

Some of the Descendants  
of  
JOHN MICHAEL DÜBENDORF  
1695-1778

More especially those directly descended  
through his grandson

DAVID DIFFENDERFFER

1752-1846

By

his great-great-grandson

FRANK RIED DIFFENDERFFER

1833-1921

As revised and continued through  
DAVID RITTENHOUSE DIFFENDERFFER  
1822-1900

By

his grandson

WILLIAM HENRY OWEN, III

Fellow of The American Institute of Genealogy

With Addendum

DUNHAM AND OWEN FAMILIES

Lebanon, Mo.

1940





1904

WILLIAM HENRY OWEN III

1940

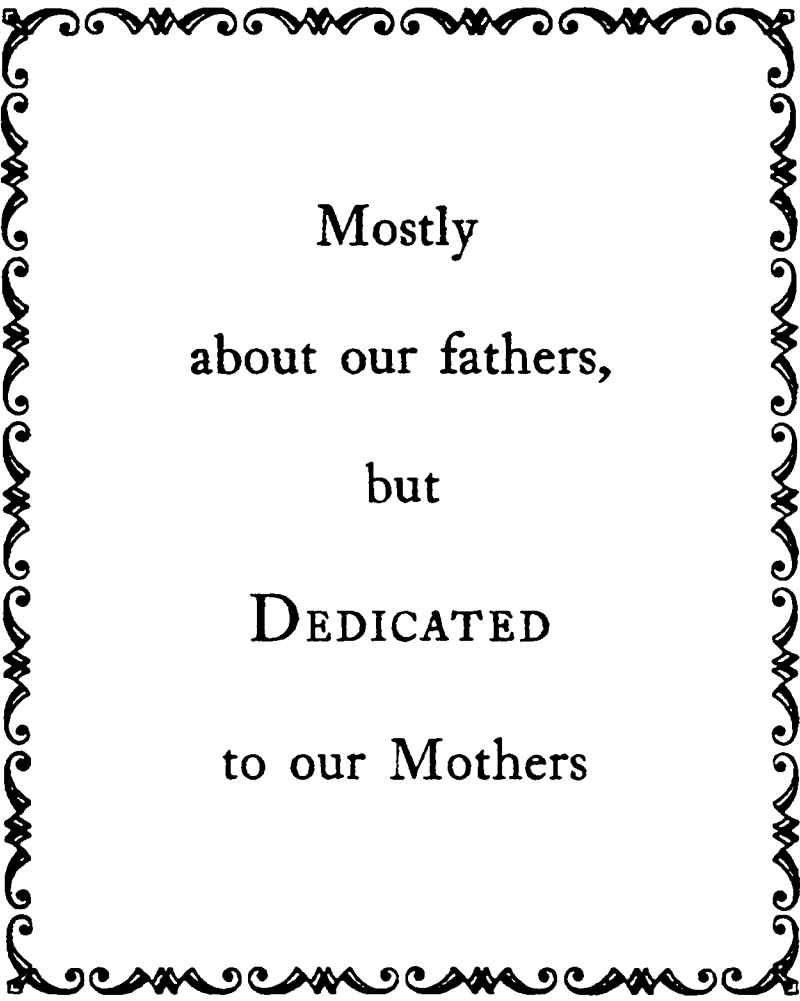


## PREFACE

There are a comparative few who can trace their ancestry back more than a few generations with any degree of accuracy. Those Americans who possess old and honored names, who can trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, may be rightfully proud of their heritage. It is not necessarily a pride in the past accomplishments of those before us, but a recognition of the name for what it really is. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John; but soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality. As it passed to his children and his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol, not of one man, but of a family and all that that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the traditions, and prestige of the family. Like the Coat of Arms it became the badge of family honor—the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. It is a challenge for each succeeding generation to bring no discredit to that name which is his birthright, and a goal, that he may strive to reach, or exceed the accomplishments of his forefathers. All such accomplishments are not to be measured in wordly goods, nor by material wealth. It is not so much what you have taken from the world, but what you have contributed to your small part of it.

*"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."*—Proverbs 22, 1.



A decorative rectangular border with ornate, symmetrical scrollwork and floral patterns at the corners and midpoints.

Mostly  
about our fathers,  
but  
DEDICATED  
to our Mothers



## INTRODUCTION

(To record compiled by Frank Ried Diffenderffer)

One hundred and eighty-two years ago today (September 18, 1908) the progenitors of the Diffenderffer family in the State of Pennsylvania reached the port of Philadelphia, on the ship "William and Sarah," William Hill, master, from Rotterdam. They were John Michael Diben-derf and his brother Alexander. Along with them came Michael, the six year old son of John.

John Michael settled in Lancaster County, Pa., in the year of his arrival about half a mile to the northeast of the present site of the borough of New Holland, his nearest and only neighbors being the settlers at Weber Thal and Graaf's Thal. Just why he should have selected so isolated a spot with his nearest neighbors miles away is not known and can only be conjectured at this late day. The place was directly north of, and adjacent to the land owned and occupied by his grandson, Benjamin Diffenderffer, and was for many years in the ownership of Mr. Joseph Martin, and now in that of one of his sons. It is possible and probable also that the Benjamin Diffenderffer farm formed part of this tract taken up by his grandfather in 1734.

No complete genealogy of his descendants has ever been attempted. From him all of the name in Lancaster County, as well as those in Maryland and Virginia, are descended. Alexander, the other brother, settled in Lehigh County and left numerous descendants, a complete genealogy of whom has been prepared by Mr. Charles Roberts, of Allentown, a copy of which I possess. From Alexander are descended all of the name in Lehigh and the surrounding counties and in western Pennsylvania.

"John Derved Darfer, of Lancaster County, having taken the sacraments as prescribed by law, on April 3, 1743, was naturalized by the Superior Court held in Philadelphia, before John Kinsey, Thomas Greame and William Till, Esqs., judges of the said courts, the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth days of April, 1743." (Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. 2, page 302).

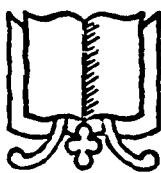
The following sketches of John Michael Diffenderffer and his more immediate progeny, deal with the question

only in a very partial way, no attempt having been made to run out the several lines of his children and grandchildren except only through the writer's own family.

This is not intended as a genealogy of the Diffenderffer Schlecht, but only to trace and place on record the descent of the complier, from the original immigrant. Most of the facts were obtained from original sources, largely from his grandfather, David Diffenderffer, the grandson of John Michael, who was born in 1752, and who had full knowledge of his grandfather, the immigrant, who died when David was twenty-six years of age. In reality, therefore, most of the facts and particulars are derived from the immigrant and his immediate descendants direct, leaving nothing to conjecture or tradition.

Lancaster, Sept. 18, 1908

Frank Ried Diffenderffer.



## INTRODUCTION

(To This Edition)

Our cousin Harold has graciously granted me permission to reprint his father's Edition, and has been of great assistance in the publishing of this work. I quote from his letter which was appropriately written on the anniversary of George Washington's birth:

Lancaster, Pa.  
February 22, 1939

My Dear Cousin Will:

\* \* \* "I am pleased to know that you manifest so lively an interest in the family genealogy. In each generation there is one who is so interested. It was my father in his day and generation, I, while I have never prepared any books on the subject have always been warmly interested in the lives and fortunes of my kindred. It is entirely fitting that you should continue the gracious task on behalf of your grandfather David Diffenderffer's line, for his progeny has been numerous. I always think of that Uncle with the most affectionate regard, having had the pleasure of his acquaintance and friendship in my younger days. He wrote me several beautiful letters about the time my school days ended and as I stood upon the threshold of real life. He was very desirous that I should come west and enter the arena of life with his own boys. I also have the most pleasant memories of your mother when she first visited in my home as a little girl ten years old. She was a wonderful playmate and I felt quite forsaken when she finally went home in 1890. She was even then wrapped up in your father and all her thoughts centered on him.

I think it will be very fine if you incorporate in your historical sketch such information as my father had prepared in regard to the first members of our clan in America, down through that first David Diffenderffer who brought honor to all of us by reason of his patriotic service in the Revolutionary cause. I myself am a member of the Pennsylvania Sons of the Revolution and occasionally meet with the central body in Philadelphia in social gatherings.

Frequently in the month of December I go to Philadelphia on a certain designated Sunday and participate in the commemorative services held in an old historic church on the anniversary of the Valley Forge encampment in which our ancestor also took a part. The color guard with old Revolutionary flags precedes the members as they march down to their pews in the church.

Blood is always thicker than water they say, and father and I also, have always the most lively feeling of affection for, and interest in our kinsmen. \* \* \*

Sincerely yours,  
Harold F. Diffenderffer.

It was my original intent to do no more than to add to Uncle Frank's record, information most of which was not available to him in 1908, but more especially that per-

taining to the descendants of my grandfather, David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer, and his wife, Margaret Emily Dunham. However, as I progressed with the task other information became available to me, most of which was the result of Uncle Frank's researches and published in his other works. Therefore I have incorporated into this edition a trifle more in order that a broader understanding may be had by the reader. I refer in particular to the circumstances surrounding the Immigrant John Michael Dubendorffer.

It is hoped the blank pages may be of use in making a record of subsequent events, and that this work will be continued by some one in successive generations.

Attention is invited to the use of the first person in the contents. In all cases before the fifth generation the use of the first person refers to Frank Ried Diffenderffer. When used thereafter it refers to the present compiler.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the co-operation and assistance given me by my aunts and uncles without which this account could not have been published. Cousin Harold has graciously furnished the illustrations, except those concerning my grandfather's family and descendants.

William H. Owen iii

Keosauqua, Iowa,  
February 10, 1940

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## HERALDIC INTERPRETATION

### DÜBENDORF

He beareth for Arms:—Argent, a lion rampant, sable; between four mullets; of eight points, azure.

Crest:—a fox passant, gules, nose upraised; to a mullet of eight points, or.

Motto:—In utrouge paratus.

Translated into non-heraldic terms:—A silver shield on which is charged a black lion, in rampant position. In the four corners, so that the lion is between them, are four, eight-pointed stars of blue. The crest is a red fox standing with right fore-paw raised, looking toward a gold, eight-pointed star.

The lion is the king of beasts, symbolical of deathless courage and service to his country. In rampant position, Guillin, an ancient authority, says, "It is a lively image of a good soldier, who must be valiant of courage, strong of body, politic in council, and a foe to fear." The mullet or star is always five pointed unless otherwise described, as in this instance. It donates a man above the ruder sort, who has some divine quality bestowed from above, whereby he shines in virtue, learning, and works of piety, like a bright star on earth. It indicates Crusader ancestry.

The same authority quoted above, Guillin also says, "We must interpret all kinds of animals borne in Arms in their best sense, according to their most generous and noble qualities, and so therefore to the greatest honor of their bearers." He adds that, "A fox must not be considered as regards his habits of pilfering and stealing, but as regards his wit and facility of device."

Colors are representative of the personal characteristics of the bearer, and are granted only upon merit. Silver signifies sincerity and peace; sable, the fur lining of royal robes, denotes nobility and constancy; blue, loyalty and truth; red, courage and magnanimity; while gold evidences generosity, and elevation of mind.

The Motto:—"Prepared in both."





Diibendörff



## EMMIGRATION OF PALATINES

Our uncle, Frank Ried Diffenderffer, made a considerable study into the causes and circumstances surrounding the Immigration of the Germans into Pennsylvania during the 17th and 18th centuries. In his "The German Exodus to England in 1709" and again in "The German Immigration into Pennsylvania through the port of Philadelphia, from 1700 to 1775" he leaves us the result of his extensive researches.

To digest these hundreds of pages into a few sentences is impossible, but I shall attempt to set forth—using the least possible words, my understanding as gained from the above mentioned works.

For almost a century prior to the 18th century, the Rhine provinces commonly known as the Palatinate, were almost continuously torn by devastating wars. This territory was taken again and again by opposing armies which not only levied upon upon the commerce of the towns and produce of the land for their support, but left the entire area in ruin upon being driven off. Religious persecution was rife by Catholics and Protestants alike, especially during the latter period by Louis IV of France. The broken promises and petty persecutions of the Elector himself heaped oppression upon burdens and the exceptionally cold winter of 1708 brought down upon these unhappy souls the forces of the very elements.

"So intense was the cold that even the wild animals of the forest and the birds of the air were frozen to death. Wine was frozen in the casks \* \* \* and fruit trees were completely destroyed, which occasioned a dreadful calamity and disolution; chaos, ruine and universal suffering prevailed."

Following William Penn's visit through these provinces in 1677, many had emmigrated to the New World. They had written back urging their friends and relatives to follow. Agents of land companies during the next half century were active in solicitation of colonists. Many booklets and pamphlets were printed and distributed, describing in glowing terms this new land of "Milk and Honey," where religious and political freedom was enjoyed by all. The very seal of the Penn's Province in 1699 bore the legend "Truth, Peace, Love and Plenty." Is it no wonder that many of the Palatinates literally mortgaged their lives

to emmigrate by the thousands between 1707 and 1725? It must be borne in mind that though most of them were practically paupers at the time, some men of means were among them. Many were experienced tradesmen, arteasians, professional men and students. The fact that they arrived in Pennsylvania at all gives evidence to their courage and hardiness. I quote from Mittelberger, and organist of Wurtenburg who voyaged to Philadelphia in 1750 in charge of an organ, and returned to Germany four years later.

#### Mittelberger's Narrative

"This journey from the Palatinate to Pennsylvania, lasts from the beginning of May until the end of October, fully half a year, amid such hardships as no one is able to describe adequately. The cause is because the Rhine boats from Heilbronn to Holland have to pass by 36 custom houses, at all of which the ships are examined, which is done when it suits the convenience of the customhouse officials. In the meantime, the ships with the people are detained long, so that the passengers have to spend much money. The trip down the Rhine alone lasts four, five and even six weeks.

"When the ships and the people reach Holland, they are detained there likewise five or six weeks. Because things are very dear there, the poor people have to spend nearly all they have during that time. \* \* \* Both in Rotterdam and Amsterdam the people are packed densely, like herrings, so to say, in the large sea vessels. One person receives a place scarcely two feet wide and six feet long in the bedstead, while a many a ship carries four to six hundred souls; not to mention the innumerable implements, tools, provisions, water barrels and other things which likewise occupy much space.

"On account of contrary winds it sometimes takes the ships two, three and four weeks to make the trip from Holland to Cowes (on the isle of Wright, off the South coast of England). But when the wind is good they get there in eight days or sooner. Everything is examined at the custom house and the duties paid, and ships are sometimes detained eight, ten and fourteen days before their cargoes are completed. During this delay everyone is compelled to spend his last money and to consume the little stock of provisions which had been reserved for the ocean voyage; so that most passengers, finding themselves on the

ocean where they are in still greater need of them, suffer greatly from hunger and want.

“When the ships have for the last time weighted their anchors at Cowes, the real misery begins, for from there the ships, unless they have good winds must often sail eight, nine, ten or twelve weeks before they reach Philadelphia. But with the best wind the voyage lasts seven weeks.

“During the voyage there is on board these ships terrible misery, stench, fumes, horror, vomiting, many kinds of sickness, fever, dysentery, headache, heat, constipation, boils, scurvy, cancer, mouth-rot, and the like, all of which come from old and sharply salted food and meat, also from very bad and foul water so that many die miserably.

“Add to this, want of provisions, hunger, thirst, cold, heat, dampness, anxiety, want afflictions and lamentations, together with other troubles such as lice which abound so plentifully, especially on sick people, that they can be scraped off the body. The misery reaches the climax when a gale rages for two or three days and nights, so that everyone believes that the ship will go to the bottom with all the human beings on board. \* \* \*

“Among the healthy, impatience grows so great and cruel that one curses the other or himself, and the day of his birth, and sometimes come near killing each other. Misery and malice join each other, so that they cheat and rob one another. One always reproaches the other for persuading him to undertake the journey. Frequently children cry out against their parents, husbands against their wives and wives against their husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and acquaintances against each other. But most against the soul-traffickers, (the Newlanders).

“Many sigh and cry: “Oh, that I were at home again, and if I had to lie in my pig sty!” Or they say: “O God, if I only had a piece of good bread, or a good fresh drop of water.” Many people whimper, and sigh and cry piteously for their homes; most of them get homesick. Many hundred people necessarily die and perish in such misery, and must be cast into the sea, which drives their relatives, or those who persuaded them to undertake the journey, to such despair that it is almost impossible to pacify and console them. In a word, the sighing and crying and lamenting on board the ship continues night and day, so as

to cause the hearts even of the most hardened to bleed when they hear it. \* \* \*

“Children from one to seven years rarely survive the voyage; and many a time parents are compelled to see their children miserably suffer and die from hunger, thirst and sickness, and then see them cast into the water. I witnessed such misery in no less than thirty-two children in our ship, all of whom were thrown into the sea.

“Often a father is separated by death from his wife and children, or mothers from their little children, or even both parents from their children; and sometimes entire families die in quick succession; so that often many dead persons lie in the berths beside the living ones, especially when contagious diseases have broken out on the ship. \* \* \* That most of the people get sick is not surprising, because, in addition to all other trials and hardships, warm food is served only three times a week, the rations being very poor and very small. These meals can hardly be eaten on account of being so unclean. The water which is served out on the ships is often very black, thick and full of worms, so that one cannot drink it without loathing, even with the greatest thirst. O surely, one would often give much money at sea for a piece of good bread, or a drink of good water, if it could only be had. I myself experienced that sufficiently, I am sorry to say. Toward the end we were compelled to eat the ship's biscuit which had been spoiled long ago; though in a whole biscuit there was scarcely a piece the size of a dollar that had not been full of red worms and spiders' nests. Great hunger and thirst forced us to eat and drink everything; but many do so at the risk of their lives. \* \* \*

“At length, when after a long and tedious voyage, the ships come in sight of land, so that the promontories can be seen, which people were so eager and anxious to see, all creep from below to the deck to see the land from afar, and they weep for joy, and pray and sing thanking and praising God. The sight of the land makes the people on board the ship, especially the sick and the half dead, alive again, so that their hearts leap within them; they shout and rejoice, and are content to bear their misery in patience, in the hope that they may soon reach the land in safety. But alas!

“When the ships have landed at Philadelphia after their long voyage no one is permitted to leave them except

those who pay for their passage or can give good security; the others who cannot pay must remain on board the ships till they are purchased, and are released from the ships by their purchasers. The sick always fare the worst, for the healthy are naturally preferred and purchased first; and so the sick and wretched must often remain on board in front of the city for two or three weeks, and frequently die, whereas many a one if he could pay his debt and was permitted to leave the ship immediately, might recover.

\* \* \*”





## First Generation

**J**OHN DÜBENDORFFER, the earliest progenitor of the Pennsylvania family of whom a record has been preserved, was born on October 8, 1663, either in Germany or Switzerland; presumably in the former country, as his sons emigrated from the Palatinate. However the town of Dübendorf, located six miles northeast of the city of Zurich, was doubtless the ancient home of the family. Inquiry at the German Reformed Church at the town of Dübendorf <sup>1</sup> three years ago revealed the fact that the early records of that church were destroyed by fire in 1690 and none earlier than that period are extant. Researches in the vicinity of Neresheim, where John Dubendorffer lived, might bring more satisfactory evidence to light. This John had two sons:

- (1) JOHN MICHAEL, b. Jan. 10, 1695.
- (2) ALEXANDER—

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1—Prof. Oscar Kuhns in his excellent book, "The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennysylvania", ascribes the origin of the name Diffendorffer to the Swiss town mentioned above, and adds: "Almost all the Lancaster County family-names which are derived from places are of Swiss origin." (See page 236 and accompanying note.)

The following history of the town of Dubendorf is translated from the Universal Helvetian Confederate or Swiss (Geographical) Lexicon, Zurich, 1752.

"Aforetime Diebeldorf, Tuebelindorf, Tobelindorf, a village, church, and pastor to the left of the Geatt between Fellanded and Schwamendingen in the superior high or upper bailiwick of the City of Zurich; according to some accounts it is said to have possessed a nobility of its own; and Burkhart and Gerlo are met with in A(nno) 1130, in an instrument (document) concerning a convent (cloister) year. Werner von Tubelndorf in deed of the Sexton (Keester) Sellman a(nno) 1195, and Cuno von Diebendorf, Knight in an instrument (document) of the convent (cloister) at Zinckenburg a(nno) 1229 as witness. Conrad is also said to have been of the council of Zurich a(nno) 1274. According to other accounts the courts of justice are also said to have been under the jurisdiction of the counts of Rapperschweil; the same afterwards came to John Waldman, burgomaster of the city of Zurich, who sold them on the 14th of Sept., anno 1487 to the city of Zurich for 832 gulden; and there were besides these, courts of justice of the villages Reden and Dietlichen out of which on Wednesday after Sts.

John and Paul, anno 1492, a higher or upper bailiwick Swamendingen was incorporated anno 1615 and since then (they) were administered by two equal higher or upper bailiwicks out of the little council of the city of Zurich and were erected into distinct higher or upper bailiwicks at Dibendorf.

