

V. THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL AND DOROTHEA

Most of the children of Michael and Dorothea remained in central Pennsylvania. The exception to the rule was son Martin, who took his family to Tennessee and Ohio. Some of Martin's family remained in Ohio, while others moved on to Indiana and beyond.

The children of Michael and Dorothea who stayed in Pennsylvania were apparently a close-knit lot. Many of them lived near each other in Chapman Township or Perry Township in what is now Snyder County.

Maria Elisabetha and Simon Herrold

Maria Elisabetha was born on March 23, 1754. She and her husband had a son named Simon K. Herrold.

There are no known church or cemetery records that shed further light on the family. However, census records for 1860 show a Simon K. Herrold, born about 1788, living with the family of George H. and Barbara Herrold in Chapman Township. George and Barbara and their children were living with Simon and Polly Herrold in 1850.

Martin and Appolonia Castator

Martin was born on May 30, 1756, near Cleona. After serving in the Revolutionary War, he married a woman named Appolonia or Abby in the 1780s. Martin died in Butler County, Ohio, in 1814.

Martin and Appolonia apparently had six children. Martin's will mentions all of the children except Daniel, who presumably died before Martin.

<u>Children</u>	<u>Biographical Information</u> ¹
John	Born about 1783 in what is now Snyder County Died before 1840
Christina Maria	Born about 1786 in what is now Snyder County Married Andrew Key about 1808 in Blount County, Tennessee Probably died in 1840s in Blount County

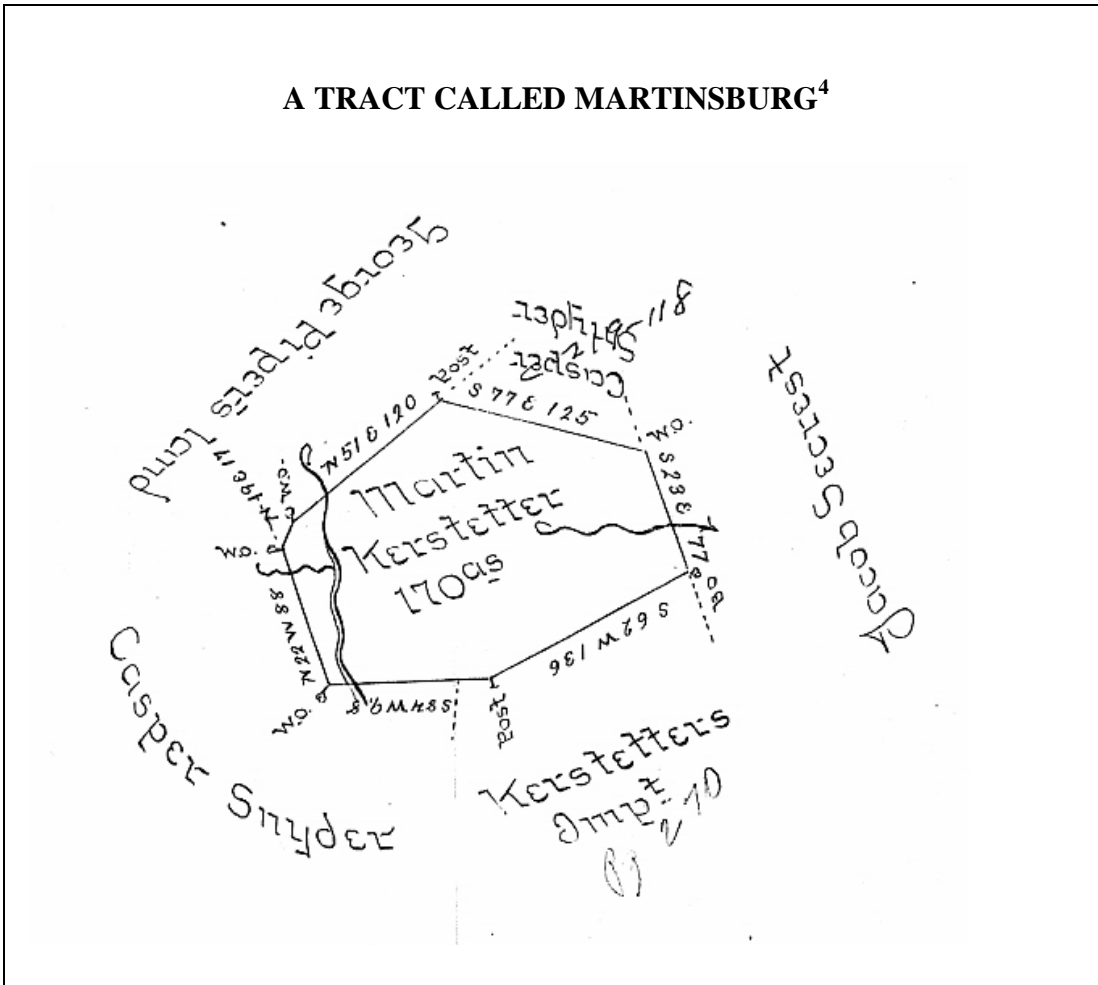
- Peter Born about 1788 in what is now Snyder County
Married (1) Sarah or Sally Snaveley on Aug. 8, 1809, in Wythe
County, Virginia; (2) Mary or Molly Rumble (June 13, 1797-Nov.
16, 1859) on April 8, 1819, in Butler County; and (3) Elizabeth
Rumble Brosier (Aug. 6, 1818-May 15, 1900) on Nov. 1, 1860,
in Cass County, Indiana
Died Nov. 18, 1861, in Cass County, Indiana
- Mary Born about 1792 in what is now Snyder County
Married Andrew Castison in 1814
- ? Daniel Born about 1793 in what is now Snyder County
Married Catharine Rumble, born about 1795
Died before 1814
- Michael Born about 1798 in Tennessee
Married Anna Thomas on Jan. 16, 1817, in Butler County
Died in Ripley County, Indiana after 1840

The best guess about Martin's military service is that he fought briefly with Capt. Casper Weitzel's company of the Pennsylvania militia. Weitzel's company suffered heavy losses in the Battle of Long Island. Records in the Pennsylvania Archives show a Martin Kerstetter enlisted on April 12, 1776, and was missing as of Aug. 27, 1776, along with a number of other privates in the company after the action on Long Island. Presumably, they deserted and went home.²

Martin's name appears on the early assessment and land records of Penn and Mahantango townships as a single man through 1781 and as a landholder beginning in 1782. He apparently acquired 300 acres of land from his mother in 1782 and passed on 200 acres to his brother George in 1785 and 1786.³

In 1796, he sold another 60 acres of land to Henry Rine and 120 acres to his brother George. The land transactions apparently cleared the way for Martin and his family to move to Blount County, Tennessee, south of Knoxville the following year. The family moved again in the early 1800s, this time to Butler County, Ohio, north of Cincinnati. The move came after 1810, because Martin was not on the 1810 Butler tax lists.

