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THE GENEALOGY
of
MICHAEL KORNS, Sr.
of
SOMERSET COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA

by
Charles Byron Korn, Sr., M.D.

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PREFACE

Are you related to the Korns living here and there? It is in answer to this inquiry that the Author of this volume has undertaken to determine and trace the Korns lineage and to make a record of his findings.

This undertaking has been carried on with great difficulty because of the unreliability of tradition, the incompleteness and inadequacy of the records kept, and the lack of interest on the part of many of the descendants who were solicited for information on their own line.

On October 14, 1727, the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania adopted a resolution requiring all masters of vessels importing Germans and other foreigners to prepare a list of such person, their occupation and the place from whence they came; further, these immigrants should sign a declaration of allegiance and subjection to the King of Great Britain and of fidelity to the Proprietary of Pennsylvania. Most of the immigrants coming to Pennsylvania had taken their oath of allegiance at the port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Many of the names of immigrants will be found in the following volumes: "Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants" by Prof. I. Daniel Rupp; "Pennsylvania Archives, Volume XVII of Second Series;" "Pennsylvania German Pioneers," by Ralph Beaver Strassburger and Dr. William John Hinkley—This authority has an index and a volume of facsimile signatures of the original lists.

The above named Volumes have been thoroughly searched for all names spelled Korn, Corn and Korns, as well as the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland Archives.

The Department of Interior, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Division of old warrants and land grants, as well as deeds granted to the early Pennsylvania German pioneers, has been investigated.

In many Counties of Pennsylvania the names of the Korns

sive search of Orphan Court records, Probation of Wills, distribution of estates, petition and transfer of property.

In the subdivision of Counties in Pennsylvania there was a record made of the dates of assessments and payment of taxes to determine the duration of residence in that locality.

Church records were examined, and notation made of membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths.

Cemeteries have been visited, inscriptions and obituaries from tombstones copied, and some of the inscriptions translated from German to English.

There has been an extensive search for records in both the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., and the Historical Society of Berks County, Reading, Pa., as well as records obtained from other Historical Societies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The enumeration of the First Census in 1790 does not name one person by the name of Korn or Korns, although there is a Michael Corn in Derry Township, Westmoreland County, Pa., and Henry Corns in Northumberland County, Pa., both enumerated in the 1790 census.

Tradition has played an important part in the search for record, in some cases has proved to be an asset, while others it has proved to be a great liability, as it required long, persistent search throughout the State to prove that the tradition could not be verified.

INTRODUCTION

The Korn's History has not been written prior to 1949. There were several who made efforts to compile records but the efforts amounted to naught. The Korn's name was previously or originally spelled "Korn." The 's' being added about 1795 and first appeared on warrents, land grants and deeds in Londonderry Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The reason for adding the 's' is not definitely known. Probably through useage of adding the apostrophe 's' in the possessive, the apostrophe was dropped and the 's' retained. The Korn Genealogy goes back about 200 years in the United States. Due to the various ways of spelling and pronounciation of Korn, as, Corn, Kern and Korn's, made the search all the more difficult. In Pennsylvania German it is difficult to distinguish the pronounciation between "Korn" and "Kern."

In 1932 the author decided there should be some record or history of the Korn's descendants for posterity, so with a resolute purpose and a firm determination to write a history of the Korn's descendants, he dedicated himself to the completion of his self-appointed task. The following years were spent in excursions into authentic sources in search of the unknown.

The Korn or Korn's family were Germans, spoke German and all legal transactions were executed in high German script. They were of Protestant faith and many were members of the Reformed and Lutheran Church.

There are presented in this volume some of the old original farm homes as they appear in 1949. The buildings are from 100 to 150 years old and some are in a dilapidated condition. They were included in the history for the purposes of location by descendants as the name of State, County and Townships are given. There are drafts of some of the original farms as Michael Korn's, Sr., which gives names of adjoining farms of neighbors, such as Gaumers, Cooks, Witt, Beds, Hoeman, Uhl, and Lency. Many of the Korn's children married into neighboring

families. There are churches where many of the Michael Korns, Sr., family attended and were members. Many of the church records are there and cemeteries where many of the descendants are buried.

The name of Korn is a very common name throughout Europe, especially Southern Germany and Northern Switzerland. The author has been informed by Dr. W. A. Korn, a descendant and a former minister and teacher in the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa., who spent some time in Germany, that while he was at Bad Nuheim above Frankford on the Main, he met a Carl Korn whose native place was Millheim also in that section. He informed him that a mill in that place was in the Korn name for many generations.