Here follow the names and years of office: In 1420 John Basler of Rauensprung, the cantor (choir leader) in the great minster at Zurich and village priest at Dubendorf, is to have given (vergabet) the kirchen satz (church ordinance) as offering; at that time because the city of Zurich appointed the pastors for the charge (congregation) at Dubendorf and because it belonged to the Kyburger Chapter and because the small villages and manors Stadtbach, Sokhausen, Dubelstein, Geenen, Kameden and Tobehof, also out of the county Kybring, the little village Hermeken and out of the bailiwick Greifensee the Gfenn are fellow-parishioners therein the higher or upper bailiwick Dubendorf. Anno 1682 the church was enlarged and in 1690 a damage was done (sustained) by fire at Dubendorf."

Whether the town was named for the family or the family for the town, one fact is incontestibly proved by the above official record and that is that the Dubendorfs were on the spot as early as 1130 and were of knightly birth into the bargain.

The compiler of this Edition has found that in Vol. I, of his "History of Kent", 1778, Hasted quotes Robert of Gloucester, follower of Richard I (Coeur de Lion) and narrator of his deeds in the Third Crusade (1189-1194) at great lengths. In referring to German knights, among others he remarks that:

"\*\*Debendorf with his fauchion

Gain to cracke many a croun.\*\*"

It is therefore not unlikely that this is one and the same with Cuno von Diebeudorf, Knight who appears as witness at Dubendorf in 1229. This crusade was led, not only by Richard of England, but by Phillip of France, and Frederick Barbarossa, German Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

Barbarossa was first in the field in 1189, and following his drowning in 1190, his forces fought under the banners of Richard and Phillip in the siege of Acre which was reduced, after 23 months, in July, 1190. How mutual jealousies divided the forces, how Phillip abandoned the cause, and how Richard made peace in 1192, was captured and held for ransom in Germany is known to all.

Assuming this Cuno von Diebendorf to have embarked with Emperor Barbarossa in 1188 at the age of 20, he then would have been 60 years of age in 1229 when he appears on record in Dubendorf, which is altogether possible and which I believe entirely probable. Especially since at that time boys of 15 years of age were considered of knightly age.

## Second Generation

**J**OHN MICHAEL DÜBENDORFFER, the eldest son of John, was born on January 10, 1695, at Neresheim in Churpfalzishen, near Heidelberg. On January 21, 1721, he married Barbara Hasen.<sup>2</sup> She was born in Germany in 1700 and came with her husband to Pennsylvania. She lived in New Holland until her husband's death in 1778 when she moved to Lancaster, residing with her son Michael until her death on March 15, 1785. Eight sons were born of that union:

(1) MICHAEL.

(2) JOHN.

(3) JACOB.

(4) GEORGE.

(5) ADAM.

(6) (7) (8) and one daughter who married Emanuel Dyer, resident in the town of Manheim.

John Michael Dubendorffer reached Philadelphia with his wife and young son, Michael, on September 21, 1727, in the ship "William and Sarah",<sup>3</sup> in company with his brother Alexander, and about 400 other Palatines.<sup>4</sup> His family and household effects were carried by wagon to "Saue Schwamm", near or within the present borough of New Holland, and unloaded under an oak tree. Country-

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2—According to the late Dr. Michael Diffenderffer, of Baltimore, her maiden name was Margareta Hesén. Her name as recorded in the burial record of the First Reformed Church at Lancaster was Barbara Hasen, no doubt.

3—Reprinted herein from "The German Immigration into Pennsylvania" which acknowledges Rupp Vol. XVII of the Second Series of Pennsylvania archives. Attention is invited to what might appear as a contradiction relative to the number arriving. The list herewith did not include women nor children under the age of sixteen. The difference in dates as set forth above and here below is evidently due to the normal delay in clearing the ship.

A list of Ye Palatine Passengers Imported in Ye Ship William and Sarah, Will'm Hill Mast'r, from Rotterdam, Philid'a Ye Sept'bre 1727.

There follows 108 names including both:

"Johannes Dubendorffer"

"Alex Diebendorf"

Four years ago The Pennsylvania German Society published a

men from Weber Thal and Graaf's Thal, the nearest settlements, supplied him with a cow and provisions to relieve his immediate wants and assisted him in the erection of a cabin. He is believed to have been the first settler in the immediate vicinity of New Holland. On February 18, 1734, there was surveyed to him under warrent No. 727, by John Taylor, deputy surveyor of Lancaster County, 200 acres of land "to northward of Mill Creek", he paying £ 15, 10 s., for every 100 acres, and one halfpenny sterling quit-rent for every acre. He was naturalized in April, 1743. He lived in New Holland until his death on November 12, 1778, at the age of 83 years, 10 months and 2 days. He was buried in the graveyard attached to the Zeltenreich's Kirche of which he was one of the founders. His grave is without a stone and unknown.

2. ALEXANDER DUBENDORFFER, the brother of John Michael, came to Pennsylvania on the same ship and at the same time that the latter came. He took up 150 acres of land, then lying in Bucks County, now partly in Bucks and partly in Lehigh counties. His name appears in a list of the members of the Great Swamp Church in 1736. He was naturalized in September, 1740. He died on November 29, 1768, leaving a widow and five children, Anna Margaret (wife of John Nicholas Oehl), Godfrey (born 1730, died 1806), Gertrude, wife of Henry Miller, Alexander and John. I have a full family tree of all his descendants.

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complete shipmasters list of all German emigrants thru the Port of Philadelphia. One volume consists entirely of engraved copies from photographs taken from the original lists showing the actual German signatures of each head of a family group. Many thousand names are here recorded, our ancestors among them. One of the volumes then gave the same names in print and indexed. One of the brothers is recorded as "Johannes Tiebenderf", Conn. and the other brother as "Allexand. Dubendorfer". While their family name was the same, the discrepancy arose from the fact that when these Germans pronounced their name, the English sea captains, being not well versed in German, wrote them down just as their ear caught the pronunciation.

This list being from absolutely original sources is far more authentic than Rupp's list.

4—See Col. First Series, Vol. III, p. 284.

## Third Generation

**M**ICHAEL, son of the just named John Michael Diffenderffer, was born near Heidleberg, in the Palatinate, November 4, 1721, and arrived in Philadelphia, with his father on the ship "William and Sarah", on September 21, 1727. Of his early life but little is known, most probably he remained in the vicinity of New Holland, in Earl Township, where his father had settled, until middle life.

On September 22, 1752, he bought from Isaac Brubaker a tract of 141 acres of land with the usual allowances, which had been earlier taken up by Christian Martin. A patent was issued to him for the tract on June 30, 1760, by Lieutenant Governor James Hamilton. This tract lay about a mile and a half south of the present borough of New Holland, at the foot of the Welsh Mountain, and near the head waters of Mill Creek. Later, on September 30, 1768, he purchased another tract of land adjoining the first containing 59 acres and 28 perches for £33, of Adam Diller, a part of what was known as the "Tiller (Diller) Plantation." The foundations of an early house are still to be seen on the place, but whether built by Diffenderffer or the earlier owner is not known. The present mansion is of stone and was built in 1776. It is as staunch and solid today as when erected 132 years ago. The pointing of the stone work is in as good condition as when put on and as solid as the stones themselves.

On Monday, April 30, 1770, Diffenderffer sold both the above mentioned tracts of ground as a whole, to Michael Hildebrand for £1000. It is at present in the possession of Issac Hildebrand, grandson of the purchaser. I have been on the spot within the past week and could not but admire the fine old place, with its grand spring of excellent water and the beautiful view of the Mill Creek valley lying to the nothward.

Michael Diffenderffer was evidently a believer in real estate. On Thursday, June 19, 1760, he obtained a patent from the Penn heirs for 268 acres of land, located in and near to what is now the borough of New Holland, but

which at that time was more generally known as "Earl-town." Part of this tract was laid off in town building lots along the highway and an effort was made to straighten the road along which so much of the town as was then in existence was built. The new town was named "New Design", a name it did not long retain. The exact location of this entire 268-acre tract I have been unable to determine. An old deed in my possession names the property now owned by Mr. E. C. Diller as Lots No. 24 and 25 in the platted design.

For a considerable period of time I was at a loss to locate the tract of 268 acres, with allowances, which had been granted under a patent dated 1760 to Michael Diffenderffer, and recorded in the office for recording deeds, in Philadelphia, in Patent Book A, Vol. 19, page 619, etc., but recently a deed came into my hands made by Christina Diffenderffer, wife of Michael, and Matthias Young, the executors of the said Michael, which conveys "All that certain Piece or Parcel of Land Part and parcel of the above mentioned tract of Land and Premises (the 268 acre Patent or tract) situated and being in the Township of Earl, in the County of Lancaster aforesaid, known in the Plan of Division of the above mentioned Tract of Land (the 268 acre tract) by the Number Five, containing ten acres, etc., etc."

From this it would seem that at least part of the tract was platted into small tracts and sold in that way, as its boundaries are in part the tracts of land "intended to be conveyed to Michael Graybill and Jacob Diffenderffer." The price paid for the ten acres was £100 "in gold or silver." This deed was not executed until June 1, 1792, and was recorded in the Recorder's Office on July 25 of that year. As these ten acres were a part of the lands divided by David Diffenderffer on July 23, 1833, between his three sons, David, Michael and John, the location of the original grant of 268 acres becomes evident. It lay along the north side of the town of New Design or New Holland for a considerable distance probably, from the Hinkletown road westward—how far west I am unable to tell, but as far as the lands of Jacob Mentzer, which themselves were probably part of the original tract. It is likely all the short lots on the northern side of the present Borough of New Holland were part of the grant. The property at present is in the possession of Messrs. Diller

and Storb was Nos. 24 and 25 on the town plot as survey drafts still in existence show. Where the 170-acre tract was I have not tried to ascertain. As it was sold at public sale, the deeds given to the purchaser or purchasers, are of course recorded in the Recorders office at Lancaster.

In 1765 Michael Diffenderffer bought a lot of ground on the north side of East King Street, near the North Duke Street, in the city of Lancaster, on which he built a hotel which was named the "Lepard", a name by which it has been known to the present day. He kept this inn until his death in 1789. From that time until 1812 it was kept by his son Philip.

Michael Diffenderffer was a patriot in the days that tried men's souls. Not only did he give his son David to the cause of his country, but he did his part in furthering the good cause at home. The following document taken from Vol. 7, Fifth Series, Pennsylvania Archives page, 15, shows that he acted as almoner to the widows of soldiers who went to the front to meet the enemy.

Account of the monies expended by Michael Diffenderffer for the support of the wives and children of such militia men belonging to Capt. Geo. Musser's Co. in Col. George Ross Battalion of Lancaster Co. as were in the actual service of the United States of America in the year of 1776, to wit:

1776

|         |  |        |         |
|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Aug. 14 | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of Hugh McElroy        | Rech   |         |
|         |  | No. 1  | 07.6    |
|         | Cash pd. Johanna, the wife of Adam Rupert          | No. 2  | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Ann, the wife of Henry Haines             | No. 3  | 5.0     |
|         | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of Henry Lysinger      | No. 4  | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Christina, the wife of John Plattenberger |        |         |
|         |  | No. 5  | 7.6     |
| 16      | Cash pd. Ann, the wife of Robt. Campbell           | No. 6  | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of Sottlich Nowman     | No. 7  | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of Isaac Bartigs       | No. 8  | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of Gerhart Uttenstine  |        |         |
|         |  | No. 9  | 5.0     |
|         | Cash pd. Elizabeth, the wife of John Walker        | No. 10 | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. (This line torn.)                         |        |         |
| 16      | Cash pd. Sarah, the wife of Casper Greble          | No. 12 | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Margaret, the wife of John Lutman         | No. 13 | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Catherine, the wife of Christ Illger      | No. 14 | 7.6     |
|         | Cash pd. Mary, the wife of John Wydle              | No. 15 | 7.6     |
| Oct. 10 | Cash pd. Christine, the wife of Mich. Huber        | No. 16 | 4.0     |
|         | Cash pd. the wife of Hugh McElroy                  | No. 17 | 15.0    |
|         | Recd. at times from W. A. Atlee                    |        | £ 6 6.6 |
|         | Bal. due to the state                              |        | 5.13.6  |
|         | Exd. & Settled                                     |        | 12. 0.0 |

John Nicholson,  
Comp. Gen. Office  
March 31, 1787.

Here is another account and receipt, the original of which is in the possession of the writer

Michael Diffenderffer's Account against the Continent of America for Entertaining Rifle Men.

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Capt. Price's Company  | £ 1. 7.0 |
| Capt. Cresap's Comy.   | 3.17.0   |
| ditto                  | 4.13.0   |
| ditto for a Rifle      | 6. 0.0   |
| Captain Stephenson     | 0.19.6   |
| Captn. Dowdle's Compy. | 1 4.0    |
|                        | <hr/>    |
|                        | 18. 0.6  |

Received of John Hubley, eighteen pounds and six pence for the above Amt. Oct. 20, 1775.

Michael Diefenderfer

He was evidently a man of influence and wealth. He held the office of commissioner of Lancaster County from 1770 to 1772. He took the oath of allegiance on Tuesday, July 1, 1777. He was a burgess of the town in 1778-79, 1780-81-82 and 1783.

When Baron Henry William Steigel fell into financial difficulties, and properties in and around Manheim owned by him were sold by the sheriff, on March 30, 1779. Diefenderffer bought the property which he later sold to William Bausman.

In September, 1779, he, in conjunction with John Hubley, Frederick Kuhn and Christian Wirtz, bought the estate of Michael Witman, innkeeper and farmer of Cocalico Township, an attained traitor, for £25,000.

He was thrice married. His first wife, whom he married in 1743, was born Eva Barbara Shakin, of whom little is known. Three children were born of this union, namely:

- (1) MICHAEL.
- (2) DANIEL.
- (3) MARGARETTA.

The latter married Jacob Fordney and resided in Lancaster.

His second wife was Elizabeth Rapp, by whom he had three sons:

- (4) DAVID, born February 9, 1752.
- (5) PETER.
- (6) SAMUEL.

The latter died young.

By his third wife, Christina, the widow of Martin Diller, he had three other sons:

- (7) PHILIP.
- (8) JOHN GEORGE.
- (9) LUDWIG.

Received of Michael Dieffenbacher John Hubley  
Christian Wirtz and Frederick Kuhn Six thousand  
two hundred and fifty Pounds being one fourth part  
of the purchase Money for the Estate Real late  
of Michael Witman an Attainted Traitor and  
sold to them at Public Sale agreeable to Law -  
Lancaster Sept. 25. 1779.

Cha Hall Agent

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Michael Dieffenbacher  
Christian Wirtz Frederick Kuhn and  
John Hubley Eighteen thousand Seven  
Hundred and fifty Pounds, which with  
Six thousand Two Hundred and fifty  
Pounds for which they have my Rec<sup>t</sup>  
is in full of twenty five thousand  
Pounds the Whole of the Consideration  
Money for which I Sold them the  
Real Estate of Michael Whitman an  
Attainted Traitor and Confiscated and  
Sold According to Law witness my  
Hand this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1779

£18,750.0.0

Cha Hall Agent





8. John George, the brother of Phillip and Ludwig, moved to Martinsburg, Va., about the year 1800 from the city of Lancaster. He had nine children, namely:

- (1) MICHAEL.
- (2) CHARLOTTE.
- (3) BARNHART.
- (4) GEORGE.
- (5) WILLIAM.
- (6) CATHERINE.
- (7) MARY.
- (8) PHILIP.
- (9) JOHN.

Michael, Peter and Daniel removed to Baltimore, Md., in 1774, where each had progeny.<sup>5</sup>

Michael Diffenderffer left a considerable estate at his death. His executors, his widow Christina and Matthias Young, advertised in No. 144, 1790, of the "Lancaster Zeitung" the following real estate: One farm of 170 acres at New Holland, another of 230 acres near the same town, and a number of 7 shilling ground rents on lots in the same place. Also three tracts of land, one of 298 acres, another of 252 acres and a third one of 302 acres, all in Northumberland County on West Branch of the Susquehanna.

He died at Lancaster, Thursday, September 3, 1789, and was buried in the graveyard attached to the First Reformed Church of Lancaster City, to which he left a legacy of £ 15.

In the 110th issue, September 9, 1789, of the "Neue Unpartheipshe Lancaster Zeitung," the only newspaper published in Lancaster at that time, appeared the following notice of his death:

"Heute vor 8 tagen Starb allhier nach einer langen und Schmertzhaften Krankheir Herr Michael Difenderffer in 69 jahr seines alters, ein angeschener einwohner diesen Stadt. Er war ein zartlicher Vater, aufrichter freund und guter burger."

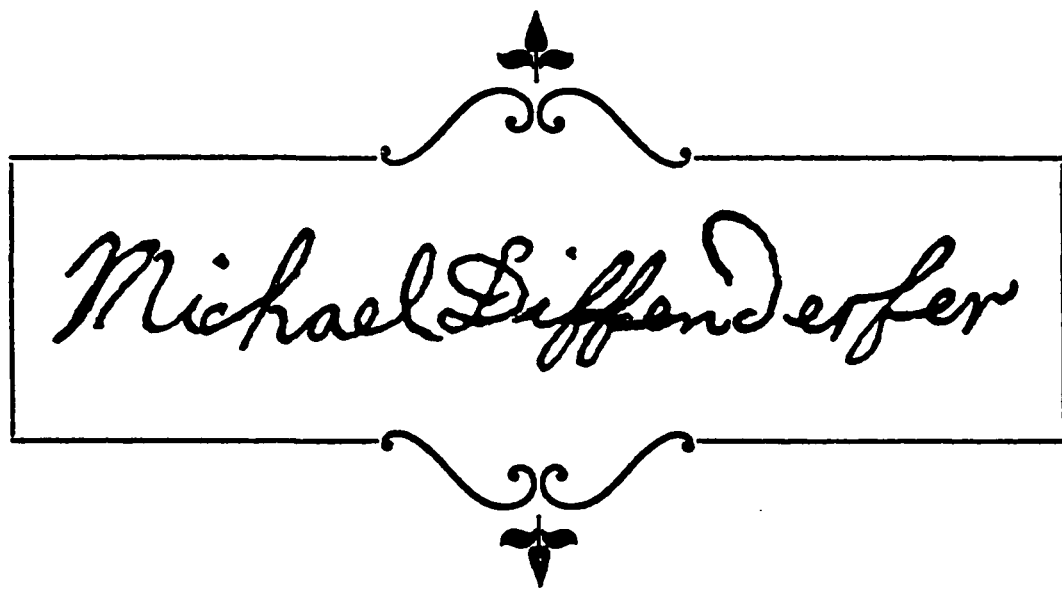
(Translation: "Eight days ago this day, died in this

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5—In the Fifth Annual Report of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, on pages 91 and 92, much information relative to the descendants of the three brothers, Michael, Peter, and Daniel, who migrated to the city of Baltimore, in 1774 may be found.

place after a long and painful illness, Mr. Michael Diefenderfer, in the 68th year of his age. He was a tender father, a sincere friend and a good citizen.”)

In No. 144 of the same newspaper, bearing date of May 5th, 1790, appeared the advertisement of the executors of his will, his wife Christina Diffenderffer and Matthias Young, who offered at public sale at the public house of Jacob Diffenderffer, in New Holland, one farm near that place of 170 acres, and another also near the town containing 230 acres, and some 7 shilling ground rents in New Holland lots. Also at his late home at Lancaster, three tracts of land on the West Branch of the Susquehanna, in Northumberland County, containing respectively 298, 252, and 302 acres. Also all manner of household property.



In the NAME and by the AUTHORITY of the FREEMEN  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

# The Supreme Executive Council of the said Commonwealth.

To David Diffenderffer Gentleman



(F. Bailey, Master.)

WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your  
Patriotism, Valour, Conduct, and Fidelity, DO,  
by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be

Lieutenant of the first Company of foot in the fourth

Battalion of Militia in the County of Lancaster.

You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge  
the Duty of Lieutenant by doing and performing all manner of Things  
thereunto belonging. And WE do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers  
under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as Lieutenant. And  
you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as you shall, from Time to  
Time, receive from the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth, or from your  
superior Officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, and in pursuance of the  
Acts of Assembly of this State. This Commission to continue in Force until your Term,  
by the Laws of this State, shall of Course expire.

GIVEN in Council under the Hand of the Vice President, and the lesser Seal of  
the State, at Philadelphia, this first Day of May in the  
Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

ATTEST.

*L. B. Smith*

Commission of David Diffenderffer.

## MILITARY RECORD OF DAVID DIFFENDERFFER.

Enlisted in 1776 for three months;  
for the war, Oct., 1776. Commissioned  
Ensign in the Continental Line, June,  
1778. Was in the battle of Trenton,  
Dec. 26, 1776; in cannonade of Tren-  
ton, Jan. 2, 1777. At Princeton, Jan. 3,  
1777. At Monmouth, May 3, 1777,  
wounded and taken prisoner; confined  
in New York Sugar House; exchanged  
and joined his regiment at Valley  
Forge. Battle of Monmouth, June 28,  
1778. At White Plains and then into  
winter quarters at Easton. Joined Sul-  
livan's expedition at Wyoming in the  
summer of 1779. In garrison at Bun-  
bury, 1779-80; then resigned his com-  
mission because of impaired health.



