

Genealogical Records

of the

Royer Family in America

or more especially those of

Sebastian Royer's Family

Based on Original Records of

Michael Zug

Edited and Enlarged by

Rev. J. G. Francis, A. B., B. D.

his son-in-law

"He who ignores his past gives up his future."

For Sale by

Donald S. Harpel

757 - 759 Cumberland St.

Lebanon, Pa.

Royers in Pennsylvania

by the Census of 1790.*

County	Township	Head of Family	Page	Males above 16	Males under 16	Females	Slaves
Bedford		1. Daniel Royer	601	2	1	6	
Berks	Oley	2. Henry "	11	2	2	2	
Dauphin		3. George "	578	1	0	3	
		4. Samuel "	Vol. II	1	0	1	
Franklin		5. Samuel "	Vol. II	2	2	2	1
		6. Daniel "	Vol. II	3	1	1	
Lancaster	Cocalico	7. Ephraim "	256	2	0	1	
		8. David "	395	3	3	5	
		9. John "	223	4	1	7	
	Elizabeth	10. Christian "	505	2	2	3	
	Lampeter	11. Abraham "	21	1	1	4	
	Manheim	12. Philip "	20	3	0	2	
		13. Jonathan "	71	1	1	3	
Northum- berland		14. Bostian "	Vol. II	1	1	3	
		15. Christian "	Vol. II	1	0	2	
Mont- gomery		16. Catherine "			1	7	
		17. Philip "		2	1	5	
		18. Jacob "		1	1	3	

* This census is of course very incomplete. Sometimes the family is given under the name of a son while the father is yet living. Some likely were opposed to being enumerated.

I. Sebastian Royer.

I. Sebastian Royer (Reier or Ryer), with four sons, emigrated from the Palatinate, (*) Germany, to America in the year 1718. He was born near the city of Metz, but retired to the Palatinate about the Revocation Period (1685). He likely accompanied his father, for at this time Sebastian was likely only a youth, otherwise he was a very old man when he died in 1758. (†) A number of Royers are said to have fled to the Palatinate at this time. It is said that his sons persuaded him to come to America. (§) The two oldest were young grown men. They had a long and tedious journey, and despaired of ever reaching the New World; but the ship finally landed in safety at Philadelphia.

It is claimed that he stopped for a time in Royersford, on the Schuylkill River, and that the place was named after him. On this point there are grounds for doubt. According to Rupp, a Bastian Royer settled in Lancaster County in 1719. This was certainly our Sebastian. So his coming to Lancaster County followed almost immediately on his arrival.

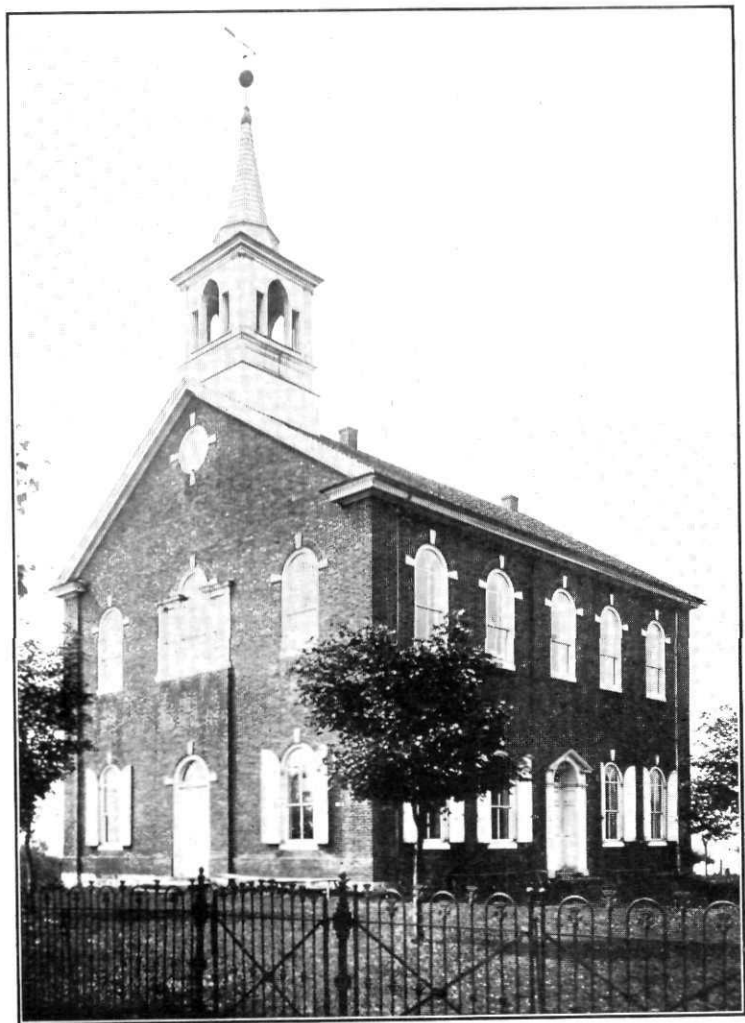
His wife had died in Germany, but after his arrival in America he remarried. The name of his second wife was Agnes; her maiden family name has not been learned. It seems that his three daughters were by the second wife. She was a member of the Reformed Church, while he was not only a Lutheran, but also a deacon in said church. (**) On account of these conditions in his family it is said that he donated two tracts of land at Brickerville, one for

