Memo May 5, 1981

from JIM KERSHNER

Dear Ruth and Stuart:

I'm sorry I haven't written to you sooner. I really appreciated the charts you sent with the lineage data of Jim's ancestors in Europe. You have done such a fantastic job and we are so indebted to you for all the information!

It seems I have accomplished very little on the genealogical data — I seem to have to have things very organized & ever since Jim moved his office into our home (after his heart surgery) I haven't had a room of my own to work in. Most frustrating to me but surely don't want Jim to know how I feel! His health comes first —

Our Riley County Gen. Soc. now has a re-decorated 1870 house as our library — it's on the Historical Register so we are very pleased about it. I work there each Wed. P.M. & love it. — The Governor will be here the 28th for our formal dedication.

May 26th is the Kershner family reunion (4th one) in Butler, Mo. so I plan to take along the info you sent & perhaps I can take up a collection & send something to

help with the expenses of research etc. — Have no idea what the response will be. —

My brother, Al Fell, no longer lives in Austin; they built a lovely home on Canyon Lake. We spent a week with them the first of Jan. on our way to Arizona.

I have not been contacted by Mildred Braden (Mrs. Amos H.) of Pasadena Tx. — I did meet ~~Garland~~ Braden (a bro. of Amos) a couple years ago in K.C. — his (sweet) wife is in DAR and I helped her organize a new chapter — (Gwen + ~~Garland~~) both have Kershner lines). — I knew one of the members of the Braden family should have the Jonathan Kershner Bible but had never been able to find out which one. I do hope they have Xeroxed the pages —

How are you doing in regard to Vol. III ? — I will let you know how I come out at the reunion. —

Lovingly,
Helen

I'm anxious to see Vol. III !!!

May 8, 1980

Dear Ruth,

My typewriter is out for repairs, so I hope you can read this.

Enclosed is a request from the University of Maryland for the books. I didn't think before I slit it open, or would have forwarded it on as is.

Mildred Braden, at 215 Queens Road, Pasadena, Texas 77502 (Tel. 944-6706 AC713) wrote me a letter saying her husband is Amos Braden, whose mother was Cora Kershner. I looked her up and found she is on our side of the family. Bonnie Jackson, of Adrian, Mo., whose mother was a Kershner gave her my address. I called her and gave her your name and address. She seemed to be loaded with information and I thought you might have some interest in what she had to say, and that she might be able to secure copies of the two books. She said there will be a reunion on May 25 at ~~Adrian~~ Butler, Mo.

Vol I P 421. Earl K's sister Denver-

I am enjoying my work still and have resorted to riding the bus into town. The traffic is getting worse all the time, but the Express bus by using the Contraflow makes it in about 35 minutes. Mrs. Davis and her two boys are wonderful to be associated with.

Cheer

I haven't been to any of the meetings of the DAR this year because of so many things getting in my way – Maybe next year. I went to two meetings last spring and then they adjourned for the summer. I took on the new job and found myself at the office quite often on Saturday morning last fall when the meetings started up again. You have to attend three meetings and then present a letter from a friend in the organization before you can be considered for membership. Do I still have one meeting to go yet. Probably I could ask Mary in Colorado for a letter.

Let me hear from you and tell me what all you are up to.

Love,

Jack Halley

4603 El Salvador
Houston, Texas 77066
June 3, 1980

Dear Ruth:

I am forwarding to you some information sent to me by Mildred and Amos Braden who live in Pasadena. She contacted me on the telephone and I have talked to her several times. I tried to impress upon her the fact that you and Mary are the ones publishing the books on the Kershner Family and gave her your address, but she insisted on sending the information to me. However, rather than forwarding this to Mary Maxwell, I thought it best to send it to you in case you had an interest in it and wanted the extra copies which Mildred has enclosed of each of the writings.

I am doing fine still working for the Estate of Morgan J. Davis and just became affiliated with James Cain Realtor out my way, thinking perhaps I might be instrumental in selling some houses in the area. Joy Conaway, the Manager, has accepted me as a part time agent. I sat for the examination on April 25 and just received the license last week, but had interviewed several brokers on FM 1960 before I chose James Cain.

I must cut this short and get back to work, but wanted to get all of this in the mail before another day passed.

Love to all,

Jack

Jack K. Halley

jkh/enclosures

Family Record of
Jonathan & Catharine E.
Kershner

Births

Jonathan Kershner Son of
J & C. E. Kershner Born
March 3rd 1814 Wash Co. Md

Catharine E. McAthan
Wife of Jonathan Kershner
Born Dec 16th 1816 Wash Co. Md

Births of the Children

Oscar K. was Born
Sept 13th 1837
Son of J & C.E. K Was Co Md

Amanda Daughter of J & C.E.K
was Born Dec 21st 1838
Wash Co Md

Copy of hand-written script on tablet paper a long time ago. Was in John H. Kershner Bible, father of Cora E. Kershner Braden. Bible was at:

Mr. & Mrs. Amos H. Braden
215 Queens Road
Pasadena, TX 77502

(713) 944-6706

Harrison Son of J. & C. E. K
Was Born Oct. 6th 1840.
Wash Co Md

Jonathan H. Son of J & C.E.
Kershner Was Born
Oct 3rd 1842 Wash Co Md

Roann Daughter of
J. & C.E. Kershner Was
Born Jan 1st 1845. Fred. Co Md

Perry. Son of J. & C.E Kershner
Was Born June 30th 1847
Fred. Co. Md.

