

THE BROWER FAMILY CIRCLE

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This newsletter is published with the hope that with enough interest, someone will send in the necessary information to fill out all the blank spaces in Brower-Brewer-Brouwer lines, clear back to the countries in Europe where we all originated from. At the present time, there are a lot of unanswered questions.

Anyone having Brower lineage may have their lines published here as long as they send in a release authorizing such publication. All queries are welcomed as well. The cost is being born by the undersigned in order to generate interest in the Brower line. Donations welcome.

Jay H. Brower
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From Mrs E. O. Crouch of 7524 Axton Street Springfield, VA 22151:

What follows is a recollection from an elderly gentlemen about 1928 in which he recollects his Brower lineage.

In 1721, three sons, Christian, Henry and Daniel landed in America from Holland, one settled in Canada, one in New Jersey and Daniel Brower settled in Montgomery County, PA. In later years the Browsers owned the largest stock farm in Montgomery County, covering an area of 400 acres, the county in which we live. The original old Brower homestead was built in Oaks, Montgomery County, PA in 1780 by Daniel Brower and was remodeled in 1801. The home is still occupied by the Browsers. This land was purchased from the Indians.

During the encampment of Washingtons soldiers at Valley Forge, the Browsers helped to feed the starving soldiers, and on my Grandmothers and grandfathers side were Colonels. The hospitality shown by the Browsers to the soldiers at Valley Forge was rewarded by a rocking chair from Martha Washington to Col Edwards, a brother-in-law of Daniel Brower, and was willed down to my Grandfather, then to my father and this chair we now have in our possession.

The avenue and ground around Oaks was at one time a private race track of the Browsers. Abram Brower, son of Daniel Brower was known to have the finest horses in this section of Pennsylvania and formed a market for the sale of these animals. Not so long ago this town was named Perkiomen after the Perkiomen Creek that flows into the Schuylkill River here at Oaks, and quite a little dispute arose because the people wanted it named Browertown because of the Browsers owning all the land around here, but it was finally named Oaks after the Oak trees.

There is a cemetery at Parkerford, eleven miles from Oaks, which is the old buriel place of the Browsers and called Brower cemetery.

My grandfather's name was Abraham H. Brower. In his family were eleven children. Two of these children remain at the old Brower homestead.

My grandfather owned the Brower house at Norristown, the Brower house at Phoenixville and the Brower house at Doylestown. He followed the hotel business for 33 years and retired from this work 20 years ago. He was a veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was also a member of the Union League of Philadelphia. During his last days he was a guard at the Valley Forge Encampment grounds just across the river from Oaks, and which can be very plainly seen from our home. He died 17 Oct 1927 aged 83 years. (His birth would be then in 1844) editor.

My father was the only son. He had two sisters who died when they were babies. His name is Abraham John Brower, named after his father. He has been in the store business for years and still keeps the store in the contracting business. My father was born at the old Brower homestead and has resided in Oaks for many years. I have one brother 22 years old and his names is Jones Abraham Brower. My father, mother and brother and I make the entire family. My brother and I have lived in Oaks ever since we were born and I must say I would be lost if I ever had to move to the city.

This is about all the data I can find. I looked this up in the Historical Society in Norristown today at noon and find I have everything correct. Maybe this will help your father to get more data on the subject.

NOTE: Oaks, PA is about 40 miles North of Philadelphia.

On 25 June 1966? from the Phoenixville Daily Republican which is published in Phoenixville, PA the following appeared at the time that the Goodrich Rubber Company had their anniversary:

THE BROWER FAMILY

Four brothers came from Holland settling in Chester County on a tract of land ~~deeded~~ from William Penn Family. (NOTE from Editor: There is a Brouwershaven, Holland) Editor of Family Circle.

Associated in the community life of Oaks through the generation extending from a half century before the Revolutionary War to the present day is the name of Brower.

Today, 217 years after the first Brower clan set foot on Oaks soil there still remain a number of direct descendants who play an important part in the community.

Members of the Brower family were the first settlers in Oaks, moving into Montgomery County from Chester County where they had lived near Parkerford.

The original Browers came from Holland in 1720. There were four brothers who settled in the following places: One in New York, one in Canada, one in New Jersey, and the other in Pennsylvania.