## Fourth Generation

**D**AVID DIFFENDERFFER, the fourth child of Michael Diffenderffer, was the grandfather of the writer. The latter remembers very distinctly the visit paid to his father's home by Rupp, the historian, in 1842, when that person was gathering materials for his "History of Lancaster County." He remained at my father's house over night and fifty years later told me that visit was a profitable and interesting one as my grandfather's memory, despite his ninety years, was both active and accurate. As Mr. Rupp has introduced a lengthy biographical sketch of my grandfather in his history, I shall substitute it here instead of preparing one myself. It is accordingly presented. He says:

"David Diffenderffer was born February 9, 1752, near New Holland; before he had reached his tenth year, his father, Michael Diffenderffer, moved to Lancaster. David, when in his eleventh year, saw a sight in Lancaster, 'too horrible to relate,' to use his own language, the massacred Indians in their gore, and one in the agonies of death, menacing revenge by the motion of 'his dying hands'.<sup>6</sup>

"At the age of twenty-five, he sternly advocated the suffering cause of his bleeding country, by actual and personal services; first in the character of a militia man; after the expiration of his term, he served as an enlisted volunteer of Col. Houssacker's regiment, under Captain David Wilbert, of Philadelphia, and Lieut. Col. George Stricker, father of Gen. Stricker, late of Baltimore.

"He was in many important engagements. He was engaged in the taking of the Hessians at Trenton, where Col Rahl, the Hessian Commander, and a gallant officer, was mortally wounded, besides six other officers, and between twenty and thirty privates, of the enemy were killed

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<sup>6</sup>—This reference is to the massacre of 14 Conesta Indians in the Workhouse, corner of West King and Prince streets, on December 27, 1763, by the notorious "Paxton Boys."

on Thursday, December 26, 1776 and twenty-three officers and rising of nine hundred privates were taken prisoners by the Americans, who lost only four privates, and two of these were frozen to death. He was at the cannonading of Trenton, Thursday, January 2, 1777, when the Americans were repulsed: 'I ran', said the veteran to us, in his ninety-first year, 'like a Hollander, while the bullets whistled about my ears, and rattled like hailstones against the fence'. He was in the engagements where there was a fearful odds in numbers and tact against the Americans, when they had to contend against Lord Cornwallis's troops, and reinforced by regiments under the command of Colonel Maywood, at the Battle of Princeton, Friday, January 3, 1777; here the British loss was more than one hundred killed, and rising of three hundred prisoners taken.

"He was with the American army at Morristown, in winter quarters. Here Washington, not trusting to the barriers nature had thrown around his position, sent out detachments to assail and harass General Howe's troops; and it was in these expeditions Diffenderffer frequently took part.

"In a skirmish at Monmouth, in the spring of '77, Diffenderffer was taken prisoner and shamefully maltreated by one of the British, who struck him on his face with a musket; a scar is still visible on his upper lip; blow upon blow would have been repeated, but for the manly and timely interposition of a small Scotchman, he was treated as a prisoner. He and twenty-five or thirty fellow prisoners were conveyed to New York, and confined in a sugar refinery, covered in part with tile. The sufferings they endured excited universal indignation, and will everlastingly reflect reproach on the British commander. Many of them sunk under their sufferings and died. Diffenderffer's sufferings were mitigated by the kindness of a Mr. Miller, a Hessian commissary in the English service; having been at Lancaster, he had taken lodgings at the public house of Michael Diffenderffer, and who, in a conversation told Miller he had a son, a suffering prisoner, at New York, and if he had an opportunity, would send him some money. Miller informed him he would shortly return to New York, and would be pleased to have it in his power to befriend him or his suffering son; the opportunity was improved and four half Johannes placed in the hands of the commissary, who, with the character-

# Department of the Interior,

## BUREAU OF PENSIONS.

Washington, D. C., April 14, 1893

Sir,

In reply to your request for a statement of the military history of David Diffenderfer, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, you will please find below the desired information as contained in his application for pension on file in this Bureau.

| DATES OF ENLISTMENT. | LENGTH OF SERVICE.    | RANK.        | OFFICERS UNDER WHOM SERVICE WAS RENDERED. |            | STATE. |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|------------|--------|
|                      |                       |              | CAPTAIN.                                  | COLONEL.   |        |
| 1776                 | 3 mo.                 | Pr (Militia) |   |            | Pa     |
| Oct 1776             | War                   | Pr           | David Wilhoit                             | Houssacker | Pa     |
| June 1778            | appointed             | Ensign       | do  | Weltner    | "      |
|                      | Rejoined in July 1780 |              |   |            |        |

Battles engaged in, enclosed sheet or mem.

Residence of soldier at enlistment, Oct 1776 at Amboy N.J.

Date of application for pension, Aug 20 1832

Residence at date of application, New Holland, Lancaster Co. Pa

Age at date of application, 56 years, 6 months, 8, 11 days

Remarks: by trade a Wagon maker at Pottsville, Lancaster Co Penn

Very respectfully,

D. J. Murphy

Actg Commissioner.

Mr Frank R Diffenderfer

Office of "The new Era"

Lancaster Pa

7941 b-3 m

David Diffenderfer<sup>was</sup> in battle at Trenton N.J Dec 26. 1776 - in the Campaigne Jan 2. 1777; at Princeton N.J Jan 3. 1777; at this period Col Houssacker deserted to the British - Near Monmouth N.J May 3. 1777, he was taken prisoner, exchanged March 1778, joined his regiment at Valley Forge - In battle at Monmouth N.J June 28. 1778, going to White Plains N.Y, then into winter quarters at Easton Pa - In summer of 1779, he joined at Wyoming the expedition of Gen Sullivan against the Indians in the interior of N.Y. who had a severe fight at Newtown near Elmira N.Y

Returned to Wyoming & was made one of the garrison at Sunbury Pa through the winter 1779-80 until furloughed for impaired health



istic fidelity of an honest Hessian, delivered the gold to David.<sup>7</sup>

“Notwithstanding the economy he used, his money, as his imprisonment was protracted, was reduced to a few cents; and while, as a prisoner of hope, he was meditating how his future sufferings should be mitigated, Capt. Michael Smysen, of York County, on his return from Long Island, by way of New York, to his home, handed him an English guinea. After five months’ suffering, in the latter part of October, he went to Long Island where he was, on parole, laboring for his board and clothes for some time, he returned to New York; was exchanged, and received a permit; and in company with Colonel Atlee, who had been taken prisoner before, came to Trenton, where they parted. Diffenderffer by way of Valley Forge returned to Lancaster. He remained a short time at home; then in company with Captain Wilbert, went to Valley Forge, here he remained four weeks, sufficiently long to witness the sufferings of the American army.

“On Thursday, the 18th of June, 1778, Gen. Howe evacuated Philadelphia, and crossed over into New Jersey, whither they were speedily followed by Washington; pursuing the enemy; and on Sunday, the 28th of June, gained a signal victory at Monmouth, over the British. Diffenderffer was in this engagement. This, says he, was one of the hottest days he ever experienced; several fell dead from drinking cold water. From Monmouth they marched to White Plains, a few miles to the northeastward of New York Island. Thence they went to West Point where Washington had his headquarters. Here Diffenderffer having received a furlough, returned to Lancaster, where he remained until March, 1779, when he returned to the regiment at Easton. Under the command of General Sullivan, they marched into the Wyoming country, and Genesee Flats; thence they returned to Wyoming; then the regiment under the direction of Major Weldner, came on to Sunbury. Owing to sickness, Diffenderffer, an ensign, resigned his commission and returned to Lancaster, in 1779.

“His eventful life, through habits of temperance and

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7—This statement we have from the old father himself; while relating the incidents of his eventful life, at this particular point, we saw steal down his cheeks, in hurried succession, tears from his sightless organs: he added, “I had a kind father.”

moderation, has been lengthened four score and ten. Though sightless for some years, he enjoys at present remarkable health; and enjoys the company of a virtuous and intelligent offspring and relatives."

In addition to the foregoing, a few additional facts concerning his career may be given. At the time of his retirement from the army the State was unable to discharge the sum due him for back pay. It was the practice to issue State Warrants for these arrearages, and the one issued to him was for £ 134.2.4., dated April 10, 1783. On April 10, 1784, the Comptroller General rebated a certain sum due him on his depreciated certificate, namely, £ 8.0.-1.0. These certificates were eventually paid in land. Diffenderffer received a tract located in Northumberland County, which he afterward sold for a small sum.<sup>8</sup>

On Monday, May 1, 1786, the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth issued to him a commission as Lieutenant in the Fourth Battalion of the State Militia, which commission is in the writer's possession and is reproduced here. I believe he was the last of the revolutionary heroes of Lancaster County at the time of his death, Sunday, May 10, 1846. The writer, then a lad of thirteen years, for a considerable period prior to his decease, shared his room with him to render him such attentions as his sightless condition might require.

He was granted a pension by the United States Government under the pension act of June 7, 1832, and a copy of this certificate awarding him that well-won honorarium is appended. It reads as follows:

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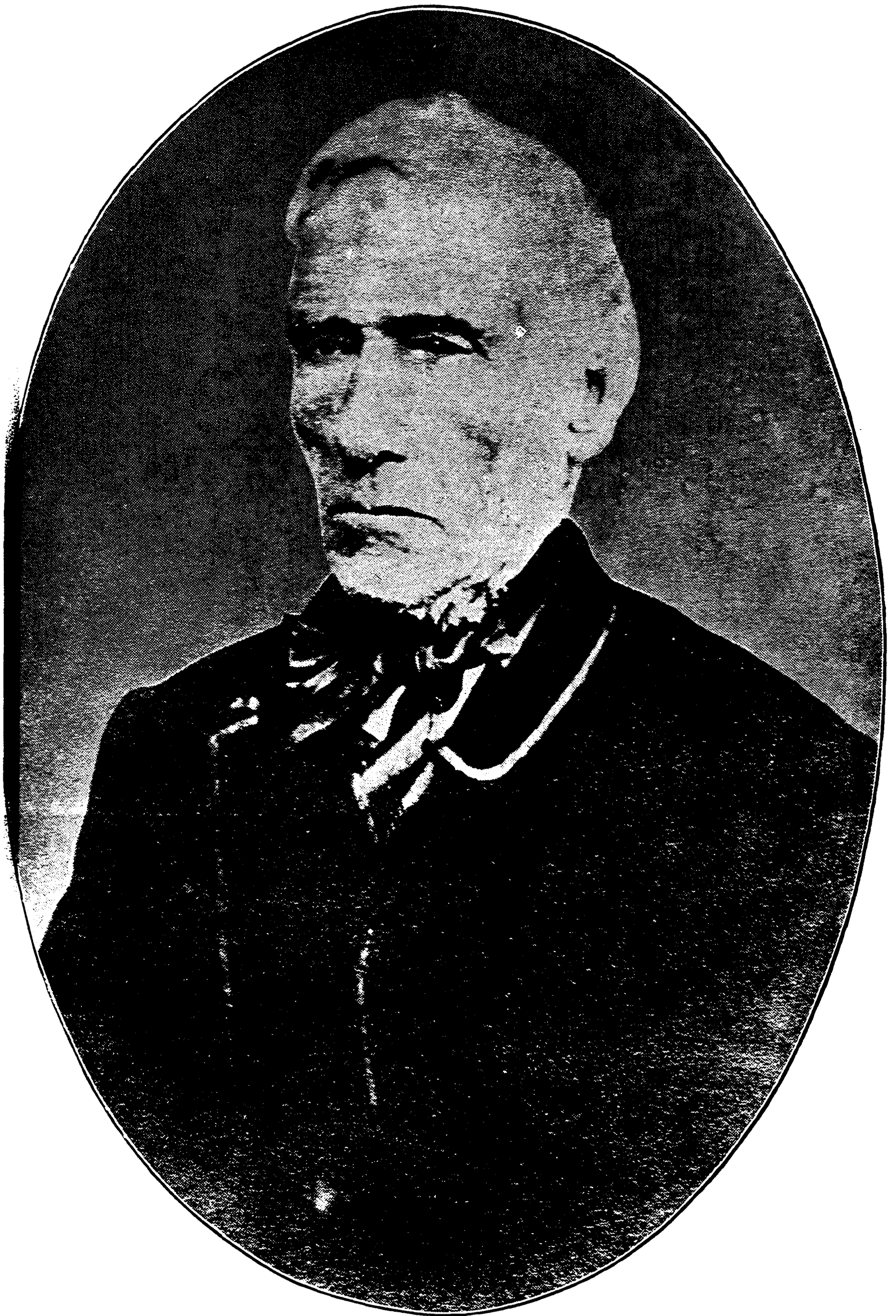
8—In this connection the following document in the possession of the writer will be found of interest:

"Lancaster, June 3d, 1784.

"Recd. of Mr. David Diffenderffer his depreciated Certificate for his services as an Ensign in the late German Regt. amounting to one hundred and thirty four pounds two shillings and four pence and muster roll belonging to the said Regt. which I promise to deliver to him on my return from Philadelphia as witness my hand the day and year as above written.

"Attest  
Matthias Young."

Thos. Edison.



Portrait of Michael Diffenderffer,  
1783-1868.



"WAR DEPARTMENT  
"REVOLUTIONARY CLAIM.

"I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States, of the 7th of June, 1832, David Diffenderffer of Lancaster, of the State of Pennsylvania, who was a Sargent and an Ensign in the Army of the Revolution is entitled to Receive Two hundred and thirty-five dollars per annum during his natural life, commencing on the 4th of March, 1831, and payable semi-annually of March and 4th of September in every year.

"Given at the War Office of the United States this tenth of December, 1832.

"LEWIS CASS  
"Secretary of War."

"Examined and countersigned.

"J. L. Edwards,  
"Commissioner of Pensions."

Upon the occasion of Lafayette's visit to Lancaster in 1825, David Diffenderffer, although in his seventy-third year, rode on horseback from New Holland where he resided, to Lancaster, and along with the other Revolutionary heroes still living, had a place of honor at the reception given the distinguished Frenchman by the citizens of the county.

He was married on Sunday, October 22, 1780 to Margaret Stein, by Rev. John Theobold Faber. She was born Feb. 23, 1750 and died Feb. 2, 1817. To this union was born the following children:

- (1) DAVID, b. Oct. 12, 1781 d.—.
- (2) MICHAEL, b. Aug. 4, 1783; d. Jan. 21, 1868.
- (3) ANNA MARIA, b. Aug. 14 1785; d. Jan. 1, 1856.
- (4) JOHN, b. Sept. 10, 1787; d. 1865.
- (5) MARGARETA, b. July 9, 1789; d. July 30, 1789.

David Diffenderffer died Sunday, May 10, 1846, and lies under a monument erected by his descendants in the cemetery attached to St. Stephen's Reformed Church, at New Holland, of which church he was a life long member and officer.



## Fifth Generation

### DAVID DIFFENDERFFER'S CHILDREN

**D**AVID, the oldest of the above named children, emigrated to the State of Ohio about the year 1830. He was a carpenter by trade, but having purchased a large farm in Stark County, near Wayne, became a successful farmer, a pursuit he followed until his death in 1863. By his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in New Holland, and who was the daughter of Matthias Shirk, he had numerous offspring, whose names, but not in the order of their births are known to the writer. They were:

- (1) MARGARET, b. —.
- (2) MARIA, b. —.
- (3) ANN, b. —.
- (4) CAROLINE, b. —.
- (5) ELIZA, b. —.
- (6) CHARLES, b. 1818.

The writer visited his cousin Charles in 1864, and saw all the surviving children at that time, the father and mother having died before.

MICHAEL, second son of the first David, was born on Monday, August 4, 1783, presumably in the city of Lancaster, as he was baptized in the Trinity Lutheran Church of that city on Sunday October 12 of the same year. I have never been able to understand why he was baptized in the Lutheran Church, as his parents were members of the German Reformed denomination, as indeed had been his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him. Besides, there was a reformed clergyman, the Rev. Dr. William Hendel, serving his second pastorage in the Reformed Church of Lancaster at the time.

After his father's removal to New Holland, young Michael went with him and that village was his home until his death on Tuesday, January 21, 1868. In the year 1800 the present Reformed Church in New Holland was built. Young Michael, then a lad of seventeen years,



Home of Michael Diffenderffer and wife at New Holland, Pa.



as he often related to me, "dipped" many of the bricks that went into its walls into water before they were laid, as seems to have been the custom at that time, to make the mortar more adhesive.

Later he learned the trade of his father, that of wheel-right or wagon maker, which he pursued many years. Later he kept a lumber yard, and later still took up farming, a pursuit he followed until the time of his death. For many years of his farmer life, he also kept flower and feed for sale. He led a quiet, uneventful life. He was a life-long member of the Reformed Church and during all his mature years, held many offices in the local church to which he was attached. St. Stephen's Church never had a more faithful member and the Reformed Church at large, never had a more staunch or devout adherent.

Mild of speech, of equable temperament, fair and honorable in his business relations he displayed the highest type of citizenship and enjoyed the respect and confidence of the entire community.

In 1820 he married Mary (Oesterly) Esterle, to which union were born the following children:

- (1) DAVID RITTENHOUSE, b. Jan. 18, 1832;  
d. May 19, 1900.
- (2) WILLIAM LEANDER, b. Sept. 10, 1823;  
d. June 24, 1873.
- (3) CATHERINE ELIZABETH, b. June 26, 1826;  
d. Oct. 7, 1887.
- (4) MARY ANN, b. April 29, 1829; d. Feb. 11, 1923.
- (5) FRANK RIED, b. April 30, 1883; d. Sept. 29,  
1921.

#### MICHAEL'S WIFE—MARY ESTERLE <sup>9</sup>

She was born at Klingerstown, Near Shamokin, Pa., daughter of Jacob and Rosina (Ried) Esterle. She grew to womanhood at the family home and married Michael Diffenderffer in 1820 to whom she was a careful, capable, helpmate, a faithful, loving wife and a most devoted mother, than whom no one in the community was better

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<sup>9</sup>—It deserves to be mentioned that most of the Diffenderffers who descended from the first immigrant, John Michael Diffenderffer, have through six generations been firm adherents to the Reformed faith, as is fully attested by the legend attached to a memorial window in St. Stephen's (New Holland) Church.

known, or more truly commanded the respect and affection of those who knew her. In times of trouble, all sought her assistance and council.

The records of her family are few and brief. Her grandfather was George Oesterle whose wife was Magdalena Gyer. Her father was born Dec. 17, 1753, in Bucks County. He was married to Rosina Catarina Ried, on October 21, 1780. To this union was born the following children:

MAGDALENA, who married — Pontius.

CATHERINE, who married Nathan Smith.

ELIZABETH, who married — Shafer.

MARY, who married Michael Diffenderffer.

CHRISTINA, who married Daniel Shafer.

HANNAH, who married John Wiley.

GEORGE, who married Hannah Shatterly, died at Seneca Falls.

PETER, Who married Sarah Delp, died in Michigan.

JOHN, who married Magdalena Mark, died at Holidaysburg.

The two Shafers mentioned above are not related.

Catherine Ried died in 1803 and was buried in the grave yard attached to the Reformed Church near Klingerstown, and on March 14, 1815, Jacob Esterle was married a second time to Mrs. Eva Price, widow of Dr. Wm. Price. The groom and bride were each 61 years of age and the "Marietta Pilot" from which I gleaned this wedding announcement gave the venerable couple the following humorous sendoff:

"This aged pair now truly blest,  
Like doves lie in one feathered nest  
They'll doubtless by their offspring prove  
How much they yet, tho' old, can love."

Jacob Esterle is buried in the grave yard attached to the Lutheran church at Maytown. The Latshaws and Rieds still living near Shamokin are relatives.

ANNA MARIA, third child of the first David, was born at her father's home in New Holland, Sunday, August 14, 1785, and was married to John Johns, b. March 19, 1780; d. Dec. 6, 1864, a farmer residing in West Earl Township, where she passed her married life and where she died on



Portrait of Mary Esterle Diffenderffer wife of Michael Diffenderffer.  
1797-1880.



Jan. 21, 1856. Her children were Elijah, born and died in 1812, and Caroline, born in New Holland, August 14, 1785. She married Gerge Kafroth, and died April 25, 1899.

JOHN, the fourth and last child of David, except for Margareta who died when a baby, was born September 10, 1787. He learned the trade of carpenter and undertaker, which he pursued all his life in the village of New Holland. Perhaps no undertaker in the county served at so many funerals as he.

During a considerable period of his life—the latter portion—he also owned and cultivated a small farm. He was a man who led a blameless life, and in all his career probably never made an enemy. Attending to his own affairs, he found, gave him enough occupation without meddling with those of his neighbors. Like all his family he was a consistent member of the Reformed Church at New Holland, having nearly all his adult life been in some church office.

He married Catherine Grimm who was born July 12, 1792 and died Dec. 17, 1871, and by her had the following offspring:

- (1) MARGARET, b. Jan. 21, 1814; d. May 15, 1887.
- (2) HENRY, b. Jan. 30, 1816; d. Oct. 9, 1871.
- (3) JULIANA, b. Jan. 9, 1827; d. May 12, 1863.

(1) Margaret, lived and died unmarried in her father's home and was the last survivor of the family. She was a dutiful daughter, a devout Christian woman and commanded the respect and esteem of the entire community.

(2) Henry, while still quite young went to Baltimore, where so many of his cousins and other kinsfolks were residing and engaged in mercantile pursuits. Later he removed to Philadelphia, where he also engaged in business. Still later he went to New York and entered the employ of the eminent merchant A. T. Stewart, having for years been in charge of the silk department of that well-known firm. At the latter's death he assumed the same position in the house of Lake, McCreary & Co. He died Oct. 9, 1871 at New York.