A TRACT CALLED MARTINSBURG⁴



Castators were among the early members of the first Lutheran church in St. Clair Township of Butler County, according to a “cyclopaedia” of the county written in 1882.

“The St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, one and a half miles south-west of Hamilton, was organized as early as 1806 by Germans, who had settled in this part of the township, from Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina,” the book said.⁵

“The first house was a log building, about sixteen by eighteen feet. The furniture was plain and simple. The fireplace was eight feet in width and five feet deep. As there was no regularly built school-house, at an early day the church was used for educational purposes also. It continued to fill both these requirements for about thirty-five years.”

Martin died in St. Clair Township of Butler County in 1814. It isn’t known where he and Appolonia are buried.

Martin had written his will on April 12, 1814, and signed it with an "x." The will was filed and recorded by order of the Court of Common Pleas in Hamilton, Ohio, on the 3rd Monday of August 1814.

He left most of his estate to "my beloved wife Abby" and five dollars to each of the five children. The first items mentioned in the will were livestock later valued at \$178 or the equivalent of 29 percent of the value of the estate. Proprietary notes and other items owed to Martin made up \$301.16 or nearly half the estate. The total value of the estate was \$611.53.⁶

Very few members of Martin's family stayed in Butler County. As of 1850, there were only three families living there with the Castator name. They were headed by Jacob, Daniel and Michael, all sons of John and grandsons of Martin. Other family members had moved to Indiana.

- John was apparently the oldest of the children of Martin and Appolonia. He was born about 1783 and is listed in the 1820 and 1830 census in Hanover Township in Butler County. John's wife was almost certainly the Catharine Castator, born between 1780 and 1790, who is listed in the 1840 census in Clinton County, Indiana, with two daughters. A few doors away was the family of daughter Mary Castator and her husband George Salmon.

Catharine married John Humes on Jan. 29, 1841. Humes was born between 1780 and 1790, and the census details for 1840 suggest he was a widower. Catharine Humes was listed in the 1850 census with the family of daughter Hannah Castator and her husband Joseph Pitman.

John and his wife probably had four sons between about 1802 and 1820 and eight daughters between 1804 and 1825. There are few known records for some of the children.⁷

Jacob married Catherine Rinehart on May 3, 1827, in Butler County. Jacob was born about 1801 and died after 1860. Catherine was born about 1813 and died after April 11, 1877.

Mary married George Salmon on Sept. 14, 1826, in Butler County. Mary was born about 1806 and died before 1850. George was born in 1799 in Virginia and died Dec. 28, 1868, in Clinton County, Indiana. On March 21, 1850, George married a woman named Drusci or Druzilla - possibly a widow named Druzilla Addison. The family was living in Owen Township in Clinton County in 1860.

Elizabeth, born about 1806, married Samuel Garver on Feb. 10, 1827, in Butler County.

Catharine married Andrew Hindman on Jan. 26, 1830, in Butler County. Catharine was born about 1808, and Andrew about 1804. At the time of the 1850 census, the family was living in Cherry Township in Butler County.

? Samuel, born about 1811, and his wife Sarah, born about 1817, were living in Posey County in southwestern Indiana in 1850. Samuel was a Civil War veteran, serving in the 21st Battery of the Indiana Light Artillery.

Daniel married Susan Saunders on Dec. 25, 1838. Daniel was born about 1814 and died after 1870. Susan was born about 1823 and died on Jan. 27, 1906. Her mother Mary Saunders, born in 1774, was living with the family in 1860. Susan herself was living with the family of her daughter Susan and son-in-law Charles A. Shuler in Butler County in 1900.

Sarah was born about 1815.

Michael married Sarah Harsha on April 24, 1836, in Butler County. Michael was born about 1816 and died after 1860. Sarah was born about 1818 and died after 1850. The family was still living in Butler County in 1860.

Rebecca was born about 1817 and married John Jamison on March 31, 1836, in Clinton County.

Hannah (Nov. 19, 1819-Feb. 24, 1896) married Joseph P. Pitman (May 3, 1819-June 20, 1866) on Jan. 1, 1840, in Clinton County.

Julie Ann, born about 1822, married Jacob Dyer, born about 1813 on Oct. 3, 1850, in Clinton County. They were living in Jackson Township in Clinton County in 1870.

Martha Jane (Jan. 4, 1824-April 13, 1899) married Absalom Shepard (June 1, 1820-Dec. 6, 1887) on Jan. 29, 1841. The family was living in Moran Township in Clinton County, Indiana, at the time of the 1880 census.

- Christina Maria and Andrew Key remained in Blount County, Tennessee. The family is listed in the 1840 census with two sons born 1810-1820 and 1820-1825, and two daughters born 1820-1825 and 1825-1830. Christina Maria probably died in the 1840s.

Andrew married Rosannah Wright on Feb. 21, 1854, in Blount County. The couple is listed in the 1860 census, Andrew age 80 and Rosannah age 65.⁸

- Peter had three wives and children with all three. Census records suggest that he and his first wife Sarah or Sally Snavely had one son and three daughters born between about 1810 and 1818.

Peter's second wife Mary or Molly Rumble was the daughter of Joh. Daniel and Maria Magdalena Beaver Rumble and was born in Rowen County, North Carolina. Peter and Molly and their family lived in Marion County, Indiana, near Indianapolis and later in Hamilton County just north of Marion County. They had five sons and four daughters. The name of one daughter born between 1830 and 1835 is not known.

Peter was living with his son Jacob M. and his family at the time of the 1860 census, but he married again soon after. His third wife was Elizabeth Rumpel Brosier, a younger sister of his second wife. The couple had a daughter Laura J., who was born after Peter's death.