Mary Ellen Daughter of
J. & C.E Kershner Was
Born Nov 2d. 1849.
Marion, Ohio,

Births

George Marion Son of
J. F. & C. E. Robinson Was Born
Oct 13th 1852. Bond Co. Ill

Frank M. Son of J. F. & C. E. R
Was Born Oct 26th 1856
Bond Co Ill

Death Records

Jonathan Hawkins died
Oct 17 1864 at Greenville Ill

Nathaniel E. Newman died
Jan 1st 1871 Shelbury Grove
Ill

Harrison Son of J. & E. C. E. K
died Dec 10th 1841.
Clear Spring Mad

Lucian Son of J. & E. C. E. Kershner
died June 1st 1855
Greenville Ill

Amanda Rood Daughter
of J. & E. C. E. Kershner died
Nov 2nd 1884. Bates Co Mo

George Marion Son of J. & E. C. E. K
died Dec 29th 1893 Selina, Iowa

Written by Cora E. Kershner Braden about 1945, on tablet paper.

Cora Ella Kershner Braden was born Dec. 20, 1887. Her father was Jonathan Henry Kershner, born Oct. 3, 1842. Wash Co. Md.
(my grandfather)
His father was Jonathan Kershner, son of J + C. E. Kershner, was born Mar. 3, 1814 Wash Co. Md.

(my grandmother)
His mother was Catharine E. Mc ~~ct~~ a han or ~~K han~~ (I believe it is) (wife of Jonathan Kershner) was born Dec. 16 1816.

My mother and father were married Nov. 27, 1866. Greenville Ill. Bond County.
by T. W. Hynes.

John H. Braden + Cora E. Kershner married Oct. 18, 1912, Amsterdam Mo by Rev. R. A. Esdon.

Cora Ella Kershner Braden.
born Dec. 20, 1887. Amsterdam Mo.
her father was
Jonathan Henry Kershner
born Oct. 3rd 1842. Wash Co. Md.
her mother was Fanny Cecile
Pahud, born in Bioley
Mignoux, Switzerland
March 25, 1848. Parents French.
Came to America 1849.

Grandfather, my mother's father was
Jaques Francois Pahud, born in
Bioley-Mignoux, Switzerland
March 15, 1819. He was the son
of Jaques Daniel Pahud and
Anna Susanne Pahud of Bioley Mt.
Mignoux. Switzerland.

Grandmother, my mother's mother was Louise Virginia Perey born in Orsens, Switzerland, Oct. 28, 1818. She was the daughter of David Samuel Perey + his wife Susanna Marguerite of Orsens.

Jacques Francois Pahud and Louis Virginie Perey (my grandparents) were married at Donneloye May 20, 1842.

The above are on my mother's side. My cousin Wm Roy McNutt was over in Switzerland in the spring of 1936 and went and found these records there. I have his letter with other records if you wish to see it some time.

Kershner

Brother Oscar died Apr. 2, 1944.
" Fred " Mar. about 22 - 1943.

Bro. Louis and Wife Elsie.
George +
Helen + John Ziegler
Juaneta + Row Davidson.

George's children { L. G. (In Navy.)
Lavaun

Helen's " { Paula
Rollin

Bro. Fred and Josie.
Fred's step children - Lela Pitts.
Lola Kershner. Fern _____
Jim Clark + wife Elsie, and
daughter Frankie Joe.

Brother Ray and Helen. (over)

over 2.

Brother Earl L. Kershner + Lola
Bob or Robert --- In Navy.
Louise ---- work Telephone office
Edyth --- School.

Sister Elsie + Clarence Howe.
Vena Daniels now Lewis.
Vena's son Laurence Daniels
" daughter Minnie May.

May Crouch — (being) Artie Crouch.
2 sons.

Frank Howe
Marie
Dorthy
{ Marcia daughter

Sister Ida + Ben Howe.
Carl + Evelyn
Evelyn has boy + girl
Olliver and

Ernest + Hazel
Betty
Dorthy
Peggy another girl

Leta and Claude Bird
Charles
Ruth.
Helen.

John Hervey Braden was born Apr. 13, 1880. near old Mulberry. Mo.

His father was David Ritchey Braden of Mulberry Mo.

His mother was Lizzie M. Leech, Braden, daughter of John and Esther Leech. She was born October 25, 1852 near Hopedale, Ohio and died Feb. 16, 1930 at her home in Amoret Mo. aged 77 yr. 3 mo. 11 da. She was married to David Ritchey Braden Oct. 25, 1877, at Hopedale Ohio. Made their home at Mulberry Mo.

