

THE

DESCENDANTS OF

John Forry, 1805-1898.

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Descendants of John and Esther [Zerbe] Forry.

Mrs. Rebecca Wagenseller, widow of William Jeremiah Wagenseller (No. 77) is the daughter of John Forry (Forrer) and Esther Zerbe, who were married in Berks County, Pennsylvania, by Rev. Thomas Leinbach, October 28, 1832. John Forrer (it is so spelled in his German Bible dated 1833) was born March 25, 1805 in Berks County, Penna., probably in Heidleburg township. Esther Zerbe, his wife, was born Nov. 20, 1814 in Berks County, Pa., and died in Penn township, Snyder County Pa., Aug. 27, 1874, aged 59 years, 9 months and 7 days. John Forry died in Penn township, January 2, 1865 aged 58 years, 8 months and 24 days. John Forrer moved from Berks County, Pa., to Perry township, Union County, about 1840. The district is now West Perry township, Snyder County, near Richfield, Juniata County. He was a fuller and conducted a woolen mill there for several years. He then moved to the Island near Kantz, in Penn township, Snyder County, and continued in the same business for several years. The march of progress brought later devices for the manufacture of woolen goods and consequently he abandoned the business and went to farming. The mill he then occupied, was destroyed by fire about 1874-5. Leaving here he moved to a farm near Duck's mill, half way between Freeburg and Kantz, then to Boyer's farm along Middlecreek and finally to Col. Henry C. Eyer's farm in Penn township, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Selinsgrove, where he remained until he died in 1865. His

last will and testament dated September 9, 1864, probated February 20, 1865 is on file in the Middleburg Court House. John and Esther Forry were the parents of sixteen children, most of whom have grown into manhood and womanhood, are all living, are all married but one and nearly all have grand-children. Their list of children are as follows :

1. Edward Forry, born in Berks County, Pa., August 23, 1833, baptized by Rev. Fred Herman. Sponsors, George and Magdalena Forrer. George, the sponsor, was an uncle of Edward's father, who possessed a large estate and died without immediate heirs and the distribution of his estate became the bone of contention in the courts until the estate was very nearly parcelled out in attorney fees and costs. Edward now resides at Freeburg, Snyder Co., Pa. He was married December 18, 1859 by Rev. A. B. Casper to Sarah Ann Jodon, who was born May 10, 1836. He is a carpet weaver of ability. They are the parents of four children :

- i. B. Franklin, born April 14, 1860, married Sept. 5, 1880 to Amanda Elizabeth Moyer. They reside in Selinsgrove and have five children, Edward Nathaniel, born June 20, 1881; Mabel May, born Jan. 28, 1885 and died Sept. 2, 1891; Chas. Arthur, born Feb. 11, 1891; Howard, born March 13, 1893, and Roy born Nov. 26, 1894.
- ii. Simon Peter, born Aug. 2, 1862.
- iii. John Thomas, born June 2, 1866.
- iv. Mary Effie, born Oct. 13, 1871, married to Joseph Roush.

2. John Forry, born in Berks County, Penna., Sept. 28, 1834, baptized by Rev. William Hendel. Sponsors, John and Maria Stub. The latter is a sister of John Forry's father. John resides at Elkhart, Ind., has a large

family and quite a list of grand-children. Quite a number of unsuccessful requests were made for data concerning them.

3. Levi Forry, born May 29, 1836, baptized by Rev. William Hendel. Sponsors, Isaac and Rebecca Noll. Died young.

4. Amanda Forry, born in Berks County, September 29, 1837, baptized by Rev. William Hendel. Sponsors, Daniel and Harriet Fisher. Married Lt. William H. Gemberling, born Sept. 22, 1837, and they live at Selinsgrove, Pa. They have had eight children. Two of them Anna and Charles are dead. The living are:

- i. Esther, born April 20, 1856, married Feb. 15, 1873 to Harry L. Noll, who was born Aug. 7, 1850. They reside at Myerstown, Lebanon County, Pa. and have two children, E. Bertha, born Sept. 23, 1873 and William H., born Nov. 20, 1875, is married and has one child dead.
- ii. Calvin Augustus, born August 3, 1858, married June 5, 1879 to Mary C. Miller, daughter of John J. Miller of Selinsgrove. They reside at Mifflinburg and have ten children, Blanche, Harry, Maude, Edwin, Paul, Susie and an infant son, who are living. Irwin, a twin to Edwin and a pair of twins are dead.
- iii. Lydia Amelia, born June 11, 1863 married Sept. 1, 1885, to Perry L. Romig. He is a bridge builder of great skill. His permanent address is Selinsgrove, Pa. They have one son, William Isaac, born May 27.

