MIGRATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS TO WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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Part II

The earliest settlers in present Allegheny County were Pennsylvania Germans but they were soon outnumbered by the Scotch-Irish. There were numerous Pennsylvania Germans in the Fort Pitt area. They were somewhat retiring, living on the land as farmers, some distance from the village. As early as 1788 there was a strong German settlement in lower St. Clair Township, several miles from the Fort. Those inhabitants were in closer touch with the Pennsylvania Germans in the Stecher settlement in Washington County than with persons living at the Forks. 62

Many years later in Pittsburgh, during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, a Pennsylvania German, Dr. Peter Shoenberger, stood out like a lighthouse. He was then the foremost ironmaster in Pennsylvania. The migrations of the Shoenberger [Schonberger] family are rather typical of other Pennsylvania German families in the Pittsburgh vicinity. When a definitive biography of Dr. Shoenberger is written there probably will be precise details at hand about his origin. It appears that he was born in Hanover, Province of Prussia, in northwestern Germany on October 16, 1782, son of Johan George Schonberger. The father was born Ober Mossan, in Odenwald, May 27, 1759, and his wife, Dr. Peter's mother, Frances ————, was born in 1760. Peter's father died in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1815. His mother died the next year, presumably in Huntingdon County. Dr. Peter Shoenberger's uncle, Peter Schonberger (1767-1837), laid out the town of Petersburg, Huntingdon County, May 21, 1795, after arriving in Philadelphia from Amsterdam nearly ten years earlier, on the ship Adolph, on August 27, 1785 (Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1934, volume III, page 4). It seems that Dr. Peter Shoenberger studied medicine in the office of Dr. Samuel Fahnestock at Lancaster and practiced medicine until 1824

62 Ellis B. Burgess, History of the Pittsburgh Synod of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1748-1845-1904 (Phila. 1904), 176-178.
when he removed from Huntingdon County to Pittsburgh and built Pittsburgh's first rolling mill. He was building iron furnaces in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, as early as 1817.

A 1790 Sampling

We know there were a considerable number of Pennsylvania Germans in Western Pennsylvania in 1790. In that year the first Census of the United States was taken. The results for Pennsylvania are available in a volume entitled *Heads of Families*, published in Washington by the Government Printing Office in 1908. The volume reproduces the names of heads of families by counties, and for some counties arranges the names by township of residence.

In 1790 there were eight counties in Western Pennsylvania. Allegheny County extended to Lake Erie and Washington County to the Mason and Dixon Line. Northumberland County embraced nearly all of north-central Pennsylvania and was then the largest county in the state. Bedford was the third largest county in Western Pennsylvania, with Huntingdon, Westmoreland, and Fayette Counties and part of Mifflin filling the remainder of the western portion of the commonwealth.

When going through page after page of names of heads of families in Western Pennsylvania counties, as recorded by the first United States Census, one can conclude there are a great number of names that we know definitely to be Pennsylvania German. Census takers misspelled names. Families themselves introduced great variation in the spelling of their surname. As an example of the variation in Western Pennsylvania one can cite the patriarch Kunze. His descendants spelled their name Kunz, Kountz, Kountze, Kuhns, Kuhn, Koon and Coon. Furthermore, some families Anglicized their German names. Also, there is a similarity between some English and some German names. Therefore, the names of heads of families in the eight counties that we can be almost certain are Pennsylvania German given and surnames are reduced to a minority.

However, relying on either surname or given name to determine Pennsylvania German lineage is risky business. Two of the leading authorities on Pennsylvania German dialect and culture, Dr. Preston A. Barba, formerly professor of German at Muhlenberg College, and Dr. Albert F. Buffington, formerly professor of German at Pennsyl-
vania State University, have first and last names giving almost no clue to their Pennsylvania German ancestry. Nevertheless, there are some names, especially last names, that are almost unmistakably German, and some of these are usually Pennsylvania German rather than typical of the Germans who arrived after the War of 1812.

Similarly it is sometimes unsafe to rely on place names in Western Pennsylvania to determine whether a community was settled primarily by Pennsylvania Germans or mainly by immigrants from the British Isles or their descendants. The place name Salisbury is as English as sauerkraut is German. Salisbury, England, and its cathedral dating back to the thirteenth century are well known. Why is there a Salisbury in Somerset County? That town in Somerset County was founded on a tract of land, "John's Fancy," belonging to John Markley whose surname was typically Pennsylvania German. The town was founded by Joseph Markley on April 15, 1796. In 1918 the Rev. E. E. Oney, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury, ventured an explanation of the origin of this English place name in a German community. He pointed out that the Lutheran, the Rev. J. W. Litzel (also spelled Lizel), one of the first ministers in present Somerset County, was preaching in the town of Salisbury, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Litzel is not known to have returned to eastern Pennsylvania after 1769. In the 1770's Litzel was preaching in Berlin and Salisbury and in the 1780's was still preaching in that vicinity. He is thought to have named the town in honor of Salisbury, Northampton County, and that Salisbury, Northampton County, was named for the Saltzburg emigrants to America. Phonetics can do strange things to spelling, especially when Germans make partial use of the English language.