Peter bought land in Marion County on Oct. 15, 1821. He lived on the land until 1837 and also served as a justice of the peace. He bought 160 acres of land in Hamilton County in 1836, which he sold in 1860 to sons Michael J. and Jacob M.⁹

Most of Peter's children married and raised their families in Hamilton County.¹⁰

Mary was born about 1812 in Tennessee and married William McKinstry on Aug. 5, 1830, in Marion County. Mary died sometime between 1851 and the 1860 census, and William later remarried.

Appolonia, born about 1812, married Henry Cox on April 29, 1830.

Catharine Ann was born June 25, 1814, in Butler County.

Daniel (June 22, 1820-Sept. 7, 1877) married (1) Rhoda Lewis (Sept. 25, 1826-Nov. 28, 1859) on Dec. 19, 1844; and (2) Paulina Goodspeed Garborder (Sept. 21, 1831-March 29, 1892). Daniel was a member of Company I of the 75th Indiana Volunteers during the Civil War and served from 1862 to 1865 with his brother Michael Jacob. Daniel and Rhoda are buried in Highland Cemetery and Paulina in Lowery Cemetery. Both cemeteries are in Hamilton County.¹¹

Susanna, born about 1823, married Jacob Sarver on Dec. 31, 1840. She was widowed after a few years, and she and her three young children were living with Peter and Molly in 1850. Daughter Mary E. Sarver, age 12, was living with Susanna's brother Jacob and his family at the time of the 1860 census.

Sarah (Feb. 18, 1824-Jan. 24, 1898) was second wife of Vincent Heady (May 10, 1814-Feb. 21, 1862). The couple married on Sept. 25, 1855. Vincent was the son of James and Dorothy Heady and one of several Heady family members married to Casteters. In 1880, Sarah was living with her daughter Polly and son-in-law William F. Humbles and their family.

Elizabeth, born about 1827, married Perry Heady (March 8, 1826-April 30, 1864) on Aug. 10, 1848.

Jacob M., born about 1830, married Lucretia Redwine (c.1836-April 8, 1895) on Aug. 31, 1854. Lucretia had been living with Dorothy Heady at the time of the 1850 census and may have been a granddaughter of James and Dorothy Heady.

Michael Jacob (Sept. 9, 1832-Dec. 11, 1883) married Sarah Elizabeth Heady (Nov. 15, 1835-Feb. 17, 1916) on March 29, 1854. Michael was a veteran of the Civil War and served with Company I of the 75th Indiana Volunteers from 1862 to 1865.

He enlisted as a private and was promoted to full corporal. Sarah Elizabeth was a daughter of Vincent Heady from a previous marriage. Sarah Elizabeth was living with her son Albert Newton and his family in Hamilton County at the time of the 1900 census.¹²

Benjamin Peter (Aug. 31, 1836 or 1837-July 3, 1908) married (1) Sarah Hawkins on May 20, 1858; and (2) Fanny Jane Heady (Sept. 17, 1844-Aug. 19, 1908) on Jan. 26, 1866. Benjamin served with the 17th Light Artillery from 1862 to 1865 and was promoted from a private to a full sergeant. Fanny Jane was another of the daughters of Vincent Heady from a previous marriage. The family was living in Hamilton County, Indiana, at the time of the 1900 census.

Isaac H., born about 1840, married Mary Cloud, born about 1842, on Feb. 1, 1860.

Laura M. was born about 1862. She was living with her mother Elizabeth and stepfather Lewis Lenon at the time of the 1870 census, and with her mother, widowed again, in Cass County in 1880. She married Val Thompson in Cass County on Dec. 28, 1882.¹³

- There are no known records of Mary and her husband Andrew Castison after their marriage.
- Daniel probably died soon after his marriage to Catharine Rumble. That could indicate the couple had no children.
- Michael Castator and his wife Anna apparently moved from Butler County to nearby Ripley County, Indiana, in 1819 after the birth of their son George Washington. At the time of the 1850 census, Anna and her youngest child Ira Ishmael were living with the family of George Washington in Ripley County. Anna was not listed in the 1860 census.¹⁴

Some of their children remained in Indiana, and others moved to northwestern Missouri sometime after 1850.

George Washington was born about 1818 in Butler County. He married (1) Elizabeth Jane or Eliza Watson on Aug. 24, 1840, and divorced her sometime after 1870. Eliza, listed as divorced, and her son John are in the 1880 census in Ripley County. A George and Margaret were listed in the 1880 census in Grant County, Indiana, and a Margaret Castetter was living with the family of her daughter Rhoda J. Corn in Grant County in 1900.¹⁵

Abigail (Sept. 8, 1819-Dec. 5, 1880) married Henry Watson (April 11, 1817-July 22, 1906), an older brother of Eliza, on March 3, 1840. They are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Worth County, Missouri.

Mary Ann was born about 1820. She may have married William Culver, born about 1817.

Elizabeth, born about 1825, married John Morris, born about 1820, on March 22, 1842.

Balinda (Jan. 21, 1825-Feb. 11, 1896) married Levi Tucker (March 14, 1820-Jan. 9, 1902) on Dec. 15, 1848. They are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Worth County.

There was also a son born about 1827.

Susannah N. (1831-Nov. 3, 1924) married Richard Lines (Feb. 23, 1829-Nov. 2, 1880) on Dec. 2, 1848. They are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Worth County.

Ira Ishmael Castetter (1839-1923) married Florence Joan Jackson (1848-1923) in Hendricks County near Indianapolis on Dec. 21, 1871. Ira had nearly four years of service during the Civil War. He enlisted in Company A, Indiana 37th Infantry, on Oct. 15, 1861, as a corporal and was later promoted to full sergeant. He was mustered out on July 25, 1865.¹⁶

? Joh. Georg and Elizabeth

Another Kerstetter who was almost certainly a son of Michael and Dorotha was Joh. Georg or George. He was born about 1757, married Elizabeth Snyder in the 1785 and died on Jan. 1, 1847, in what is now Snyder County. Elizabeth, daughter of John and Susanna Snyder, was born in 1764 and died on Dec. 5, 1850.¹⁷

The couple probably had six sons and three or four daughters. Some of the children stayed in Snyder County, some went west to Stark, Coshocton, Holmes or Tuscarawas counties in Ohio, and one went north with her husband to Ontario. Nothing more is known about Jacob and Maria Magdalena and one of the other daughters.