(3) Julina, like her elder sister, lived and died in the old home, unmarried. She was an amiable, quiet person, gentle in her ways and esteemed by all who knew her.

## Sixth Generation

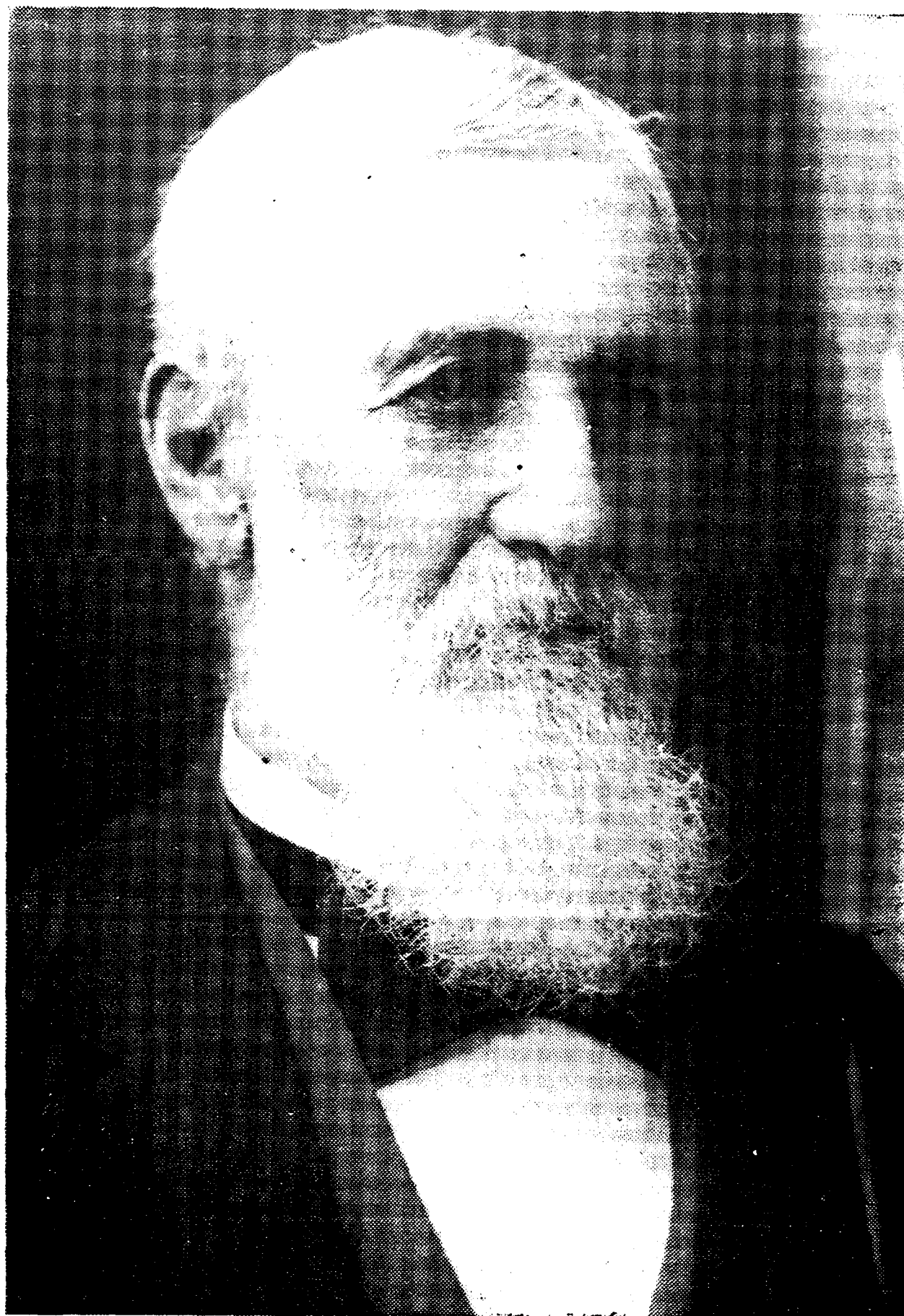
### MICHAEL DIFFENDERFFER'S CHILDREN

**D**AVID RITTENHOUSE, the eldest son of Michael, born Friday, January 18, 1822, remained on the paternal acres until a youth grown, when he was placed in the drug house of Absalom Fairer at Lancaster to learn the business. Later he became connected with the drug house of Mr. William Thorne at Pittsburg, where he remained for a number of years, after which he opened a drug house in St. Louis. In 1852 he was appointed United States Council at El Paso, Mexico (now Jaurez) by President Fillmore, and was continued in office under President Buchanan's administration. At El Paso he engaged in a general mercantile business with his two brothers. Merchandise was hauled by wagon train from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas overland to El Paso, or by boat, a trip of eighty days. This was a stormy period in Mexico following our war with them in 1846-7. The crowning of the Austrian Archduke Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico, by Napoleon III in 1863; his overthrow and execution by the revolt led by Jaurez who was then elected president in 1867; and the natural unrest at the border made the years spent there by the brothers most interesting and exiting; and gave David an opportunity to perform a service to his country which was well needed.

In 1861 when Fort Sumter was fired upon, he was in New York City buying supplies. On his way back to Mexico he was captured and imprisoned by the Confederates. He was soon released, however, and was of considerable service to his country in the Texas campaign. A document is in the compiler's possession relative to activities at Fort Bliss; the contents are reported herewith:

State of Texas  
County of El Paso

Personally came and appeared before me the undersigned authority, David R. Diffenderffer to me well known, who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and says that at, or about the time of the evacuation of old Fort Bliss by the U. S. Troops 1861. He was present at said Fort and saw wagons and carts and other vehicles loaded up at said Fort with Government stores, such as flour, bacon, and other Government stores for the purpose of removing the same from the Fort that some of the carts and wagons



David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer

1822-1900



left during the time affiant was at the post, and it was generally understood and reported that said stores were to be sent to Pinos Allos, New Mexico and there sold, that James Magoffin and his son Joseph Magoffin were present and assisted at the loading and distributing said stores on the wagons and carts and controlled and directed the same. They acquiesced in or did not deny the destination of the stores—Joseph Magoffin was at the time Acting Commessary for General Sibley, Conferdate Army, and distributed part of said stores to the Conferdate troops. That after the Fort was evacuated by Generals Sibley and Baylor Confederate Generals, about 1862 they left the post in perfect condition. A short time thereafter the post was demolished and destroyed. The windows and doors taken out and the building destroyed by brother-in-law to James Magoffin an agent for said James Magoffin and acting as such and under the directions of the wife of said James Magoffin. Much of the building, materials and other property was taken across the river into Mexico and disposed of. A portion of said material was offered for sale to this affiant by said parties and that the doors and windows now in the house of Mrs. Lightner "in the town of El Paso, Mexico," sister of said James Magoffin, are a portion of those taken away from Old For Bliss.

Among other papers is an invoice of U. S. property turned over by the State of Texas to the Confederate Army, the contents of which are also reported herewith:

Invoice of Public Property pertaining to Comp. "K" R. M. R. this the 9th day of July 1861, turned over by J. W. Magoffin, Agent on the part of the State of Texas to 2nd Lieut: M. K. Hunter, M. R. A. A. Qr. Mr. C. S. A. at Fort Bliss, Texas:

| Pkgs Marks No. |  |    | Said to Contain                                      |
|----------------|--|----|--|
| Box            | N. M. Fort Union, R. M. R. "K" Co. Walker, I. G. | 11 | 35 Great Coats, 15 Fatigue Jackets, double bedsacks  |
| "              |  | 30 | Horse Medicine                                       |
| "              |  | 22 | Books, Co. K. Library                                |
| "              |  | 27 | 50 Canteens & Straps                                 |
| "              |  | 25 | 1 Saddle, 5 bridles, 3 rifles, 15 Sabres             |
| "              |  |    | 3 garden hoes  |
| "              |  | 8  | 41 riflejackets                                      |
| "              |  | 9  | 40 Saddlebags, 39 Haversacks, 12 Pistol Holders      |
| "              |  |    | 86 Cap Covers  |
| "              |  | 13 | 52 Cart. Boxes, 60 Cap pouches, 13 Belt Plates       |
| "              |  |    | 72 belts, 28 pr. scales 51 Pompons                   |
| "              |  |    | 43 Leather Stocks 18 hatchets; 40 hatchethandles     |
| "              |  |    | 25 horsebrushes 10 Curry combs, 6 brushpouches       |
| "              |  |    | 9 pr. spurs; 25 pistolholsters                       |
| "              |  | 17 | 23 Bedblankets                                       |
| "              |  | 18 | 2 2 Wall tent flies; 2 Shoeing kit compl.            |
| "              |  |    | 3000 rifle caps; 86 Staples; 86 Litters; 86 numbers, |
| "              |  |    | 1 Dung fork; 1 Rifle; 40 Uniform Hats; 14 Canteens   |
| "              |  | 29 | 60 Saddlebags patterns 1857                          |
| "              |  | 7  | 40 Riflejackets                                      |
| "              |  | 24 | 57 Pr. Spurs; 86 W. B. Plates: 49 Cart box plates;   |
| "              |  |    | 31 Bullet molds; 63 Pistol screwdrivers; 21 Rifle-   |
| "              |  |    | wipers; 6 Ball Screws; extra cones P&R; 2 pr.        |
| "              |  |    | bootees; 6 bridles; 42 Rifle Screwdrivers.           |
| "              |  | 19 | 32 Canteens; 62 Pistolholsters                       |
| "              |  | 1  | 107 Uniform Hats; 39 Saber knots                     |
| "              |  | 5  | 40 Riflejackets                                      |

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

| Pkgs. Marks No. |  |    | Said to Contain                                      |
|-----------------|--|----|--|
| "               |  | 16 | 21 Bed blankets                                      |
| "               |  | 21 | Books, Co. K. Library                                |
| "               |  | 20 | 7 Saddles; 12 Bridles N. P.                          |
| "               |  | 4  | 47 Bedsacks, double new                              |
| "               |  | 14 | 11 Hog Skins; 5 Sides B. Leather; 1 Girth            |
| "               |  |    | 6 Triangles N. P.                                    |
| "               |  |    | Surcingles   |
| "               |  | 6  | 6 Bedsacks double; 40 Rifle jackets                  |
| "               |  | 10 | 30 G. Coats; 6 Bedsacks, double                      |
| "               |  | 31 | Headstalls; Straps, Girths, etc.                     |
| Bale            |  | 4  | 50 Trousers  |
| "               |  | 6  | 18 Great Coats                                       |
| "               |  | 5  | 18 do.   |
| "               |  | 3  | 120 fl. shirts                                       |
| "               |  | 2  | 18 Gr. Coats   |
| "               |  | 1  | 50 Trousers  |
| "               |  | 15 | 2 sides leather; 35 Wateringbridles; 1 Saddle Clam   |
| "               |  |    | 1 role Webbing; 1 Set Sadl. tools; 2 lb. Shovethread |
| "               |  |    | 1 lb. Beeswax; 1" Blk. Wax; 5 bars Castile Soap;     |
| "               |  | 3  | 4 Axes new; 1 Horseblanket                           |
| "               |  | 3  | 8 Fl. Shirts; 79 drawers; 46 fatiguefrocks           |
| "               |  | 2  | 34 trousers; 10 pr. stockings                        |
| "               |  | 12 | 9 Bedsacks double; 17 horseblankets; 70 Gimslings    |
| "               |  |    | 6 trumpets, Con. G; 1 trumpet; 86 Canteen straps     |
| "               |  |    | 25 W. B. plates; 25 cuppouches; 25 Cart. Box plates; |
| "               |  |    | 20 Riflescrawdrippers; 20 Riflewipers                |
| "               |  | 37 | Sundries O Bryans                                    |
| "               |  |    |  |
| "               |  | 36 | do. Shinlings  |
| "               |  | 35 | Travel forge   |
| "               |  |    | 7 tents, 5 hayforks; 1 rake; 3 Gunlons; 1 crowbar,   |
| "               |  |    | 2 sets of com. tent poles; 7 Sibley tents; 12 drag   |
| "               |  |    | saddles; 1 set of wall tent poles; 3 Sibley tents;   |
| "               |  |    | 1 walltent   |
| "               |  | 48 | Carpenters tools                                     |
| "               |  | 32 | 7 Campkettles; 2 cans oil; 16 Mess Pans;             |
| "               |  |    | 16 Bedsacks; 2 Sabres                                |
| "               |  | 23 | Books Co. K. Library                                 |
| "               |  | 33 | 100 Tentpins; 1 lantern; 8 Curry combs & Brushes;    |
| "               |  | 46 | Company papers                                       |
| "               |  | 38 | 7 spades   |
| "               |  | 34 | Carpenters tools                                     |
| "               |  | 28 | 50 Cavalry Sabres                                    |
| "               |  |    |  |
| "               |  | 41 |  |
| "               |  | 42 |  |
| "               |  | 43 | Sundries of Lieut. Du Bois                           |
| "               |  | 44 |  |
| "               |  | 45 |  |

(signed)  
J. W. Moffm  
Agent on the part of  
the State of Texas

"Triplicate"

He returned to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where in 1863 he married Margaret Emily Dunham, born near New

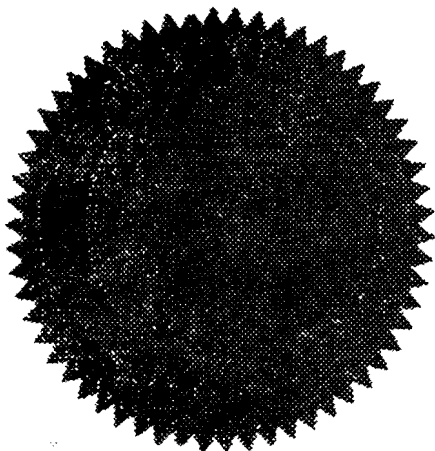
In the Name and by the Authority of



## The State of Texas.

Know Ye, That I, EDMUND J. DAVIS, Governor of the State of Texas, reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and ability of *David R. Diffenderfer*, do appoint him *Major* in the *State Troop* of Texas, to rank as *First Lieutenant* from the *1st* day of *February* of the *Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy* *Second*. He is, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of *Major*, *in the State Troop*, by doing and performing all manner of things, thereto belonging: and I do strictly charge and require all persons under his command to be obedient to his orders, as *Major*, *in the State Troop*; and he is to observe, and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as he shall receive from his superior officers, set over him according to the rules and discipline, laid down for the guidance of the Militia forces of this State.

This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Commander-in-Chief, for the time being.



In Testimony Whereof, I have herewith signed my name, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at the City of Austin, the *1st* day of *February* in the year of our Lord the *Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy* *Second*, and the Independence of Texas the *Thirty Fifth*.

*Edmund J. Davis*  
Governor of Texas.

By the Governor:

*John C. Edwards*  
Secretary of State.

Recorded: Volume *1*, page *1*,  
Adjutant General's Office,

Austin, *February 6*, 18*72*.

*Records*  
*W. H. McQueen*  
*Adj. Gen.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL,  
State of Texas.

Commission of David R. Diffenderfer



Brunswick, New Jersey, February 15, 1840, daughter of David and Jane (Wilson) Dunham. The children of this union were:

- (1) WILLIAM IRVING, b. Dec. 15, 1865.
- (2) MARY MARGARET, b. April 19, 1868.
- (3) DAVID MICHAEL, b. Aug. 30, 1870,  
d. Aug. 12, 1919.
- (4) HENRY WILSON, b. Aug. 25, 1872.
- (5) JANE LOUISE, b. Oct. 28, 1874.
- (6) JOHN LAUGHTON, b. June 16, 1878.
- (7) GRACE ESTERLEY, b. Jan. 10, 1881.

In 1866, he returned to El Paso with his wife and son where he continued in the mercantile business.

He was very active in the reestablishment of civil government, and the adoption of the new constitution in Texas in 1869. His close personal friendship and association with Major H. C. Merrian, commanding at Fort Bliss is evidenced by many letters still in the family's possession. General Davis who was elected governor in 1869 appointed him to the Board of Appeal. During this period he held a commission in the quartermaster regiment of the Texas Guard.

He then returned to Lancaster and with brothers, in 1871 opened the Banking House of Diffenderffer Bros. The Panic of 1873 had a disastrous effect upon this business and in 1874 he went west again engaging in railroad construction. He settled in Lebanon, Missouri in 1876 while constructing the Frisco Railroad in Southwestern Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

In 1887 when the Bank of Lebanon was organized he was a stock holder and was made cashier which position he held until his death. He was a charter member of the Missouri Bankers Association, founded at the old Gasconade Hotel in Lebanon on August 27, 1891.

He was also a member of the Lancaster Lodge No. 43 A. F. & A. M. of which President Buchanan was also a member, and a member of Lebanon Royal Arch Chapter and Lebanon Commandery Knights Templar. He was a most honored and respected citizen, active in civic affairs and most kind and thoughtful to others. He was never known to have said a cross word or raised his voice in his wife's presence. In 1887 he built the large home for his family where at midnight on Saturday, May 19, 1900

he departed this life. He had been ill only a few days, having suffered a stroke of apoplexy from which he did not regain consciousness. The services were held at the home, conducted by Rev. E. F. Sahwab of the Congregational Church, with burial in the Lebanon Cemetery.

### DAVID'S WIFE

MARGARET EMILY, wife of David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer, was born at Dunhams Corner near New Brunswick, New Jersey, Saturday, February 15, 1840, youngest daughter of David Dunham and Jane Wilson. Her brothers and sisters were:

JANE ANN, b. Dec. 3, 1826 d.— Married Theadore  
EDWARD I. b. May 16, 1833. d. — Stryker.

JACOB R. b. June 24, 1836. d. —

SARAH E. b. June 24, 1836. d. Feb. 27, 1920. Married  
John F. Scobey.

In her veins flowed the blue blood of no less than half a hundred kings mingled with the red of hardy pioneers of American colonial days. See "Addendum Dunham" in back of this Edition. Her mother was Jane Wilson, born May 14, 1801 in Middlesex County, New Jersey, youngest child of John Wilson<sup>10</sup> and Sarah La Rue. This John was born December 8, 1766 in Norway and dies July 27, 1846 in Middlesex County, New Jersey. His wife Sarah La Rue (born August 10, 1773; died October 2, 1854) was the third of the seven children of James (born April 19, 1744) and Phebe (born March 8, 1742) La Rue.

Children of James and Phebe La Rue:

SAMUEL, born July 6, 1768.

JANE, born July 11, 1770.

SARAH, born August 10, 1773; died October 2, 1854.

JAMES, born July 8, 1775.

MARY, born June 22, 1777.

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10—I have the Wilson Bible from which I have obtained these facts. John Wilson was one of the original heirs to the Wilson Estate held in Chancery Court in London. To liquidate this inheritance the Wilson Association was formed in 1850. This was a ligimate endeavour: but the opportunity was taken by confidence men, and others always ready to exploit their fellows, to convert this into a fraud, feathering their own nests until the whole affair died of this internal corruption. The estate has not yet been settled and the prospects of investigating occured to me. I soon discarded such a task as every possible descendant of the original would have to be definately accounted for.



Headquarters, Old Fort Bliss, Texas, 1870

Major, later Colonel, H. C. Merriam, Commanding, standing at extreme left, seated on the left is his wife and in the center is Margaret Dunham Diffenderffer, holding her daughter Mary Margaret, her son William Irving, standing along side. Directly behind her is her husband David R. Diffenderffer, while to the right of him are his brothers Frank Reid and William Leander.





Home of David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer in Lebanon, Missouri



MATHEW, born October 19, 1780.

PHEBE, born January 21, 1784.

Children of Jehu Dunham and Elnore Van Tine:

ELIZABETH, born November 24, 1792; died  
December 4, 1857.

DAVID, born May 11, 1794; died June 11, 1840.

JAMES, born March 15, 1796; died August 14, 1872.

LEWIS, born January 8, 1799; died October 15, 1843.

WILLIAM, born April 10, 1801; died August 5, 1863.

ABRAHAM, born October 24, 1802; died April 6, 1842.

Her father died when she was 4 months old and her mother died on Saturday Oct. 28, 1843 when she was 3 years old, after which she went to live with her Grandmother and Grandfather Wilson and aunt Phebe. When her grandmother died in 1854 she lived with her eldest sister, Jane Ann in Philadelphia, through whose husband Theodore Stryker, she met her future husband.

In 1864 she married David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer with whom she returned to Mexico, overland via Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, with their son William Irving, then one year old.

She settled in Lebanon, Missouri, in 1876 with her husband where they spent the remainder of their lives. She was a charter member of the Congregational Missionary Society and Lebanon Shakespear Club. Her life was centered about her family and church. After a brief illness she passed into the beyond at 3:00 P. M., Monday, May 6, 1929; aged 89 years, 2 months and 21 days. She had enjoyed excellent health until within a few days of her last illness and had the happiness of having her children with her during her last hours.

The Rev. Dr. Hyslop of the Congregational Church paid the following tribute to her at the service " \* \* \* She lived an active, progressive and helpful life and grew old gracefully. Her life was full of varied activities, pertaining to the home and family life, to community and civic affairs, and in a major sense to the church and its interests. She always saw the sun rising rather than the sunsetting. To her the world was full of lovely and helpful things. She would gladly have remained in this life longer to enjoy the love of her large family and her many friends, but she has passed on rather unexpectedly, at a splendidly mature age, to enter upon an even more beau-

tiful and larger life." Interment was at the Lebanon cemetery along side of her husband.