It is rather difficult to determine from the first United States Census just where in Western Pennsylvania there were concentrations of Pennsylvania Germans. The lists for Bedford, Huntingdon, Northumberland and Washington Counties are given without relation to location within the county. The list for Mifflin County simply divides the heads of families into two groups, those south of the Juniata River, and the remainder.

Of the seventy-seven names of heads of families under "Pittsburgh Town" in the Allegheny County list, only one seems to be positively Pennsylvania German, Adam Funck, although a dozen others probably belong in the same category. In Pitt Township, Allegheny County,
the following names indicate Pennsylvania German migration to the area: Christefor Linhart, Rhinhart Antes, Christen Bucher, Jacob Bucher, Ben Kiser, Conrod Windebedle and James Horesh. Among the typically Pennsylvania German names given for the portion of Allegheny County taken from Washington County are these: Michael Shoemaker, John Bean, Nathaniel Boyer, Daniel Guttshilk, John Yager, Jacob Beam and John Boyers.

Unlike those for Allegheny County, the lists of heads of families for Bedford County show a rather heavy concentration of Pennsylvania Germans. Here are a few examples: Fredrick Dubbs, Conrod Snider, John Olinger, Christon Kisor, Sally Snider, Hendrey Hoover, Peter Swob, Marton Funk, Christopher Stover, Daniel Royer, Hendrey Snider, John Stooky, William Hess, Adam Beam, Conrod Cline, Jacob Shoults, Edward and Polser Hess, Daniel Snider, Hendrey Shoults, Peter Swartsel, Jacob Studibecker, Anthony Nogel, Laurence, Fredrick and Bolser Swarts, John Bower, Abraham Overhaster, Rinehart Repinogle, John Snider, Jacob Stootsman, David and Samuel Ulery, Fredrick, Micael and John Dibert, David and Philip Rinehart, Abram, Jacob and George Lingelfelter, John Hoover, Elizabeth Shumaker, Casper Statler, Jacob Keffer, Christon, John, Jacob, David and Joseph Yotter, Elisha Stought, Paul Errenceberger, John Stickel and Jacob, John and Mathias Markly.

In German Township, Fayette County, the following names of heads of families suggest strongly a Pennsylvania German heritage: John Crigger, Barbara Delinger, Conrod Dieffelbaugh, Martin Eickleberger, John Greegar, George and Jacob Hoover, John Huffman, Ludwick Miller, Michael Nunneymaker, John Overturf, Valentine Overturff, Frederick and Peter Pickempaugh, John Shoemaker, John Uepinghiser and Joseph Yeager, junior. Even in Tyrone Township, Fayette County, where we would expect a preponderance of Scotch-Irish families because of the township name, the following German names appear in Heads of Families: Robert and Matthew Bowers, William Fricks, Abraham and Jacob, 1st, Strickler, Jacob, senior, and Henry Strickler, Abraham and John Stoufer, Jacob Shallowbar-ger and Leonard Stam.
In the list of heads of families for North Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County, we find the following Germanic names: Adam Hofman, Gesper Mereckele, Henerey Lutchenkiser, Senr., Henerey Lutchenkiser, Jur., Jacob and Peter Lutchinhisser, John Studebecker, Abraham Studebeker, Jacob Studbecker, John Rudebach, Christefor Fleger, John Wever, Androw Frees, John Shrouts, and Lues Probes.75

The Northumberland County list of heads of families contains numerous Pennsylvania German names but it is extremely difficult in most cases to determine which of those families lived in the part of Northumberland lying in the western half of the state. Mifflin County, however, had relatively few heads of families with Pennsylvania German names. Among them were John Shellaberger, Matthew Swarts, Martin Swartz and Michael Metsker.76

Migration to the Interior and to B-L-M

Soon after Pennsylvania Germans pushed across the Susquehanna, some of their number moved west toward the Alleghenies and then toward the Ohio River, whereas others went south into Maryland and Virginia. Still others moved obliquely, toward what are the "interior" counties of Western Pennsylvania and toward B-L-M, the middle counties on the Ohio line, Beaver, Lawrence and Mercer.

For some years George Baker was considered to be the first settler in present Beaver County. He was a German who came to America in 1750. Arriving in Western Pennsylvania in 1772 or 1773 he settled in present Moon Township, Beaver County, on a ridge on the east side of Raccoon Creek, approximately four miles from its mouth. There he built a cabin, and near the site he is buried in the family cemetery. At the beginning of the Revolution the Indians carried Baker, his wife and their five children to Detroit where they were held captive by the British and the Indians for five years.77

The scandalous way in which land titles were obtained and sold in the area north of Pittsburgh from 1784, for a half century, discouraged Pennsylvania Germans and others from settling in what is now Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer, Crawford and parts of adjacent counties to the east. The Warrantee Atlas of Lawrence County, published in 1909 by the Department of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth, indicates that a number of tracts of land in that county were warranted

75 Ibid., 264-265.
76 Ibid., 152.
to persons with names that are typically Pennsylvania German. For example, among the warrantees were John Eicholtz, two hundred acres surveyed November 3, 1785, mostly in Slipperyrock Township; David Landis, two hundred acres surveyed June 17, 1786, Wilmington Township; and Henry Bean, two hundred acres surveyed June 21, 1786, Hickory Township. However, because of the fact that John Nicholson, Benjamin Chew and other prominent Philadelphians procured warrants for many thousands of acres of land in present Lawrence County by deliberately using fictitious names, one cannot place reliance on warrantee names until making an extensive search to determine who acquired title to the various tracts and who settled upon them. Finding the names of bona fide original settlers for each tract in Lawrence and nearby counties would be almost endless and in many instances an almost hopeless task.