<u>Children</u>	<u>Biographical Information</u> ¹⁸
? Joh. George	Born about 1783? Died in Stark County, Ohio?
Michael	Born Sept. 5, 1784 Married Catharine German or Garman (June 30, 1791- Feb. 10, 1839) on April 10, 1813 Died May 28, 1865, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio
Catharine	Born March 8, 1792 Married Christopher Jager or Yeager (March 14, 1788-July 5, 1852) about 1810 Died Dec, 29, 1871, in Elgin County, Ontario

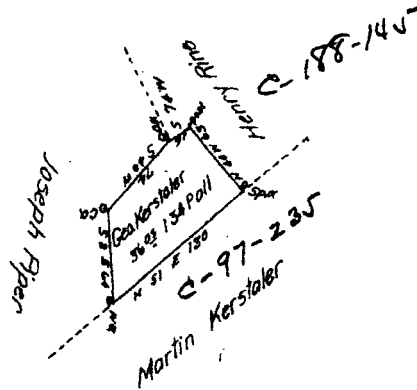
Solomon	Born Feb. 5, 1793 Married Barbara Zellers on Oct. 24, 1815 Died after 1860
Philip	Born about 1795 Died in 1880 in Snyder County
David	Born March 3, 1797 Married Catharine Fisher (Jan. 21, 1801-June 23, 1890) Died June 4, 1880, in Snyder County
Daughter	Born April 3, 1798
Jacob	Born Dec. 10, 1800
Dorothy (Dolly)	Born about 1801 Married Jonas Gilbert (1803-) Died about 1885 in Coshocton County, Ohio
Maria Magdalena	Born Oct. 31, 1806 Probably died as a child

Soon after the start of the Revolutionary War, George signed up with the company of Capt. Daniel Burkhardt, one of four companies of Germans raised in Philadelphia. He enlisted on Aug. 29, 1776, and joined the company on Sept. 21. His bounty for answering the call was \$20, three months' pay for a private.

George probably crossed the Delaware River with Washington on Christmas Eve, 1776, and fought in the Battle of Trenton. He was at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown in the fall of 1777, spent that winter at Valley Forge and was in General Sullivan's expedition against the Indians. Muster rolls show him at Valley Forge and later in Yellow Spring Hospital in the spring of 1778, in White Plains, N.Y., in late summer, and at Fish Kill, N.Y., in October and November. He was listed as a deserter from November, 1779.¹⁹

George was a farmer and blacksmith who fell on hard times later in life. He applied for a Revolutionary War pension in 1818 and was granted \$8 a month retroactive to June 2, 1818, but the money was soon cut off because the relevant military records could not be found. His land holdings of 200 acres were mortgaged to the hilt as of 1820, and pension application documents placed his net worth at \$291.50. However, George still managed to buy and sell several pieces of land through 1831.

ONE OF GEORGE'S TRACTS OF LAND²⁰



Situate in Mahantango Township in the County of Northumberland Surveyed on the 6th Day of August 1796 (by Frederick Evan then Deputy Surveyor) for George Kerstaler by Virtue of his Warrant bearing Date on the 22nd Day of February 1794 Containing thirty six Acres and one hundred and thirty four perches with the usual Allowance of Six P Cent &c

*To Samuel Cochran Esq: }
Surveyor General*

Henry Donnel D.S

By 1842, George was described as “blind and dependent on his poor relatives for a living.”²¹

Census records indicate that George and Elizabeth spent their last years living with their son David and his family. It is not known where they are buried.

- ? George appears in the 1810 census in Mahantango Township in what is now Snyder County and in the 1820 census in Paris Township in Stark County, Ohio, and probably

died in the 1820s. His wife Elizabeth, born between 1784 and 1790, is shown as the head of the household in the 1830 listing for Paris Township.

During the War of 1812, a George Karstetter is shown as a member of Capt. Valentine Haas' 77th Pennsylvania militia from Union County.²²

Census records suggest the couple had four sons and three daughters born between 1804 and 1830.

? Jacob was born about 1812 in Pennsylvania and is listed with his wife Susannah in Holmes County, Ohio, in the 1850 census. Jacob was a blacksmith like his grandfather.

Benjamin was born Dec. 10, 1815, and baptized at Botschaft Church.

- Michael and his wife Catharine, daughter of John Peter German or Garman and Mary Elizabeth Menges, lived the first part of their lives in Pennsylvania and moved in the late 1830s to the area near New Bedford, Ohio. New Bedford is in Holmes County near Coshocton and Tuscarawas counties. Many of the early settlers of the region were Pennsylvania Germans and preserved their native language long after their arrival in the region.²³

Catharine died in 1839 and is buried in the Shepler Church Cemetery in Coshocton County. Michael lived with his daughter Lucy and her family and later his daughter Mary Elizabeth and her family until his own death. He is buried in Seltonright Cemetery in Pleasant Valley in Tuscarawas County on land which was located on the farm of his son-in-law John Keiser.

Michael and Catharine apparently had seven children. Three died in infancy and four lived to adulthood.

John was born about 1818 and died about 1841. He is buried in Shepler Church Cemetery.

Louisa or Lucy (July 20, 1818-Jan. 23, 1904) was married on Dec. 20, 1840, in Coshocton County to John Keiser (Dec. 29, 1813-March 8, 1897). They are buried in Shepler Church Cemetery. Keiser was a blacksmith.

Elias (Dec. 9, 1820-Aug. 8, 1844) was married on May 25, 1841, in Coshocton County to Christina Burkhart (Sept. 15, 1820-Feb. 3, 1889), daughter of Peter Burkhart and Elizabeth Levengood. Elias died while taking wheat to be transported on the Ohio Canal and is buried in the old cemetery in Navarre. Christina is buried in the Reformed Church cemetery at New Bedford.

Mary Elizabeth or Betsey (Dec. 22, 1824-May 17, 1919) married Levi Murray (Dec. 10, 1823-July 19, 1860) on Sept. 29, 1846. They were living in Tuscarawas

County at the time of the 1850 census and later moved to Crawford County, Indiana, where Levi died. Mary later married Jordon Williams in 1894 in Crawford County.