The names of the following German pioneers are among the ship lists and are enumerated in the Pennsylvania Archives as follows:

Carl Korn, came from Wertemberg, Germany, on ship "Edinburg," James Russel, Commander, arriving in Port of Philadelphia, September 19, 1752. Reference Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 17, page 352.

Henrich Korn, came from Rotterdam on ship "Phoenix," John Spurrier, Commander, arriving in port of Philadelphia, Pa., November 2, 1752. At which time he took the oath of allegiance to support, obey and defend the Laws of England. the original spelling was Korn. Reference Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 17, page 372. He was reported sick aboard ship.

Valentine Korn, came from Rotterdam on ship "Beulah," Captain Richie in Command, arriving in port of Philadelphia, September 10, 1753. Reference Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 17, page 380.

Christoph Korn, came from Rotterdam on ship "Neptune," John Mason, Master last from Cowes, England, September 24, 1754. Reference Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 17, page 395.

J. Frederick Korn, came from Amsterdam on ship "Erickson,"

ship," Charles Ross, Captain, arriving in port of Philadelphia, October 21, 1754. Reference Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 17, page 442.

This Volume is confined principally to the Michael Korns, Sr., Family of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, with a brief History of his Parents, Brothers and Sisters. Some of his children married and migrated to the West where they obtained land grants and became progressive farmers and were instrumental in the early building and development of the West. Others remained in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where they were also progressive farmers as well as engaged in many other useful vocations and professions.

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Acknowledgement

For the accomplishment of this work the author is indebted to many whose names cannot be mentioned.

The most outstanding include Irwin H. DeLong, Ph.D., an authority on German translation, deciphering of inscriptions on old monuments and authority on early Church History.

William Albert Korn, Ph.D., a descendant, Investigator of early Orphan Court Records, and Historical Society Records.

Ruth Worst, Genealogist, Pennsylvania State Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Guiles Flower, Genealogist, Carlisle, Pa.

Charles Harvey Korn, M.A., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. John A. Korn, Tarrytown, N. Y.

J. Roderic Korn, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Horace M. Korn, Dubuque, Iowa.

Olive Korn Porter, Genealogist, Grinnell, Iowa, and Washington, D. C.

Mrs. C. S. (Korn) Fleming, Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. Mina Mooers Stone, Bussey, Iowa.

Mrs. Gertrude Uhl Miller, Millersburg, Ohio.

Mrs. Catherine Palmer Craig, Reading, Pa.

Dr. I. Clark Gary, Chicago, Illinois.

Bessie Pearl Gaumer, Fairfield, Iowa.

Wilson A. Korn, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Mrs. E. B. Korn, Long Beach, California.

Luella Cornell, Delta, Ohio.

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CARL (Charles) KORN

This Chapter presents the ship records of Carl Korn landing in Port of Philadelphia, Pa., 1752.

His Oath of Allegiance and subjection to the King of Great Britain and of Fidelity to the Proprietary of the Province of Pennsylvania.

Purpose of coming to America.

Application for land warrants and deeds in Maxatawney Township in Berks County, Pa. Assessments and Tax Records in Maxatawney Township from 1755 to 1777.

Will of Carl Korns dated April 4, 1777. Appraisement of Personal Property. Petition of widow, Otilla Korn, for sale of real estate in whole or part (Petition granted).

Names of minor children as they appeared in the Petition: Michael, Jacob, Daniel, Henry and Magdale.

CHAPTER II

MICHAEL KORNS, SR.

This Chapter presents the records of Michael Korns and Susanna Baker Korns with several children emigrated from Berks County, Pa., to Londonderry Township, Bedford County, (now Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pa.) about 1795. A Deed was granted to Michael Korns and his brother Jacob Korns in Bedford County by John Tomlinson, February 9, 1796. Michael Korns located on a farm in Southampton Township, Somerset County, reared a family of twelve children, 5 sons and 7 daughters. Michael Korns died 1824. He had a large estate.

Appraisement . . . Litigation . . . Sale . . . Distribution of Estate.
Draft of Michael Korns, Sr., farm.

Photograph of Cook Cemetery.

Photographs of monuments of Michael and Susanna Baker Korns.

CHAPTER III

DANIEL KORNS BRANCH

Daniel Korns, born 1782, first child of Michael Korns, Sr., married Elizabeth Reiver, lived in Southampton Township, Somerset Co., Pa., on a farm, reared a family of nine children.