Henry Brower came from Chester County in 1721 and bought a tract of land comprising 420 acres, part of a 1,000 deeded from William Penn Family, now known as Oaks.

On this 420 acres the Brower homestead was built, and in 1804 it was remodled and an addition built to it. The home still stands and for 216 years it has remained in the same family. Direct descendents are still living there.

Grounds for the Perkiomen Railroad, the Pennsylvania Railroad and all industrial plants located in Oaks were purchased from the original farm. The Schylkill Navigation Company also leased a right of way for 99 years for transportation by boat and built what is known as Brower's Lock #61.

FIRST CALLED PERKIOMEN

The Pennsylvania Railroad was built through Oaks in 1884 and the station was named "Perkiomen." It was changed about 25 years ago owing to confusion in handling freight between this station and Perkiomen Junction just across the river.

Daniel Brower, son of Henry, married Francis Reiff and one son Abraham was born to them. Abraham married Margaret Crawford and they had six children: Ann, Jane, Fannie, John, Joseph and Abraham. The only survivor of this family being Mrs Nettie Eisenbrey of Bethlehem, PA..

John Brower married Ann Horning and from this union eleven children were born, three of whom are still living. They are Miss Mary Brower, Mrs Martha Hopson, who still lives in the old homestead and Mrs Fannie Parsons of Norristown.

FIRST ARABIAN HORSES

An interesting bit of history surrounds the life of Abraham Brower, grandson of the original Oaks settler, Henry Brower. Abraham was a great lover of horses and it was he who imported the first Arabian horses ever to come to this country. He bred a strain of Arabian horses known as the "Bulley Brower" strain, and had as high as 90 head of this strain of horses at one time. His grazing ground for his stock was on top of Nickel Hill, better known today as Hallman's Hill, Mont Clare. His training ground and race track took in ground running parallel to Brower Avenue Oaks.

Abraham Brower never ran for office, but in 1884, by popular demand, was elected to the Senate under the Whig Party. He did not care for the name Senator, but was proud of the nickname "Captain". He gained the title of Captain when he was chosen Captain of an association known as the "Montgomery County Horse Guards." This was an organization formed to track down and capture horse thieves.

At his death the farm was divided between his two sons John E. and Joseph Brower. Brower Avenue in Oaks, formerly known as Brower Lane was the entrance from Egypt Road to the Brower homestead. This lane was donated to the township by John E. and Joseph Brower many years ago and made a public street.

About 1911 the original barn was destroyed by fire and the stone from this barn comprises the first two stories of the John C. Dettra Flag Co., one of the largest industries in Oaks.

The direct descendants of the first settler, Henry Brower, extend a hearty welcome to the B. F. Goodrich Company, and hope they will enjoy many years of prosperity in their location.

Mrs Alice Getman of 853 Phoenix St South Haven, Michigan 49090 put me in touch with Mr Ivan Groh who had written about a Henry Brower who settled in Canada. With his kind permission his article is published below:

Mr Groh lists as his sources a Biographical History of Waterloo Township which was published in 1895 by Ezra E. Eby and republished and supplemented in 1971 by Eldon D. Weber. A little background information is in order first to set the scene.

Henry Brower (1780-) married Elizabeth Marias (1783-). They moved from Montgomery County, Pa to Preston, Canada in 1822. Parents are not indicated. A daughter, Mary Ann Brower (1811-) married Isaac Clemens (1815-1880). He was a member of Parliament from 1867 to 1875. Sarah Clemens, daughter of Isaac and Mary Ann (Brower) Clemens, married John W. Martin who had been adopted or raised by Henry Wanner and his wife, Hannah Clemens, a close relative of Isaac and also my great-grandfather, Jesse Clemens. The Wanner Church and cemetery are part of the East end of the original Wanner farm near Hespeler (now Cambridge). The first burial was the eldest Wanner daughter, a sister of my great-great-grandmother, Susannah Wanner Groh. This Ezra E. Eby who published his book in 1895 married Mary Ann Clemmer, whose Aunt Catherine Clemmer married John Brower (1803-1859), a relative of Henry Brower (1780-1874). Both Henry and John Brower came from Montgomery County to Preston in 1822.

Mr Ivan Groh lives in a retirement home in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada.