* The Palatinate is a province to the north-east of France on the river Rhine, adjoining Baden. In 1815, when the allied armies defeated Napoleon, the treaty of peace signed at Paris, on the 29th of Nov., ceded it to Baden. It is now a province in Bavaria, in the German Empire. —Markham's History.

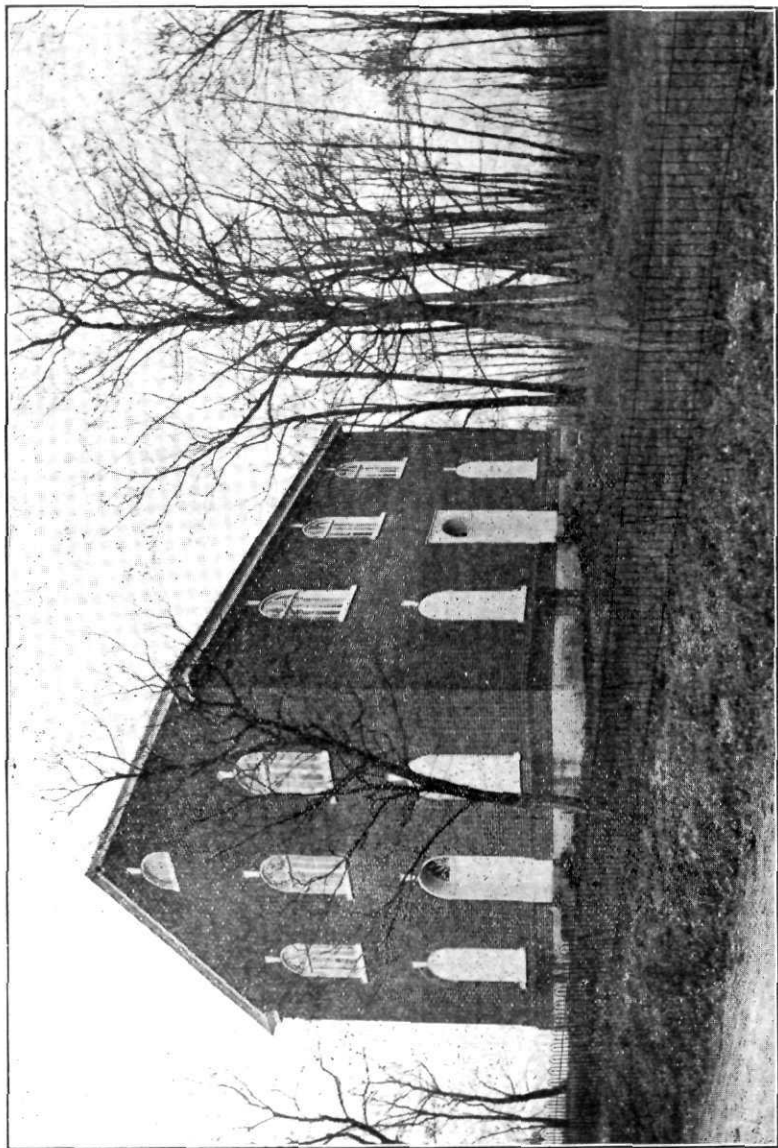
† One authority states that at this time Sebastian was nine years old. This would make his birth 1676.

§ Sebastian was a strict churchman. In Germany he always required his boys to go to church on Sundays. Just before landing in America the boys, likely the older ones, for the younger were yet in tender years, came to the old gentleman and informed him that now, inasmuch as they were coming to a free country, they would go to church when they pleased. The father was very sad and would fain have returned to Germany. "If I had known this," said he, "I would not have given one *kreitzer* to come to America!" A *kreitzer* was a small German coin.