The unfortunate land title situation in the early 1800's in Mercer County had a specific effect on one Pennsylvania German family, as follows. William Bigler, Governor of Pennsylvania 1852-1855, and his older brother John, Governor of California 1852-1856, were born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Their Pennsylvania German parents taught the two boys to speak both English and German. When William Bigler was a small child his parents purchased a large tract of wild land in Mercer County and moved there, only to find that title was defective. Soon they had nothing remaining but a small farm. William Bigler's father died shortly thereafter and the boy found his way east to Bellefonte, and worked for his brother John in the office of the Centre Democrat 1830-1833. Then William settled permanently in Clearfield where he published a newspaper and operated a lumber business before becoming a State Senator, Governor, and United States Senator.

In the summer of 1794 many Lutheran families, mainly from Lancaster, Berks, and Franklin Counties, came to what is now Indiana County. They settled in three places, at the site of the town of Indiana, at Brush Valley, and in what was long known as Germany Township. The Lutheran Church was somewhat active among Pennsylvania Germans in Beaver and Butler Counties by 1808, in

78 Warrantee Atlas of Lawrence County, 8.
79 Ibid., 11.
80 Ibid., 14.
82 Ellis B. Burgess, 250-261 and 291-292.
Mercer County by 1828, in Jefferson County by 1829, in Venango County in 1831, and in Clarion County by 1838.83

The area that is now Armstrong County was an early Pennsylvania German stronghold. In 1904 Burgess, historian of Lutheranism in Western Pennsylvania, put it this way.

It [Armstrong County] is the banner Lutheran county of western Pennsylvania, no less than twenty-three per cent. of its Christian population being members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Many of the original settlers, who located in the county from 1780 to 1810, were Pennsylvania Germans from Lehigh and Northampton counties. To-day their children possess the land. The first Lutheran pastor to preach in the county was Rev. John M. Steck, who began to hold German services about the year 1796, and continued to do so until 1815. These services were held in private homes, in barns, and sometimes in groves, and were confined chiefly to the southern end of the county.84

Johann Wilhelm Weber, the Reformed preacher on the western frontier, labored not only in Westmoreland County and at Fort Pitt, but did much missionary work in what is now Armstrong, Venango, Butler and Crawford Counties. He died in early July 1816.85

The lists of taxable persons in Beaver County, 1802-1805, include numerous names that seem to be Pennsylvania German.86

In southwestern Butler County a distinguished German, Dettmar N. F. Basse, laid out the town of Zelienople in 1802, on his ten thousand-acre tract of land. On a high bluff overlooking the town he built "Bassenheim," a palatial three-story likeness of a German castle. His daughter Zelie, for whom the town was named, married Philip Louis Passavant. Their son, the Rev. William A. Passavant, D.D., was born in "the castle" at Zelienople on October 9, 1821, and became a world-famed Christian philanthropist. He founded hospitals and orphans' homes in various parts of the United States — in Milwaukee, Chicago, Jacksonville, Florida, Rochester, Pennsylvania, and Mt. Vernon, New York. The Passavant Hospital in Pittsburgh and the Lutheran Orphans' Home at Zelienople gained recognition as being the finest of their kind in America.

In 1804 Dettmar N. F. Basse sold half of his ten thousand-acre tract to George Rapp and the Harmony Society. In 1805 George and Frederick Rapp and 135 families from Germany were settled at what is now the town of Harmony. These Pennsylvania Germans moved

83 Ibid., table, 37-38.
84 Ibid., 294.
85 James I. Good, History of the Reformed Church in the United States, 1725-1792, 1899 (Daniel Miller, publisher, Reading, Pa.), 574-575.
86 Joseph H. Bausman, II, 1215-1225. The names are listed by township, with separate list for the borough of Beaver.
to the state of Indiana in 1814 and there founded the town of New Harmony. They returned to Pennsylvania in 1825, settling on the Ohio River and founding the town of Economy, now within the borough of Ambridge in Beaver County.

The Mennonites established a settlement in Butler County in 1815, at Harmony. They migrated from eastern Pennsylvania under the leadership of Abraham Ziegler who bought the Harmony Society land in Butler County. In his translation of Mennonite diaries Raymond E. Hollenbach has found numerous references to Mennonite families who followed Abraham Ziegler to Butler County. The Mennonite families who followed Ziegler were mainly from Montgomery County and for a number of years many of them visited their relatives and friends in eastern Pennsylvania.