- iv. Martha Jane, born Nov. 27, 1870, married Flem. Seesholtz of Sunbury. Their first child, a daughter, is dead, the second a son, Eugene Schroyer, is living. They reside at Sunbury.
- v. Jeneatte Bell, born Jan. 10, 1872, married July 17, 1890 to Newton Absalom Bowes, born Aug. 8, 1868. They reside at Middleburgh, Pa. and have had six children, Amanda, born Sept. 4, 1891; Twins, Minerva Mary and Esther Lagotta, born Nov. 26, 1893, died the same day; Joseph Robert, born July 9, 1895; Paul Snyder, born Jan. 8, 1897 and an infant son born June 6, 1898.
- vi. Agnes May, born Oct. 2, 1877, married Nov. 12, 1896 to James F. Moyer. They reside at Selinsgrove and have one son, Perry Fisher, born June, 1897.

5. Jonathan Forry born in Berks County, Penna., Nov. 22, 1838, baptized by Rev. Hendel. Sponsors, Jonathan and Maria Klopp. Mrs. Klopp is a cousin of Jonathan Forry's father and Mr. Klopp at one time owned the large grist mill in Selinsgrove, now in the possession of Howard Davis Schnure. Jonathan Forry formerly resided in Penn township, Snyder County, but for the last 15 years he has resided at Milton, Pa. He married, 1861, Deborah Grissinger, who was born in Northumberland County, May 1, 1841 and was baptized by Rev. Shindel. They have had born to them a family of ten children:

- i. Charles Albert, born in Snyder County, was twice married, his first wife having died. He has several children, resides at McKees Half

- Falls, Snyder County and is proprietor of the hotel at that place.
- ii. Clara Elizabeth, born Jan. 3, 1864, baptized by Rev. Hottenstein in Snyder County, married Feb. 29, 1884 to George B. Shoemaker. They reside at Milton, Pa., and have two children, Jennie Bartley, born Jan. 8, 1885 and Frank, born April 3, 1891.
 - iii. Anna, born Aug. 2, 1865 in Snyder County, baptized by Rev. Hottenstein, married Oct. 11, 1888 to James D. Mumma of Milton, Pa. They are the parents of three children, Harriet Deborah, born May 3, 1889; Sarah, born Aug. 10, 1890 and Joel Benton born Sept. 8, 1892 and died Dec. 8, 1895.
 - iv. John Harvey, born May 9, 1867, baptized in Snyder County by Rev. Hottenstein.
 - v. William Oliver, born November 15, 1868 in Snyder County, baptized by Rev. Hottenstein, married Feb. 10, 1895 to Amanda Felmy to whom was born Oct. 3, 1895, a daughter named Ruth.
 - vi. Sarah Albertha, born in Snyder County, Aug. 31, 1870, married Jan. 3, 1890 to Frank Munson. They have 5 children, George Lee, born Aug. 1, 1891; Wm. Ray, born Oct. 24, 1892; Ella Jeneatta, born April 10, 1894; Charles, born July 12, 1895 and Jennie May born Jan. 8, 1877.
 - vii. Martha Jeneatte, born in Snyder

County April 30, 1872 and was baptized by Rev. Hause.

- viii. Forest Meaker, born in Snyder County, April 10, 1874 and was baptized by Rev. Hause.
- ix. Jeremiah Foster, born in Snyder County, Jan. 28, 1876.
- x. Lillian May, born in Snyder County, Oct. 5, 1879, was baptized by Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder and died Nov. 10, 1889.

6. Rebecca Forry, born near Richfield, within the limits of Snyder (then Union) County, Pa., Nov. 20, 1840, baptized by Rev. Seibert. Sponsors, the parents. Married Nov. 5, 1861 to William Jeremiah Wagenseller, with whom she had ten children, as follows:

- i. Kate Alice, born Feb. 22, 1862, is unmarried and a milliner at Selinsgrove.
- ii. Mary Louisa, born May 17, 1864 and died Aug. 25, 1865.
- iii. John Franklin, born Aug. 1, 1866.
- iv. George Washington, born April 27, 1868. Married Oct. 22, 1896 to Miriam Orwig, daughter of Dr. John W. and Margaret [Zellers] Orwig. Residence, Middleburg, Pa.
- v. Infant son, born April 28, 1870 and died May 6, 1870.
- vi. Ida May, born May 15, 1870.
- vii. Amon Sylvester, born Nov. 11, 1873. Married August 8, 1897 to Jeneatte Smith. They have a son, Bruce Sylvester, born February 23, 1898. Residence, Selinsgrove, Pa.
- viii. Anna Celesta, born June 10, 1876 and died Feb. 17, 1882.

ix. Charles Henry, born Dec. 9, 1877 and died July 24, 1878.

x. Infant son, born Sept 30, 1881 and died same day.

7. William Forry, born March 11, 1842, baptized by Rev. Seibert, now deceased.

8. Alfred Forry, born July 20, 1843, a cripple, baptized by Rev. Seibert, a Reformed minister, and died August 19, 1879, aged 36 years and 29 days.