** The story is told that the pastor of the Brickerville church, a young man, had to walk from place to place to fill his appointments. He preached at Bricker-ville in the morning, at White Oak in the afternoon, and at Schaefferstown in the evening. The good Lutherans took pity on him and decided to buy him a horse, not seeming to realize that he was no horseman. After the service at Brickerville, the horse was brought to the door and presented to the young preacher. He was very grateful. The generous impulses of the members having



Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Erected, 1805.
Brickerville, Pa.



Zion Reformed Church, Brickerville, Pa.

the erection of a Lutheran and the other for a Reformed Church.†) But it is established by the deed that the trustees of the Lutheran church bought the land direct from the Penns, yet Sebastian may have supplied the money. He is not mentioned in Lutheran church records at Brickerville. This church property ran along Sebastian's land, and may have been secured by the trustees before Sebastian had his deed from the Penns. But it is also established by deed that he did give land for the erection of a Reformed Church, designated as Zion Reformed, but long known as Royer's. This church stands on the hill up from the side-wooded ravine in which nestled the home of Sebastian Royer. A stone might have been thrown by a single cast from the church to the Royer home. Although this land was bought by Reformed trustees in 1747, yet it was still a part of the Royer estate in 1759, when the heirs deeded the estate to the Brubakers.

When Sebastian Royer first bought land in Lancaster County, we have not ascertained for a certainty. He owned land in Leacock Twp., Lanc. Co., in 1735. From here he likely moved to Brickerville, Warwick Twp., same county. He bought 64 acres from the Penns, Aug. 25, 1742; and 222 acres, Jan. 26, 1743,—the latter tract had been bought by a Moyer, who failed to meet conditions, and the tract had reverted to the Penns. June 20, 1754, Sebastian

been let loose, struggled for further manifestation. A hearty assist into the saddle was given, with the result that the preacher landed on the other side. Such horsemanship was too much for Sebastian Royer. "Du dummer Ochs!" ["You stupid ox!"] he exclaimed. The youthful pastor was much dejected when he arrived at White Oak to fill that appointment. The good members expected to find joy. "They are a cruel people in America," cried he, "Sebastian Royer called me a stupid ox!"

† The Lutheran church at Brickerville known as the old Warwick Church, was organized in 1730, and a place of worship erected about three hundred yards south of the Horse-Shoe Pike, now owned by Mrs. Samuel Engle. This church was used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War. A second place of worship was built on what is now a part of the graveyard, and in 1808 the present building was erected, no doubt the finest church at that time. The first two were wooden structures, but the present is a brick building. This was at one time a large congregation, but split in two when the General Council Lutherans withdrew from the General Synod in 1866.—From the History of Lancaster Co. by Ellis and Evans

Zion Reformed Church is on the road leading from Brickerville to Brunnerville, about one-half mile from the former place. This church was organized about 1740. It was long known as Royer's Church, and in old deeds it was called Presbyterian. In 1747, Peter Becker, Wendel Lober, Jacob Hagy and Tillman Hitz bought two or three acres of land of Sebastian Royer for the erection of a church and burying the dead. The first church was built of wood, while the second was built of brick in 1813. During the Revolutionary War the old wooden church was used as a hospital, and some of the soldiers who died in this church were buried in the graveyard. The material of the old log church was taken to Warwick, Lancaster County, and converted into a dwelling house by John Kissinger. The church has money on interest.—From The History of Lancaster County by Ellis and Evans. The present (1912) pastor of Zion Reformed is Rev. Geo. B. Raezer, Lititz, Pa.

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deeded to his son Samuel, 136 acres of the latter tract. The heirs deeded to the Brubakers the paternal estate of 192 acres in 1759. It will thus be seen that Sebastian owned as much as 328 acres near Brickerville, Lancaster County, or 42 acres more than the two tracts above, bought from the Penns. Tradition credits him with as much 500 acres. (*) George Royer, doubtless Sebastian's son George, owned 200 acres of land in Warwick Township in 1759; and Henry Royer, doubtless also Sebastian's Henry, was a taxable in Elizabeth Township in 1758, the year after the township was organized out of a part of Warwick. From the location of these lands, in Elizabeth and Warwick Townships, they might have previously been a part of the paternal estate. This matter is as yet undetermined.