John Boyer was the first minister in Ziegler’s settlement. A stone church was erected in 1825. Nevertheless, the Mennonite settlement at Harmony in Butler County was not a success. A rather large number of its people moved farther north in the county, and to the village of Barkeyville in Irwin Township, Venango County, and to “Bully Hill” just outside the city of Franklin. There were only seven members of the Mennonite congregation at Harmony in 1905, and later the congregation became extinct.

Original settlers in Beaver Township in the west-central part of Clarion County came from eastern Pennsylvania via Westmoreland County. Many of them had lived in Hempfield Township near present Greensburg. The wanderings of these pioneers from present Northampton and Lehigh Counties illustrate rather typical Pennsylvania German migration to Western Pennsylvania. The details are given by Raymond E. Hollenbach of Royersford, Pennsylvania, who has traced various Pennsylvania German families and translated Pennsylvania German diaries from German script. Those details of migration to Clarion County are as follows. A large group of the original settlers in Beaver Township came from present Lehigh Township in Northampton County, immediately south of Lehigh Gap. Wilhelm Best was their leader. The churches in Beaver Township were formerly a union church known as “Best’s Church.” The Reformed minister, Johann Wilhelm Weber, had preached in the Wind Gap vicinity in Northampton County. When he moved west many

88 Letter dated February 18, 1970, Raymond E. Hollenbach to HTR.
89 Mennonite Cyclopedic Dictionary, 146.
90 Letter dated February 18, 1970, Raymond E. Hollenbach to HTR.
91 Mennonite Cyclopedic Dictionary, 146.
of his parishioners followed. In addition, from Whitehall, Milford and Macungie Townships in present southern Lehigh County a number of Lutherans moved to the Hempfield area in Westmoreland County. Among them were men with these names, Mechlin, Breinig and Seiberling. In Beaver Township, Clarion County, a later migration came from eastern Berks County. After 150 years there still are some older persons in Beaver Township who speak the Pennsylvania German dialect. Mr. John Dengler has visited eastern Pennsylvania only once. Even so, he speaks the dialect like a native of Berks County. His grandmother, a Boyer, made the trek from Berks County to Clarion County with a wagon train when she was thirteen years old, and walked most of the way.\footnote{Letter dated February 18, 1970, Raymond E. Hollenbach to HTR.}

The immediate vicinity of Greenville, the oldest town in Mercer County, was established in 1796 by Joseph Keck, Peter and Daniel Klinginsmith and Andrew Christy. Daniel Klinginsmith’s son-in-law, Jacob Loutzenhiser, built a house in the vicinity of Greenville and lived in that house with his family before 1800.\footnote{Centennial Edition, The Record-Argus, Greenville, Pennsylvania, July 30, 1938, page 2. The seventy-two pages of this special edition of the Record-Argus contain useful, hard-to-find information about the history of the Greenville vicinity in Mercer County.} Joseph Keck was son of George Keck. George was living on a farm near Greensburg, Westmoreland County, in 1796. George Keck was son of Heinrich Keck (Geck) who arrived in the port of Philadelphia on October 17, 1732, with 168 other “Palatines,” on the ship \textit{Pink John & William}, of Sunderland.\footnote{Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, \textit{Pennsylvania German Pioneers}, 1934 (Pennsylvania German Society), I, 104-106.} Joseph Keck, an original settler at Greenville, Mercer County, was grandson of the immigrant Heinrich and son of the Westmoreland County farmer. The Klinginsmiths and Loutzenhizers, too, almost certainly were Pennsylvania German.

Thiel College at Greenville dates back to 1865 when A. Louis Thiel of Pittsburgh gave the Rev. William A. Passavant $5,500 to be used for a good cause. With the modest sum and Mr. Thiel’s consent the Rev. Mr. Passavant opened a school in 1867 at Phillipsburg, now Monaca, Beaver County, in behalf of Christian education. The school was presented to the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1869 and the next year was incorporated by an act of the Pennsylvania legislature approved April 14, 1870, as “Thiel College of the Evangelical Lutheran church,”\footnote{Act number 1075, pages 1167-1169, \textit{Laws}, 1870.} and was moved to Greenville
the next year.96 A distinguished Pennsylvania German, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, was President of Thiel College 1891-1893.

A group of Pennsylvania Germans migrated from Whitehall Township in present Lehigh County and settled near New Lebanon and other places in Mercer County. Mr. Raymond E. Hollenbach has an original letter written in German from Mercer County to a family back home.97

The Amish migrated from Berks, Lancaster and Chester Counties to Mifflin County in the 1790's — the Zugs, Yotters (now Yoders), Hooleys and Hertzlers. From Mifflin County these Pennsylvania Germans migrated to Somerset and Lawrence Counties. In the 1840's Amish in Mifflin County, under the leadership of Abraham Zook, moved to Lawrence County and made a permanent settlement there. With Zook were Daniel and Jacob Byler, Adam Hostetter, John Knepp and others. During the 1800's Amish moved on to Holmes, Wayne, Logan and Champaign Counties in Ohio (pages 71-72, Mennonites of the Ohio and Eastern Conference from the Colonial Period in Pennsylvania to 1968, by Grant M. Stoltzfus, published by Herald Press, Scottdale, Pennsylvania).