(Notice)

Sorry Mildred but I can't find the paper you sent me. If you want to know more about the

over

Written up by Mildred (Wall) Braden
Mrs. Amos V. ")

Revised - 1980

Birthdays

				Died
Cora Ella Kershner — Mother Braden -	1887 (10th child)	Dec. 20		1964
John Henry B. — Father Braden -	1880 (3rd child)	Apr. 10		1943
4 children	Alice Cox -	1913	Sept. 15	
	Garland Braden	1915	May 4	
	Amos "	1917	May 24	
	Wilma Seelig	1920	Feb. 2	
	Aunt Esther Braden (Mrs. David B.) Died 4-79		Nov. 27	
	Thelma Braden Hartzog		Dec. 7 cousin	
	Naomi Braden 1927 or 28		Jan. 1 "	
Alice's daughter -	Sharon Cox married	1944	Mar. 11	
Wilma's husband	Bill Seelig - 1913	died 4-78	Aug. 25	- 1978
Alice's husband	Homer Cox -	1910	Oct.	
Wilma's daughter	Barbara Seelig - married		Apr. '46	
Amos's daughter	Mary Ella Stuart		9-3-45	
	Joyce Mc Moran		8-1-49	
	Laura Braden		2-21-59	
" wife -	Mildred B. (Wall)		4-22-17	
Garland's family	John	—	about 1952	
	Connie	—	1954	
	twins - Andrew + Elizabeth -		Dec. 1957	
wife	Gwen		about 1925	

Written up by Mildred (Wall) Braden
(Mrs. Amos N. ")

Revised - 1980

Birthdays

Cora Ella Kerschner — John Henry B.

4 children

Mother Braden -	1887	(1 of 11 children)	Dec. 20	died 1964
Father Braden -	1880	(3rd of 7 children)	Apr. 13	1943
Alice Cox -	1913		Sept. 15	
Garland Braden	1915		May 4	
Amos "	1917		May 24	
Wilma Seelig	1920		Feb. 2	
Aunt Esther Braden (mrs. David) (died 4-79)			Nov. 27	
Thelma Braden Hartzog -			Dec. 7	
Naomi Braden (mac Braden daughter)	1927	a28	Jan. 1	
Alicia daughter · Sharon Cox,	1944		Mar. 11	
- Bill Seelig (Wilma's husband - died 4-1978)	1913		Aug. 25	- 1978
- Homer Cox (Alicia's husband)	1910		Oct.	
Wilma's daughter · Barbara Seelig			Apr. '46	
Amos's daughter - · Mary Ella Stuart			9-3-45	
· Joyce Mc Moran			8-1-49	
" wife - · Laura Braden			2-21-59	
· Mildred B. (Wall) B.			4-22-17	
Garland's family · John			about	1952
· Connie			"	1954
· twins Andrew + Elizabeth			- Dec.	1957
wife - · Gwen			about	1925

Blue print on white
Between Old + New Testaments

"WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."



This Certifies

THAT THE RITE OF

MATRIMONY

WAS CELEBRATED BETWEEN

John H. Kershner of Greenville Ills

and Fannie Cecil Pahud of Greenville Ills

on Nov 21st 1866 at Greenville (Bond Co) Ills.

by D. N. Haynes

Witnesses: _____

_____

Xeroxed by Mildred Braden from Kershner family Bible.

Mr. & Mrs. Amos H. Braden
215 Queens Road
Pasadena, TX 77502
(713) 944-6706.

Written up by Mildred (Wall) Braden
(Mrs. Amos H. ")

Revised - 1980

Birthdays

Cora Ella Kerschner — Mother Braden - 1887 (10th of 11 children) Dec. 20 — died 1964
John Henry B. — Father Braden - 1880 (3rd of 7 children) Apr. 18 — 1943

4 children:
- Alice Cox - 1913 Sept. 15
- Garland Braden 1915 May 4
- Amos " 1917 May 24
- Wilma Seelig 1920 Feb. 2

Aunt Esther Braden (mrs. David) Died 4-79 Nov. 27
Thelma Braden Hartary - Dec. 7
Naomi ~~Braden~~ nee Braden daughter 1927 a 28 Jan. 1

Alice's daughter
- Sharon Cox, 1944 Mar. 11
- Bill Seelig 1913 Aug. 23 — 1978
  Wilma's husband - died 4-1978
- Homer Cox 1910 Oct.
  (Alice's husband)

Wilma's daughter
- Barbara Seelig Apr. '46

Amos's daughter
- Mary Ella Stuart 9-3-45
- Joyce Mc Moran 8-1-49
- Laura Braden 2-21-59

" wife —
- Mildred B. (Wall) B. 4-22-17

Garland's family
- John about 1952
- Connie " 1954
- twins Andrew + Elizabeth — Dec. 1957

wife -
- Gwen about 1925

Blue print on white
Between Old + New Testaments

"WHAT GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."



This Certifies

THAT THE RITE OF

HOLY MATRIMONY

WAS CELEBRATED BETWEEN

Colon H. Kershner of Greenville Ills

and Fannie Cecile Pahud of Greenville Ills

on Nov 21st 1866 at Greenville (Bond Co) Ills.

by J. W. Haynes

Witnesses:

Xeroxed by Mildred Braden from Kershner family Bible.

Mr. & Mrs. Amos H. Braden
215 Queens Road
Pasadena, TX 77502
(713) 944-6706.