- Catharine and Christopher Yeager settled in Elgin County in southwestern Ontario. The 1861 census listing describes her as widowed and says she was Mennonite. The couple is buried in the Fifth Concessional Burying Grounds in Westminster Township of nearby Middlesex County, Ontario.²⁴

Their children and their approximate dates of birth were: John (1811), Susanna (1814), George (1815), David (1820), Catherine E. (1822), Francis F. (1825), Matthias (1826), Henry (1828), Elias (1830), Michael (1832), and Jacob (1834).

- Solomon and his wife Barbara probably had six sons and six daughters. Solomon was a blacksmith like his father and lived in Perry Township in Snyder County.²⁵

Mary or Polly Ann was born Oct. 16, 1816, and married Charles Goodling. The family was living in Perry Township in 1880.

Barbara was born Nov. 26, 1819, and married Jacob Hackenbrock.

Saloma was born Jan. 28, 1821.

Solomon Jr. was born March 21, 1823, and probably died before 1850.

Anna Carletta was born Oct. 4, 1825.

Andrew (April 8, 1827-July 25, 1913) married Sophia Marks (Dec. 26, 1827-March 24, 1878) on March 7, 1852. The family was living in Monroe Township in Juniata County at the time of the 1860 census.

Catharine was born Nov. 1, 1828.

Lydia was born Jan. 21, 1831, and married Christian Franz.

Benjamin was born Nov. 21, 1833, and married Barbara Marks on Dec. 14, 1854. The family was living in Monroe Township in Juniata County in 1860.

Isaac (May 7, 1836-July 2, 1865) married Besny Strawser, born about 1839, on June 26, 1859. The family was living with his parents Solomon and Barbara in 1860. Isaac is buried in Arbogast's Cemetery south of Freemont in Perry Township.

Elias or Eli was born Oct. 14, 1838.

Henry Wayne was born in 1840 and died March 1, 1915. His wife was Martha Jane Barg, who was born March 16, 1842, and died Jan. 16, 1913. He and his family were living in West Perry Township of Snyder County in 1900.

- Philip and Rebecca lived their lives in Chapman Township. Rebecca was born about 1802 and died sometime in the 1860s. After her death, Philip lived with son John G. and his family and later son Philip G. and his family prior to his own death in 1880. The death notice gave the cause of death as paralysis.²⁶

Philip and Rebecca had five sons and two daughters born between 1815 and 1840, but only John G. and Philip G. are known for sure. Philip G. and Joseph were members of Hall's Evangelical Lutheran Church, now Zion Lutheran Church, near McKees Half Falls. All the family apparently remained in Chapman Township in Snyder County.

? The oldest son was probably born between 1815 and 1825 and died prior to the 1850 census. There may have been two sons from this marriage, Joseph and Jacob. The boys are shown with Joseph and Catharine Rine (possibly their grandparents) in the 1850 census and with John G. and Elizabeth (probably their uncle and aunt) in the 1860 census.

? Joseph and Catharine were married on March 23, 1848. Joseph was born Feb. 16, 1826, and died Feb. 1, 1902. His wife Catharine (possibly Catharine Herrold) was born Oct. 27, 1828, and died March 16, 1901. The couple is buried at Hall's Church.

? Mary was born about 1828 and married John B. Rine on Jan. 22, 1851.

? Elizabeth was born about 1831.

John G. was probably born about 1835 and died July 18, 1912. He was married twice, first to a women named Elizabeth listed in the census records and later to Kate, who was named in his will.

? Lewis was born about 1837 and died in 1874. He had a son William Henry in 1874 with Amanda Glace, born about 1838, who had been his next-door neighbor. Amanda and William Henry were living with Amanda's mother and stepfather in 1880. They were by themselves in Chapman Township in 1900. And in 1910, Amanda was living with William Henry and his wife and daughter.

Philip G. was born Dec. 22, 1839, and died March 19, 1900. His wife Susanna lived with son John and his family after Philip's death. Susanna was born Nov. 22, 1839, and died April 3, 1924. The couple is buried at Hall's Church along with one of their sons Philip Wesley Kerstetter and his wife Annie Catherine.

- David and his wife Catharine, daughter of Jacob and Margaret Fisher, lived in Chapman Township and are buried at Hall's Church near McKees Half Falls.²⁷

David and Catharine had three sons and three daughters.

Michael was born on July 23, 1829, died on Oct. 26, 1855, and is buried in Kramer's private cemetery in Chapman Township.

David F. was born about 1835 and died March 23, 1914. His first wife was named Catharine (possible Catharine Garman) and his second wife was Mary, who was still alive at the time of David F.'s death.

Mary A. was born about 1838.

Catharine was born about 1839.

John F. was born in 1843 and died March 23, 1914. He and his wife Lucy Ann and their children were living in Chapman Township in 1880. His parents David and Catharine were also living with them in 1880. John F. and his family were still living in Chapman Township in 1900.

Christiana was born about 1846.

- Dorothea and Jonas Gilbert and their family lived in Monroe Township in Coshocton County, Ohio, from before the time of the 1850 census through the 1880 census.

The following children and their approximate years of birth were listed in the 1850 census for Coshocton County: Susanna (1826), George (1828), Lucy (1829), Elizabeth (1830), Elijah? (1832), David (1834), Sarah (1835), Joseph (1839), and Silas (1844).

Johannes

Johannes or John was born on Oct. 31, 1761, near Cleona. He probably served as a private in Capt. William Weirick's company of the Northumberland County militia and didn't marry until a number of years after the war. A John Kerstetter was assessed as a single man in Penn Township in 1790 and as a married man in Mahantango Township in 1796 and 1807.²⁸

John died on Aug. 5, 1843, in Chapman Township and was apparently a widower at the time of his death.

John and his wife probably had no more than four sons and two daughters of their own, all born between about 1794 and 1811. One son and one daughter may have died as children.

Children

Biographical Information

Michael	Did not marry Died June 2, 1846
John Jr.	Born Oct. 1, 1801 Died Oct. 1, 1868
Frederick	Born in 1804 or 1811? Did not marry
Anna Maria (Polly)	Born about 1805 Died before 1860

John Sr.'s estate was settled in 1847 following a series of transactions complicated by Michael's death in 1846. John Jr. sold Frederick his interest in the 104 acres of land once owned by his father. Frederick and Polly and her son Franklin Kreitzer agreed to pool the land and personal property for their own use, with all the property to go to the survivors. Polly was not married, but the agreement described Kreitzer as her "natural son."²⁹

John Jr.'s wife Harriet was born on June 15, 1811, died on Oct. 19, 1890, and is buried with her husband at Botschaft Church.