2. WILLIAM LEANDER, the second son of Michael, was born on September 10, 1823. After completing his preparatory education he read medicine with the late eminent practitioner, Dr. George B. Kerfoot, at Lancaster. He attended a course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia and graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Maryland. He practiced his profession in Lancaster County, North Carolina, and St. Louis. Being never physically robust, he was advised to take a trip across the plains as the only means of saving his life. This he did, being accompanied by his older brother, David, to El Paso, Mexico, where for several years he practiced his profession. Later, along with his two other brothers, he took up mercantile pursuits, which he followed successfully until his return to Pennsylvania, in 1860. Later he became a partner in the Banking House of Diffenderffer Bros. at Lancaster. He died in New Holland, June 24, 1873. His children are:

- (1) FRANK ALARCON, b. June 16, 1851;  
d. April 8, 1934.
- (2) JOSE TRANQUILINO, b. July 16, 1855;  
d. July 27, 1906.

3. CATHERINE ELIZABETH DIFFENDERFFER was born at the old homestead in New Holland on June 26, 1826. She was educated in the village schools and resided with her parents until her marriage with E. G. Groff, Esq., in 1858. Later she removed with her husband and family to Inland, Nebraska, where she purchased a farm, and on which she resided until her death in 1887. Mrs. Groff was an unusually well read, intelligent, and unostentatious woman. At an early age she became a member of the church of her ancestors, the Reformed, and during all of her life her loyalty to that spiritual home was strong and unswerving and no one was more ready or liberal than she, in proportion to her means, to aid the church of her youth. She won the esteem and affections of the community in her western home. In the church, the Sunday-school and on all who came within her influence she exercised an influence for good which even brotherly affection cannot well exaggerate. Although long since (October 7, 1887) called to her reward, her memory



Margaret Emily Dunham  
wife of David R. Diffenderfer  
1840-1929



is still warmly preserved in the hearts of her early and later friends.

The children of Mrs. Groff are:

- (1) ANNA MARY GROFF, b. Dec. 29, 1858;  
d. Dec. 6, 1931.
- (2) DAVID GROFF, b. 1860, d. 1861.
- (3) FREDERICK WILLIAM GROFF, b. 1862.  
d. 1864.
- (4) CHARLES CLARENCE GROFF, b. March 8,  
1864; d. March 1934.
- (5) HELEN AMELIA GROFF, b. 1865; d. about  
1912.

4. MARY ANN DIFFENDERFFER, like the foregoing, was born in New Holland, on April 29, 1829, and has ever since resided there, or in the near vicinity. She attended the schools of the village, and rounded out her educational career at the State Normal School at Millersville. For some ten years thereafter she taught school. In 1862, she was married to Albert G. Sutton, carriage builder and farmer, and since her husband's death resides in the home he built in New Holland, with her only daughter, Margaretta Grace. Mrs. Sutton is one of the oldest living residents of the Borough and her bright, retentive memory makes her an authority on all local affairs during the past seventy-five years. She died at New Holland, February 11, 1923.

Her children are:

- (1) EDWARD LEANDER SUTTON, b. Sept. 10,  
1862; d. June 27, 1931.
- (2) ARTHUR SUTTON, b. 1864; d. May 26, 1865.
- (3) ALBERT PERCY SUTTON, b. March 31, 1866;  
d. March 1, 1897.
- (4) MARGARETTA GRACE SUTTON, b. Nov. 27,  
1870; d. Aug. 8, 1915.

5. FRANK RIED DIFFENDERFFER, fifth child of Michael and Mary Esterly, was born Tuesday, April 30, 1833, in the old homestead in New Holland. He assisted his father in farming the paternal acres and attended the local school meanwhile. In 1848-50 he attended the Preparatory School of Marshall College at Mercersburg. In 1857, he found employment in Spangler's book store in Lancaster, where he labored under the most happy sur-

roundings until February 1857. Here he made many warm and life-long friendships, continuing his education under his own direction. When the call came to go to El Paso, with his two brothers he saw both adventure and fortune ahead. He was in charge of that branch of the merchandizing business which was located at Jaurez. The brothers prospered and he had ample time to indulge in his life-long love of reading as well as to hunt and fish. He had hundreds of new books shipped to him which he read and treasured, and brought back to Lancaster, upon his return. The life was indeed adventurous and dangerous.

In 1871 he returned to Lancaster and, with his brothers and their Mexican fortune, established the banking firm of Diffenderffer Bros. The Panic of 1873, wiped out about half of their life savings and the bank made an orderly liquidation. In 1873, he was married to Anna Sarah Sprenger to which union one son was born:

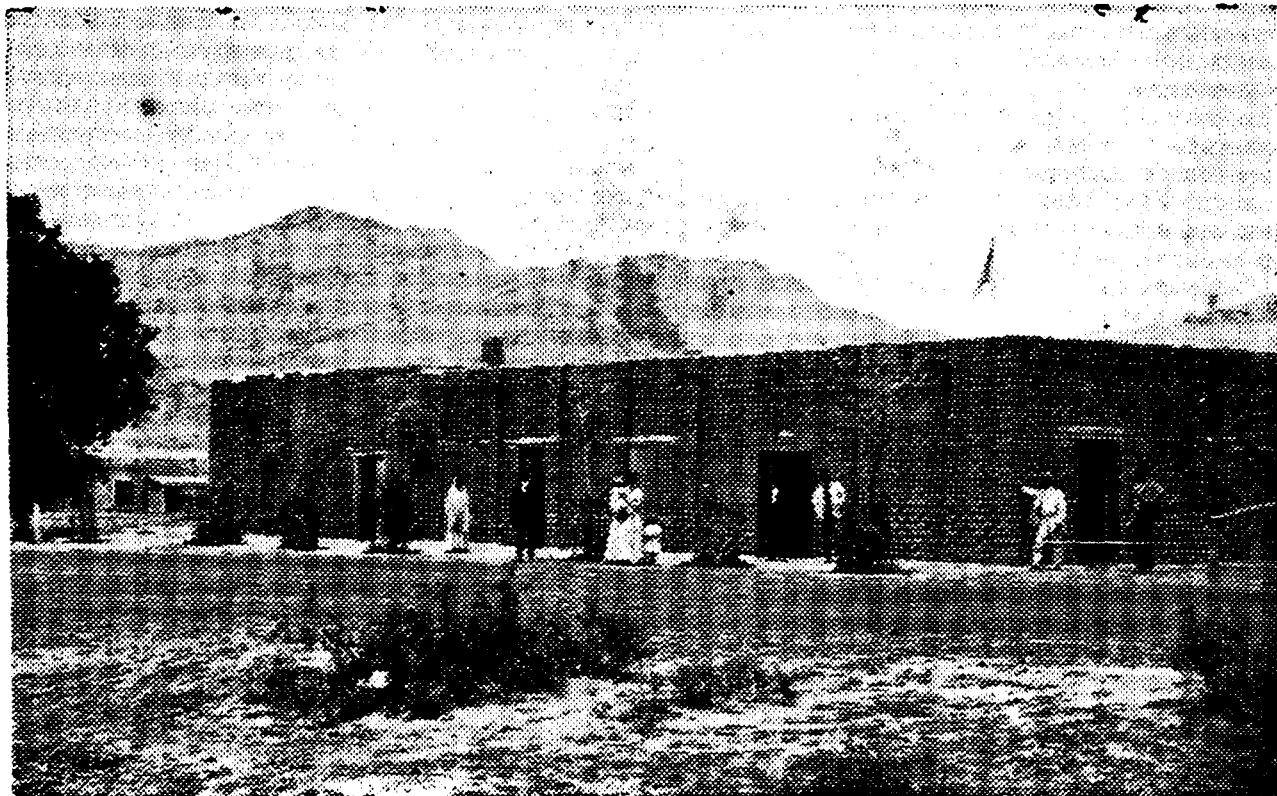
(1) HAROLD FRANK, b. Dec. 22, 1877.

For a few years he was engaged in tobacco packing and assisted in the publication of the "Morning Review".

He built the old home at 542 North Duke Street where he spent the rest of his mortal days, deeply interested in the "Daily New Era" which he helped to found and which he served as associate Editor from its first issue, Saturday, April 28, 1877, until forced to retire in 1909, because of failing sight. During this period he was very active in literary circles, contributing much to Tobacco trade journals.

His greatest interest and most outstanding contributions were along historical lines. He was one of the founders and first secretary of the Pennsylvania-German Society, member of the Lancaster County Historical Society, and American Historical Federation. He was one of the members appointed to the Advisory Committee for the preservation of the Public Records when this committee was created in 1903. This same year an honorary degree of Litt. D. was conferred upon him by Franklin Marshall College. He later established and endowed an alcove in the Dr. Peyster Library devoted to Pennsylvania History and Biography.

His historical publications were many, and of course this record is a result of his great interest and work. In addition there were "The Three Earls", "The German



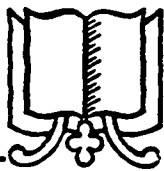
Establishment of Diffenderffer Bros. at El Paso, 1869

Living quarters to the left, store to the right. In front of the building is Margaret Dunham Diffenderffer holding her daughter, Mary Margaret, her son William Irving standing along side. David R. Diffenderffer standing in the doorway to the right, his brother Frank Ried to his left.



Exodus to England in 1709", "The German Immigration to Pennsylvania through the Port of Philadelphia", "The Redemptioners" and many others, as well as scores of papers to the various Societies in which he held membership.

On Thursday, September 29, 1921 he departed this life at Lancaster, Pa. H. M. M. Richards, Litt. D. in the Memoriam published by the Pennsylvania-German Society wrote, "He was of a modest and retiring disposition, perhaps too much so to give him all the credit and honors to which he was so richly entitled, and which otherwise might have fallen to him. We have lost a friend who never forgot his friendship, and whose friendship will never be forgotten. His cheery face and pleasant greetings will be greatly missed."



*J. R. Diefenderffer*



## Seventh Generation

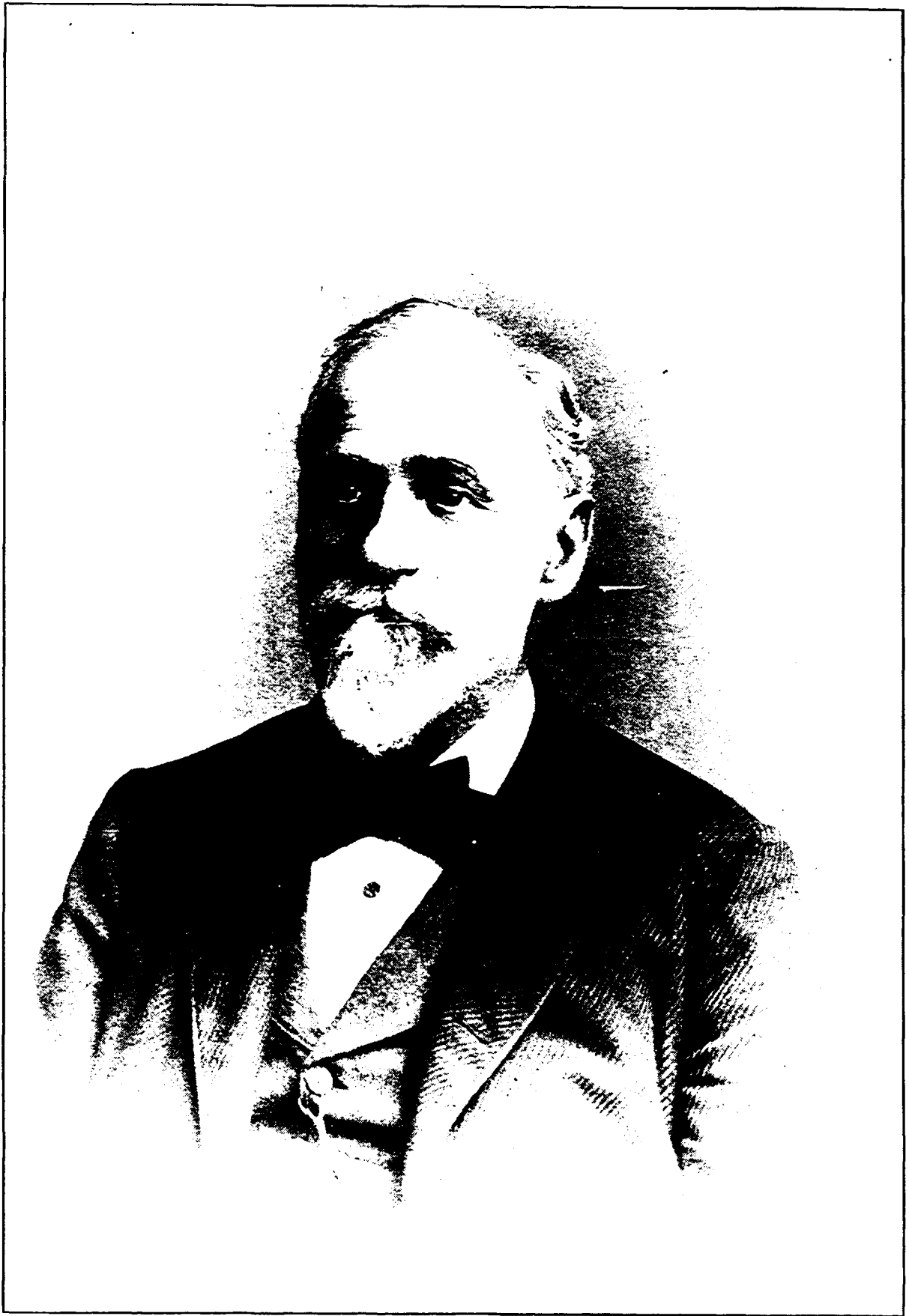
### CHILDREN OF

#### DAVID RITTENHOUSE DIFFENDERFFER

**W**ILLIAM IRVING was born on Friday Dec. 15, 1865, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a baby he journeyed to Mexico with his parents in 1866, and back again to Lancaster at the age of five. When he was eleven the family established their home in Lebanon, Missouri. He was educated in the public schools and at Drury College in Springfield, Mo. after which he was employed for two years as a civil engineer by the Cotton Belt Railway in Texas. Upon his return to Lebanon in 1889, he was made assistant cashier of the Bank of Lebanon, which institution he was associated with as an executive and director until 1913. After this he conducted a general loan and investment business in Lebanon. He helped to organize the Missouri Bankers Assn. and was one of its charter members.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1896 he was married to Elinore Greenleaf, (b. May 2, 1878) daughter of George H. and Lou (Harrison) Greenleaf of Lebanon. Her father was an early settler at Lebanon, and established the first bank there. He was a man of considerable influence until his death in 1886. Her mother, Lou Harrison, was the daughter of John B. Harrison, one of the founders of Lebanon. Though no children were born of this union both he and his wife have given much of their time to benevolent work and have helped many younger people in various practical ways, enabling several of them to complete college educations.

He has led a most active and influential political life. In 1911-13 he was Laclede County Treasurer, in 1896, he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at St. Louis, where McKinley was nominated. He was chairman of the eighth district in 1900, a delegate to the State Convention of 1902, Vice President of the Young Republican Assn. of Mo. in 1904. In 1909, Governor Hadley appointed him as colonel on his staff. He was again presidential elector at large from Missouri, in 1920. He was



Portrait of Frank R. Diffenderffer.  
1833-1921.



Sargent at Arms at the National Convention at Chicago, in 1920, and again at Kansas City, in 1929. In 1913, he spent several months in Europe serving on the American Commission for the Study of European Rural Credit Systems, the report from which prepared the ground for subsequent rural credit legislation in this country. Since 1927, he has been a director of the Missouri Tuberculosis Association, and an officer and director in both the local and state Chamber of Commerce.

He has long been prominent in Masonic work, being past eminent commander of Lebanon Commandery No. 33, Knights Templar, and deputy potentate of Abou Ben Adhem Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Springfield.

Both he and his wife have long been very active in the Congregational Church, serving as officers for many years. Their beautiful colonial home built by Mr. Greenleaf is the essence of hospitality. Here as nowhere else is it true that there is always room for one more, and an extra plate or more at their board seems to have been prepared for days in advance.

2. MARY MARGARET was born at the old Mexican town of El Paso, now called Juarez, on Sunday, April 19, 1868. As was the custom of the village, the bells of the old Catholic Church were rung on the occasion of her birth. This old church still stands on the plaza and on the occasion of her visit to the scene of her birth in 1937, she witnessed the ringing of these same bells. At the age of three she returned to the States with her parents and in 1876, entered the public schools of Lebanon, Missouri. She later attended Lindenwood College at St. Charles, and then spent two happy years at Drury College in Springfield, Missouri.

Like her mother she was a long and active member of the Lebanon Shakespeare Club. Of late she has been active in the Lebanon Business Women's Club, of which she is now the president.

Her most active life and interest has been devoted to her church, and to the children of her brothers and sisters. Soon after the family arrived in Lebanon they associated themselves with the Congregational Church. She has been closely identified with this church all her life and is virtually a part of it.

Her great interest in, and love for her nieces and

nephews has been a contributing factor to many of their good qualities. The sincerity of this characteristic is such that her boundless affection is equally and impartially distributed among all these numerous, and to her precious, children, and now to their children. Though unmarried and childless herself, she has given and received as much love as any.

During her mother's lifetime she lived with her. Of late years she made her home with her brother, Will and his wife in Lebanon.

3. DAVID MICHAEL, third child of David Rittenhouse and Margaret Dunham was born on Tuesday, August 30, 1870, at Fort Bliss, Texas, where a branch of his father's business was located. He returned to Pennsylvania and thence to Lebanon with his parents, where he attended the local school. He also matriculated at the University of Missouri and at Drury College. He organized the Cadet Military Corps of Drury College which soon became a popular part of this college's activities, and contributed no little to the National Defense. After a short stay in the State of Oregon, he returned to Springfield, Missouri, where he obtained employment in a hardware store. Some few years later he became the sole owner of this business, which he operated as Diffenderffer Bros. He was one of Springfield's most popular and prominent business men and on June 14, 1900, he was married to Mabel Dunning, who was graduated from Dillenbecks School of Kansas City, Missouri. Her home was always open to friends of her children and to the many friends of her husband and her self. Locally prominent, and actively interested in her children, we often think of her with pleasure. To this union was born four children:

- (1) MARGARET JANE, b. July 17, 1902.
- (2) KATHERINE LOUISE, b. Feb. 21, 1904.
- (3) MABEL, b. Feb. 1, 1906; d. Oct. 21, 1919.
- (4) DAVID RITTENHOUSE, b. May 24, 1909.

His kindness and strict integrity in all matters of business, and family relations brought him both material and spiritual wealth in abundance. After a short illness he departed this life on Tuesday, August 12, 1919.

4. HENRY WILSON, was born at Lancaster, Pa. on Sunday, August 25, 1872. His parents took him with

them to Lebanon, Missouri, in 1876, where he attended the local schools and finished at the University of Missouri. It was soon obvious that he had inherited the adventurous spirit of his ancestors. After finishing school he spent several years in Arizona, and in the spring of 1896, joined the rush to the Alaska and Yukon gold fields in the Klondyke Valley, where he spent a number of adventurous years mining. While there he became a member of the Northwest Royal Mounted Police. Returning to the United States he engaged in ranching and business in the Indian Territory. He later became identified with the Hearst Publications as special correspondent and writer for the New York American. Upon leaving New York, he entered into the implement business with his brother Dave in Springfield, Missouri.

When the United States entered the World War in 1917, he was commissioned a Captain in the Ordnance Corps and assigned as assistant to the Commanding Officer at Raritan Arsenal, New Jersey.

In 1918, he was married to Ada Grace Graham of Elwood, Indiana, to which union there are no children. He settled in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was active in Veterans activities. He was elected Senior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War. Suffering from a war time disability in 1937, he relieved both this trouble and his adventurous nature by touring the country from end to end, following the weather which best suited him, in a motor trailer.

His many letters are distinguished by his intimate literary ability and his rare keen sense of humor.

5. JANE LOUISE was born at the old family home at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, October 28, 1874. Her childhood was spent in Lebanon, Missouri, where she was educated in the local schools and Drury College. During her girlhood she spent much time in Springfield, visiting her brother Dave. It was on one of these visits that she met Carl Morris, whom she married on Monday, January 22, 1906. Her husband was born August 27, 1866, at Forestal, Missouri, son of Richard Benton and Belle Huff Morris. They moved to Springfield in 1882, where he completed his education. He was for many years a prominent clothing merchant there; and the author's first suit with long trousers was purchased at Uncle Carl's

store. During the World War he was a member of the Home Guards. In 1934 he retired from business because of ill health. To this union was born the following children.

(1) MARY ISABEL MORRIS, b. July 24, 1907.

(2) GRACE ESTERLE MORRIS, b. June 24, 1909.

The author has many pleasant memories of the hospitality of the Morris home where the latch string was always out. Aunt Jennie was his god-mother and her devotion to her family is her outstanding characteristic.

6. JOHN LAWTON was born at Lebanon, Missouri, Sunday, June 16, 1878. He attended the local public schools and completed his education at Drury College at Springfield, Missouri, and at the Rolla School of Mines at Rolla, Missouri.