BIRTHS

Henry E Kershner
was born Oct 5-1867
Bond Co. Ills.

Oscar Kershner
was born Nov 2-1868
Bond Co. Ills.

Alfred Kershner
was born Apr 22-1870
Bond Co. Ills.

Louis Kershner
was born Sept 2-1872
Bates Co. Mo.

Emma Ida Kershner
was born March 11-1874
Bates Co. Mo.

Edna E. Kershner
was born Sept 25-1878
Bates Co. Mo.

Raymond A. Kershner
was born Apr 4-1876
Bates Co. Mo.

Lawrence and
Florence May Kershner
were born May 7-1884
Bates Co. Mo.

twins

Cora Ella Kershner
was born Dec 20-1887
Bates Co. Mo.

Earl Leslie Kershner
was born Dec 23-1890
Bates Co. Mo.

DEATHS

Laurence Kershner
Died May 7-1884
Bates Co. Mo.

Oscar Kershner
Died April 2, 1944
Kansas City, Mo.
Home at Drexel, Mo.

Florence May Kershner
Died March 9-1887
Bates Co. Mo.

Louis Kershner
Died Dec. 7, 1948
Amoret, Mo. (Home)

Henry E. Kershner
Died June 6-1887
Bates Co. Mo.

w/o Ella Kershner (BRADEN)
Died 1964

Elsie E. Kershner (Howe)
Died Jan. 6, 1939, at
Butler, Bates Co., Mo.
Her home at Adrian, Mo.

Alfred Kershner
Died March 11, 1943,
at Kansas City, Mo.
Home at Amsterdam, Mo.

Written on back of a blank page by
Cora E. Kershner Braden

Fanny Cecile Pahud was born March 25, 1845.
Bioley Mignoux Switzerland
came to America 1849.
John Henry Kershner was born Oct. 3, 1842.
Hagerstown, Fredrick County, Maryland
Wash county Md.
Adele Pahud was born at Everdon, Switzerland
Nov. 4, 1845.

Frank Vuagniau was born at Moudon,
Switzerland. July 20, 1835

Fanny Cecile Kershner died Aug. 11, 1903. at home
near Amsterdam, Mo. Buried at Mt. Vernon
John H. Kershner died Oct. 9, 1924 at Amsterdam
Mo. age 82 yr. Buried at Mt Vernon Cemetery

John H Braden died Nov 22, 1943
S. Ben Howe died May 18, 1957
Emma Ida Howe died Jan. 24,

Braden's buried at Sharon Cemetery, Drexel, Mo.



Charlesbridge Cards

Thank you for writing to me. We are very glad that I & my cap are the least among.

Love, Leslie

April 4, 1978

Dear Ruth and Stuart –

The book (Vol II) is Great! You really deserve an Amen for all you have accomplished. I know you must be pleased and relieved to have it all bound up and preserved. Just can't thank you enough! –

I'm anxious to see Mary's finished product –

I'm so sorry she is having so many problems. She has worked so hard and diligently. I'm glad she is getting some help with the index.

We've had an addition to our family as of March 29 – now both our sons have a daughter & a son! We are so thrilled for them.

Looks like you'll be running out of books! I knew you'd have a good response.

I'm planning on filling out SAR Papers for the 2 sons this year – one with Philip Kirshner as the Patriot –

(back)

cc for Helen + Jim Kershner
Conrad b 1733 of Martin b 1703

15 April 1978

Dear Mary:

Thank you for sending me the copy of Helen Kershner's lineage sheet. I can see why you are concerned, but I imagine this is a draft.

Though many of the items agree with the bits and pieces we've put together, several are at variance with statements I accept as fact, and another several not only lack proof, but might prove to be embarrassingly wrong fairly soon.

1. I accept the record of Dr. Fritz Braun, German genealogist, who found the birth record of Johannes (not Johan) Kirschner, November 26, 1693, at Selbold, (today Langenselbold), Hesse, son of Johannes Conrad Kurschner and wife Maria. They were members of the Reformed Church, Dr. Braun wrote to Dr. A. G. Kershner on 6 Feb. 1955. Langenselbold is about six miles East of Frankfort-on-Main, according to Dr. Faust. I believe Dorothy Steele told me she wrote direct to the pastor of the church and received a copy of the record from him.

Family tradition holds that Johannes' wife Gertrude was a Faust, which seems probable, but not proven. Dr. Faust (Howard M.,M. D, 1508 N. Madison Ave, Anderson, Indiana 46000,)author of The Faust-Foust Family in America, did not write me a reply to my letter, but phoned me, so all I have is notes I made during the call. He thinks he recalls that Gertrude Faust was a widow Faust when she married Johannes Kirschner, and recommended to me a genealogist in Frankfort, Max Steinbaur, 6000 Frankfort (Mein) Fontarestrasse 58, W. Germany. Dr. Faust said he noted numerous Faust-Kirschner intermarriages before ~~1699~~ 1700. This would be an excellent place, I think, to search for records of the birth of Martin Kirschner who died 1782. You will recall that the ship's records said Gertrude Kirschner was 50 and Johannes 40 in 1733.

