger's sons and grandsons were members of the Reformed Church, while Adam and his sons and grandsons were members of the Lutheran Church.

Martin Heffelfinger of Heidelberg township, Lebanon County, whose wife was Anna Marie Wolfersberger, (daughter of John) was the father of Philip Heffelfinger, the revolutionary soldier. Philip was born in Heidelberg township

in 1757, marrying in 1781, Catharine Eichholtz. (See folio of Martin and of Philip Heffelfinger.) After the Revolutionary War, in the 1780's, at least before 1790, this Martin Heffelfinger and most of the sons moved to Hopewell township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where records of these different Heffelfinger families are now found.

#### PHILIP, SON OF PHILIP HEFFELFINGER

Philip Heffelfinger, eldest son of Philip, the Revolutionary soldier, was born Sept. 28, 1787, on the Heffelfinger farm near Newburg, Cumberland Co., Pa. The following is from Douglass' History of Wayne County, Ohio, p. 838:

"Philip Heffelfinger was born in Cumberland Co., Pa., September 28, 1787. He was first married to Isabelle McCormick of the same county, who lived less than a year, having one child that died in 1871.

"He was remarried Jan. 12, 1818, to Elizabeth Mowrey, and by this union had eight children. In the spring of 1818 he came west, arriving in Wayne County June 5, and for a while lived in a schoolhouse near the residence of the late Daniel Silvers. Two years prior to this he had been out, and bought the farm for \$700 on which he lived and died. His second wife died March 7, 1871, aged 70 years. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, he having for 25 years before his death, been united with the Methodists.

"He was an honest, pure-minded, sincerely pious man, living to a ripe old age. In his later years he was under the kind care of his daughter Elizabeth, and her husband, Captain Reed."

However, Mrs. Leone Cady Willis, a descendant, in 1936 gives us the following addenda and corrections with information regarding all descendants herein given.

"Philip married (2nd) Feb. 12, 1818, Elizabeth Mowrey. She was born Jan. 29, 1799, and died March 10, 1872. Philip came to Wooster, Ohio, in 1816 and bought a farm, then returned to Pennsylvania. After his marriage in 1818 they came on horseback. They lived in a schoolhouse till they could complete their log house, built on a high hill. All their 8 children were born here. About 1840 they built a large frame house. It still stands and belongs to Aurelian Reed. Philip was very fond of music, and blind in his last years. He died July 6, 1877."

Philip Heffelfinger married (1) Isabelle McCormick.

1. Belle, never married, died 1871.

He married (2) Feb. 12, 1818, Elizabeth Mowrey.

2. Jacob, born Jan. 25, 1820, married (1) Hannah Warner October 14, 1847, at Wooster; Hannah Warner died Feb. 3, 1851. No children. He married (2) Phoebe Hileman at Wooster. Jacob is buried in the Warner Cemetery. Children of second marriage:

- a. Elizabeth
- b. Amanda
- c. Emma, married Jacob Snyder
- d. Cora, married George Bronson
- e. Margaret, married Albert Billbenner
- f. Charles, married \_\_\_\_\_ Ives
- g. George, married Lizzie Barnhart
- g. William

3. Sophia, born May 26, 1822, married at Wooster May 12, 1842, Robert Heffelfinger, son of Thomas, a second cousin, who had a farm the other side of Killbrick Creek from her father's.

- a. Emma, married George Henish
- b. Edward
- c. Lemuel
- d. Olive
- f. Anna, married Dr. Tom Hardy
- g. Mrnie, married Harvey Hardy

4. Catharine, born Aug. 15, 1824, called Caty Ann or Kate, married Lawrence Merrill, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

- a. Philip
- b. Albert
- c. Elmer
- d. Jane, married Jacob Fulmer
- e. William
- f. John
- g. Mary, married Charles Casbon

5. Michael born Jan. 9, 1827, died 1917, married in hotel at Reedsburg, west of Wooster, Dec. 18, 1849, Elizabeth Rebecca Shamp, daughter of Gene Shamp and Catharine Hutchison of Muncy Valley, Lycoming, Co., Pa. Both Michael and his wife were born at Wooster. They came to Illinois about 1858, settled near Cambridge, then to Geneseo, later to Stuart, Iowa, and back to Geneseo; both are buried at Geneseo.