9. Elmira Forry, born Oct. 29, 1844, in Union (now Snyder) County, was married first to Mathias U. App, July 6, 1873, now deceased, and second, Feb. 25, 1896, to David Reed, born June 10, 1839, now reside at Adamsville, Cass County, Michigan. M. U. App was first married to Matilda Bealer. Gertrude Irene, a daughter of Elmira, born May 9, 1862, was married by Rev. H. B. Belmer, Jan, 1, 1878 to Samuel L. App, a son of M. U. and Matilda App, born Oct. 31, 1850. To Samuel and Gertrude App are born three children, Anna Merinda, born Nov. 3, 1879, died Sept 18, 1880; Harry, born Jan. 15, 1881 and Susan Elmira born Oct. 2, 1883.

10. Lydia Forry, born in Washington township, Sept. 19, 1846, baptized by Rev. Leise, married Norman Fisher. She has a daughter, Minnie, married to William Hughes, a prominent attorney at Missoula, Montana. They have a son, Arthur, now resides at Alvira, Union County, Pa. A daughter Hattie and other children reside at home on the old Fisher homestead on the Isle of Que, two miles south of Selinsgrove, Pa.

11. Mary Ann Forry, born in Washington township, Oct. 21, 1848, baptized by Rev. Leise. Sponsors, parents. Married by Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer, March 9, 1875 to Jacob Martin, who was born January 12, 1852 and now resides at Goshen, Indiana. They have five children :

i. Hattie Jane, born Sept. 25, 1875.

ii. Barbara Ellen, born Dec. 8, 1876, now deceased.



- iii. William Newton, born May 17, 1878, now dead.
- iv. Nettie Dora, born Nov. 18, 1879.
- v. Anna Mabel, born Sept. 8, 1886.

12. Elizabeth Forry, born in Washingtoniowship, Sept. 9, 1850, baptized by Rev. Leise, married Nov. 3, 1867 to W. N. Fisher, who was born Oct. 10, 1846, and now resides on the Isle of Que, about 2½ miles south of Selinsgrove. To them have been born six children :

- i. Lydia Dora, born Jan. 23, 1869.
- ii. John Christian, born Sept. 9, 1870, and died Jan. 23, 1871.
- iii. Franklin Foster, born Jan. 18, 1872.
- iv. Carrie Olevia, born Aug. 12, 1873.
- v. Dennis Roscoe, born Aug. 17, 1875.
- vi. Edna May, born May 14, 1878.

13. Samuel Boyer Forry, born in Snyder (then Union) County, Pa., Aug. 25, 1852, unmarried. Resides with Mrs. Sarah Fisher, on Isle of Que, near Selinsgrove.

14. A son, born Jan. 12, 1854, died in infancy.

15. Calvin Forry, born Feb. 28, 1855, baptized by Rev. Leise, married Oct. 29, 1874 by Rev. C. G. Erlenmeyer to Alice Daubert of Port Treverton, Pa., who was born July 18, 1857. They now reside near Kantz, Snyder County. They have two children :

- i. Sarah S., born July 10, 1875, married July 22, 1894 to Forest E. Holtzapple.
- ii. George Robert, born Aug. 24, 1878.

16. Catherine Forry, born Nov. 25, 1857, baptized by Rev. Erlenmeyer. Sponsors, Conrad and Catherine Fetter. She married Frank Duck. They have a son, Foster, and reside near Kantz, Snyder County, Pa.

We stated that John Forrer and his wife Esther Zerbe came from Berks County to Snyder (then Union) County, Pa., 1839-40. As their children were baptized by Revs.

Herman and Hendel, pastor of St. John's Reformed church in Heidleburg township, Berks County, we infer they resided near there. The church is known as Hain's church and is located one mile north of Wernersville. This congregation was organized about 1732 and hence it is one of the oldest in Berks County. The present pastor of the church is Rev. W. J. Kerchner, No. 115 South Third St., Reading, Pa.

The ancestry of John Forrer and Esther Zerbe has not been traced. There were two immigrants to Pennsylvania. Johannes Forrer, (Page 11, Pennsylvania Archives, Vol. XVII) arrived in the Ship Friendship of Bristol, John Davies, Master from Rotterdam, qualified at Philadelphia Oct. 16, 1727. On page 432, the same volume, we learn that Johannes Forrer arrived in the Ship Brothers, Capt. William Muir from Rotterdam, qualified Sept. 30, 1754. This is probably the grand-father of John Forry for we learn (page 335, Vol. II, Pa. Archives) that Johannes Forrer of Berks County took the oath of allegiance, March 30, 1755.

NOTES.

Zerbe.—They came over land from Schoharie, N. Y. to Tulpekoeken, Berks County, Pa., and settled in the Weiser colony 1723-7. They were a prominent family.

Peter Sarvey, probably Zerbe came from Albany, N. Y. to Tulpehocken, Berks County, Pa. in 1723.

1756.—Jacob Zerbe is named a referee in the docket of Peter Spyster, Esq., at Tulpehocken.

1779.—John Zerbe, Michael Furer (Forrer), Christian Zerbe, Benjamin Zerbe and Daniel Zerbe of Berks County, Pa., signed a petition against calling a convention to amend the constitution of the state.

March 24, 1782.—Jacob Zerbe married Maria Kline. *Historical Register.*

These notes are given for the benefit of those who may wish to continue the search.

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