

Johann Erhart Knappenberger
Freundschaft

HISTORY
of the
Johann Erhart Knappenberger
Freundschaft
From 1749 to 1916

Compiled and Arranged by
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Author's Explanatory Preface

Greensburg, Pa.
123 Westminster, Ave.,
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To the Knappenberger Freundschaft:

In presenting this little book to you, I feel that it is only fair to me to explain, in a few words the difficulties which I have encountered and the trials which I have had to meet in compiling this data. This pamphlet, which I submit is merely a nucleus, around which I hope to write a history that will be a credit to the kinsmen and a book which every member of the said family may be eager to secure and keep in his or her home.

To begin with, it is impossible for any compiler to write a history, such as I have in mind, without the hearty cooperation of all the members of the said clan. I have spent no little time in working over the Pennsylvania Archives and other records and books with the hope of finding something that is not generally known to the kinsmen; but outside of all books and records, it is absolutely necessary that the kinsmen take sufficient interest in the working out of this work to cooperate with me, by giving me any authentic history of this Freundschaft which they may know or be able to secure. We are publishing this book at this time for the purpose of soliciting your aid and would ask you to send to me additional history, together with your authority, so that I may be able to complete the work as soon as possible. Remember that the completeness of this work depends largely upon the help which you may give me and as we are desirous to have it as complete as possible, I trust that you will make an honest effort to help me in whatever way you possibly can by sending this data at your earliest opportunity.

Respectfully yours,
Vinnie E. Knappenberger.

The Knappenberger Freundschaft

The Pennsylvania archives, the third and fifth series, show that Johann Erhart Knappenberger sailed from Rotterdam on ship Christian with Captain Charles Brady in command, and landed in Philadelphia, September 13, 1749. Tradition states that Johann was accompanied by a brother Michael, but no record of his coming can be found in the archives. The archives, however, do show that about 1752 Michael owned fifty acres of land in Bucks County and that, in 1753 Johann Erhart owned fifty acres in Northampton County. One tradition states that these brothers came from Germany where their father had been of royal blood and had been shield bearer to the king; another that they came from Switzerland.

Michael Knappenberger.

Tradition shows that Michael Knappenberger was born in Germany, August 20, 1709, and that he finally settled in Montgomery County where he was one of the founders of the Lehigh Lutheran Church in Lower Macungie Township. He died June 13, 1759, leaving a widow, Katherine Leyde Knappenberger and five children, three of whom were Henry, John, George and Margaret. History tells us nothing, so far, of any of these children but Henry, the oldest child.

Henry, son of Michael, was born September 19, 1744 and was baptized at St. Pauls Church, Montgomery County, with John Henry Hillegas and Susanna Leyda as sponsors. Henry's name was on the tax list of 1772 as a farmer owning three hundred acres of land and a saw mill. He was a private in Captain Adam Zerfass's company, Northampton County, militia. In 1785 he was schoolmaster of the school at Lehigh Church. He died August, 1818, bequeathing to each of his seven children five hundred pounds: John Adam, John Philip, Henry George, Anna, Margaret, Katherine and Lydia. Margaret became the wife of Jonathan Krause; Katherine, of Jacob Zimmerman and Lydia of Henry Ritter. Except of John Adam we have, at present, no further record of these children.

John Adam, the eldest son of Henry Knappenberger, was a ranger on the frontier of Northampton County in 1778-1783. In 1794, he married Mary Katherine Moyer and later, with his wife and seven children, Jacob, Sarah, Mary, George, Margaret, Joseph and John, moved to Catervissa, Pennsylvania and in August of 1808 to Danville, New York. They had two wagons, two cows and four pigs. Night and morning they milked the cows and the motion of the wagons churned the milk into butter. They fed the buttermilk to the pigs. After traveling two weeks, cooking and baking on the way, they reached Danville, a hamlet of seven small houses near where the "Old Bank" building now stands. All around was the wilderness. June 3, 1809, the father, John Adam, and his eldest son, Jacob, fourteen years of age, went down the valley three miles and bought the farm, now known as "Cas-

cade Farm." On this land was a small log house. Here for years until after the death of the father in 1830 they kept tavern, and here in 1836 they built the new house. Jacob worked for his father until he was twenty-four years of age and until he had two suits of clothes, an axe and four dollars in money. Then he learned the wagon making trade. He used "to rim and spoke one set of wheels in eight and one-half hours while a man stood by and waited, for which he received four dollars." He worked late and early and paid board to his father. When his father died, Jacob had four thousand dollars at interest. After the death of the father, John Adam, the two sons Jacob and Joseph bought out the other heirs and owned the farm until 1879 when they sold it to Silas W. Tenney. Jacob died April, 1866, aged 68. He had been an honest upright Christian. Often he was heard to say, "If I ever wronged a man one dollar and he would tell me, I would restore him four-fold." Jacob never married.