Migration to the Northern Counties

The northern counties comprise Pennsylvania's last frontier. Such counties as Potter, Cameron, Elk and Forest were the last to be settled and today are relatively undeveloped as compared with Erie County and the southwestern and southeastern counties. It was not until the 1860's, when the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad was being completed, that the vast northwestern wilderness was really awakening, although hunters and settlers had penetrated the area in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

In 1840 nine present northwestern counties were predominantly English: Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, Forest, McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, whereas the remaining present counties of Western Pennsylvania were then predominantly Scotch-Irish. Twenty-two counties — all of present central and southeastern Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester — were predominantly Pennsylvania German, and the remaining eleven counties of the state, together with Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery,

97 Letter dated February 18, 1970, Raymond E. Hollenbach to HTR.
Delaware and Chester, were predominantly English.\(^ {98} \)

About 1804 a road was built from New York City through the Southern Tier Counties of New York, to what is now Olean. Many of the early settlers in northern Pennsylvania arrived by way of that road with the result that our Northern Tier Counties were populated to a considerable extent by persons from New York and New England.

The Beers Company history of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter Counties\(^ {99} \) indicates that a few Pennsylvania German families settled in each of those four counties in the nineteenth century but suggests that the Pennsylvania Germans were not numerous in that part of the state.

In 1808 Farmers Valley in Keating Township, McKean County, was settled by Joseph and George Otto, “the Stulls and others from Northampton County, Penn., six families.” Eldred Township was settled by “the Wrights, Jacob Knapp, Joseph Stull, Nathan Dennis, E. Larrabee and others” in 1815, and Norwich Township by Jonathan Colegrove “and fourteen families from North Atlantic States,” 1809-1814.\(^ {100} \) Other information about early settlement of McKean County mentions almost no names that are typically Pennsylvania German.\(^ {101} \) Nor does the list of resident tax-payers for Keating Township in 1836-1837 provide positive indication that any considerable per cent of them were Pennsylvania German.\(^ {102} \) Nor does the list of resident property owners in Smethport in 1856-1857 suggest that any substantial per cent of them were Pennsylvania Germans.\(^ {103} \) However, a United Brethren Church was built in 1878-1879 at Coryville (page 257).

J. E. Henretta does not seem to indicate that Pennsylvania Germans migrated to the Allegheny highlands but he does mention the Swedish settlers near Kane and Smethport\(^ {104} \) and the German settlements in Sergeant Township, McKean County, and at Rasselas, Elk County.\(^ {105} \) In harmony with a New England atmosphere one


\(^ {100} \) Ibid., 98.

\(^ {101} \) Ibid., 98.

\(^ {102} \) Ibid., 254.

\(^ {103} \) Ibid., 259-260.

\(^ {104} \) Henretta, *Kane and the Upper Allegheny*, 1929 (John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia), 46 and 64.

\(^ {105} \) Ibid., 202-203, 313-315.
finds a Congregational church in Kane, and in contrast with a Pennsylvania German community, a Swedish Lutheran church.

In Elk County Judge James L. Gillis was the most important early settler. He was born in Washington County, New York, in 1792. Chauncey Brockway, another important settler of the county, arrived in December 1817 from Galway, Montgomery County, New York, making four hundred miles of the trip by wagon. Many of Elk County’s early settlers had typical English surnames — Nichols, Mead, Clark, Warner, Hughes and Dickinson. However, after 1871 there was a Maurice M. Schultz who had a productive farm in that forested, mountain county. He may have been a Pennsylvania German. In addition to farming he established an enormous tannery at Wilcox. When one looks at the list of resident tax-payers of Ridgway Township in 1844 he quickly notices a strong English flavor. He also notices the same flavor when looking at many local names given in a sketch of elections, fire companies and societies. From 1874 to 1890 Irish names were common in Ridgway.

In Cameron County the early settlers came “mostly from eastern and middle Pennsylvania, from the State of New Jersey, and from New England States.” A settlement on Portage Creek in 1820 was made by Hiram Sizer from Massachusetts. Few of the names of the early settlers of Cameron County were typically Pennsylvania German.