As a youngster he was the leader of the twenty or more boys of his age who seemed inevitably to make the large yard which surrounded the home place their gathering place.

Shortly after finishing school he was associated with his brothers in the implement business at Springfield, Missouri. Upon the death of his father in 1900, he joined his brother Will in the management of the Bank of Lebanon. He was married in Lebanon, on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1904, to Mabel Lenior Young, daughter of Fredrick B. and Mary Hardin (Church) Young of St. Louis. Her parents were married in St. Louis Sunday, January 5, 1879, and she was born at Columbia, Missouri on Sunday, December 14, 1879, educated in the public schools of St. Louis and Lebanon. She is a mother of whom her children are justly proud. To this union nine children were born:

(1) WILLIAM IRVING, Sept. 24, 1905.

(2) JOHN LAUGHTON Jr., March 10, 1907.

(3) EDWARD YOUNG, Nov. 27, 1908.

(4) JULIA FRANCIS, Oct. 5, 1910.

(5) FREDRICK RIED, Dec. 1, 1912.

(6) JANE, Dec. 12, 1914.

(7) DOROTHY, Oct. 9, 1916.

(8) MARYLEE, April 6, 1919.

(9) HARRY WILSON, Feb. 16, 1922.

In the financial crash of 1918, the bank was seriously

affected and the resulting strain and shock undermined his health.

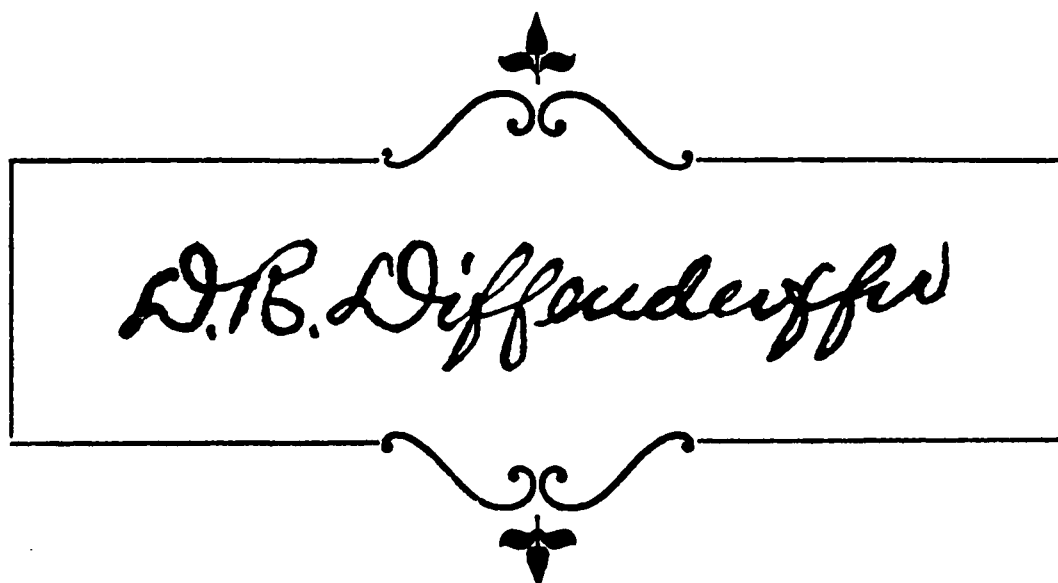
7. GRACE ESTERLEY, my mother, youngest child of David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer and his wife Margaret E. Dunham, was born at Lebanon, Missouri, on Monday, January 10, 1881. She attended the local schools and finished at Ward-Belmont Seminary at Nashville, Tennessee. She was a prominent member of Lebanon's gay young social set and on Wednesday, April 16, 1902, was married to her childhood sweetheart, William Henry Owen, Jr., 11 eldest son of William H. and Hannah (Ward) Owen of Lebanon and St. Louis. To this union was born the following children:

- (1) WILLIAM HENRY OWEN, III, Feb. 10, 1903.
- (2) DAVID EDWARD OWEN, March 22, 1904.
- (3) EMILY WARD OWEN, Jan. 3, 1906.
- (4) JAMES WOODLAND OWEN, Sept. 17, 1907
- (5) HARRY DIFFENDERFFER OWEN, July 31, 1909.

My mother has been active in the management of her large homes, where her numerous children constantly entertained their friends, and which was also the scene of many gala affairs for her friends, and those of her husband. Of more recent years with her children all married, and her husband absent most of the time she has temporarily stored her household effects, and centered her interest and affection upon her grandchildren. She has natural qualities of grace and generosity.

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11—See addendum for brief history of Owen family.



## DIFFENDERFFER CRADLE

This cradle of walnut, was purchased by David Rittenhouse in Philadelphia, for use of his first child William Irving, in 1865. It was taken to Mexico, where it was used by Mary Margaret in 1868; then by David Michael in 1870 at Fort Bliss, Texas. It went back to Lancaster, Pa. with the family where it was used by Harry Wilson in 1872, and by Jane Louise in 1874. When the family moved to Lebanon, Missouri, it was taken along and there cradled John Laughlin in 1878, and Grace Esterle in 1881.

Twenty-one years later the following members of the next generation used the cradle:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| In 1902 by Margaret Jane Diffenderffer   | at Springfield, Mo. |
| 1903 by William Henry Owen III           | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1904 by David Edward Owen                | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1905 by William Irving Diffenderffer     | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1906 by Emily Ward Owen                  | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1907 by James Woodland Owen              | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1909 by Grace Esterle Morris             | at Springfield, Mo. |
| 1908 by Edward Young Diffenderffer       | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1907 by John Laughton Diffenderffer, Jr. | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1909 by Harry Diffenderffer Owen         | at Lebanon, Mo.     |
| 1912 by Fredrick Ried Diffenderffer      | at Lebanon, Mo.     |

After resting in the attic for almost twenty years it was used by the following great grand children of David Rittenhouse:

|                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| In 1931 by Katherine Grace Owen     | at St. Louis, Mo.       |
| 1932 by William Henry Owen IV       | at West Frankfort, Ill. |
| 1934 by James Woodland Owen, Jr.    | at Lebanon, Mo.         |
| 1938 by Edward Elliot Diffenderffer | at Lebanon, Mo.         |
| 1940 by Michael Miles Owen          | at Fairfield, Iowa      |

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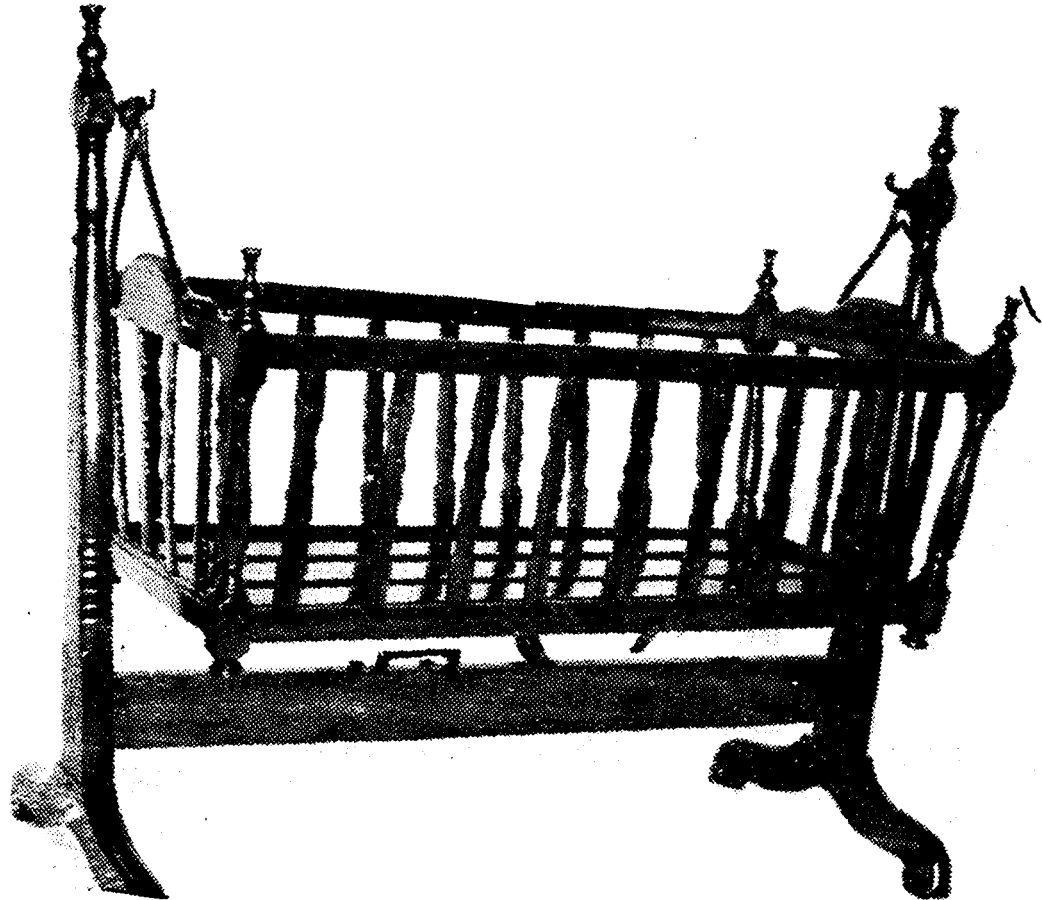
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Diffenderffer Cradle  
Purchased by David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer in 1865



## Seventh and Eighth Generation

### DESCENDANTS OF FRANK RIED DIFFENDERFFER

**H**AROLD FRANK, only child of Frank Ried Diffenderffer and his wife, Annie Sprenger, was born Saturday, December 22, 1877, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was graduated from the local schools and in 1898, from the Franklin and Marshall College, where his father was so well known. Two years later he entered the Lancaster County National Bank, where he rose through various positions to that of Cashier in 1922, which office he holds to date.

On Wednesday, June 25, 1913, he was married to Florence E. Stauffer of New Holland, Pennsylvania. She was born at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, Friday, October 31, 1890, daughter of William M. and Emma (Gilbert) Stauffer. Her father, a druggist, was born at Wadsworth, Ohio, September 27, 1862, and died December 17, 1932. Her mother who was born October 29, 1865, died August 11, 1933. She spent her early days in New Holland, Pa. where she attended the local schools and in 1910, was graduated from the Millersville State Normal School. To this union were born two sons:

(1) HAROLD RIED, b. Saturday, July 25, 1914.

(2) MERLE STAUFFER, b. Thursday, Feb. 3, 1916.

He has been active in local social orders and the Sons of the American Revolution, and has recently been elected to the directorate of the Pennsylvania-German Society, which his father helped to found almost a century ago. He has contributed much toward compiling and publishing of this family history.

(1) HAROLD RIED, his eldest son, attended the local schools and was graduated with honors from Franklin and Marshall College in 1936. He had been active in the DeMolay order and held high office until his membership terminated, as usual, when he reached the age of twenty-

one. After graduation he entered the bank of which his father is a director.

(2) MERLE STAUFFER, second son of Harold Frank, also completed the prescribed course of study in the local schools and attended the Franklin and Marshall College; where he too was graduated with honors in 1938. As did his brother, Harold, he took his Phi Beta Kappa Key at college and held high position in the DeMolay order until his majority. He was employed by the Hamilton Watch Co. of Lancaster; but most recently has accepted a position with the Non Retailing Co., of Lancaster, a wholesale watch and jewelry firm. Thus at this printing the entire family is together in the paternal home at Lancaster.





Home of Frank R. Diffenderffer at Lancaster, Pa.



## Eighth Generation

### GRAND CHILDREN OF DAVID RITTENHOUSE DIFFENDERFFER

#### CHILDREN OF DAVID MICHAEL AND MABLE DUNNING

**M**ARGARET JANE was born at Springfield, Missouri, on Thursday, July 17, 1902, where she spent her girlhood and was educated in the local schools, finishing at Lindenwood Seminary at St. Charles, Missouri. She was a popular member of Springfield's younger social set and on Thursday, August 18, 1927, married Frank McClellan Crookes who was born September 19, 1896, at Springfield. He was educated in the local schools and served with the navy during the World War. Soon after this marriage they moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he is now employed as auditor for the Tydal Oil Co.

Their daughter, Frances Jane, was born on Wednesday, April 20, 1932.

2. KATHERINE LOUISE was born in Springfield on Sunday, February 21, 1904, where she spent her girlhood as a happy curly-headed "Sugg." She was graduated from the local schools and attended the State University at Columbia. She joined the Pi Beta Phi Sorority and later graduated from Drury College in 1926. Like her sister, she was active in Springfield social life and on Saturday, August 12, 1933, was married to Marion Lindsay Shannon at her mother's home in Springfield. He was born August 20, 1893, son of Miram Lindsay and Harriet Stevens Shannon at Carterville, Missouri. He was educated at Drury College and the University of Missouri. He served nineteen months in the army during the World War, ten of which were over-seas, and received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant, being honorably discharged December 3, 1918. To this union was born the following:

(1) KATHERINE LOUISE SHANNON, April 20,  
1937.

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Shortly after their marriage this couple moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where they have since made their home.

3. MABLE was born at Springfield, Missouri, on Thursday, February 1, 1906, where she spent her short but sweet life, dying after a lengthy illness on Tuesday, October 21, 1919.

4. DAVID RITTENHOUSE was born in Springfield, Missouri, on Monday, May 24, 1909. He spent his boyhood in the place of his birth. After graduating from the local schools, he completed his education at Westminster College at Fulton, Missouri, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He was employed in Springfield where he lived with his mother; but later moved to Topeka, Kansas, where he is an adjuster with the Western Adjustment Co.

On Saturday, September 30, 1939, he was married to Virginia Marie Iobe, daughter of Paul Scott and Ethel Stafford Iobe of Topeka. She was born at Lakin, Kansas, on Monday, December 2, 1912, later moving to Topeka with her parents, where she attended the local schools including, Washburn College after which she matriculated at Kansas State College, where she was pledged to the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Her mother was born in Peru, Kansas, and her father at Osawatomie, Kansas.

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CHILDREN OF  
JANE LOUISE AND CARL MORRIS

1. MARY ISABEL MORRIS was born at Springfield on Wednesday, July 24, 1907, where she has since lived. After graduating from the local public schools she attended Drury College where she became a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She associated herself in business and is now secretary of the American Automobile Association of Springfield.

2. GRACE ESTERLE MORRIS was born on Thursday, June 24, 1909, at Springfield, where she spent her girlhood and was graduated from the local public schools, then completed a three year course in Kindergarden at the State Teachers College. On Sunday, February 26, 1939, she was married to Henry Norton Foster, son of Henry and Mary Powell Foster, born June 20, 1894, at Calton, Kentuckey. He later moved with his parents to Ashland, Kentuckey, where he was graduated from the local high school. After a year at the University of Wisconsin, he attended Ohio State University from which he received the degree of B. S. He served with the artillery over-seas during the World War and is now construction engineer at the Federal Medical Center in Springfield.

CHILDREN OF  
JOHN LAUGHTON AND MABEL YOUNG

1. WILLIAM IRVING was born at Lebanon, Missouri, Sunday, September 24, 1905. He attended the local schools and finished at George Washington University in Washington, D. C. He obtained employment in the nation's capitol and there on Saturday, February 12, 1927, he was married to Anne Vandegrift. Of this union were born:

- (1) ANNE LENOIR, November 2, 1929.
- (2) MARGERY JANE, February 15, 1931.
- (3) WILLIAM IRVING, JR. October 23, 1932.

He is at the present time employed as a structural engineer with the Federal Housing Administration, in Washington, D. C.

2. JOHN LAUGHTON, JR. was born on Sunday, March 10, 1907, at Lebanon, Missouri. He like his brothers attended the local schools and later went to Oregon where he attended the State University. He was graduated from that university with a Bachelor of Arts degree and is at present living in Portland, Oregon, un-married.

3. EDWARD YOUNG was born at Lebanon, Missouri, on Friday, November 27, 1908. He completed the local schools and attended Drury College at Springfield. On Sunday, June 27, 1937, he was married to Alice Elliott, born September 27, 1913, in Lebanon. To this union a boy was born:

- (1) EDWARD ELLIOT, August 3, 1938.

He is at present employed by the General Motors Acceptance Corp., of Springfield where he and his family reside.

4. JULIA FRANCES was born on Wednesday, October 5, 1910, in Lebanon, Missouri, where she completed the local schools and spent her girlhood. She later attended the Springfield Business College. On Sunday, June 14, 1931, she was married to J. Warren Smith, of Rolla Mo. To this union was born a boy:

- (1) WARREN EDWARD SMITH, January 4, 1936.

She lived for several years at Lakeside, Missouri, where her husband, who is a civil engineer, was employed by

the Union Electric Land and Development Co. He later became connected with the Civilian Conservation Corps as a foreman and she now lives with her family at Warrensburg, Missouri.

5. FREDERICK REID was born at Lebanon, Missouri, in the old family home on Sunday, December 1, 1912, was graduated from the local schools and later went to California where he now resides in Los Angeles.

6. JANE was born at Lebanon on Saturday, December 12, 1914, where she spent her girlhood and was graduated from the local schools. She attended the Springfield Business College.

7. DOROTHY was also born in the old home of her grandparents at Lebanon, on Monday, October 9, 1916, where she spent her girlhood and was graduated from the local schools.

8. MARYLEE, as were her younger sisters and brothers, was born in the old home in Lebanon on Sunday, April 6, 1919, where she was graduated from the local schools and later attended the same business college in Springfield that her sisters attended.

9. HARRY WILSON, whose second name is the family name of his grandmother's grandfather, was born at Lebanon on Thursday, February 16, 1922, and is at present attending the Lebanon High School.

CHILDREN OF  
GRACE ESTERLEY AND WILLIAM H. OWEN JR.

1. WILLIAM H. OWEN III was born at Lebanon, Missouri, on Tuesday, February 10, 1903, where he spent a pleasant boyhood among his cousins and brothers, and attended the local schools. In 1918 he was a member of the S. A. T. C. and in 1921 he was graduated from the St. John Military Academy, where he received the Strotz medal for excellence in Military Science and Tactics. He attended the Universities of Wisconsin and Michigan, and later Washington University in St. Louis. His parents had moved to St. Louis in 1921, and after completing school he associated himself in business with his father there. In 1923 he attended the Coast Artillery School at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, from which he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

On Saturday, January 10, 1931, he was married to Louise Elizabeth Miles, daughter of Henderson Woods and Jennie (Howton) Miles of West Frankfort, Illinois. The ceremony was performed at a few minutes before midnight in the Rectory of St. John's Episcopal Church at Aurora, Illinois. To this union were born:

(1) WILLIAM HENRY OWEN, IV; b. Sunday,  
December 13, 1931.

(2) MICHAEL MILES OWEN; b. Monday,  
January 22, 1940.

Louise, wife of William H. Owen, III, was born at Hueytown (Now Bessemmer), Alabama on Tuesday, September 22, 1908, the eldest daughter of her parents. Her father, born July 6, 1879, was the eldest child of Leroy W. and Lucretia Elizabeth (Palmer) Miles. Her great grandfather, Wiliam Daniel Miles served with distinction in the Confederate Army as did many other of her ancestors, including Major Solomon Palmer, whose father founded the exclusive Athenen College at Birmingham. Her mother, born August 15, 1885, was the daughter of Thomas Baines Howton and Sallie Maddox of Jefferson County, Alabama. Of these two families it is known that: In 1773 Jonathan Howton, aged 16, landed at New Orleans

from his home in London, England. He went up the Mississippi to Memphis, thence to Hopkins County, Kentucky, where "he married a Black Dutch Lady for a wife."<sup>12</sup> His son Curtis, one of seven sons and two daughters, was born in 1796 and in 1816 he married Dorcus Franklin. In 1820 Curtis moved to Alabama, finally settling in the western part of Jefferson County, near Mud Creek, where he became a very successful planter, amassing a considerable fortune from his large plantation. At the close of the Civil War, he set free 37 slaves as required by law. His eldest son, Louis, born about 1817 in Kentucky, was married about the year 1838 to Harriet Ashby and served in the Confederate Army as did his father and brothers. Louis' son, Thomas Baines, referred to above, was one of five sons and three daughters, two of whom were twins.

Edward Maddox, of Dutch and Irish descent, was born in 1742 in Maryland from whence he came to Alabama, settling in Tuscaloosa County, 7 miles west of Northport at Carols Creek, where he became a planter. He died in 1823. His son Mark was the father of Stephen, second of three sons and two daughters. This Stephen was born on this Maddox Plantation in 1784 and died there in 1872. He was married to Mary Ann Brown by whom he had three sons and three daughters of whom one was Sallie Maddox, referred above as having been the wife of Thomas Baines Howton.

The depression of 1929 affected the family fortunes and in 1931 William H. Owen iii obtained employment as a laborer at Bagnell Dam, Mo., where he and his little family, for two years lived a rigorous and simple, though most interesting, life in this remote place. He had a commission as a Reserve Officer in the Army, and in 1933 was ordered to active duty by the War Department, and assigned to command a Civilian Conservation Corps company in Iowa, where he had the distinction of having his command named at the Model Camp, in 1935 by the Commanding General of the 7th Corps Area; and again in 1939 by the Director's office in Washington. He has most recently been assigned to command Headquarters Battery, 41st Coast Artillery Brigade.