2. Although I think it is possible, and even probable, that Martin Kirschner who died 1782 in Bern Township, Berks Co. Pa. could have been an older son of Johannes and Gertrude, I have not found any proof and I don't know anyone else who has. I just noted, in Herbert Bair's collection, notes from the Gearhart letters (in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Reading), which mention the Martin Kirschner immigration of 1742, and have the word "Amish"in parentheses after his name. I take this to mean Gearhart thought he had gone to York Co. but I have not researched York Co. Certainly the Berks Co.History is wrong about when Martin settled there. Perhaps I was jumping to conclusions when I noticed Martin's name on Johannes' inventory and began documenting his connections to Conrad I and John George--but I think you will agree that my conclusion was that the possibility that he was a son should be further investigated. I still think so. Gearhart's statements have not held up well under research.

By the way, Berks Co. was not founded till 1752--Johannes d. 1742 in Lancaster Co., Bern Township. They arrived 27 August 1733 on the ship Elizabeth of London. These statements I accept as documented fact.

2. Issue of Martin (d. 1782) of Bern Twp. who had a child baptised in 1743. I do not think he was born around 1720 for this reason: he also had a son Conrad, I think, who was on the tax list in 1758, hence at least 21 years old. If we use the normal estimates, that Martin was 25 and Conrad his eldest child, it pushes Martin's birthdate back to an estimated 1712 and would cast considerable doubt on his being the son of Johannes born 1693. So either Martin was married much younger than age 24, or he was a nephew or other close relative of Johannes. You see why I would not feel at all comfortable claiming Martin was Johannes' son without further proof. Hubert Miller of Sinking Spring--right in the area where both Johannes and Martin lived--said this Conrad was born about 1733.

2. (Martin Kershner cont'd) I agree that Martin's wife was Elizabeth. There are six records of her as his wife, and in ~~1770~~ 1771 she participated in the deeds made to Peter and Nicholas "sons of sd Martin and Elizabeth".

3. Conrad (called, in deeds "Conrad the First") was born 15 Sept. 1717, died 10 April 1791 and is buried at Zion Church cmemtery in Perry (formerly Windsor) Twp., Berks Co. Pa. He married Catherin Beck (Bec,Bek). Moved from Bern Twp. across the Schuylkill River about 1744 or perhaps at the time of his marriage. (1744 deed) His oldest child, Conrad ("the Second") born 1 August 1744.

4. John George is usually said to have been born in 1721. Perhaps Mr. Millikin will have a better date for him.

Second Generation (please see chart on p 219 of Vol. II for dates)

5. Conrad b.ca. 1733? must have been the oldest son, according to the tax lists.

6. Martin is also said to have been a son, according to Hubert Miller. This should be mentioned cautiously with the word "possibly" or a question mark.

7. John Nicholas is the one who was baptised in Aug. 1743 in Bern Twp.

8. Gertrude was baptised in Sept. 1744.

9. Peter was baptised 17 April 1747.

10. Philip was born about 1750 (Hubert Miller) or not later than 1755 (RBK).

There were very probably other children, especially girls, born between Conrad and John Nicholas. However, some may have been lost on the voyage to America, which was very hard on little children.

As you can see, the above dates have messed up the numbering system, so I'd better use them instead of the ones you sent on Helen's lineage.

9. Back to Peter b 1747: his son Jonathan is said to have been born 1772, but I cannot give any documentation. His wife's name was Anna Maria (from deed record in Wash. Co. Md. 1814) and he died in 1814, probably in Bedford Co. Pa. See the chapter on the Pennsylvania Connection in Vol. II. Catherine No. 16, was probably not the youngest, but named last because she was a woman. She had four children and was dead by 1809, and at least some of the children were born before 1800. She is buried at St. Paul's, Clear Spring (no stone).

5. Back to Conrad, eldest son of Martin d 1782: Herb Bair has a record of a Conrad Kershner b. ca. 1734, died Dec. 1820 at the age of 86 years, two mo. 21 days, in Alsace Twp, Berks Co. Pa. Data from an obituary in a Reading newspaper. I am trying to get hold of this obit. Herb says the paper says his wife was named Barbara. He was apparently in the 1810 census of Alsace Twp. I have a 1792 deed in Alsace Twp from a Conrad Kershner to his son John, land with the consideration that Conrad and his wife EVA are to be given half the profits for life. There is a Conrad in the 1790 census of Alsace Twp. So I have prospects for Martin's son Conrad with three different wives, one with a son John, another with two daughters. Let me suggest great caution in publishing any one of them as the son of Martin and Elizabeth. If all these leads cannot be given, it's better not to give any of them, I think.

Probably Helen is fixing up a sheet for the family reunion Memorial Day, so should be extra careful that unproved information doesn't get out.

By the way, I have not heard from Mrs. Olson, so still no proof, only inference, that Philip Kershner's wife was Christiana Ridenour. Probably, but not positively.

Feb. 10, 1978
Manhattan, Kans

Dear Ruth:

We just returned from several weeks stay in Arizona so I'm trying to take care of my correspondence.

First — I'm enclosing a check for $7.50 for the hard-back cover Vol. II. I'm anxiously awaiting it! I have a feeling as soon as the book is in circulation you will have an influx of orders! Just can't tell you how much we appreciate all you have done. I know what a relief it is to you to have it in the hands of the printer.