Some of the early settlers of Potter County came from New York. One of the first permanent settlers, Major Isaac Lyman, who arrived in 1809, was a native of Lebanon, Connecticut. Another early settler of Potter, Joshua Jackson, came from Broome County, New York, and four others, Cephas Nelson, Thomas Bellew, Silas Nelson and Nelson Woodcock, came from Washington County, New York. Still

106 Beers Company History (McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter Counties), op. cit., 585.
107 Ibid., 584.
108 Ibid., 585.
109 Ibid., 680.
110 Ibid., 685-686.
111 Ibid., 693.
112 Ibid., 694.
113 Ibid., 706, 709-712.
114 Ibid., 704.
115 Ibid., 830.
116 Ibid., 828.
117 Ibid. The names of a number of residents of the County from 1811 to 1890 are given on pages 826-830 and on pages 866-900.
another settler in Potter, Theodore Carpenter, came from Groton, New York, and others arrived from Chenango County, New York, and from Windham County, Connecticut.\footnote{118} Robert R. Lyman, Sr., of Coudersport, points out that Potter County’s earliest settlers were Yankees whose route of migration was circuitous. They went from Connecticut and Massachusetts north into Vermont, thence west into New York State, and then south into Tioga County, Pennsylvania, and west to Potter County.\footnote{119} Many of these early settlers went on to Canoe Place, now called Port Allegany. There a considerable number traded their horses and oxen for canoes and boats and floated down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to the west. Germans, directly from Europe, rather than Pennsylvania Germans, started coming into Potter County about 1830. A shipload of Germans settled at Roulette, Potter County, at that time, arriving from Philadelphia via the Jersey Shore Turnpike.\footnote{120}

The list of resident tax-payers in Eulalia Township in 1836-1837, and the 1848 list for Coudersport in that township, do not suggest Pennsylvania German influence.\footnote{121} Typical names in Coudersport from 1850 to 1890 were the following: Knox, Stebbins, Goodsell, Dickinson, Hall, Mann, Rogers, Thompson, Butterworth and Gillon.\footnote{122}

In McKean, Elk and Potter Counties there were attempts to bring colonies of the later Germans directly from Europe to found a settlement in the forest. These schemes usually were not successful. A group of Germans from the Rhine were brought to New York and thence to Buffalo via the Erie Canal. They traveled overland to Olean, New York, and thence to Smethport on foot. Their land agent took them on to Rasselas in Elk County. There they camped for the night, and in the darkness the agent fled. The settlement at Rasselas grew, because of their industriousness and resourcefulness, but never became a great German city.\footnote{123} In Sergeant Township, McKean County, a group of Germans known as the Society of Industry founded the town of Teutonia in 1843. The town had a population of 450 but there were financial difficulties and the sheriff conveyed the Society’s land back to the mortgage owners, on May 27, 1845.\footnote{124} To the best of my

\footnote{118}Ibid., 990-993.
\footnote{119}Letter dated February 11, 1970, Robert R. Lyman, Sr., to HTR.
\footnote{120}Letter dated February 11, 1970, Robert R. Lyman, Sr., to HTR and page 24, History of Roulette [Roulette], Pa., 1937, by Mr. Lyman.
\footnote{121}Beers Company History. The list for the township is given on page 1048 and for the town on page 1057.
\footnote{122}Ibid., 1049-1070.
\footnote{123}J. E. Henretta, Kane and the Upper Allegheny, 202-203.
\footnote{124}Beers Company History, 311; Sherman Day, Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania, 1843, 460-461; and Henretta, 313-315.
knowledge the persons comprising the Teutonia settlement were later Germans rather than Pennsylvania Germans. In southeast Potter County a settlement, "Germania," was established in 1855, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Meine. Many of the settlers at Germany were political exiles from the 1848 revolution in the German States of Central Europe. Even today most of the people in the Germania vicinity of Potter County are German.125

The attempts in McKean, Elk and Potter Counties to fleece immigrants from Germany in the 1840's and 1850's were somewhat like the attempt of a Philadelphia land shark who had a utopia, the "City of Germany," laid out at Shade Furnace about two miles from present Central City in Somerset County. Immigrants from Germany bought land and upon arriving at the great city found it to be nothing but an unsettled wilderness. The original map of the "city" was found in January 1935 in the Somerset County Court House. The map had been recorded in Somerset in 1810.

There is comparatively little evidence of Pennsylvania German migration to Warren County. Three excellent historians in Warren, Ernest C. Miller, Merle H. Deardorff and Mrs. Frances Ramsey, know of almost no such migration. They point out the following. Peter Krause was perhaps the earliest German settler in the county. He probably came from Ephrata in Lancaster County. He went from there to Somerset County and eventually to Warren County.

The earliest naturalization records for Germans who settled in Warren County before it was erected in 1800 are found in a docket at the Venango County Court House in Franklin.

George Hildebrand, a Pennsylvania German born in Lancaster County in 1753, resided in Warren County for a time. The Warren County Tax List for 1805 shows that he had either four or eight hundred acres of land (the entry is not clear), six oxen, two cows, and that George Hildebrand, Jr., had four hundred acres and two oxen. Both Hildebrands were on the Warren County Tax Lists of 1806 and 1808. The 1810 Census of Brokenstraw Township includes the younger Hildebrand but not the elder. He had apparently already moved on to Ohio, for he died in 1827 in Washington County of that state and is buried in Mound Cemetery near Marietta.126

Schenck's history gives what may be the most complete and accurate list of original settlers of Warren County, the taxable in-