- a. Eurestus Samuek, of Eustis, Florida, married Calista Carrier.

- b. Clara Lucette, born 1852, married Carroll M. Cady of Evanston, Illinois. (See later)
  - c. Jerome Ottomaris, born in 1854, married Linda Davis; formerly lived in Grand Island, Nebr., later at 2201 Cherry St., Denver, died 1936; daughter Daisy married Arthur Lenguesn, their son, Jerome.
  - d. Clemenline Eugenia, married Harlan Albert.
  - e. Bill Michael, married Louisa Wagner (see later)
  - f. Alvah Crustilo of Pueblo, Colo., married Eve
  - g. William Harvey married Nancy Godwin, lived at Stuart, Iowa.
  - h. Elizabeth Rebecca, married Luther Hawley, lives in Oklahoma.
6. William, born May 4, 1829, married June 10, 1851, Mary Camp. Wooster, Ohio. Went through Civil War, and in later life died in a cave-in, while digging a well.
- a. William, of Ashland, Ohio.
7. Mary Jane, born March 22, 1831, married Peter Spangler, son of Peter Spangler and Sarah Zinn.
- a. Mary Jane
  - b. George, married Sevilla Kesler.
  - c. Ella, married Samuel Whonsettler.
  - d. Armenia, married John Walmer.
  - e. Sherman, married \_\_\_\_\_ Stauffer.
  - f. Arabella
  - g. Elizabeth, d. y.
  - h. Anna, d. y.
8. Elizabeth, born Aug. 20, 1833, died 1923, Wooster, Ohio; married Paris L. Reed.
- a. Aurelian, married Emma Barnhart.
  - b. Harry W., married Ora Brandt.
9. Philip, born Feb. 5, 1836, died before 1890, married Mary McFarland. For a while worked a farm his father had near Mehicken and then went to Kansas, near Humboldt.
- a. Lawrence Ottomaris, born in Ashland County, Ohio, March 22, 1863. Moved to Kansas with his father in 1870. Lived in Eureka, Kansas; died Jan. 7, 1898, married \_\_\_\_\_ Daughters, Lilian and Neva Heffelfinger, now reside (1938) with their mother at Junction City, Kansas, are teachers there in the city schools.

Clara Lucette Heffelfinger (daughter of 5. Michael above) married Carroll M. Cady of Evanston, Ill. Their children are:

- a. Bertha Mabel, d. infancy.
- b. Ella Leone, born 1879, married Rev. Arthur Robins Willis, now living at 215 Santa Rosa Ave., San Francisco. She supplied the information given above. They have a son named for his father.

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Bill Michael Heffelfinger (son of 5. Michael above) was born in 1858. He married Louisa Wagner in Geneseo, Illinois, and came to Beatrice, Nebraska, about 1888. He died in January, 1908. Their children are:

1. Otis B. of Beatrice, who married Eldora Veon, parents of:
  - a. Robert (of Beatrice) who married Ruth Bloodgood, with children Douglas, Robert, Patty and Shirley Ann.
  - b. William of Beatrice
  - c. Harold of Beatrice
  - d. Gussie m. Frost of Oakland, California.
  - e. Marian m. Mangus of Beatrice.
  - f. Ruth m. Nickerson of Beatrice.
2. LeRoy W. of Council Bluffs, married May Armstrong, with one son Gayle.
3. Harlan Wagner (of Beatrice) married Mabel Elerbeck; children: John Dean, Harlan William, Hugo Wagner, Arthur Elroy, Esther Lou, who married                      Dockhorn of Beatrice, and Catherine E., who married                      Weeks of Beatrice.
4. Ray C. of Beatrice, who married Edith Brandt, with children Clifford and Louise.
5. Percy F. of Buhl, Idaho, who married Nellie Ray with children Ray B., Anita May, and Ermadean
6. Flossie, who married Pearl Ahlquist of Buhl, Idaho.

(Information on Beatrice families supplied by Mrs. H. W. Heffelfinger (Mabel Elerbeck)).