HENRY BROWER (1780-1874)

By Ivan Groh

Why is Henry Brower almost completely forgotten? His grave marker lies flat on the ground nearly hidden in the grass in the Hagey Cemetery north of Preston. Beside it is an inconspicuous stone announcing Elizabeth, wife of Henry Brower - born 1783 - died 1861 - age 77.

Henry Brower interests me for several reasons. First, he was fluent in English as well as in German. It is generally assumed that the pioneers of Waterloo Township talked only German (or Dutch, as they incorrectly described it). Henry Brower "took up auctioneering at which he did quite a business for a number of years. His advantage over other auctioneers was that he was capable of conducting sales in either English or German language." - Ezra E. Eby.

Who would listen to an English auctioneer in those early days? When Henry Brower came from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, to Preston, Ontario, there were a lot of English and Scottish folk in the vicinity of Preston. The Hilborns were of English Quaker origin. The Cornells were of Welsh origin. Other families of non-German origin included the following: Preston, Dodge, Cockrell, Meyers, Lamb, Coplin, Moore, Cook, Walcott, Ellis, Knox, Beatty, Claus, Crooks, Smith, and others. The Mennonites and Dunkards were probably a minority group in Waterloo County from the beginning. After about 1835, large numbers of Lutheran and Roman Catholic folk came to Waterloo County direct from Germany. After that, German and its dialects superceded English until state public schools changed that in the 1840's. When Henry Brower came in 1822, he could use English to good advantage.

The Pennsylvanians talked English, too. In 1809, the first school in Waterloo Township was opened at Berlin. Benjamin Eby, the leading Mennonite minister, along with Joseph Schneider, George Eby, Samuel Eby and Jacob Erb, engaged Mr. John Beatty as teacher "after being convinced that Mr. Beatty had a fair English education." Mr. Beatty was a native of Ireland. Among his first pupils were Erbs, Schneiders and Ebys. He taught for three or four years - doubtless in English. A Mr. Burkholder was another early teacher in Waterloo County, and it is recorded that he was equally fluent in English and German. Most of the early tomb stones in South Waterloo, even before 1810, were inscribed in English. That, too, makes me think Henry Brower had good need to auctioneer in English as well as in German.

I am interested in Henry Brower for another reason. He and my Great-great-grandfather Groh were contemporaries. At Preston their paths converged. Both came from Montgomery County. Michael Groh came in 1803 and Henry Brower, in 1822.

On December 19, 1803, Michael Groh registered a deed for 150 acres on the west side of Lot 1 of Beasley's Broken Front Survey. That was along the west side of First Concession Road, which is the Speedville Road. The Groh farm was a narrow strip extending from the Speed River at Speedville to the Grand River at the North Dumfries boundary. In 1819, the Groh farm was divided. Fifty acres near Speedville went to Christian Witmer, Great-uncle to Leslie D. Witmer. The remainder went to Christian Swartz. These two deeds were registered July 17, 1819.

Henry Brower arrived at Preston in 1822, but I do not know when he acquired the south end of the Christian Swartz property, but it seems he owned it as late as 1861.

Perhaps Henry Brower should be remembered for his close association with other distinguished citizens. His daughter, Sarah, married John Bechtel, a merchant and tanner of Blair. John Bechtel was a son of Deacon Jacob and Elizabeth (Gabel) Bechtel. Deacon Bechtel was probably the real leader of the original group of about sixty pioneers who came from Pennsylvania in 1800. He was doubtless the spiritual leader of the Mennonites till his cousin, Joseph Bechtel, was ordained minister in 1804.

Mary Brower, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Marias) Brower, married Isaac Clemens, M.P.P. and lived on a farm south-west of the Wanner Church. Isaac Clemens was elected member for South Waterloo in the Provincial Legislature in 1867, after Confederation. He retired from politics eight years later. Henry Brower spend his last years in the home of his daughter, Mary, (Mrs. Isaac Clemens) near the Wanner Church.

Elizabeth Brower, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Brower, married Christian Erb, son of John Erb, the founder of Preston. John Erb was probably the wealthiest man in the settlement. He arrived at Preston in 1805 and soon owned a grist mill, a saw mill, a store, a distillery, a cooper shop, and nearly a thousand acres around Preston as well as large tracts in the Upper Block of the Township. In 1807, John Erb and his brother Jacob and Augustus Jones signed a deed for 45,195 acres in Woolwich Township - for one dollar an acre. The purchase was from Wm. Wallace. Benjamin Eby (later Bishop Eby) drove his team and came from Pennsylvania "with half a barrel of gold and silver money to pay for the Township of Woolwich, which was also purchased by a company." - Ezra E. Eby. The German Company Tract of Woolwich was surveyed into 129 farms and sold to many different Mennonite families, the Erb name appearing on eleven of them in a map of 1807.