Sebastian Royer is said to have been naturalized at a meeting of the Supreme Court in Philadelphia, Apr. 11-13, 1743. (†) It is quite likely that his buying land of the Penns at this time led to his naturalization.

Sebastian Royer died near Brickerville, in Elizabeth Township, Lancaster Co., Pa., in 1758 or 1759. This we have from the fact that letters of administration were taken out by his oldest son Emig, Feb. 24, 1759, and his last will was executed Aug. 3, 1758. Where his remains rest is not known. It is presumed, however, that he was buried in the large Lutheran cemetery in East Bricker-ville.

Writes A. H. Huber: "Sebastian's will is dated Aug. 3, 1758, and was admitted to probate Feb. 14, 1759. The court granted letters of administration to John Emig Royer, whose sureties on the bond were George and Samuel Reier. No account of the estate is on file as it appears that in those days the practice was to divide and convey the whole estate in the life time of the parent. In this will it is stated that "John Emick is the oldest son and shall have the sum of five pounds for his two shares, and that the property shall be divided between his brothers and sisters, share and share alike, as one child is to us like the other. So shall you divide in peace and be satisfied.

"The instrument viewed in the light of modern wills is somewhat quaint and peculiar, but throughout the whole paper there breathes the spirit of paternal love and Christian piety. It is signed by both husband and wife, or father and mother, each of whom make their mark."

* The lands of Sebastian are now comprised in the farms of Reuben Brubaker, Peter Brubaker, Jacob Brubaker, Hornberger and Long, and John Stauffer, and perhaps some of the land of Henry Snively and Marris Brumbaugh. The house in which Sebastian lived was located on the farm now owned by Reuben Brubaker. The present Brubaker house, built in 1833, is the third one on the property. The spring house in the present yard was a part of the second house. The original Royer home was west of the barn, down the road a short distance, north, up the brook-traversed, side-wooded ravine, just below the spring, off to the right. Reuben Brubaker still remembers old timbers and foundation stones lying on the site. Fruit trees, pear and cherry, still stand on ground that must have constituted the yard. It must have been a cozy home, and from this home in the vale have gone forth influences for good that are nation-wide. See cut.

† So says a Mr. S. Dotterer to A. H. Huber.

I. Sebastian Royer had seven children. We give their names in the order in which they appear in the deed transferring the father's estate. If he had children who died before himself, of course they are not included in this list. Emig's name comes first, and as he was the oldest, the names are likely in the order of birth.

Page	Name	Birth	Death
15	II. Emig (Amos) Royer	Dec, 18, 1707	Apr. 2, 1769
A A	II. George "	Likely about 1709	
A A	II. Samuel "		About 1764
A A	II. Henry "		1769-7
A A	II. Margaret "		d. 1788
A A	II. Maria Catarina "		
A A	II. Catharine "	Sept., 1728	Apr. 28, 1809

The Will of Sebastian Royer.

Warwick Township, Lancaster County. In the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Whereas me Bastian Ryer and his Wife Angnes, hath Laid us Town by Crossing Sickness, so they sought to Make and Leave Peace behind by their Childrens, by their Life, and is This their Married People. Their Eareestly Will and Desire That after their Decease, John Emick Royer, the oldest Son, shall have the Sum of Five Pounds for his Two Shares Which he would have in forehand of his Brothers and Sisters, and if the said John Emick Ryer, have received The Five Pounds, Then all the Brothers and Sisters shall Divide in Equal Shares, and none shall have further as one of the others, and wee old aged Bodies Hopes That our beloved Children will be satisfied with These our Last will, For it is one Child to us Like the others, and you Shall Divide in Peace, and be Satisfied with That, That we left behind us for you, and by This our Last Will you Stand, and neither put anything thereof Nor thereto, Then the Lord God will Bless you in this and everlasting Life, and by This Writing Which wee Left before your eyes after our Decease, Keep that and be in Peace, and Let father and Mother rest in the Earth and shleep and being satisfied therewith, and we are in Conscon shure That it is Right, Which we Think That you beloved Childrens May acknowledge, and Take it in peace and Lastly we weesh you all the peace of God in your harts Through Jesus Christ, Amen.— Dated August 3rd Anno 1758.

Witness
Johannes Neigy
Johanne Michael Butz
Georg Martsen
Johannes Martin

(Seal) Bathe Royer

His
II
Mark

(Seal) Anges X Royer

Her
Mark

A True Copy Translated from the Original."

"Abea Myer."

Remark—The translation was likely made for the Register at Lancaster. The copy on the books there can scarcely be read; but the editor copied this from the original translation, preserved in Lancaster, which is much more legible.