He is a Fellow of The Institute of American Genealogy, a member of the Missouri Historical Society, The Sons of the American Revolution, and several Military and fra-

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<sup>12</sup>—This is quoted from the original record, "Black Dutch," referring to the German as distinguished from "Low Dutch," or Hollanders.

ternal societies, including the Keosauqua Lodge No. 10, A. F. & A. M.

2. DAVID EDWARD OWEN was born at Lebanon on Thursday, March 24, 1904, where he spent a happy care-free childhood with his many friends, and attended the local schools. He attended St. John Military Academy and in 1923 was graduated from Soldan High School in St. Louis, to where the family had moved in 1921. He completed his education at Washington University and entered business with his father. He was married at Belville, Illinois, on Tuesday, October 12, 1926, to Rosa Katherine Hofsommer, daughter of Reinhardt W. and Catherine (Gintz) Hofsommer of Bellville, Illinois. Rosa's mother and father died during her childhood and she was reared by her grandmother Gintz whose husband, Adam Gintz owned and operated the Western Brewery in Bellville. "Grannie," as Mrs. Gintz was called by all of us, passed away at Christmas time in 1936.

To this union was born:

- (1) KATHERINE GRACE OWEN, b. Sunday,  
January 25, 1931.
- (2) DAVID EDWARD OWEN, JR., b. Friday  
March 22, 1935.

He lived for a while with Mrs. Gintz but in 1932 purchased a handsome home in University City, Missouri, and Mrs. Gintz had the added pleasure of living with her granddaughter and her two great grand children.

During the succeeding years he engaged in the garage and service station supply business and is at this time operating such an enterprise at Galesborough, Illinois.

3. EMILY WARD OWEN was born at Lebanon, Mo., on Wednesday, January 3, 1906, where she spent her early girlhood and attended the local schools. She was graduated from the Soldan High School in St. Louis where she moved with the family in 1921. She spent several summers at northern girls' camps, two seasons as a councilor. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, she tutored and taught at a private school in St. Louis. On Thursday, August 20, 1931, she was married to William Philips Stewart of St. Louis, at the First Congregational Church. He was born on December 20, 1905 at East St.

Louis, Missouri, was graduated from the St. Louis Dental School, and is practicing his profession in University City, Missouri. To this union was born:

- (1) WILLIAM WARD STEWART, b. Friday,  
August 31, 1934.
- (2) ROBERT PHILIPS STEWART, b. Friday,  
July 7, 1939.

4. JAMES WOODLAND OWEN, whose second name is that of his great great grandmother Owen's family, was born at Lebanon on Tuesday, September 17, 1907. He attended the local schools as well as the Woodstock Seminary, the Snyder School for Boys and Kemper Military Academy, from which he was graduated with the rank of Cadet Captain. In 1930 he returned to Lebanon where he worked for his uncle Ward Owen in various positions. On Monday, November 14, 1932 he was married to Allene S. Haynes, daughter of Thomas Henry and Dollie (Breedon) Haynes of Lebanon. She was born at Cooksville, Missouri, on Sunday, March 20, 1910, and attended the Lebanon Public Schools. To this union was born:

- (1) JAMES WOODLAND, JR., b. Monday, May 14,  
1934.

He is now engaged in operating a gasoline filling station and is living with his family in their home, which he recently built, in Lebanon.

5. HARRY DIFFENDERFFER OWEN, the youngest child of Grace Esterley and William H. Owen, Jr., was born in Lebanon also, on Saturday, July 31, 1909, where he attended the local school and spent his boyhood. He attended Junior High School in St. Louis and was later graduated from Kemper Military Academy, after which he attended Washington University where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He had inherited some of the adventuresome spirit of his uncle for whom he is named and with a friend engaged in a gold mining venture in the mountains near Idaho Springs, Colorado. He later returned to St. Louis where he became associated with the J. Devine Company of St. Louis where he is now employed. While in Colorado he met Thelma Louise Richards to whom he was married on August 15, 1938, in Denver, Colorado. She is the daughter of John W. and Susie

(Petgen) Richards, born Friday, February 10, 1911, at Laramie, Wyoming. Her mother was born at Keokuk, Iowa, and was married to John at Liberal, Missouri on April 6, 1910. Her father was born July 19, 1860, in Macon County, Illinois, son of Frederick Richards and Louisa Koehler. In 1867 the grandfather moved to near Lamoine, Missouri, where he operated a quarry until his death in 1884. Her father moved to Medicine Bow, Wyoming in 1899, where with his younger brother Fred R., he started a sheep ranch. This business under the name of Richards Brothers is outstanding in the history of Wyoming sheep-ranching. Thelma moved to Denver, Colorado with her parents in 1929, where she finished high school, after which she attended the University of Colorado where she was a member of the Alpha Psi Sorority, graduating in 1933.

This couple are at present living in St. Louis.

THERE IS NO END









































## ADDENDUM DUNHAM

The compiler of this edition has obtained the following genealogical record of the Dunham family, and allied lines. This record, from the first to the 33rd generation is reprinted from the manuscript "Pedigree of the Dunham Family" by J. C. Wilson, file D-899, Institute of American Genealogy. From the 34th generation to the end it was compiled from original research of public records, and from family archives.

The earliest record of the family is of Rychert Dunham born 1294 who settled in Devonshire, England. John Dunham, a Devonshire Esquire in 1459 espoused the Yorkist cause, against Henry VIII of England. Sir John Dunham (nephew of the above mentioned John) is listed in the following Pedigree as the 27th generation.

### 1st Generation—

**Pepin d' Haristal**, a ruler of the Franks from about, 650; died, 714.

### 2nd Generation—

**Charles Martel**, natural son, Duke of ~~Australia~~, head of the Royal House of Carolingia; born, 690; died, 741.

### 3rd Generation—

**Pepin "The Short,"** King of the Franks; born, 715; died, 768.

### 4th Generation—

**Charlemagne**, (or Charles) "The Great," King of the Franks and Emperor of the Romans; born, April 2, 742; died, January 28, 814.

Married; Desiderata, daughter of Desiderius, King of the Lombards.

### 5th Generation—

**Louis de Debonnaire**, Sur "The Pious," King of France, reckoned as Charles I, Emperor of the Romans, 814-840; born, 778; died, June 20, 840

Married; (1) Hermingarde  
(2) Judith.

### 6th Generation—

**Charles II**, Sur "The Bald," King of France and Emperor of the Romans. Son of Louis and Judith; born, June 13, 823, at Frankfort-on-the-Main; died, October 8, 877.

Married; Odgive.

### 7th Generation—

**Gisela**, daughter of Charles.

Married; Rolf, the Norseman, who came to Normandy about 860, 1st Duke of Normandy.

### 8th Generation—

**William "Long Sword,"** 2nd Duke of Normandy; born, about 943.

9th Generation—

**Richard**, "The Fearless," 3rd Duke of Normandy, reigned more than 50 years; died, 996.

10th Generation—

**Richard**, "The Good," 4th Duke of Normandy; died, 1026.

11th Generation—

**Richard**, 5th Duke of Normandy; died, 1028.

Married; Judith.

12th Generation—

**Robert**, "The Magnificent," sometimes called "le Diable," 6th Duke of Normandy; died, 1035, at Nicaea.

Married; Arlette, daughter of a tanner of Falaise.

13th Generation—

**William**, "The Conqueror," 7th Duke of Normandy and King of England, 1066-1087; born, 1027; died, 1087.

Married; in 1050, Maud (called Matilda) daughter of Baldwin, 5th Count of Flanders, born, about 1031; died, 1081.

14th Generation—

**Henry I**, youngest son of William, King of England, 1100-1135; born, 1068; died, 1135 in Normandy.

Married, in 1101; Eadgyth (called Matilda) daughter of Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland.

15th Generation—

**Matilda**, daughter of Henry I and Matilda; died, 1167.

Married; Geoffrey, Plantagenet, count of Anjou, and son of Faulk, King of Jerusalem; died, 1150.

16th Generation—

**Henry II**, King of England; born, 1133; died, 1189.

Married; Eleanor, daughter of Duke of Aquitaine; died, 1204.

17th Generation—

**John**, youngest son of Henry, King of England, of Magna Charta fame; born, about 1167; died, 1216.

Married; 1200 Isabel, daughter of Aymer, Count of Augoulene and Alica, granddaughter of Louis VI, King of France; died, 1245.

18th Generation—

**Henry III**, King of England, crowned at the age of nine years; born, 1207; died, November 16, 1272.

Married; in 1236; Eleanor, daughter of Berenger, 4th Count of Provence.

19th Generation—

**Edward I**, King of England, took part in the last Crusade, 1270; born, 1239; died, 1307.

Married; Eleanor, daughter of Ferdinand III, King of Castile.

20th Generation—

**Joan Plantagenet**, eldest child of Edward I; died, 1305.

Married; Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester.

21st Generation—

**Margaret de Claire**, third child of Gilbert.

Married; **Hugh de Audley**, Earl of Gloucester.

22nd Generation—

**Margaret de Audley**.

Married; **Ralph Stafford**, 1st Earl of Stafford, one of the founders of the "Order of the Garter."

23rd Generation—

**Hugh Stafford**, 2nd Earl of Stafford; born, 1342; died September 26, 1386.

Married; **Phillippa**, daughter of **Thomas Beauchamp**, 11th Earl of Warwick; died, 1369.

24th Generation—

**Edmund Stafford**, 5th Earl of Stafford; died, July 21, 1403.

Married; **Anne**, daughter of **Thomas**, duke of Gloucester and **Eleanor Bohm**, daughter of the Earl of Hereford, and granddaughter of **Edward III**.

25th Generation—

**Humphrey Stafford**, 1st Duke of Buckingham; born 1402; died, 1460.

Married; **Anna**, daughter of **Ralph Neville**, 1st Earl of Westmoreland; died, September 20, 1480.

26th Generation—

**Margaret Stafford**, born 1435.

Married; **Robert Dunham**; born, 1430.

27th Generation—

**Sir John Dunham**, born 1450, in parish of Dunham, on the Trent; and died at Kirklington November 9, 1524. "In 1502 Thomas Wood sitting at Westminster, granted the manor at Kirklington to John Dunham and his wife Elizabeth." They had five children.

Married, in 1471; **Elizabeth Bowett**, daughter and heir of **Sir Nycolas Bowett**.

28th Generation—

**Ralph Dunham**; born, 1528.

Married; **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Sir Thomas**, styled "The Wentworth," Knight of the Reformation.

29th Generation—

**Thomas Dunham**; born, 1556.

Married **Janet Bromley**.

30th Generation—

**John Dunham**; born, in 1589, at Scrooby, England, called Deacon John, sacrificed position in society with all its accomplishments, that he might devote his life to the welfare of his fellow men. The original Pilgrim Church was organized at Dunham Manor, in the village of Scrooby, England. This John, Governor Bradford, and Elder William Brewster were the only members of the original church, to come to Plymouth. John's daughter, **Abigail** was the first child born, in Plymouth Colony.

Married, on October 22, 1622; **Abigail Balliou**, in Leyden, Holland, enroute from England to Plymouth.

31st Generation—

**Benajah Dunham**, youngest child of Deacon John, was born, 1640, at Plymouth. In 1672, he bought 100 acres of land in Piscataway, New Jersey, where he established his family. He was commissioned Captain of Militia May 10, 1679; and died, December 24, 1680.

Married, October 25, 1660; Elizabeth Tilson, daughter of Edmund Tilson.

32nd Generation—

**Rev. Edmund Dunham**, born, July 25, 1661; died, March 17, 1734, at Piscataway, New Jersey.

Married, July 15, 1681; Mary, born October 4, 1661, died 1742, daughter of Nicholas Bonham and Hannah Fuller, (daughter of Samuel and Jane Lathrop Fuller, of Pilgrim Colony). This Samuel was the son of Edward and Ann Fuller. This Edward was the 21st man to sign the "Mayflower's Compact 1620." His brother was Samuel Fuller, the physician of Pilgrim colony. Edward and Ann had with them their only son Samuel when they landed at Plymouth. Soon thereafter they both died, leaving the son who was taken into his uncle's home. Samuel was made a free man of the Colony in 1634, and went from Plymouth, on April 8, 1635, to Situate carrying with him his credentials of christian fellowship with the Pilgrim Church, which entitled him to membership in the Situate Church. The day he left Plymouth, he was married to Jane, daughter of Reverend John Lathrop (2nd Minister of the First Independent church of England). The ceremony was performed by the Stalwart of the colony, Capt. Miles Standish.

33rd Generation—

**Rev. Jonathan Dunham**, was born at Piscataway, New Jersey, August 10, 1694. His marriage was the first recorded at Piscataway. He was a member of Col. Thomas Farmer's Regiment, the 4th Company under command of Captain Weathersbee. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "In memory of Rev. Jonathan Dunham, died March 10, 1777 in the 83rd year of his age. Angels may speak him, Oh! not me, whose worth his congregation see, but for our loss were it in our power, we'd weep an everlasting shower."

Married, August 5, 1714; Jane (or Joan) Piatt of Huguenot descendant. Born, 1695; died, September 15, 1779.

34th Generation—

**Jacob Dunham**, of whom little is known other than that he took up land on the south of the Raritan River in North Brunswick, where he engaged in farming, and there died. His brother Azariah was Lt. Col. of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment in the Revolutionary War, Commissary general, member of the Colonial Assembly, and member of the Provincial Congress.

Married; Elizabeth (last name is unknown at this time).

35th Generation—

**Jehu (John) Dunham**, born September 24, 1761, in North Brunswick township, Middlesex County, New Jersey, near the Raritan River,<sup>3</sup> died April 6, 1842, at Dunham Corner. He served in the Middlesex County Militia in the Revolutionary War as a private, and was later commissioned a Captain.<sup>1</sup>

Married 1st; Elnor Van Tine, born April 21, 1764; died March 21, 1837. 2nd; Jane Ann (last name unknown.

Dunhams Corner is a well known cross roads, situated very near the center of East Brunswick Township, approximately 5 miles south of the town of New Brunswick. It received its name from Captain Jehu Dunham, a pioneer in that vicinity.<sup>2</sup> Jehu Dunham was a planter and operated "Jehu Dunham's Tavern." He was a gentleman held in the highest esteem for probity and business capacity. He died leaving valuable property, and a numerous family, none of whom reside in East Brunswick.<sup>3</sup> His children were: Elizabeth, who married Nicholas Rappleyea; David, who married Jane Wilson; James, who married Eleanor Peterson; Lewis who married Mary Perry; William and Abraham.

**JEHU DUNHAM'S WILL<sup>4</sup>**

"I Jehu Dunham of the State of New Jersey, County of Middlesex & Township of North Brunswick . . . do make & publish this my last will and testament . . . All debts to be paid. 2nd I do order that all my property both personal and real be

(1) Officers and men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War," by William S. Strayker, page 581.

(2) Ibid. p. 780.

(3) "History of Union and Middlesex Counties," Clayton, p. 760.

(4) Middlesex County, Willis, Liber D: p. 425.

sold within one year after my decease . . . 3rd I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Ann Dunham one equal seventh part of my clear estate as long as she remains my widow and behaves in a woman like manner. 4th. I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth my daughter, wife of Nicholas Rappleyea, James I. Dunham, William G. Dunham, Lewis Dunham & Abraham Dunham my four sons one seventh part each share and share alike. 5th. I give and bequeath unto my grandchildren the heirs of David Dunham my son, deceased, the one seventh part of my estate, share and share alike for their education and bringing up. 6th. It is my will and I do order that my colored woman, Susan, and her child Ruth be free at my decease . . . to have her bed and bedding & to be paid Fifty dollars by my executors as soon as conveniently. Lastly I hereby appoint James I. Dunham my son & James S. Combs my Neighbor, Executors."

Letters of Guardianship record Jane D. Dunham, of Middlesex County, as "Guardian of Edward J., Jacob R., Sarah Emma, and Margaret E. Dunham, the persons & property both real and personal being minors under the age of 14 years."

#### 36th Generation—

David Dunham, born May 11, 1794, at Dunham's Corner, where he lived and died, on June 11, 1840. He was a farmer and merchant, a man of highest character and esteem in his community.

Married; Jane Wilson, born May 14, 1801; died October 28, 1843, the youngest of three children of John Wilson and Sarah La Rue. This John was born December 8, 1766, and died July 27, 1846. He was a farmer of considerable property in Middlesex County. Sarah was born August 10, 1773, and died October 2, 1854, at Dunhams Corner, the third of seven children of James and Phebe La Rue. This James was born April 19, 1744, and Phebe on March 8, 1743, being of French Huguenot descent.

#### 37th Generation—

Margaret Emily, youngest of David Dunham's children, was born Feb. 15, 1840, at Dunham's Corner, New Jersey; and died May 6, 1929, at Lebanon, Missouri. (See Diffenderffer, page 24).

Married in 1864, to David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer, born January 18, 1822; died May 19, 1900, at Lebanon, Missouri. (See Diffenderffer, page 20)

## ADDENDUM OWEN

No attempt will be made herein to record the family of William Henry Owen, Jr. (husband of Grace Esterly Diffenderffer) other than more or less briefly; for the compiler of this edition is at work on a comprehensive history of his father's family, which, it is anticipated, will be completed within the next year or so; although the present European war is seriously handicapping this work.

The earliest record found of this branch of the family, Owen, is of Hwva ap Cynddelw, founder of one of the fifteen noble tribes of Wales (1100-1150). His descendants Hugh Owen was 1st Baron of Orierton, whose descendant, John Owen, settled in Woodchurch,<sup>1</sup> Kent County, during the reign of Elizabeth. The family continued to live there at "Towland Farm," where Dive Owen was born in 1788. This fine old Manor House was built in 1603, and is standing today, in as fine a state of repair as it was over 300 years ago. While yet a young man, Dive became a follower and supporter of John Wesley, and helped to organize the Wesleyan church at Woodchurch, serving as Steward until his death at the age of seventy-six. He married Elizabeth Woodland, daughter of Thomas Woodland, of near Ruckinge, a village some eight miles east of Woodchurch. Since Saxon times, the Woodland family has been identified with the Kentish Weald. To this union was born ten children, of whom William was first. Both Dive and Elizabeth died at the old home in 1864.

WILLIAM was born in 1816 in his father's home. It soon became evident that he had a mind of his own, so to speak, and did not readily adapt himself to the severe Wesleyan household of his father. He went off to sea when yet a lad, and in 1839 returned to Woodchurch with a bride, Sarah. Shortly thereafter, was born their only child, William Henry. He soon returned to his ship leaving his wife and young son at his father's home. He was buried at Folkestone in 1847.

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(1) Woodchurch is a typical, peaceful little Wealdean village, situated some 18 miles west of Folkestone, and 9 miles north of Rye. The old Roman Military Road passes 1½ miles north of this village, and in 1066, the Conqueror's army passed through enroute to Dover, following the Battle of Hastings.

WILLIAM HENRY was born on Monday, February 3, 1840, in the ancestral home at Woodchurch. He attended the local schools being reared in the strict Wesleyan home of his paternal grandparents, with whom his mother resided.

On April 26, 1854, he landed at Boston, Massachusetts, having been brought to the United States by his two uncles John G.<sup>2</sup> and Woodland<sup>3</sup> Owen. The compiler of this edition has the original log of this voyage which was kept by John G. Owen. It is printed here below; not only for its interest to those of the Owen family, but because of the contrast to the voyage of a century and a quarter earlier, when the first Diffenderffer immigrated to America (see page xvi).

John G. Owen's  
account of the voyage from  
Liverpool, England, to Boston, Mass.  
via the steamship "Arabia."<sup>4</sup>

Liverpool, April 15, 1854

Arose this morning at 6:00 o'clock and proceeded immediately down to the ticket office to procure our tickets as soon as the office should be opened as we were informed that no more passages could be procured, every berth being already taken and a great many more were waiting. But nothing daunted, I determined to make an effort. At half past seven the office was opened and the clerk told us that the Booking Agent would not be in 'till 8:00 o'clock and he did not think we should be able to procure passages as there

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(2) John G. Owen, b. March 28, 1825, at Woodchurch, son of Dive and Elizabeth (Woodland) Owen, immigrated to the United States in 1841. He settled in Saginaw, Michigan, where he became a successful banker, merchant, and lumber operator. In 1845, he married Maria A. Sabine by whom he had seven sons and three daughters. After Maria's death he was married, in 1869, to Lucia Ann Greenleaf, by whom he had a daughter, Gertner. His sons continued in the logging and lumber business throughout Michigan, Wisconsin, and the western states. He died at Saginaw, on December 9, 1901.

(3) Woodland Owen, b. February, 28, 1819, at Woodchurch brother of John G. He served as Ship's Surgeon on the passenger ship "Quebec" in 1842 and settled in Adrian, Michigan, in 1848, where he practiced dentistry until his death in 1884. He was very active in anti-slavery circles, and was organizer of the Michigan Dental Association. He served his community in the state legislature and was a trustee of Adrian College. In 1843, he married Jane P. Illenden by whom he had four children, only one of whom survived him.

(4) The "Arabia" was powered by both steam driven paddle wheels and sails.

were a number that applied the day before and were waiting if any chance should open and there were a number waiting around till the office was opened besides ourselves. So we returned to our hotel and took breakfast and immediately returned. I found the Booking Agent there. He gave us no particular encouragement, but I was determined to stick like a leech or at least 'till the boat started which was to be at 10:00 o'clock. People constantly came and claimed priority of time and application, but when such was the case, I was on hand. A quarter past nine came and no passage yet and if we got one we should have to go back to the hotel for baggage, etc. Finally after quite a struggle I came out conqueror over my enemies and got three passages, but had to take the 2nd Officer's room and they put him elsewhere; this is a first cabin, no second could be had. I told a pretty good yarn and got William through half-fare.