John Erb was a very distinguished citizen. He was soon made a Squire, a Magistrate, a Justice of the Peace. Those titles were traditionally reserved for wealthy landed gentlemen with large incomes. John Erb was a good Mennonite and was the first magistrate or civil authority in Waterloo Township. As Magistrate, he married my Great-grandparents, John Groh and Susannah Wanner. That was 1811.

Why is Henry Brower forgotten? I have not answered my original question. Henry and Elizabeth (Marias) Brower had nine children. The five girls, of course, did not perpetuate the name. The four sons did little better, so far as Waterloo County is concerned. Ephraim Brower moved to Lambton County, Ontario. He had two sons. Daniel Brower lived at Preston and had five daughters but no sons. Henry Brower Jr. went to the great West when a young man. Samaria Brower moved to Wisconsin, U.S.A. Abraham Brower, the youngest, was accidentally shot and killed by his brother, Ephraim, while deer hunting in Blenheim Township. He was nineteen and unmarried. His stone in the Hagey cemetery says he died in 1846, age 20.

There are some descendants of Henry Brower still with us, though

none with that name. They are the progeny of John and Sarah (Brower) Bechtel and Isaac and Mary (Brower) Clemens. Apparently the two children of Christian and Elizabeth (Brower) Erb left no heirs.

Perhaps the best known descendant of John and Sarah (Brower) Bechtel is Roxy Ann Bechtel, wife of Homer Watson, artist of Doon, Ontario. They left no issue.

Rebecca Bechtel, daughter of John and Sarah (Brower) Bechtel, and an aunt of Mrs. Homer Watson, married John Getman. Their grandson, Elias Getman, is a Construction Engineer and Bridgebuilder at South Haven, Michigan. His maternal grandfather was Aaron Baer, bridgebuilder who lost his life on December 3, 1870, while supervising the construction of the Freeport Bridge.

This Aaron Baer was a son of Rev. John Baer, minister of the Wanner Church from 1838 to 1874. Rev. John Baer and several of his sons were builders and contractors. The Westmontrose Covered Bridge was built by Samuel and John Baer Jr.

I think John Baer Sr. learned his trade as builder from Henry Brower. John Baer was a young man of eighteen when Henry Brower, a mature man of forty-two, came to Preston. Their homes were about a mile apart. Ezra E. Eby tells us, "When eighteen years of age, he (John Baer) commenced life as a builder and contractor. Many a house and barn still standing (1895) in this and adjoining counties was erected by him between the years 1823 and 1835."

Of Henry Brower, Ezra E. Eby wrote in 1895: "He was both a carpenter and mechanic by trade. During the summer months, he was engaged in putting up buildings in and around Preston, many of which are still standing as a memorial of our worthy old ancestor."

I have little doubt some of those old houses and barns built by Henry Brower and John Baer are still standing in the year 1965. There is little hope of identifying any of them. I was born and raised in the house in which John Baer lived most of his life, but there is no record that he built it. It is believed he made additions to the old house if he did not build the original structure. It is possible his father built the original house, since he owned the place as early as 1806.

I am hopeful, though, of identifying one of Henry Brower's spinning wheels. "During the long winter months, he (Henry Brower) was busily engaged in making spinning wheels for the young ladies of Waterloo."- Ezra E. Eby. Now that I know about this old pioneer, I am going to examine every spinning wheel I see for his trade mark, his initials, "H. B." and the year.

MELCHIOR HOCH

Melchior Hoch who emigrated with his brother Rudolph in 1717 or 1720 is mentioned in the memoirs of his grandnephew Abraham Hoch³ (John², Rudolph¹) as follows: "Melchoir settled in Bucks County.* He had two sons, named Philip and Jacob. This is all I can relate about Melchoir". (see page A-1)

Melchior Hoch left "Swedenstettel" and took up land on the north side of the Schuylkill River in Hanover Township of Philadelphia Co., now Montgomery County. He was a Mennonite and belonged to the congregation called "The Swamp". His name is mentioned in a conference held in 1727.