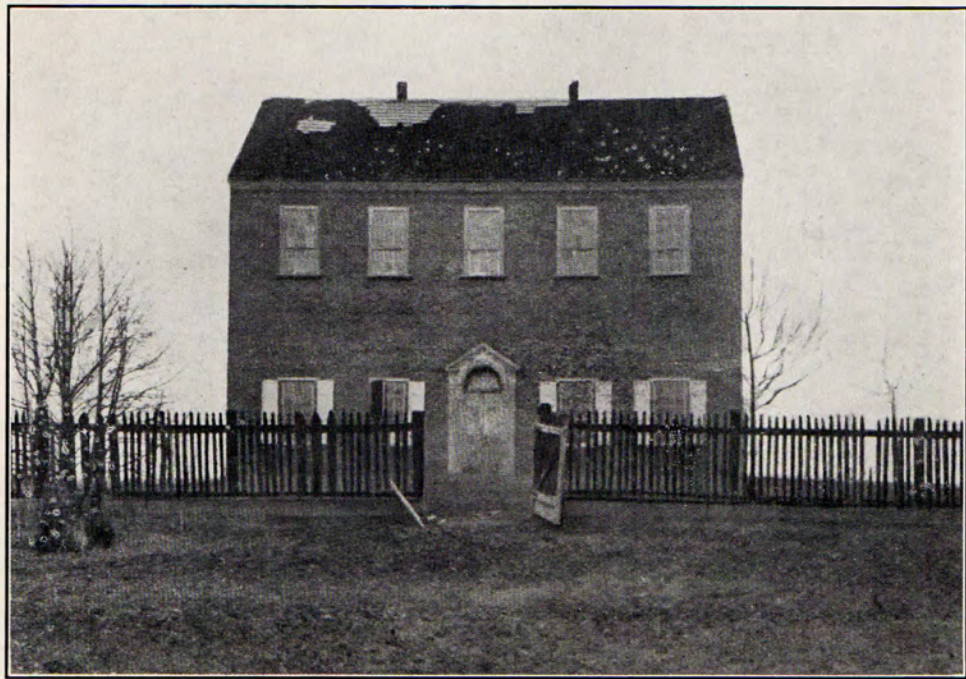
Jacob's mother and older sisters, with the men and their wives of the neighborhood worked in the fields, cutting wheat and other grain with the sickle. At eleven o'clock, A. M., a few of the women went into the house and cooked dinner. The babies lay in large baskets in the fence corner and the older children played about while the mothers cut the grain.

John Adam's oldest daughter, Sarah Katherine, married Jacob Hartman in 1810 and died in 1884, aged 91. Katherine Knappenberger—Hartman's daughter Frances, married Orville Tonsey of Danville, New York, and had a daughter Nancy Jane, who married George Allen Sanders of Utica, New York, and has one son Allen Cameron Hasking Sanders. Mr. W. R. Sanders with his wife and son, now live in Covington, Kentucky. Mr. Sanders is secretary and general manager of the American Liability company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Sanders is Registrar of the Covington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. John Adam's second daughter Mary, married Philip Kershner in 1814 and died at the age of eighty-five. John Adam's son George married a Miss Kennedy of Sparta in 1827 and died in Michigan. John Adam's third daughter Margaret, married Duncan Sinclair of Caledonia, New York in 1825 and died in 1891, aged seventy-six. John Adam's son Joseph married Jane Gillespie in 1863 and died in 1865 aged 76. John Adam's son John who never married died in 1873. His twin sons were Samuel and Adam. Samuel died in infancy. Adam married Phoebe Van Nest Bogard in 1835 and after her death married in 1842, Grace Morris.

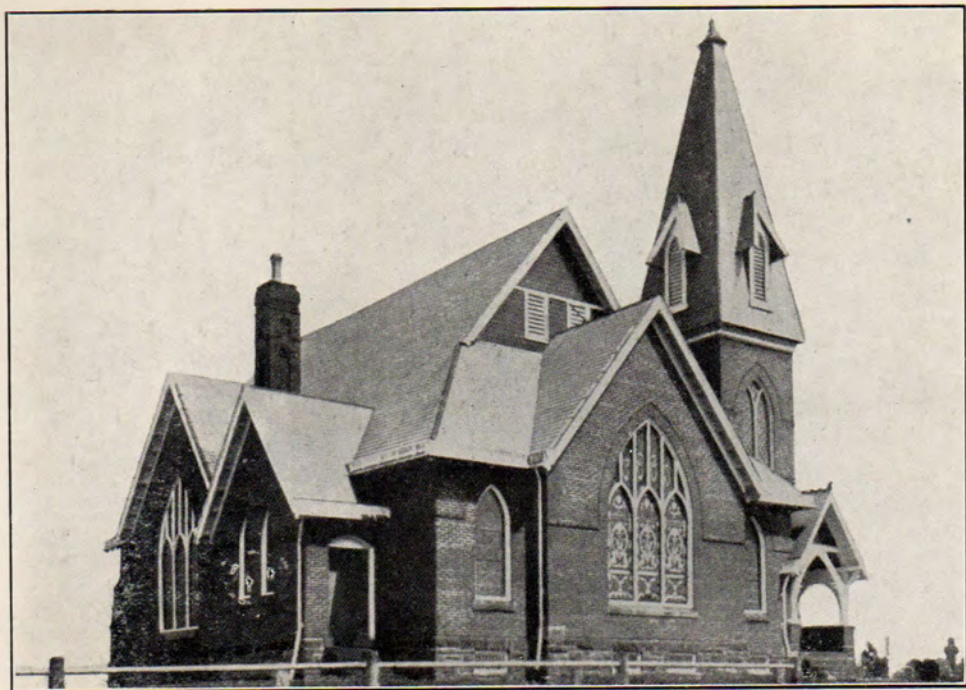
John Adam's descendants are scattered throughout New York state. Other of Michael's descendants may be found in eastern Pennsylvania.

Johann Erhart Knappenberger

The Pennsylvania records show that Johann Erhart Knappenberger, settled, in 1749, in Macungie Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, and that in 1753, he owned fifty acres of land in this county. In 1762, his name appears as a taxable desident of Whitehall Township, Northampton County. Johann had five sons, Philip, Adam, Henry, George and Conrad and one daughter, Margaretha. The Pennsylvania records, fifth series, volume



Old Denmark Manor Church, Built in 1811.



New Denmark Manor Church, Built in 1888.