John Jr. and Harriet probably had foster children rather than children of their own. John's will mentioned a Mary A. Crouse, born about 1845, who married Dr. J. G. Crouse, and a Jonathan Kerstetter, born about 1844, who was the son of Solomon Kerstetter Jr.³⁰

Frederick and Polly are listed in the same household in the 1850 census in Chapman Township. Polly does not appear in the 1860 census, but Frederick is listed with the family of Franklin Kreitzer, Polly's son.

? Joh. Leonhardt and Catharine

The last of the sons of Michael and Dorothea was probably Joh. Leonhardt or Leonard. Census and church records show he was born about 1769, married about 1792 and died between 1830 and 1840 in Chapman Township. His wife Catharine, daughter of Christian Richter, was born about 1774 and died between 1820 and 1830.³¹

The couple had perhaps eight sons and three daughters: four sons born between 1790 and 1800, a daughter born between 1790 and 1794, two sons and a daughter born between 1800 and 1810, and two sons and a daughter born between 1810 and 1820.

<u>Children</u>	<u>Biographical Information</u> ³²
? Jacob	Born about 1792
? Frederick	Born between 1790 and 1800

Michael Born May 30, 1797
 Married Sarah Reichter (March 20, 1793-April 20, 1869)
 Died July 24, 1852

? George Born between 1800 and 1810

Ludwig or Lewis Born July 5, 1803
 Married about 1827 to Catherine Herrold (April 15, 1806-
 Feb. 22, 1886)
 Died April 1, 1879

David Born March 7, 1818

- ? Jacob and his wife Sarah, born about 1789, probably had three sons and four daughters. Their children and approximate years of birth are as follows.³³

Juliana was born about 1818.

Census records suggest there was one other son born between 1820 and 1825.

? Levi and Mary Gaugler were married on Sept. 19, 1842. Levi was born about 1824 and Mary about 1828. The family was living in West Beaver Township in 1850 and further west in Derry Township in Mifflin County in 1880.

John H. (March 9, 1827-April 24, 1894) married Leah (Oct. 2, 1833-March 31, 1858). In 1860, John H. was living with two young daughters, his sister Elizabeth and his widowed mother Sarah in Chapman Township. His second wife was named Polly or Mary. John H. and Leah are buried in Paradise U.B. Church Cemetery in Port Trevorton.

Lydia was born about 1830.

Elizabeth was born about 1832.

Maria was born about 1833.

- ? A Frederick and a Frederick Jr., both born between 1790 and 1800, appear in the 1830 census in Chapman Township. One of them was listed with a wife and daughter, the other with a wife and three daughters.
- Michael and Sarah had three sons and three daughters. Michael was described as a “well-to-do farmer” in a biographical record of the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys.³⁴

Michael and wife Sarah are buried at Botschaft Church. When Michael died in 1852, letters of administration for his estate were issued to son Christian and a Lewis Kerstetter, presumably Michael’s brother Lewis.

Christian was born July 31, 1818, baptized at Botschaft Church and died of prostate cancer on Feb. 1, 1899, in Pipestone Township in Berrien County in southwestern Michigan. His wife Barbara Rough, daughter of John Rough and Elizabeth Swartz, died a few days after her husband on Feb. 5, 1899, of pneumonia and heart failure. The family was living in Chapman Township at the time of the 1870 census and in Pipestone Township in 1880.³⁵

Hannah was born July 26, 1820, and baptized at Botschaft Church.

Elizabeth was born Feb. 7, 1825, died Sept. 14, 1853, and is buried at Botschaft Church.

Catharine was born in 1826.

Peter was born April 24, 1818, in McKee's Half Falls, Pennsylvania, and died Jan. 28, 1892, in Peoria County, Illinois. His wife was Catharine Gumby, who was born about 1832 and died Aug. 6, 1890. The family was living in Turbett Township in Juniata County in 1880 and apparently went west after an exploratory visit by their son William Noble. Descendants said Peter and Catharine spoke little English. They are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Peoria County.³⁶

Michael (1832-1900) married Susan Minnig (1839-1925), daughter of Jacob Minnig, on Dec. 25, 1856. The family was living in Chapman Township in 1880. Michael owned 150 acres of land and held several township offices. Susan was living with her son John R. at the time of the 1920 census.³⁷

- ? George, born between 1800 and 1810, appears in the 1830 census in Chapman Township living by himself.
- Ludwig or Lewis and his wife Catharine, daughter of Frederick Herrold and Catharine Suffell, had five sons and three daughters. After Lewis' death in 1879, Catharine apparently stayed in the family home, but was joined by her sister Anna Herrold Rehrer.

Lewis and Catherine are buried at Hall's Church near McKees Half Falls and share a tombstone with their son Henry and his wife Susan.³⁸

Edward, born about 1828, and his wife Rachel Kines, born about 1838, were living with their family in Susquehanna Township in Juniata County in 1880.

Catharine (Dec. 8, 1829-July 21, 1911) married Henry Diehl (April 9, 1829-Oct. 21, 1895) on Feb. 19, 1853. The family was living in Perry Township of Snyder County in 1870.

Frederick was born about 1832. His wife Lydia was born about 1829 and died in 1895. The 1900 census shows Frederick living with his son Louis or Lewis in

Union Township of Snyder County. The census says Louis was a pauper and a cripple.

Anna was born in 1834 and married Jonathan Newman.

Leha was born in 1836.

David H. was born Feb. 24, 1839, and died March 26, 1902. His wife Sarah S. Strawser was born June 9, 1837, and died Sept. 19, 1913. The family lived in Perry Township of Snyder County. The couple and many of their children are buried in Abrogast's Cemetery at Zion's Church in Perry Township. Seven of their children died young, three of them in an apparent epidemic in December 1878.

John L. (1841-Dec. 21, 1920) was married twice. His first wife Mary Minerva was born Nov, 27, 1851, and died Aug. 17, 1887. His second wife Sophia C. Rhoades was born in 1856 and died on Feb. 4, 1940. All three are buried at Hall's Church.