On June 8, 1726 Melchior Hoch purchased 240 acres from Sytge Krey (wife of Hubert Cassel), and Derick Op den Graff, a part of the lands in Hanover Township ("formerly reputed Mahanatawny") of the Frankfort Company. The deed is recorded in Book H 6, p. 417, Philadelphia. Both Melchior and his son Jacob owned and paid quit rent on 100 acres of land in Hanover Township ** of Philadelphia County prior to 1734.

now-Montgomery
Along with his kin in what is now Berks County, Melchior Hoch was naturalized (1729-30 from Philadelphia County).

A plantation of 110 acres, part of the above 240 acres, was sold by Melchior Hoch and Barbara his wife on November 19, 1740 to their son Jacob, for a consideration of 68 pounds, Pennsylvania money. It is recorded in Philadelphia Deed Book H 6, p. 425.

Presumably Melchior Hoch retained title in the remainder of his tract. When he died, January 11, 1743, letters of administration were given the eldest son, Jacob (recorded in Philadelphia Register of Wills office, Book E, p. 26) Deed Book H 6, p. 428 and an endorsement on the back of Jacob's deed shows that Philip High (otherwise Hoch) of Hanover Township released to his brother Jacob the 110 acres formerly owned by their father. Although inheritance laws of that time entitled Jacob to two-thirds of the estate, if Philip had worked the farm for their father he would have had certain legal rights because of his contribution to its improvement, thus necessitating his release.

The last, and posthumous, notice of Melchior Hoch is found in the Pennsylvania German newspaper published by Sauer at Germantown, dated December 16, 1744. Translated it reads: "For sale 50 acres of land on the Oley Road, about 9 miles above the Trappe by Melchior Hoch, apply to Walter Luis in New Hanover township on the Schuylkill for further particulars." This wording presumably was because Melchior Hoch was better known than his son Jacob who was the actual owner at this date.

If Melchior and Barbara Hoch had any daughters their names are not available.

* This is in error. But Melchior's son Philip did move to Bucks County.

** Now Montgomery County.

JACOB HOCH

JACOB HOCH² (Melchior¹) who succeeded his father on the homestead in Hanover Township, Philadelphia County in 1740 and subsequently inherited the remainder (1743), had married Elizabeth Langenecker prior to 1732. She was the third child of Daniel Langenecker (Longacre). See appendix B - 1. Jacob Hoch was born before 1709.

On August 16, 1741 Jacob High (Hoch), farmer, purchased from Thomas Preston 75 acres bordering on his other land * (Deed Book H 6, p. 414). And on July 29, 1749 Jacob High of Lower Hanover Township "bought of Owen Evans and Mary, his wife, of Limerick Township, for 100 pounds Pennsylvania money, a plantation in Hanover aforesaid, 106 acres of land called the Hanover Plantation" (Deed Book H 6, p. 422).

Sauer's newspaper of November 16, 1744 carried an interesting notice: "Es sind 4 Gold-Stücker gefunden worden auf Maddedsche. Wer sie verlohren hat kan nachfragen by Jacob Hoch, in Hanover-Taunschip, 2 Meile von der Schuelkill and wider haben wan er die richtige Kennzeichen anzeigt." A translation of the foregoing is: "Four gold pieces were found on the "Maddedsche". Whoever lost them may inquire of Jacob Hoch, in Hanover Township, two miles from the Schuylkill and may have them if he can correctly identify them."

A memorandum of a declaration made before William Moore, Esq., August 3, 1751 and recorded in Chester County Deed Book O 2, p.13 shows the name of Jacob High as one of the Trustees of the Mennonite Meeting Cemetery: it says that Andrew Height and wife Magdalena for consideration convey about two acres in 1750 to Daniel Longacre, Martin Beighle, Jacob High, Casper Acre, Thomas Buckwalter and Jacob Engers, trustees "for the people commonly called Manonists alias Menisters - inhabitants of Coventry and adjacent parts" of such as shall be and continue in unity and religious fellowship as members of their society - for burying ground and for the services of the society.