Remarks on the Family of I. Sebastian Royer.

It is practically certain that all of the sons of Sebastian Royer came with him to Lancaster Co., and there established homes. If either George or Henry moved away, they did so after their father's death. We herewith give a statement of the case.

First, all were present to sign the deed conveying away the old homestead. This of course does not have much weight, for if living at a distance, their signatures would have been necessary and would have been secured. But the signatures prove, as does the body of the deed, and the attest(*) to it, that all four of his sons were living May 17, 1759. The same also prove that the names of the sons were: Emig (corrupted by the English scribe into Amos), George, Samuel and Henry.

Emig Royer, according to a survey given A. H. Huber of Westminster, Md., by Mr. Cope, owned land in Leacock Twp., Lanc. Co., in 1735, which land joined land owned by his father. He bought his land on the Middle Creek, same county, in 1747, and died there in 1769. All of his sons owned farms in Lanc. Co., in which county and in Leb. his descendants are numerous, also in Union and Franklin Counties, Pa., and in Carrol Co., Md. They also are scattered more or less liberally through the Middle West, especially in Stark Co., Ohio.

We find from an old list of land owners that a George Royer in 1759 owned 200 acres of land in Warwick Township, Lanc. County. This was the township in which Sebastian settled. The evidence is practically conclusive that this George was George the son of Sebastian. Whether he died in Lancaster Co. we do not know. The tide of immigration was strongly westward soon after Sebastian's death. George's full name may have been Hans George, (John George) as this was a very common combination among the early Germans, and he may have been the son John who tradition says inherited a part of the paternal estate, was unfortunate and moved west of the Susquehanna.(†)

A George Royer, likely this one, bought a tract, not an expensive one, Antrim Twp., Cumb. Co., now Franklin Co., Pa., Apr. 22, 1772. (See Records at Chambersburg.) He seems to meet all the requirements of the traditional unfortunate John. He is undoubt-

* The Attest of Deed given by Royer heirs:

"The 19th Day of May, 1759. Before me the subscriber, one of the magistrates for Lancaster County, personally came Emig Ryer and Catharine his wife, George Ryer and Elizabeth his wife, Samuel Ryer and Julian his wife, Henry Ryer and Catharine his wife, Philip Hautz and Margaret his wife, Jacob Conrad and Maria Catarina his wife, Stophle Ryer and Catharine his wife; and all of them aknowledged the above instrument to be their Act and Deed and desired that the same might be recorded accordingly, the said women being each of them duly examined, signified their approbation and that they knew the contents thereof. Witness my hand and seal

ROBERT THOMPSON"

† His sister Catharine had a son named John George, quite likely so called after his uncle,

County of Lancaster. Book A. Vol. 3. Page 50.
and the Dred Coll recorded in said Book A. Vol. 3. Page 50.

and the Deed is recorded in said Book 4, Vol. 3, Page 508.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the said Office at New castle
the 27th day of May Anno Domini 1803.

The 27th day of May Anno Domini 1803

1000

[illegible]