Henry (Jan. 4, 1844-June 2, 1888) married Susan Portzline (1840-1898). Henry was a boatman and died in a boating accident on the canal along the Susquehanna River. He and Susan are buried at Hall's Church.

- Nothing more is known about David, one of the younger sons of Leonhardt and Catharine.

ENDNOTES

1. Information from Carol A. Fisher of Harrisburg, Tracy Bischoff, Ruth Galon of Seipstown, Pennsylvania, Jeff Wilson and Scott Southard, both of Indianapolis, and Carol Happel Grennan of Green Lake, Wisconsin.

Peter was baptized at Zion or Morr's Church near Freeburg in what is now Snyder County, according to *Early Pennsylvania Births*. His marriage to Sarah or Sally Snively is reported in *Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850* on Ancestry.com. Additional information came from census records and Ancestry World Tree records. Records from the U.S. census for Blount County, Tennessee, prior to 1830 were lost or destroyed.

The Snively family moved from Lebanon County to Virginia about the same time as Peter's Great Aunt Elisabetha and the Kimberling family. It would be logical to assume that Peter's family visited relatives and friends in Wythe County, Virginia, on their way to Tennessee in 1797. Researchers who enjoy a mystery may wonder how Peter and Sarah spanned the distance. Were Peter and Sarah childhood friends who later decided to marry once they came of age? Was it an arranged marriage

between the families? Or Did Peter remain in Virginia when other family members continued their journey in 1797?

2. If Martin served under Weitzel, his cousin Martin would have served under Capt. Benjamin Weiser. See Chapter IV. Desertion was presumably a common occurrence in those days, and the authorities had more pressing concerns than tracking down deserters.
3. Assessment records compiled by Mary Belle Lontz, notes from Dr. Greg Castetter from the Pennsylvania Archives, letter from Anna K. Gilfert of Beaver Springs, Pennsylvania.
4. The text that accompanies the survey of Martinsburg says it adjoins the tract of Michael Kerstetter's Impt. The land warrant was dated May 5, 1791, and the land was surveyed on Sept. 12, 1792.
5. *A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County Ohio, with Illustrations and Sketches of its Representative Men and Pioneers*. Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Company, 1882. There are no Castators profiled in the text.
6. Copies of Martin's will and other testamentary records were supplied by the Butler County Records Centre and Archives in Hamilton, Ohio. The will spells his last name Castteter, but other county records spell the name Castator, Castter or Castetter. The executors were Abby, John and Michael. The will is found in the Record of Wills Book 7, pages 221-222. The inventory of the estate was filed on Aug. 21, 1815.
7. Bischoff, census records, Ohio marriage records, IGI records, Indiana Marriage Collection 1800-1941. The list of children includes Castators known to be in Butler County from the early 1800s who cannot otherwise be accounted for.

Samuel was a son of Peter rather than John, according to Southard. Bischoff says Elizabeth married William C. Harper. The obituary for Daniel's wife appeared in the Hamilton *Daily Republican*. Another Daniel Castator, born about 1813, appears belatedly in the 1870 census for Butler County.

John Castator and Peter Sellman were named guardians of five children of Peter Brosius, according to *Butler County, Orphan and Testamentary Records, 1814-1815*, found on Ancestry.com. The Castator or Kerstetter and Brosius families apparently knew each other in Lebanon and Northumberland counties, and especially through Himmel's Church in southern Northumberland County. A Peter Brosius was christened in Himmel's Church on Feb. 17, 1782.

The five Brosius children were John 10, Eve 8, Daniel 6, Elizabeth 5 and Jonas 2. There is no suggestion in the census records that the children actually went to live with the Castators.

8. Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002, census.
9. Information from Southard.
10. Wilson, Southard, Bischoff, census records and records in the Indiana Marriage Collection 1800-1941 searched on Ancestry.com.

The marriage record for Appolonia is much more likely for a daughter of Peter and Sarah rather than a remarriage for Martin's wife Appolonia, who was widowed in 1814.

Samuel, born about 1811 in Tennessee, could have been a son of Peter rather than John, as previously noted in footnote #7.

11. Daniel and Paulina probably married about 1860, although the record says March 11, 1858, which would have been before the death of Daniel's first wife Rhoda. Information on the military service of Daniel and other family members during the Civil War was searched on Ancestry.com.
12. A picture of Michael Jacob and a sketch of his farm are available on Ancestry.com.
13. Peter's widow Elizabeth married Lewis Lenon in Cass County on May 21, 1864.
14. Information from Julie Watts of Garland, Texas, census records, Indiana Marriage Collection 1800-1941 from Ancestry.com, and family trees from Ancestry.com.
15. Watts was able to correct information about George and Eliza or Elizabeth Jane that was misreported in earlier editions of this text. Her name in the 1870 census was listed as Louisa J. rather than Eliza, which was probably a mistake by the census taker. George's second marriage to Margaret is plausible, if complicated, because of the distance between Ripley and Grant counties. Eliza married William Hobbs on Oct. 4, 1881.
16. Ira Ishmael's Civil War service was included in the *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana* in Ancestry.com. Records of his marriage are plausible, but complicated, because of the distance between Ripley and Hendricks counties.
17. Information about George comes from a membership application for the Sons of the American Revolution from Newton Kerstetter of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, George's application for a Revolutionary War pension, and related papers from the Northumberland County Historical Society were provided to the author by Gilfert

and Fisher. The names of surviving children and George and Elizabeth's marriage date of 1785 were included in various pension documents.

18. The baptisms of Catharine, Solomon, Jacob and Maria Magdalena are in the records of Botschaft Church. Information about Catharine and her husband came from William Roy Strutts of Flint, Michigan. Other information is from "A Short History of the Kerstetter Family" by Merle Kerstetter Barnes of Gardena, California, Skip Worrells of Redmond, Washington, Newton Kerstetter, *Snyder County Marriages* and census records.

The papers used in George's application to regain his Revolutionary War pension say he and Elizabeth were married in 1785. Sons George and Michael were both born before 1785, according to this family history, and that casts further suspicion on George's standing in the family.

A family Bible seen by Newton Kerstetter said George was the first-born child and George's father was Frederick from Hesse Castle, Germany. Most of that information is almost certainly wrong.