125 Victor L. Beebe, History of Potter County, Pennsylvania, 1934 (Potter County Historical Society, Coudersport), 100.
126 Letter dated February 14, 1970, Mrs. Helen H. Chase, Secretary, Warren County Historical Society, to HTR.
habitants in 1806 of its only township at that time, Brokenstraw. The list includes 206 of the earliest residents of the county (pages 127-130, History of Warren County, Pennsylvania, edited by J. S. Schenck, Syracuse, New York, D. Mason & Company, 1887). Many English and Scottish names are among the 206, such as Corbett, Davis, Hunter, Morrison, Murdock, McDowell, McKinley, Putnam, Stuart, Thompson, Watts and Wilson. However, there are very few names in the list that seem to be typically Pennsylvania German. About a year later the county was divided into two townships, Brokenstraw comprising the western part and Conewango the eastern. The rolls for 1808 listed 139 taxable inhabitants in Conewango Township, and 117 in Brokenstraw. Again, the names of Warren County inhabitants, in 1808, as listed by J. S. Schenck, are typically English and Scottish (pages 133-136).

An issue of the Warren Gazette for 1828 states that eighty Germans wearing Old World clothing pitched their tents at the confluence of Conewango Creek and the Allegheny River at Warren. The townspeople went to see the queer sight. What became of the group is not known, nor is it known whether they were immigrants direct from Germany, or Pennsylvania Germans on the move. Later in the same year thirty-six Germans arrived in Warren to settle in various parts of the county but there seems to be no record of their names or any indication as to whether they were Pennsylvania Germans or later Germans, or where they located.

Mr. Merle H. Deardorff, himself a Pennsylvania German, states, "... with the competition put up by the New Englanders, the Scotch-Irish and, later, the Swedes, our [Warren County] Dutchmen weren't left much room for manoeuvre" (letter to HTR, dated April 15, 1970).

The wanderings of the Deardorff family are an interesting part of Pennsylvania German migration to the western part of the state. Anthony Dirdorf of Swartzenau arrived in America before 1730 and settled in Clay Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, before 1746. The family spelled their name Dirdorf, Dierdorf and Deardorff. Mr. Deardorff's mother descended from Mathias Breidenthal who came to Bedford County, Pennsylvania, from Darmstadt, Germany, in about the year 1776 (Merle H. Deardorff to HTR, May 8, 1970). Mr. Deardorff was born in Waynesboro, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. There are many members of the Deardorff family in 1970 in the two counties east of Franklin — York and Adams.

Erie County was heavily settled by New Englanders. In the late 1780's it was on a direct line from Connecticut to Connecticut's
"Western Reserve." After the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 immigrants from Europe and elsewhere came from New York City to Buffalo over the canal and then followed the lake shore to Erie, and beyond. An early observer, Sherman Day, stated:

The population of this [Erie] co. is composed chiefly of settlers from New England and New York, and from the lower parts of Pennsylvania. The former predominate, and the trade and manners of the county generally have taken their tone rather from New York than from Pennsylvania. The reason is obvious, from the peculiar geographical position of the county.127

In the 1840's a great number of later Germans came to western New York and to Erie County, Pennsylvania, by way of the port of New York and the Erie Canal. They were a staunch, thrifty people and were the backbone of industrial life in the city of Erie. Before the Civil War there was a large colony of Portuguese in the county. Poles and Italians also came to Erie in great numbers. In this century one of the leading industrialists of Erie was a later German, rather than a Pennsylvania German. Ernst Richard Behrend (1869-1940), founder and president of Hammermill Paper Company, was born in Germany.

There seems never to have been an important concentration of Pennsylvania Germans in Erie County, or in neighboring Crawford.

David Mead, first settler of Meadville, county seat of Crawford, was born at Hudson, New York. The town of Meadville reminded Sherman Day in about 1842 of a New York or New England village.128 Even in 1970 there is a New England quaintness about the town, perhaps mainly because of the architecture of some of its houses, churches and public buildings, and its large trees and green lawns in the downtown area. Meadville was the headquarters of the Holland Land Company, with the Netherland name Huidekoper being prominent in Crawford County for more than a century. Timothy Alden, one of the most prominent men of the county and founder of Allegheny College, was a Congregational minister who had been born in Massachusetts. But with all the New York and New England influence in Crawford County, Sherman Day reports that there was a German Lutheran church in Meadville in 1816.129 It apparently disappeared by 1843 for he does not mention it when listing the churches of that county seat as of the time his book went to press.130

The Lutheran Church was somewhat active, presumably among

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127 Day, 309.
128 Ibid., 255.
129 Ibid., 257.
130 Ibid., 256.
Pennsylvania Germans, in Crawford and Erie Counties by 1808 and in Warren and Forest Counties by 1843.  

Reverse Migration to Western Pennsylvania

About 1960 approximately three hundred Amish moved from Ohio to western Lawrence County. They moved east because of the high cost of providing agricultural land in Ohio for their children. At once they began to develop their new land in Pennsylvania, just as Lancaster County Amish removing to St. Mary’s County in southern Maryland in the 1940’s developed poor land into highly productive farms.