Ernst Ruge

Handwritten signature

Margaret Q. Hauler

Joseph H. Smith
The March 1840

Wm. H. Miller

1000

James O. Smith

Christ Meyer

Arthur O. Ryer
Mach

Wm. C. Rorer

Calvin ¹⁸⁴² ~~1841~~ ¹⁸⁴³ ~~1842~~ ¹⁸⁴⁴ ~~1843~~ ¹⁸⁴⁵ ~~1844~~ ¹⁸⁴⁶ ~~1845~~ ¹⁸⁴⁷ ~~1846~~ ¹⁸⁴⁸ ~~1847~~ ¹⁸⁴⁹ ~~1848~~ ¹⁸⁵⁰ ~~1849~~ ¹⁸⁵¹ ~~1850~~ ¹⁸⁵² ~~1851~~ ¹⁸⁵³ ~~1852~~ ¹⁸⁵⁴ ~~1853~~ ¹⁸⁵⁵ ~~1854~~ ¹⁸⁵⁶ ~~1855~~ ¹⁸⁵⁷ ~~1856~~ ¹⁸⁵⁸ ~~1857~~ ¹⁸⁵⁹ ~~1858~~ ¹⁸⁶⁰ ~~1859~~ ¹⁸⁶¹ ~~1860 ¹⁸⁶² ~~1861~~ ¹⁸⁶³ ~~1862~~ ¹⁸⁶⁴ ~~1863~~ ¹⁸⁶⁵ ~~1864~~ ¹⁸⁶⁶ ~~1865~~ ¹⁸⁶⁷ ~~1866~~ ¹⁸⁶⁸ ~~1867~~ ¹⁸⁶⁹ ~~1868~~ ¹⁸⁷⁰ ~~1869~~ ¹⁸⁷¹ ~~1870~~ ¹⁸⁷² ~~1871~~ ¹⁸⁷³ ~~1872~~ ¹⁸⁷⁴ ~~1873~~ ¹⁸⁷⁵ ~~1874~~ ¹⁸⁷⁶ ~~1875~~ ¹⁸⁷⁷ ~~1876~~ ¹⁸⁷⁸ ~~1877~~ ¹⁸⁷⁹ ~~1878~~ ¹⁸⁸⁰ ~~1879~~ ¹⁸⁸¹ ~~1880~~ ¹⁸⁸² ~~1881~~ ¹⁸⁸³ ~~1882~~ ¹⁸⁸⁴ ~~1883~~ ¹⁸⁸⁵ ~~1884~~ ¹⁸⁸⁶ ~~1885~~ ¹⁸⁸⁷ ~~1886~~ ¹⁸⁸⁸ ~~1887~~ ¹⁸⁸⁹ ~~1888~~ ¹⁸⁹⁰ ~~1889~~ ¹⁸⁹¹ ~~1890~~ ¹⁸⁹² ~~1891~~ ¹⁸⁹³ ~~1892~~ ¹⁸⁹⁴ ~~1893~~ ¹⁸⁹⁵ ~~1894~~ ¹⁸⁹⁶ ~~1895~~ ¹⁸⁹⁷ ~~1896~~ ¹⁸⁹⁸ ~~1897~~ ¹⁸⁹⁹ ~~1898~~ ¹⁹⁰⁰ ~~1899~~ ¹⁹⁰¹ ~~1900~~ ¹⁹⁰² ~~1901~~ ¹⁹⁰³ ~~1902~~ ¹⁹⁰⁴ ~~1903~~ ¹⁹⁰⁵ ~~1904~~ ¹⁹⁰⁶ ~~1905~~ ¹⁹⁰⁷ ~~1906~~ ¹⁹⁰⁸ ~~1907~~ ¹⁹⁰⁹ ~~1908~~ ¹⁹¹⁰ ~~1909~~ ¹⁹¹¹ ~~1910~~ ¹⁹¹² ~~1911~~ ¹⁹¹³ ~~1912~~ ¹⁹¹⁴ ~~1913~~ ¹⁹¹⁵ ~~1914~~ ¹⁹¹⁶ ~~1915~~ ¹⁹¹⁷ ~~1916~~ ¹⁹¹⁸ ~~1917~~ ¹⁹¹⁹ ~~1918~~ ¹⁹²⁰ ~~1919~~ ¹⁹²¹ ~~1920~~ ¹⁹²² ~~1921~~ ¹⁹²³ ~~1922~~ ¹⁹²⁴ ~~1923~~ ¹⁹²⁵ ~~1924~~ ¹⁹²⁶ ~~1925~~ ¹⁹²⁷ ~~1926~~ ¹⁹²⁸ ~~1927~~ ¹⁹²⁹ ~~1928~~ ¹⁹³⁰ ~~1929~~ ¹⁹³¹ ~~1930~~ ¹⁹³² ~~1931~~ ¹⁹³³ ~~1932~~ ¹⁹³⁴ ~~1933~~ ¹⁹³⁵ ~~1934~~ ¹⁹³⁶ ~~1935~~ ¹⁹³⁷ ~~1936~~ ¹⁹³⁸ ~~1937~~ ¹⁹³⁹ ~~1938~~ ¹⁹⁴⁰ ~~1939~~ ¹⁹⁴¹ ~~1940~~ ¹⁹⁴² ~~1941~~ ¹⁹⁴³ ~~1942~~ ¹⁹⁴⁴ ~~1943~~ ¹⁹⁴⁵ ~~1944~~ ¹⁹⁴⁶ ~~1945~~ ¹⁹⁴⁷ ~~1946~~ ¹⁹⁴⁸ ~~1947~~ ¹⁹⁴⁹ ~~1948~~ ¹⁹⁵⁰ ~~1949~~ ¹⁹⁵¹ ~~1950~~ ¹⁹⁵² ~~1951~~ ¹⁹⁵³ ~~1952~~ ¹⁹⁵⁴ ~~1953~~ ¹⁹⁵⁵ ~~1954~~ ¹⁹⁵⁶ ~~1955~~ ¹⁹⁵⁷ ~~1956~~ ¹⁹⁵⁸ ~~1957~~ ¹⁹⁵⁹ ~~1958~~ ¹⁹⁶⁰ ~~1959~~ ¹⁹⁶¹ ~~1960~~ ¹⁹⁶² ~~1961~~ ¹⁹⁶³ ~~1962~~ ¹⁹⁶⁴ ~~1963~~ ¹⁹⁶⁵ ~~1964~~ ¹⁹⁶⁶ ~~1965~~ ¹⁹⁶⁷ ~~1966~~ ¹⁹⁶⁸ ~~1967~~ ¹⁹⁶⁹ ~~1968~~ ¹⁹⁷⁰ ~~1969~~ ¹⁹⁷¹ ~~1970~~ ¹⁹⁷² ~~1971~~ ¹⁹⁷³ ~~1972~~ ¹⁹⁷⁴ ~~1973~~ ¹⁹⁷⁵ ~~1974~~ ¹⁹⁷⁶ ~~1975~~ ¹⁹⁷⁷ ~~1976~~ ¹⁹⁷⁸ ~~1977~~ ¹⁹⁷⁹ ~~1978~~ ¹⁹⁸⁰ ~~1979~~ ¹⁹⁸¹ ~~1980~~ ¹⁹⁸² ~~1981~~ ¹⁹⁸³ ~~1982~~ ¹⁹⁸⁴ ~~1983~~ ¹⁹⁸⁵ ~~1984~~ ¹⁹⁸⁶ ~~1985~~ ¹⁹⁸⁷ ~~1986~~ ¹⁹⁸⁸ ~~1987~~ ¹⁹⁸⁹ ~~1988~~ ¹⁹⁹⁰ ~~1989~~ ¹⁹⁹¹ ~~1990~~ ¹⁹⁹² ~~1991~~ ¹⁹⁹³ ~~1992~~ ¹⁹⁹⁴ ~~1993~~ ¹⁹⁹⁵ ~~1994~~ ¹⁹⁹⁶ ~~1995~~ ¹⁹⁹⁷ ~~1996~~ ¹⁹⁹⁸ ~~1997~~ ¹⁹⁹⁹ ~~1998~~ ²⁰⁰⁰ ~~1999~~ ²⁰⁰¹ ~~2000~~ ²⁰⁰² ~~2001~~ ²⁰⁰³ ~~2002~~ ²⁰⁰⁴ ~~2003~~ ²⁰⁰⁵ ~~2004~~ ²⁰⁰⁶ ~~2005~~ ²⁰⁰⁷ ~~2006~~ ²⁰⁰⁸ ~~2007~~ ²⁰⁰⁹ ~~2008~~ ²⁰¹⁰ ~~2009~~ ²⁰¹¹ ~~2010~~ ²⁰¹² ~~2011~~ ²⁰¹³ ~~2012~~ ²⁰¹⁴ ~~2013~~ ²⁰¹⁵ ~~2014~~ ²⁰¹⁶ ~~2015~~ ²⁰¹⁷ ~~2016~~ ²⁰¹⁸ ~~2017~~ ²⁰¹⁹ ~~2018~~ ²⁰²⁰ ~~2019~~ ²⁰²¹ ~~2020~~ ²⁰²² ~~2021~~ ²⁰²³ ~~2022~~ ²⁰²⁴ ~~2023~~ ²⁰²⁵ ~~2024~~ ²⁰²⁶ ~~2025~~ ²⁰²⁷ ~~2026~~ ²⁰²⁸ ~~2027~~ ²⁰²⁹ ~~2028~~ ²⁰³⁰ ~~2029~~ ²⁰³¹ ~~2030~~ ²⁰³² ~~2031~~ ²⁰³³ ~~2032~~ ²⁰³⁴ ~~2033~~ ²⁰³⁵ ~~2034~~ ²⁰³⁶ ~~2035~~ ²⁰³⁷ ~~2036~~ ²⁰³⁸ ~~2037~~ ²⁰³⁹ ~~2038~~ ²⁰⁴⁰ ~~2039~~ ²⁰⁴¹ ~~2040~~ ²⁰⁴² ~~2041~~ ²⁰⁴³ ~~2042~~ ²⁰⁴⁴ ~~2043~~ ²⁰⁴⁵ ~~2044~~ ²⁰⁴⁶~~