On August 25, 1759 Jacob Hoch was still living in New Hanover Township. However, on Jan. 25, 1760 he purchased, for 560 pounds, from John Frelich (or Frailey) 284 acres of land in East Nantmeal Township of Chester County (Philadelphia Deed Book H 10, p. 552). He subsequently bought another farm of 230 acres in East Nantmeal Township from John Piese.

Jacob Hoch's will (see appendix B - 11) dated 1758 was probated Feb. 17, 1769. His wife Elizabeth and sons Daniel, Jacob, and son-in-law Henry Brower are mentioned therein. Other sons are noted as "youngest sons". Elizabeth Hoch outlived her husband by six to nine years. Further information about the children of Jacob and Elizabeth Hoch is found in a bond of indemnity, a copy of which was in the possession of Blanche Brower of Spring City, Chester County. The text, which includes the date June 10, 1778, recites that Elizabeth High, late widow of Jacob High of New Hanover Township, Philadelphia County, died intestate and that her children agreed among themselves that her estate should be divided equally. However, her eldest son Daniel High died intestate before his mother, leaving children, of whom the eldest was Jacob High. Accordingly, Henry Brower of Coventry Township**, and Jacob High*** and David High*** of East Nantmeal Township, Chester County, Abraham Bechtel ****

* Purchased Nov. 19, 1740 from his father.

**A son-in-law, husband of Barbara Hoch³ (Jacob², Melchior¹)

***Sons of Jacob² and Elizabeth Hoch

****Probably a son-in-law, husband of a daughter of Jacob² Hoch.

Henry High * and Philip High* of Colebrookdale Township, Berks County, pledge unto John High* of Coventry Township, and Mary High **, of East Nantmeal Township, that the sum of one thousand pounds be paid unto the said Daniel High upon reaching his majority.

Six sons and two daughters of Jacob and Elizabeth Hoch reached adulthood; Daniel, Jacob, David, John, Barbara, Henry, a daughter whose name is not known, and Philip. *Mary*

The only reference to the daughter who probably was married to Abraham Bechtel is the indemnity bond cited above.

BARBARA HOCH³ was born April 1, 1732 and died January 17, 1797. She married Henry Brower in 1748. He was born February 14, 1730 and died after 1778. They lived in Coventry Township, Chester County and had children: Daniel, Jacob, Elizabeth, John, Isaac.

Brower

Jacob Hoch d. 1769
Wife, Elizabeth d. 1778

* Sons of Jacob² and Elizabeth Hoch.

** Widow of Daniel Hoch³ and mother of "the said Daniel High".

LANGENECKER (LONGACRE) FAMILY

There are variant spellings of this Swiss Mennonite family name, several members of which came to Pennsylvania in the early 18th century. A Daniel Longacre had taken up 200 acres of land near Gilbert's Manor by 1720.

Our interest centers around Daniel Langenecker¹ (1666-1756) who first settled along the Schuylkill River but subsequently moved to the Pequea region in Lancaster County. His brother Ulrich established his family in Rapho Township, Lancaster County.

Daniel Langenecker¹ was the preacher for the Mantawny district of the Mennonite Church and was one of the fifteen ministers to the conference in 1727 which accepted the Mennonite Confession of Faith (originally adopted in 1632 at Dortrecht, Holland). He was naturalized from Berks County in 1730 and settled at Mingo, near Phoenixville, on the Schuylkill in 1733 when sixty-seven years old. Among his children were:

David² who settled in the Pequea colony in Lancaster County and was naturalized in 1729 from Lancaster County.

John² (1708-1745), also naturalized from Berks County in 1729/30. His widow, Susannah, married his cousin Jacob², son of Ulrich¹. A daughter of John and Susannah, named Catherine³, married Jacob Bechtel of Northampton.

— Elizabeth² married Jacob Hoch² (Melchior¹).

Magdalena² married John Buckwalter.

Ann² (1715-1774) married Philip Hoch² (Melchior¹).

Mary² married Valentine Clemmer.