Several years after Amish came east to Lawrence County another group of their faith, perhaps two hundred persons, removed from Ohio, about 1962, to the vicinity of Punxsutawney in Jefferson County. They had been unable to obtain farm land in Ohio at reasonable prices. Now they are improving rapidly a number of poor farms in their new settlement.

A Baker’s Dozen

Numerous Pennsylvania Germans born in Western Pennsylvania achieved distinction in the twentieth century. Thirteen of them, associated intimately with ten Western Pennsylvania counties, are mentioned here briefly.

Henry Buhl, Jr., was born near Zelienople, Butler County, March 23, 1848. The Buhls were merchants for nine generations, in Bavaria and in Zelienople. Henry Buhl, Jr., and Russell H. Boggs founded a dry goods store that developed into the Boggs and Buhl Department Store in Pittsburgh. Mr. Buhl created the Buhl Foundation, which has served his adopted city excellently.

Henry Clay Frick, of coke and steel fame, was born in West Overton, Westmoreland County, December 19, 1849. Charles M. Schwab, President, Carnegie Steel Company, 1897-1901, United States Steel Corporation, 1901-1903, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, 1903-1913, Chairman of its Board from 1913, and Director General, Emergency Fleet Corporation, 1918, in World War I, was born at Williamsburg, Blair County, February 18, 1862. George Frederick Baer, born near Lavansville, Somerset County, September 26, 1842, was President of the Reading Railroad, the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and the Central Railroad of New Jersey. He

131 Ellis B. Burgess, table, pages 37, 38 and 40.
also served as President of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, 1894-1914. Theodore Perry Shonts, born in Crawford County, May 5, 1856, was President of the Chicago and Alton and several other railroads. As Theodore Roosevelt's Chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission, 1905-1907, Shonts played an important role in the construction of the Panama Canal. In 1908 Shonts was President of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in New York City and resolved in part an enormous urban transportation problem.

In the area of public affairs the names of two Pennsylvania Germans who were natives of Western Pennsylvania come to mind quickly. John S. Fisher, born in South Mahoning Township, Indiana County, May 25, 1867, was Governor of Pennsylvania, 1927-1931. Harold Ickes, born in Frankstown Township, Blair County, March 15, 1874, was Secretary, United States Department of the Interior, 1933-1946.

Numerous educators of Pennsylvania German lineage, born in Western Pennsylvania, became prominent. Among them are Edwin Reagan Snyder, Paul Moyer Limbert, Andrew Gehr Truxal, and I. Lynd Esch. Snyder was born in Scottsdale in Westmoreland County on September 2, 1872. He organized the first commission for vocational education, California, and was President of San Jose State Teachers College, 1923. Limbert, born May 27, 1897, at Grove City in Mercer County, was President of Springfield (Massachusetts) College, 1946-1952, and then became Secretary General, World Alliance of YMCA's. Truxal was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, February 2, 1900, and was President of Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, 1948-1961, and since then President, Anne Arundel Community College, Severna Park, Maryland. Esch was born in Flinton, Cambria County, November 17, 1905, and has been President of Indiana Central College since 1945.

A distinguished lady, Mary I. Barber, expert food consultant to the Secretary of War during World War II, is reported to have said that all she knew about cooking she learned from her Pennsylvania German mother. Miss Barber was born in Titusville, Crawford County, but her sketches in Who's Who in America carefully cancel the date of her birth.

Howard Zahniser, conservationist, was born in Franklin, Venango County, February 25, 1906. He spent most of his career in Washington, D.C., and after fourteen years in the Departments of Agriculture
and Interior he headed The Wilderness Society from 1945 until his death in 1964. He was the father of the Wilderness Act which became United States law on September 3, 1964, a few months after his death. Loving the Allegheny and his home in Forest County he was buried in Tionesta near the bank of the river.\textsuperscript{132}

\textit{Homogenization}

For better or worse, presently, individual cultures in the United States are disappearing at a frightening rate. Pennsylvania German migration to Western Pennsylvania infused into the sturdy Scotch-Irish community a number of additional vigorous traits and wholesome viewpoints. The mingling of the Scotch-Irish and the Pennsylvania Germans was mutually advantageous. The arrival of Italian and Slavic hordes in the last one hundred years to work in the mines and mills of Western Pennsylvania caused a fading of all but the more dominant characteristics of the Scotch-Irish and the Pennsylvania Germans. Rapid transportation for everyone, instantaneous communication to the ends of the earth, and the continuous outpouring of superficial information, have eroded uniqueness and status quo. Not much longer can any segment of the population of the United States hope to survive in pure form. Nevertheless, the perceptive eye will long be able to notice the heritage which Western Pennsylvania has received from the Pennsylvania Germans. A few place names, such as Harmony in Butler County, Berlin in Somerset County, and Dunkard in Greene County, will continue to remind people of the migration. Institutions, too, such as the Lutheran Church and Thiel College, will be reminders of Pennsylvania German influence in the western half of the Commonwealth.

\textsuperscript{132} These biographical data were selected from chapter XIV, pages 448-507, Homer T. Rosenberger, \textit{The Pennsylvania Germans}, 1891-1965.