I surely hope Mary will have her volume done professionally — just between the two of us I'm dubious as to her arrangement of the genealogical part. The more simple the format the better. — Hope I'll be pleasantly surprised. She has surely worked hard and over a long period of time and I am most appreciative of it; I know I owe her many thanks.

My brother & sister-in-law from Austin were with us about 10 days in Arizona.

Wish I was closer so I could help you with the mailing etc. — By the way we have had no trouble with the mailing of books here — so doubt if you do. —

Fondly
Helen & Jim K.

20 Feb. 1977

Dear Helen:

You must be having a nice winter holiday in Arizona. I even like it there in summer.

I didn't thank you for the proofreading job on the Philip Kershner/ Penna. material, but will postpone retyping until you get back and have a chance to check your file. You are a really good proofreader, and heaven knows I need one. I can get so tangled up in all these Kershners that they sprain my brain. And I am not a good typist.

But I want to consult you on a few items before I make any changes.

In The Pennsylvania Connection, pp 18/19, the chart showing the early Conrad Kershners: I too have a note by Dr. Ammon Kershner that Mary Engle, dau of Conrad I, was a twin of Andon. However, I have a later note that she was the youngest in the family, and I think he probably changed his opinion after locating the original Zion Church record which he reproduced between pp. 6 and 7 when he had George C. Kershner's work published. I think you have a copy. When this church was founded about 1761, built 1762, they apparently started a register of the families, and on p.llwxxx Conrad Kirshner and frau Catherina's 11 children, all listed in the same handwriting, beginning with Conrad b. 1744, then Andon 1746, Elizabetha 1747, Peter 1749, and ending with Martin 1762. It is apparently an authentic document, in German, but has some discrepancies. The birthdates, but not the baptismal dates, are listed. The far right-hand column, which I would expect to be the baptismal sponsors, has names that are different, in some cases, from the baptismal records at Hain's. I would think they were persons for whom the children were named, since all have the same Christian names--except one! Johannes' sponsors were xxxxxxxx Matheis Bec and frau Engel, 1756. So it's a question of opinion which to believe. If there is a baptismal record showing Andon and Mary Engle born the same date, I would like to include it, for a general rule is that the record made on the spot is more reliable than one made later. But I have no such record, and the 1762 one is the oldest I have. Please furnish me a better reference if you have one.

In Philip Kershner, p 6, the word sperate is correct. I never heard of it either and had to ask Jeff Wyand to interpret. Disperate means bad debt, not considered collectible: sperate the opposite, so I defined it as collectible.

Jean Rigler has come up with a thought, too. Like us, she would hate to see something in print that might mislead someone, and we are trying to trace the authority for the maiden name of the wife of Peter Kershner b. 1749 (son of Conrad I). The deed gives Catherine, and in 1792 they were living in that part of Northampton Co. which became Lynn Twp of Lehigh Co. in 1812. Rev. Helfrick's Ebenezer Church records show Philip Kershner b. 18 Feb. 1783, son of Johan Peter Kershner and wife Catherine Faust. Tombstone records of that church gives Peter Kershner, infant Michael, and Catharina Bausten (Jean says it is a very poor copy) which she thinks xxxxx might be Faust with the femenine ending. The stone for Johan Philip's Peter is quoted in History of Lehigh Co. (which is certainly wrong about xxx father being Conrad II) but the tombstone date matches the 1749 birth date.

The problem here is that George C. Kershner's records, and possibly a D.A.R. record, says Peter's wife was Catherine Fenstermacher and implies she was a sister of Michael Fenstermacher who md. Phillipine, dau. of Conrad I. In the context, it's "Peter and his brother-in-law Michael Fenstermacher", I think. We are suspecting that this relationship was inferred from a statement that a Conrad Kershner, said to have been the son of Peter b. 1749, married "his cousin Barbara Fenstermacher." Their children were named legatees in the will of Philip Fenstermacher, 1789, who listed eight sons and one daughter, but no Catherine. As Jean correctly points out, Peter and Phillipina were brother and sister, hence her husband, Michael Fenstermacher, would have been Peter's brother-in-law through the Kershner line and their children would have been first cousins without Peter's wife being a Fenstermacher.

Do you have in your files any source for the Catherine Fenstermacher record? Unless a better one turns up, it seems to me it would be safer to indicate Peter's wife might have been a Faust. I've written to Dave Hollenbach to ask his co-worker, Warren Faust, if he can shed any light on this through Faust family records. For that matter, I don't know where the identification of old Johannes' Kirshner's wife, Gertrude Faust, came from.

These episodes have certainly shaken my faith in the family sketches printed in the county histories. I've found family tradition to be pretty fanciful, too.

Again, let me thank you for the time and patience and very good reading you gave this material. I wish you would do all the rest of it, too!

Sincerely,

PROTECT YOUR
MOST VALUABLE ASSET!