10

Signatures of the children of Sebastian Royer and their companions as signed to the deed which transferred the old homestead to the Brubaks, and now constitutes Brubaker's title.



The Editor is standing on the spot on which stood the house of Sebastian Royer.

edly the father of Christian who moved to Franklin Co., in 1793, and also of George who settled near Reistville, Leb. Co., Pa. Descendants are still found in these counties and scattered rather sparsely over the country. The Royers of Miami Valley, Ohio, are likely his descendants. George and Emig were both members of the Brethren Church.

When we come to Samuel, we tread on sure ground. His father deeded a part of his property to him in 1754. He witnessed a deed at Brickerville in 1762, and had died at said place by Sept. 14, 1764. The names of his children are also known.

His son Samuel, Jr., moved in 1768 to what was afterward Franklin Co., Pa. Royer's Lake, in the Blue Mts., below Waynesboro is named after a descendant. Royer in Blair Co., Pa., gets its name from another descendant who was an iron-master. If the other two sons of II. Samuel remained in Lanc. Co., and have descendants there, we have failed to find them.

But little uncertainty surrounds Henry. He was likely the youngest son, as his signature, or rather mark, comes last. A Henry Royer was a taxable in Elizabeth Twp., Lanc. Co., 1758. Already July 21, 1746, Henry Royer bought 200 acres of land in Lebanon Twp., now Lebanon Co., Pa. He likely came to this section with his brother-in-law, Philip Hautz. He seems to have kept in close touch with his other brother-in-law, Christopher (Stophle or Stuffield) Royer. Some of his descendants accompanied Christopher's descendants to Union (now Snyder) and Center Counties. Another descendant IV. Christopher moved to Stark Co., Ohio. Perhaps some of his descendants moved to Virginia.

Thus we see that Emig, George, Samuel, and Henry were land owners in Lancaster Co., in the neighborhood where their father settled, at the time of the father's death. We, therefore, conclude that all came with the father to Lancaster County and that all remained there as long as he lived; and two we know for a certainty died there. Whatever is said to the contrary rests on vague tradition, and whatever of truth there is in the tradition, is true of the descendants of these sons and not of themselves. There seems to be no substantial ground for connecting Sebastian Royer with the Royersford of Montgomery Co., Pa., other than tradition. If a John Jacob Royer who arrived in 1729 settled at Lititz in Lanc. Co., as one authority asserts, we have found no trace of him in the Recorder's office at Lancaster. So far as we have found Sebastian Royer's family had Royer monopoly of early Lancaster County.

But we must not forget that Sebastian Royer had daughters. Referring to Emig, the executor, the father's will requests that the property be divided "among his brothers and sisters." Tradition says that four sons came with him to America. There is no mention of daughters. His daughter Catharine, likely the youngest, was born in 1728. She was certainly by his second wife; and we conclude that the two other daughters, whose dates of birth we have not ascertained, were also by the wife he married in America.

One daughter, Maria Catarina, married Jacob Conrad. We

find in an old list of land owners, that a Jacob Conrad in 1779 owned in Manheim Township, Lancaster County, 100 acres of land. This Conrad is likely the son-in-law of Sebastian Royer.

Another daughter, Margaret, perhaps the oldest, married Philip Houtz. He was doubtless the Philip Houtz who on Oct. 24, 1746, bought land in Bethel Twp., now in Lebanon Co., Pa.; and the name of the wife of Philip Houtz of Bethel was Anna Margeretta. He likely went to this section with his brother-in-law, II. Henry Royer, whose land, bought the same year, was not far distant. The Houtz family afterward became a prominent one in Lebanon Co. We find Rev. Anthony Houtz who served Reformed congregations in Lancaster county; but we are informed by Rev. Geo. W. Richards, D. D., of Franklin and Marshall College, that Rev. Anthony Houtz came from Germany with his parents, so he could not have sprung from Philip above.

Sebastian Royer's daughter Catharine married "Stophle" Ryer, thought not to have been related to her. He settled in Berks Co., Pa., and his numerous descendants have been pretty fully ascertained. They moved to what is now Snyder Co., and on to Center and Clinton Counties, and some from these places have scattered over the West.

So this is the family which Sebastian Royer launched forth into this New World toward replenishing and subduing it; and as we peruse the following pages we will be convinced that these children of his have given a good account of themselves — Editor.

*Elizabeth Houtz - dau. of Philip Jacob - d. 1788 -
m. Samuel Royer - son of Henry - grandson of Sebastian - see further*