We then immediately returned to our hotel, paid our bill, 7/ each, and started for the boat and got there in plenty of time. In a few minutes our Ferry was off for the steamer with as heavy a load as they could carry. At 12:00 o'clock the mails were received on board and we were off down the river. At 2:00 o'clock we discharged the Pilot and stopped for the last time. We passed a great number of ships in the river anchored with passages apparently full, bound to America and Australia. They gave us three cheers as we passed. There was an immense number. Thus we passed on down the river having some very pretty scenery, land was lost mostly in the distance, an occasional point only being visible. Night came on us and we again slumbered on board ship.

Sunday, 16th April—We are to spend another Sabbath on ship board; the wind blowing fresh and not in our favor. We passed Holy Head about 2:00 o'clock p. m., met the steamer "Africa" at six o'clock p. m. from Boston. About this time the wind shifted a little and we are now with all sails standing making pretty good headway. But our ship is heavily laden and lies deep in the water which impedes her progress much, although she is considered the fastest boat in the line. But every day will make her lighter by the consumption of coal and water of which the quantity is not small that is used. The wind blows quite fresh and she rolls some. Yesterday was little Maria's birthday. I should like to have been there to have given her, her presents from her aunts, but time will ultimately bring us all around if safety attends our passage.

Monday, 17th—The wind is blowing still and our boat rocks considerable with a little rain for variety. Begin to feel a little uneasy in my stomach. Woodland also has been the same. The wind has increased considerably and is blowing quite hard, but sails standing most of the time.

Tuesday, 18th—Wind blows about the same and has continued so all night. I feel quite sick this morning and vomited considerable dark bilious matter from my stomach and lots more I wish was up that I can spare as well as not. Have not been able to eat anything through the day. Feel very unwell. Have passed two vessels to-day. Went to bed about 6:00 o'clock.

Wednesday, 19th—I feel a little better. It is a fine morning. Sea is more calm. Are making a little more headway. I have not any particular disposition to eat although I ate a bowl of gruel and a ham sandwich for breakfast.

About ½ past five o'clock p. m. we came in sight of a vessel with her flag bottom upwards, the signal of distress. We immediately made for her and found her to be the British ship "Hannah of Whitehaven" (Eng'l) on nearing her inquiries were immediately

made what was wanted; her reply was they wished to abandon her as she had sprung a leak. She was bound to St. Johns, Newfoundland. We immediately sent our small boat out to her and in a short time it returned with a number of men and some baggage and found out that she had the crews of two vessels on board. That she had on Friday last came across the Bague "-----" bound to Quebec in a leaky condition. She had on board a general cargo of merchandise and consigned to ----- of Quebec. She left Liverpool on the 4th of April and deserted her on Good Friday when they were taken on board the "Hannah" bound for St. Johns with salt on. Monday morning about 8:00 o'clock they discovered her to have sprung a leak forward and all hands were immediately put to the pumps and had not been able to leave them only to discharge her loading. The day we picked them up they had discharged about 125 tons of salt into the sea and then had about 9 feet of water in her holds when we came upon them. They numbered altogether both crews 23 hands. At about seven o'clock the ship was left to herself with her flag at mast, head turned up side down, to waft where the wind chose to until she should sink to depths unknown. This in addition to our already large number makes quite an addition but poor fellows what a gladly sight and deliverance for them. According to their statement if they could have spared time to have set their sails and left the pumps, we should not have seen them as they would have made south of us and they might in the event perished if a storm had arisen. But the ways of God are mysterious.

At seven o'clock we had to take down sails and the wind has been blowing ahead very strong until the present time causing the vessel to make only 9 knots per hour. I have been very sick and feel so badly. Think if I could discharge more from my stomach should feel better. My mouth is extremely bad.

Passed on this (Thursday) a vessel supposed to be from Quebec (yesterday) close by us under full sail. They do all that can be done with us to help our ship along against the wind even to taking down her spar sails down to the deck so the wind should not effect them.

Saturday, 22nd—Wind has been blowing very hard right ahead all night and no probability of its ceasing at present. We have not been making a portion of the time more than five miles an hour with the water blowing over the whole deck in floods. It is an awful miserable day in every sense of the word. Impossible to be out of the cabins at all. It is impeding our progress very much indeed. We had calculated on reaching Halifax on Sunday evening, but if this weather continues it will be a day or two later.

At four o'clock this morning we came up with the "Ice!" Saw some immense bergs in every shape and style, just as nature shaped them. One very large one which was seen about six o'clock p. m. was in a pyramid and in the distance looks majestic. It is supposed as near as can be judged to be about 200 feet out of the water. One we saw was very long and very high. Another looked like a church, or some old ancient castle. Perhaps we have seen 60 or 70 of them during the day. The last that has been seen was about 8:00 o'clock in the evening. The weather has moderated a little this evening and we are making a little better time but still slow.

I have not enjoyed myself much thus far on this trip. It has been very unpleasant and all things taken into consideration and by these contrary winds it will make us rather a long passage. But we must wait with patience, the dictates of an all wise Creator

who rules and governs the seas and the universe and trust a safe return.

Sunday, 23rd—Another Sabbath has again dawned on us on the waters of the great deep. The weather is little more moderate. We are making 9 knots an hour. Nothing of importance to mention. At half-past ten prayers are to be read in our cabin, but of very little importance, it being only a form of worship, but sailors are required to attend clothed in their Sunday duds and it looks well. It is supposed we shall reach Halifax about Monday night. How soon I don't care. I am getting sick of this boat. All passed off well through the day, a rather more pleasant.

Monday Morning, 24th—We are making good headway this morning and have been through the night. But about nine o'clock a. m. we came in sight of ice again. Field ice which put for a short time, our expectations somewhat on our beams ends. The man on the top of the mast on the lookout said all was ice on either side, but shortly he discovered an opening ahead and on approaching it found it just wide enough to pass through and encountered no more difficulty, but had we missed that particular opening we might have had great trouble. We expect to reach Halifax tomorrow morning about 5:00 a. m.

Tuesday, April 25th—On rising this morning about half-past five, I find the boat standing still and on inquiry find that one of the journals of the shaft had become heated to such an extent that it required us to lay still for 1½ hours and during the whole time two streams of water supplied by hose was kept in constant use and for some little time after we again started. When this happened we were within an hour of Halifax. Arrived at Halifax at half past seven a. m. When we went ashore I took a stroll for about an hour, returned and took breakfast. There is nothing particular interesting in the city of Halifax. No taste or elegance in the construction of the buildings. It is situated on a side hill with a gradual slope to the bay. It is said this bay is one of the best in the world and one of the best fortified ones. The shores on either side are commanding and a number of forts and block houses with mounted guns one of which is on a very island right in the center of the bay. These batteries are said to have many more guns and much greater power in resisting power in case of an evasion than their appearance would indicate, there being guns down to the waters edge entirely out of sight and accessible to only through the possession of the forts forming thereby perfect security to its inmates. The garrison is on a very prominent point and commands the whole town.

This bay is said not to be equalled in point of beauty only by Staten Island. I must say they are two of the most beautiful places that I have ever seen in my travels and when we came in sight of Halifax Bay the sun was just past opening upon us in all its majestic splendor and the sea was perfectly calm all of which adds much to its beauty. A number of passengers got off here and their places doubly filled and I am informed that over 30 persons are now left at Halifax and some of them have been waiting over two weeks already. There appears to be an immense travel this spring. I am told that the three next boats that are to leave Liverpool are already filled. Our shipwreck passengers all left us here and we started again at eleven o'clock p. m.

Wednesday, 26th—We had a beautiful run yesterday and have a fine morning again. Suppose we shall reach Boston about 5 p. m. The sooner the better. Wish I were at my journey's end.

Dr. Woodland Owen took the lad into his home at Adrian, where he completed his education. He first obtained employment in the general store of S. E. Foster at Waterford, Michigan,<sup>5</sup> and in 1866, went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he quickly made a host of friends among prominent families. At Christ Church Cathedral, in St. Louis, on Tuesday, July 1, 1873, he married Hannah, eldest of the socially popular daughters of Captain James, and Anne (Johnson) Ward of St. Louis. To this union was born two children:

(1) William Henry, Jr., Wed., Dec. 8, 1880.

(2) James Ward, Wed., July 16, 1884.

They later took into their home a little girl, Julia, who they raised as their own daughter.

W. H. Senior, as he was commonly known, and Hannah moved in 1875, to Lebanon, Missouri, where he established a large general store, called the St. Louis Store. He worked with David Rittenhouse Diffenderffer in founding the Bank of Lebanon, and was its first president. He was very active in mercantile and banking affairs locally, and state wide, having been temporary chairman at the organization meeting of the Missouri Bankers Association. In 1903 he returned to St. Louis, with his wife, where he spent the remainder of his life, dieing after a prolonged illness on Saturday, July 15, 1911. Though a firm man in business matters; he was generous to a fault in his personal affairs. In the Lebanon Rustic of January, 1881, the following advertisement appeared:

#### Notice

All accounts and notes due me I wish settled before  
March 1, but don't worry until the roads get better.

W. H. Owen

In 1891, and again in 1899, he visited relatives in England. His mother had remarried in 1854, to the Rev. Henry Banks, a Wesleyan minister of Liskeard, Cornwall, England. She was active in his church, and was a most devoted and companionable wife until her death on Thursday, October 26, 1893. Henry Banks had two children of his own, but was a real father to William Henry, and genuinely fond of "Willie" and "Wordie" Owen, his wife's grandchildren; a more devoted and loving husband would

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(5) This store building has been bought by Henry Ford who had it removed to his American Museum at Greenfield Village, where it is now preserved.

be difficult to imagine. He died at Liskeard on Wednesday, February 9, 1898, while engaged in writing a verse of poems for his foster grandsons.

HANNAH WARD, wife of W. H. Sr., was born in St. Louis, on Tuesday, May 9, 1848. Her interests were her family, and her church. The social life of Lebanon centered about her home, and the anniversary of her husband's birthday was an annual affair of the first importance. After her husband's death she returned to Lebanon, where she spent her latter years, bed-ridden, though cheerful and happy among her many friends, her children, and grandchildren. On Thursday, July 5, 1923, she departed this life at Lebanon, where services were held with interment at St. Louis, beside her husband.

CAPTAIN JAMES WARD, father of Hannah Ward, was born Thursday, December 22, 1814, at Southerly, Norfolk, England, one of eleven children of Henry and Mary (Porter) Ward, who lived in the home, where for three hundred years, Ward children were born and died. At the age of 14, he apprenticed at the ship yards at Southerly, and when 21 years of age, shipped to the United States. In 1838, he came to St. Louis, where he shipped for five years as a carpenter on various river boats. In 1844, he built his first steamer, the "St. Croix" which he operated in the Galena trade. To this he added more steamers and in 1860, organized the Northern Line Packet Company. Many of his steamers set river records, foremost of which was the 800 mile run of the "Hawkeye State" from St. Louis to St. Paul in two days, and twenty hours; a record which stands to this day. In 1870, he retired from active river service and founded the ships chandlery firm, of Ward & Brady, later known as James Ward & Son, at 517 North Levee Street, in St. Louis. This business is still operated by the Eagle Packet Company. In 1847 he was married to Anne Johnston, to which union was born six children:

- (1) Hannah, b. Tuesday, May 9, 1848; d. Thursday, July 5, 1923.
- (2) Thomas Henry, b. Monday, December 3, 1850; d. Monday, July 2, 1917.
- (3) Anne Louise, b. 1852; d. 1857.

- (4) Mary, b. Friday, December 22, 1854; d.  
Monday, April 13, 1931.
- (5) Lillie Anne, b. Friday, June 5, 1857; d.  
Monday, October 19, 1936.
- (6) Ella Sophia, b. Monday, October 8, 1860.

He amassed a considerable fortune, was a Knight Templar, and died on Saturday, January 6, 1900.

ANNE JOHNSTON, Hannah's mother, was born Monday, June 21, 1828, in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Richardson) Johnston. She came to the United States with her parents in 1830. She was a cheerful, faithful, and devoted mother; her religion was second only to her home and family. She was an active supporter of the Episcopal Church, Orphan's Home, and St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis. She died on Tuesday, February 12, 1889, at St. Louis. Her father, Thomas Johnston, was born on Tuesday, August 12, 1794, son of a wealthy mill operator of Northern Ireland. Her mother, Hannah Richardson, was born on Saturday, March 8, 1800, daughter of Sir Robert Baile Richardson, a supporter of George III in Dublin, Ireland. Her parents were married at New Mills Church, County Antrim, Friday, January 1, 1819, which union was blessed with ten children of whom Anne was sixth. In 1830, they emigrated to the United States, where Thomas developed a large milling business, at Camden Mills (now Milan, a suburb of Rock Island, Illinois). When this couple were married the wife was disinherited for marrying a tradesman's son. However, her aristocratic father gave her a portion of the ancestral silver. When the mill was destroyed by fire, after her husband's death, this silver was sold in Chicago, except for one piece for each of the children, to obtain funds with which to rebuild the mill. The cup given Anne, was in turn given by her to her daughter, Hannah, and at present is in my father's possession. My Uncle, James Ward Owen, has the Johnston Bible. Thomas Johnston was a Mason, and Senior Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church, in Rock Island, at the time of his death, on March 16, 1855. His wife, Hannah Richardson, died February 9, 1880. They are both buried in Chippianock Cemetery at Rock Island.

WILLIAM HENRY OWEN, JR., eldest son of W. H. Sr. and Hannah Ward, was born on Wednesday, December 8, 1880, at St. Louis. He spent his boyhood in Lebanon,

Missouri, where he completed the local schools, after which he attended Shattuck Military Academy, and Drury College in Springfield, Missouri. On Wednesday, April 16, 1902, he was married to Grace Esterley Diffenderffer, at Lebanon. He founded the Magnetic Ice and Bottling Company, which he operated until 1921. He was Lebanon's first motor car agent, and was one of the founders of the First National Bank, being a director for many years. He aided in the organization of Company "H," 2nd Missouri Infantry, and was one of its first officers when called to service on the Mexican Border, in 1916. During the World War, he served as a Chief of the American Protective Association, counter espionage division of the Department of Justice.

In 1920, he was elected Mayor of Lebanon by the largest majority on record. In 1921, he moved his family to St. Louis where he continued in the automobile business, becoming prominent in local and state motoring circles, and civic affairs. The depression of 1929, wiped out his material resources. A man of strong heart, mind, and body, he shortly obtained employment as a salesman. Traveling the year around in northern states he is making a success of this difficult and fatiguing work.



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## GENEALOGICAL CHART

### LEGEND

obsp.      no issue      = marriage

The family arms is shown in the bottom center with the crest at the top center, and the motto at the left of the arms with the translation to the right.

The decoration in the upper left attempts to show the family's early German connection; while on the right is the later American relation.

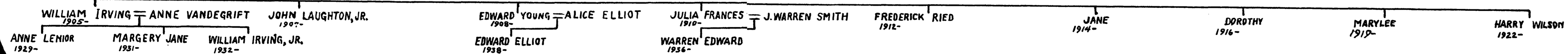
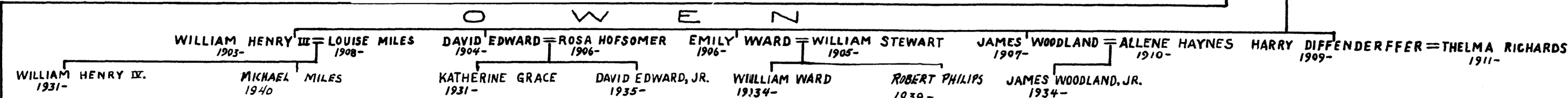
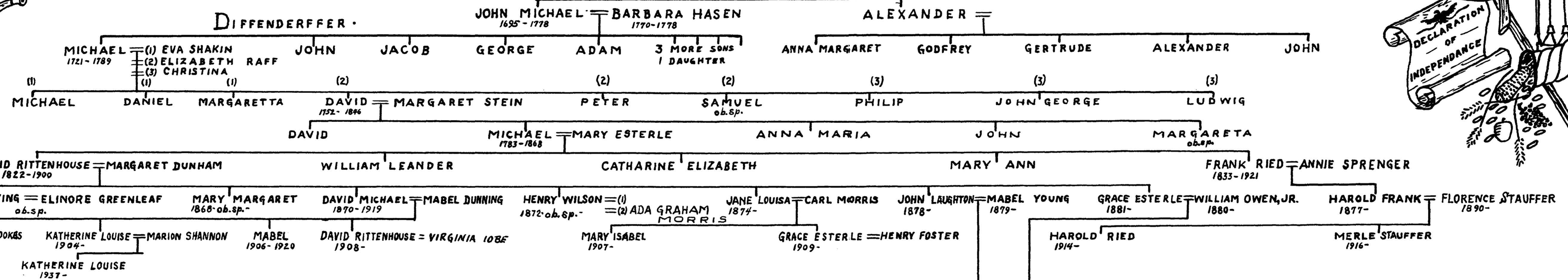
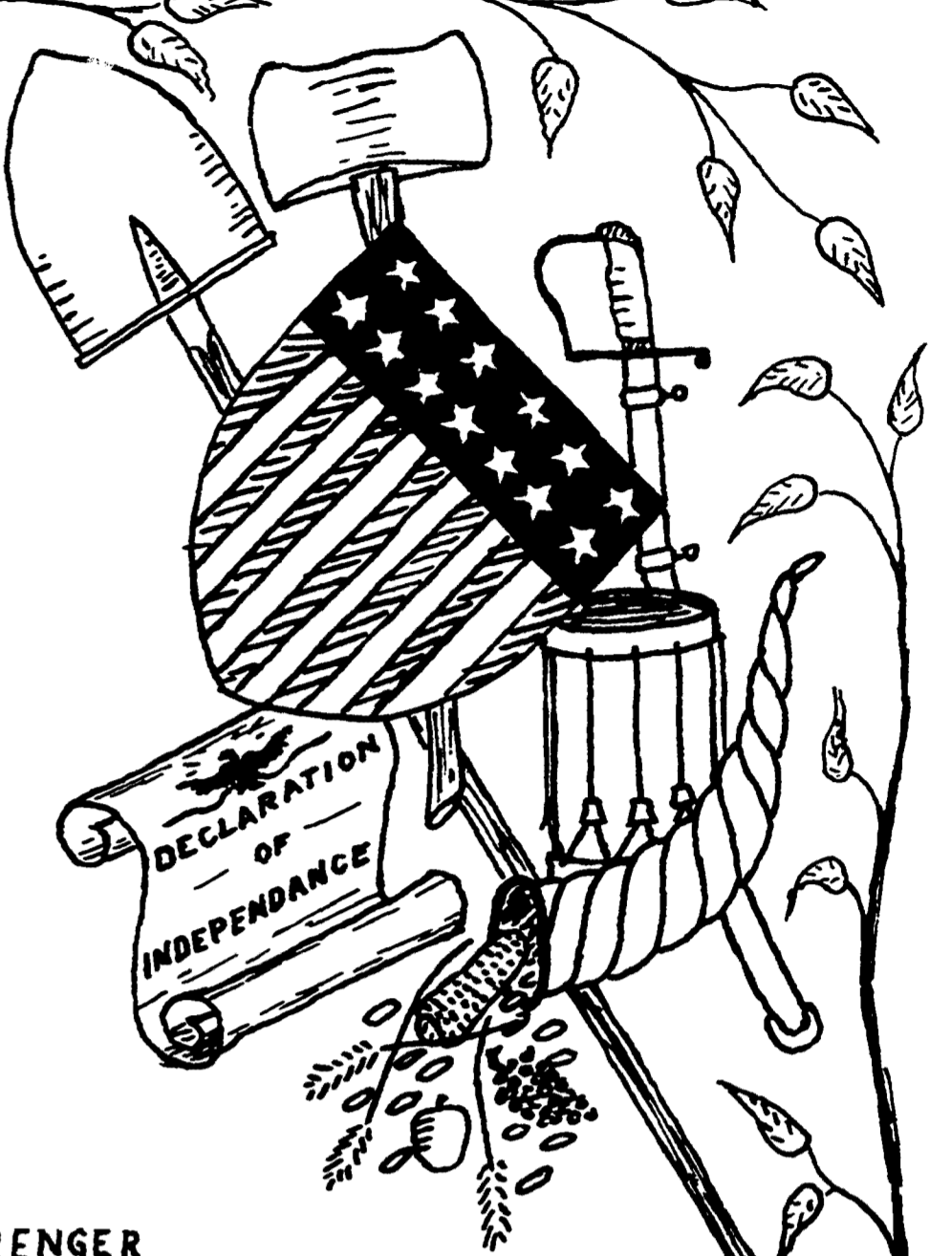
Ample space is provided for a continuation of the chart by the various branches of the family for four or more generations to come.

W. H. O. iii.

1130  
Werner von Tübelndorf

Dübendorf Switzerland  
Neresheim Germany  
1663  
John Dübendorffer

1229  
Cuno von Diebendorf



in utroque paratus



PREPARED FOR EITHER EVENT