WILL OF JACOB HOCH² (Melchior¹)

In the name of God, Amen. On the 27 day of December 1758, I Jacob Hoch of Newhanover township in Philadelphia county & Province of Pennsylvania, freeholder, being sick & weak in body, but of perfect memory & understanding, thanks be to God, therefore, calling unto mind the mortality of my body, knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye, do make this my last will & testament, renouncing all others formerly made & done by me heretofore & that in manner following, that is to say, First my will is that all my just debts & funeral charges be paid by my executor hereinafter named & appointed, Second, I give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my beloved wife instead of her third, out of my real & personal Estate, the sum of 500 pounds money of this province, for her own use & behalf - Item, I give unto my beloved wife over & above aforesaid sum, her bed:beadstead, curtains & what belongs to it, her chest, a good cow, her saddle & bridle. Whereas my son Daniel has had some advance, already from me, therefore shall he give unto my beloved wife, his Mother, as long as she lives, a peaceable abode with him & attend her in her age & keep her cow for her summer & winter & let her have a horse, when she has need of it, her lifetime. But in case my beloved wife will stay upon my premises where I lived, she shall have the whole management of my real & personal estate as long as she pleases, but as soon as she gives up the management of my plantation, my Executor shall have full power to sell my plantation at the Hiest rate, & I do authorize & give full power to my Executor to make a good, sufficient deed, in my name, out of my title & my wife is to give after my decease to my youngest sons 20..0..0 a pice out of my estate. Third, I give & devise unto my eldest son Daniel the plantation which I bought of John Froly it being 250 acres, be it more or less, lying in East Nantmeal township in Chester County, & I impower my brother-in-law, David Langenecker and authorise him in my name, to make unto the said Daniel, his heirs & assigns forever a good sufficient deed, out of my title & my son Daniel is to have said plantation at the rate of 560 pounds Pennsylvania currency. Fourth I give & devise unto my son Jacob, the other plantation which I bought of John Piese in said township and county aforesaid it being 230 acres, more or less, at the rate of 506 £ 15 sh. & 11 pence lawful money of this province, to him his heirs & assigns forever, & I impower & authorise my brother-in-law, David Langenecker in my name to make & convey out of my title to the said Jacob his heirs & assigns a good sufficient deed for said plantation, And it so be that my son Jacob is not able to manage the said plantation then my will is that my son David is to have the half of it, at the same price as he had his, but David is to have his piece joining to Michael Boyer, Thomas Jinken & Samuel Flour. Fifth My will is that all what is accruing out of my real & personal estate, let it be in money or goods, is to be equally distributed amongst all my children, share & share alike, Sixth I will & ordain my son Daniel, & my son-in-law Henrich Praur to be my only executors of this my last will & testament, ratifying this present & no other to be my last will & testament.

In witness whereof I have set my hand & seal the day & year first above written Jacob his High, signed, sealed, published & declared by said testamark

tor for & as his last will and testament in presence of us
(signed) Christian Blum Mich. Walter
Phila. Feb. 17, 1769 - Benj. Chew, Regr. Genl.

Philadelphia Will Book O, p. 329

BECHTEL FAMILY

This Mennonite family has intermarried with Hochs for many years. One representative of the family was Johannes Jacob Bechtel who was minister to the Hereford (Manatawny) congregation as early as 1727. He was a neighbor of Melchior Hoch¹ in the vicinity of today's Pottstown, Pa.

George Bechtel¹, who followed Johannes Jacob Bechtel as the minister at Hereford, had a son John², also Mennonite minister there. John Bechtel's² daughters Esther³ and Anna³ married brothers, Henry Hoch³ and Philip Hoch³, sons of Jacob Hoch² (Melchior¹). Anna B. Hoch⁴ and Elizabeth B. Hoch⁴, daughters of Philip Hoch³ and Anna Bechtel, married Abraham Bechtel and Rev. John C. Bechtel.

The Abraham Bechtel who married a daughter of Jacob Hoch² (Melchior¹) may have been a son of John Bechtel².

Two daughters of a Jacob Bechtel, i. e. Catharine and Judith, married (before 1790) John Hoch and Jacob Hoch.

Daniel Hoch⁴ (Daniel³, Philip², Melchior¹) of Canada married Katharine Bechtel.

Mary G., ~~Bechtel~~ and Abraham G. Hoch were children of John B. Hoch⁴ (Daniel³, Samuel², Rudolph¹) who married Bechtels - John S., Sr., ~~and~~ E. and Lydia Ann L., respectively.

Later generations reveal additional Hoch-Bechtel marriages.

NOTE: Pages 4 thru 7 are by Ivan Groh. Pages 8 thru 13 pertain to the other families HOCH, etc which were sent by Mrs Alice Getman.