19. Military records from the U.S. and Pennsylvania archives.
20. Northumberland County Historical Society papers, pension documents available on Ancestry.com. The quote about George comes from a letter written in 1842 by a Thomas Gallaher. The letter also claimed that George lost his pension because of "some frauds practiced on him at Washington."
21. George had a land warrant for a large piece of land in southern Chapman Township known as the Pfeiffer Tract. Survey data suggest that he actually completed the purchase for only the southeastern corner of the property. A Google map of the area shows that the rest of the Pfeiffer Tract was hilly and probably unfit for farming.
22. George Jr.'s service in the War of 1812 is reported in *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania, 1755-1855*, collated by John Blair Linn, page 423.
23. Much of the information about Michael and his family was supplied by Charles Levengood of Canton, Ohio. It includes the short history by Merle Kerstetter Barnes, Coshocton County tombstone inscriptions, inscriptions from the New Bedford Cemetery, inscriptions from Tuscarawas County compiled by the county genealogical society, and Coshocton County marriages compiled for the public library. Michael's wife is identified in a release dated June 27, 1816, to settle the estate of her mother. It was recorded April 9, 1832, in Union County deed book G, page 709.
24. The 1861 Canadian census misspelled Catharine's last name as Ragen.

25. Birth dates and marriages for some of the children came from Fisher, Newton Kerstetter's S.A.R. application, and Newton's papers preserved at the Northumberland County Historical Society. Isaac's birth and death were recorded in *Tombstone Inscriptions of Snyder County, Pennsylvania*, compiled by George W. Wagenseller. Information about Henry Wayne and his family came from Bruce I. Landis of Lewisberry, Pennsylvania.
26. Joseph's marriage and Mary's marriage come from *Snyder County Marriages*. John G.'s will is on file in the Snyder County Courthouse, volume 6, page 114.

Jere Baldwin provided extensive information on Lewis and Amanda. The obituary of their son William Henry appeared in the Sunbury *Daily Item* on Jan. 30, 1949.

The tombstone inscriptions were copied by the author during a visit to Hall's Church in 1983. They are not in Wagenseller's *Tombstone Inscriptions* because the book only included deaths through 1904.

27. David's wife Catharine is identified in documents filed in Union County to settle the estate of her father Jacob Fisher. See deed book P, pages 264-265, dated June 17, 1854, and recorded Sept. 18, and pages 516-517, dated Sept. 17, 1853, and recorded Aug. 10, 1855. The wills of sons David F. and John F. were filed in Snyder County. David's will was dated June 15, 1907, and registered March 31, 1914, in book 6, pages 245-246. John's will was dated Aug. 24, 1915, and registered in book 6, pages 388-389.
28. Two John Kerstetters appear in the military records, and it seems fairly certain they were cousins from opposite sides of the Susquehanna River. Northumberland County in the American Revolution says Weirick's company was raised in Penn Township on the west bank of the river. Assessment records compiled by Lontz.
29. The 1847 agreement and deed of partnership among Frederick, Polly and Franklin Kreitzer provide a wealth of genealogical information. They are found in Union County deed book P, pages 20-23, dated Oct. 6, 1847, and recorded Nov. 17, 1853.
30. See Snyder County will book 1, pages 321-322. The will was dated June 20, 1864, and registered Oct. 9. *Tombstone Inscriptions of Snyder County*.
31. As noted in Chapter III, the birth dates for Leonard listed in the census records are compatible with the hypothesis that he was the second of the sons named Johannes in the Hill Church records. Northumberland County land records in deed book N, page 323, dated Jan. 28, 1806, and recorded June 10, say Catharine was the daughter of Christian Richter. The records were filed to enable Catharine to sell land inherited from her father to her brother Peter.
32. Information on Michael and Lewis and their families was taken largely from census records and tombstone inscriptions. Michael's wife's maiden name appeared on the

death certificate for her son Christian in Michigan. Botschaft Church records show a son David born to a Leonard and Catharine Kerstetter on March 7, 1818.

Gilfert provided information about the family of Lewis' wife Catharine. Her father Frederick Herrold was a brother of Simon Herrold. Simon married Maria Elisabetha Kerstetter, daughter of Michael and Dorothea.

The best link between Leonard and the sons marked with a question mark in the text comes in the 1830 census for Chapman Township, which lists Leonard along with Jacob, Frederick, Michael, George and Lewis. All their ages are compatible with earlier census data on the children of Leonard and Catharine. Jacob, Frederick and George are the only Kerstetters of that age in the area who cannot be accounted for otherwise.

33. The 1850 census also shows a Catherine Houseworth, born about 1823, son Beneville Houseworth, and three young Kerstetter children - Elizabeth 1844, Sarah 1846, and Abraham 1848 - living near Jacob and Sarah. Were the Kerstetter children from a deceased child of Jacob and Sarah?

Levi's marriage is from *Snyder County Marriages*.

34. *Tombstone Inscriptions of Snyder County*, Botschaft Church records, 1850 census. Information on son Michael and his family came from George O. Kerstetter Sr. of Auburn, N.Y. Michael's marriage is from *Snyder County Marriages*.
35. Death certificates from State of Michigan, available at www.seekingmichigan.org.
36. Information from Beth Karstetter Coats of Glasford, Illinois. Three of the daughters - Mary Anne or Anna, Catherine or Kate, and Addie - stayed behind in Pennsylvania when the rest of the family moved west in the late 1870s.
37. *Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys, Pennsylvania Genealogies & Family Histories*, as found on Ancestry.com. The biographical record also contains a profile of Oliver S. Kerstetter of Nanticoke, son of Michael and Susan Minnig. The article details Oliver's farm and cannery outputs and mentions he grew 75,000 cabbages a year.
38. The author came across the tombstone during a visit to the cemetery in 1983. Henry was a great-great-grandfather of the author, and the stone provided the first proof of the link between Henry and Lewis.

Information about the children of Lewis and Catharine comes largely from census records. Information about daughter Catharine and her husband is from IGI records and *Snyder County Marriages*.

Karen Eisberg of Cordova, Tennessee, provided information on son David and his family.

The wills of John L. and Sophia filed at the Snyder County Courthouse name two surviving daughters.

Estate records also refer to a Daniel Kerstetter and Sarah Cartell or Caistell as children of Lewis. This is certainly a mistake, because the census records on Lewis and Catharine's children are crystal clear.