CHAPTER IV

CATHERINE KORNS BRANCH

Catherine Korns, born 1783, the second child of Michael Korns, Sr., married Jacob Knieriem, also spelled Kemeret. In the Orphans Court Records, Somerset, Pa., the names were used alternately. They reared a family of thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters. They lived in Somerset County, Pa., and Allegheny County, Maryland.

CHAPTER V

MARY MAGDALENE KORNS BRANCH

Mary Magdalene Korns, born 1785, the third child of Michael Korns, Sr., married John Beal. They were the parents of fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters, lived in Somerset County, Pa.

CHAPTER VI

JOHN KORNS BRANCH

John Korns, born 1787, fourth child of Michael Korns, Sr., married (1st) Rebecca Boucher, (2nd) Susan Kendall, located in Hardy Township, Holmes County, Ohio, three miles West of Millersburg, Ohio. They were the parents of nine children.

CHAPTER VII

SUSANNA KORNS BRANCH

Susanna Korn, born 1789, the fifth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married John Shaver. They lived on a farm in Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pa., later moved to Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. No family history available.

CHAPTER VIII

REBECCA KORNS BRANCH

Rebecca Korn, born 1791, the sixth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married John Witt (Blacksmith), lived in Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pa., descendant, John Witt, Jr.

CHAPTER IX

CHARLES KORNS BRANCH

Charles Korn, born 1793, the seventh child of Michael Korn, Sr., married Catherine Uhl, located in Monroe Township, Holmes County, Ohio, in 1815. They were the parents of eleven children.

CHAPTER X

CHRISTINA KORNS BRANCH

Christina Korn, born 1796, the eighth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married William Troutman, Jr.; they remained on the Troutman farm in Southampton Township, Somerset Co., all their lives. They were the parents of eleven children.

CHAPTER XI

BARBARA KORNS BRANCH

Barbara Korn, born 1797, the ninth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married Charles Uhl, located in Hardy Township, Holmes County, Ohio. They were the parents of eleven children.

CHAPTER XII

DELILA KORNS BRANCH

Delila Korn, born 1801, the tenth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married John Miller. They lived in Somerset County, Pa., and were the parents of four children.

CHAPTER XIII

MICHAEL KORNS, JR., BRANCH

Michael Korn, Jr., born 1803, the eleventh child of Michael Korn, Sr., married Johanna Lepley. They were the parents of eight children. They located in Jenner Township, Somerset County, Pa., in 1832.

CHAPTER XIV

WILLIAM KORNS BRANCH

William Korn, born 1806, the twelfth child of Michael Korn, Sr., married Elizabeth Hoyman. They were the parents of eleven children. They emigrated to Hardy Township, Holmes County, Ohio, 2½ miles West of Millersburg.

CHAPTER XV

JACOB KORNS BRANCH

Jacob Korn, brother of Michael Korn, Sr., located in Bedford County, Pa., was first assessed there in 1791. Owned property in both Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pa., and in Cumberland, Maryland. He emigrated to Holmes County, Ohio, from the state of Maryland about 1817. He married Elizabeth _____, her surname not known. They were the parents of several children. The first Grist Mill in Southampton Township was built by Jacob Korn in 1809. He sold the property to George Weller who later named the town Wellersburg.

CHAPTER XVI

DANIEL KORNS BRANCH

Daniel Korn, brother of Michael Korn, Sr., located in Macungie Township, Lehigh County, Pa. He was Tax Collector there in 1812. His son, Benjamin, married Sarah Shoemaker. They were the parents of seven children. William Albert Korn, Ph.D., is a descendant of Daniel Korn.

CHAPTER XVII

HENRY KORNS BRANCH

Henry Korn, brother of Michael Korn, Sr., married Catherine Baker. They lived on Polk St., Cumberland, Maryland. He dealt in real estate and had a comb factory. They were the parents of several children. Lowdermilk's History of Cumberland, Maryland, listed the Korn's family among the first one hundred families living in Cumberland, 1790 to 1800. Mrs. Catherine Palmer Craig, a descendant of Henry Korn, is President of the Auxiliary to the Pennsylvania Medical Society, 1949.

CHAPTER XVIII

CATHERINE KORNS BRANCH

Catherine Korn, sister of Michael Korn, Sr., married Christian Heiman (Hoyman). They emigrated to Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pa., and were the parents of four children.