Feb. 4, 1977

Ruth —

a note I have copied at some time from: History of Western Maryland by J. Thomas Scharf, A.M. 1882

Vol. I.

p. 432 — Wills proven before 1748 were in Prince George Co. and there recorded, but on the erection of Frederick co. copied into the Will book (A) of the latter.

p. 431 list of those who died and left wills between the organization of the county up to 1777:

Martin Kershner 1769

Vol. II

p. 1196 - Hagerstown Bank (1822)
Director - Andrew Kershner

Thought you might be interested in above. — We're getting ready to go to Arizona for a month.

Helen K.

DISABILITY
INCOME PROTECTION

INTER-STATE
assurance company
420 KEOSAUQUA WAY / DES MOINES, IOWA 50308

Form 2437

PROTECT YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET!

28 Dec. 1976

Ruth —

You've done a great job! — Rec'd. the papers yesterday and have looked them over and marked with pencil

p. 10, 16, 18, 19, 20 in "The Penn. Connection"

p. 2 "The Ridenour Connection"

p. 6, 12 "Philip Kershner"

(Where I've written in on p 19 may need correcting — was comparing it to my file!

Lovingly
Helen

DISABILITY INCOME PROTECTION

INTER-STATE assurance company
420 KEOSAUQUA WAY / DES MOINES, IOWA 50308

Form 2437

HELEN FELL KERSHNER
1701 Winne Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE KS 664
PM
6 JUN
1975



Mrs. Stuart Kershner
6667 Van Hishta Dr.
Falls Church, Va.
22044



Ans 15 Feb 1976

Daughters of the American Colonists
National Headquarters - Washington, D. C.

Aug. 29, 1975
Manhattan, Kans.

HELEN FELL KERSHNER
1701 Winne Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Most interesting (but the news) (that Rich wife's 1st child died, now (has children, names, or with dates (except the 2 infants who died)

Dear Ruth:

I surely appreciated the use of the book by Peter D. Ridenour - 1906. Now I'd like to read the ← Ridenour book by John 1973 — Do you know if it is available?

To me there is sufficient material to prove Christiana Ridenour to be the dau. of Peter and also that she is the wife of Philip Kershner.

Since charting the Ridenour's and Kershner's it looks to me to be logical that Rosina Kershner Ridenour (Nichols), Elizabeth Kershner Yager (Jonathan) and Martin Kershner (Eliz.) were brother and sisters. I'm also wondering if some of the Ridenour wives (Eve) might not have been of the Startzman or Hogmire (Hoffinger) families. Names are good leads — (and puzzles).

I'm returning the book — will put it in the mail to-morrow, and again, many thanks.

I feel so indebted to you and Mary K. M. for all the research you have done! I'm looking forward to seeing the Kershner book in Print!

We do hope we will have the privilege of meeting sometime. If you are ever in our area, please do stop by.

Sincerely,
Helen K.

P.S. Jim and I are going to Estes Park, Colo. next week for 10 days or longer — it has been so hot and dry here — we're really looking forward to being in the mountains.

Manhattan, Kansas
May 13, 1975

Dear Mary:

I was so thrilled to receive your letter yesterday.

(Guess my vision isn't the best yet.) Anyway, I am starting to make a complete, or as I have it, family lineage from Isaac and Eve (Startzman) Kershner to our present family. It may take a few days but I'll get it to you as soon as possible.

As I wrote you, Jim had open heart surgery last October 23rd (and he is doing great, plays 18 holes of golf and pulls his cart-- he does take care of himself and doesn't overdo)-- well, on April 23rd I had surgery on the left internal carotid artery and am still on the recuperating list; seems my blood pressure isn't down enough yet, but as I feel like it I'll type. (I've had the right carotid artery operated on twice-- and now the left---disgusting, but thankful they can be repaired.)

I am completely satisfied with the data from Ruth in regard to proof for Isaac as son of Philip and Christina... in sorting the material several years ago it seemed to me to be the one he belonged to. (I'M still going to try to locate the Family Bible of Isaac and Eve-- a few years ago I corresponded with a "cousin" in Bellville, Ill. who told me the branch that had it in early 1900's, but I haven't been able to get in touch with any of them to date.)

Mary, I only wish I could help you more; you have done and still are doing a terrific job. I will tell you now that we want three (3) copies of the book and will be happy to pay in advance. (A friend of mine sent out letters prior to having the book printed, requesting advance payment--her response was terrific and had to have more printed than she'd anticipated.)

Stuart and Ruth, you, too, have done a wonderful job toward placing all these KERSHNER's. Next time we're in Austin we'll look you up. (My brother A.W.Fell lives at 5510 Exeter in Austin).

Best wishes to you.

Lovingly,

Helen

Helen and Jim Kershner
1701 Winne Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

cc. to Ruth & Stuart

Not feeling well has been most frustrating — especially with all the plans for genealogy — all my data etc + then not able to work at it! — Surely I can get at it in earnest before much longer — (think I'll mow a bit — give up golf)

June 10, 1975
Manhattan, Kansas

Dear Mary and Ruth:

Just finished arranging the Kershner records which I have on Jim's line. Hope it is satisfactory and that you can decipher it.

I am so sorry Jim's father isn't still living to read this. In 1945 when I asked him his nationality and of his family he knew so little and did so want to know more about them. I told him then that I would do research on them some day---little did we dream he would die in a year or so. It's a consolation to know that his children and grandchildren will have the privelege of knowing something of their Kershner heritage. And so much credit for it belongs to you, Mary, Ruth and Stuart. Can't thank you enough for all your help etc.
If there is anything else I can do to help you in any way, please let me know and I'll do my best.
There is so much more I could have obtained on the Illinois bunch if I'd not had so much surgery etc the past 8 years. (Hopefully that's the end of it.) I intend to keep on with it, so should have much more in a few years.

Now for a bit of explanation on the enclosed pages:

The arrangement is by generation and the names of the children in one generation, if married and they have children, are carried forward as parents in the next generation where they may be found by their corresponding numbers.

The figures attached to names, as John (2), indicate the generation to which the individuals belong, counting the earliest imigrant ancestor as No.1.

Dates are given in the order of month, day and year, and for economy of space, numbers are used instead of names for the months.

Abbreviations: b. for born; d. for died; bur. for buried; ch. for church; dau. for daughter; res. for residence; co. for county.

Hope this finds you well and making good progress.

Sincerely and Best Wishes,

Helen

Sent cmm rec Jac K 61777 - Clark Ohio
con. rec " " " " "
wife Martin K 1771 Berks Co Pa
" Peter K 1809 " " "



Daughters of the American Colonists
National Headquarters - Washington, D. C.

Dear Ruth:

Rec'd. your card — wish I could be doing as you are! — I had quite a set back the day after I wrote the letter to you + Mary and am just now able to type for an hour or so at a time — so guess I'll make it again! — This has been the slowest recovery I've ever had. — Hope I don't have to go through it again. —

I have searched and do not find a copy of proof Christina is dau. of Peter Ridenour — I thought I had a copy of a will but do not find such — so I need to get copies of Peter Ridenour Court Records and also a copy of Christina's will C:305 probated 21 Mar. 1826 Bond C:420 in Wash. Co. Md records. — and copies of 3 inventories + sale from Orphans Court p. 171 11 Ap. 1826. — Isaac Kershner etc. to sell goods etc.

I have done so little on the Kershner lineage the past 5 years so I've really enjoyed going through my note books + files on them. — I'm making triple copies of my rough lineage of Isaac + Eve — will send you 1 copy as soon as I finish — I

know there is much more available if I had just been able to work on it more (that is physically). However, perhaps Mary already has some of it. — It always amuses (and disgusts) me when I write for info and they give me everybody in their family except their own.

Best wishes to you and good luck.

Sincerely,
Helen Kershner

Last nite I called an Edward Ray Kershner in Poplar Bluff, Mo. to check out a note on one of my file cards. Said his family were Pennsylvania Dutch — he was b. 2-28-1906 Poplar Bluff, Mo. son of Geo. Wesley Kershner & Gertrude Richards of Pa. — (not of our lineage, he said!)

16 Dec 1980

Moudy
Andrew Kershner
b 1787
Wash Co Md

Dear Ruth,

First, I must apologize for taking so long to answer your letter. I am occasionally slow but not usually ~~that~~ this bad. We have started a new county genealogical society & most of the query answering has fallen to me so I have let my own go. From now on I'm giving myself equal time.

I am coming to the belief that we are all looking for the Moudy's too "low" & if we move to Pennsylvania maybe we can find the loose parts. The Elizabeth, Sarah, & Rosanna Moudy you list are certainly in the right place at the right time. The Catharine Moudy I am looking for married Joseph Harr in Washington Co., Md. on 15 Oct. 1812. I have absolutely no clues as to her parents. I have been assuming John Moudy was her father simply because he was there in 1790, the year before she was born. She was certainly ~~a~~ not a daughter of George Moudy — see his will on the enclosed sheets.

If I ever get to the state library I will check the listings on the censuses but for now have to make do with the index.

You are the first contact I have had with anyone with Moudys in this area. Maybe with several of us working we can untangle the puzzle. I had not found your names, but then I had not found <u>any</u> Moudys but Catharine & John until this spring. Please keep in touch. I promise to be somewhat more prompt in the future.

Ann Tarwin (over)

Ann Tarwin
1117 W. National
Brazil, Ind. 47834

I nearly forgot – Catharine Moudy Harr & family moved to Butler Co, Ohio (around 1840?) and there were other moudys there also. I haven't found any connection there either but there must be one.

Note Dec 23

Balser Moudy 1783 assessment
320 ac Jacks Bottom + Pt of Hollowson.
also James McClain + Arnold Shaver
owned Jacks Bottom, No one
else on Hollow Spring

Washington Co., Md. land records

John Moudy, son of Baltus Moudy to Casper Moudy
Book N, Page 167
Recorded 7 Oct 1800
Land inherited from father Baltus Moudy
Signed by mark (John Moudy)
wife was not examined

Washington Co., Md. cemetery lists

Moudy, George Sr. 14 Jun 1764-14 Oct 1835
Moudy, Eli d Aug 27, 1879 age 61 yr 6 m 9 d
(St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clearspring, Md.)

(all others after 1830)

Washington Co., Md. wills

George Mowdy
written 23 Aug 1835
wife: Eve
dau: Maria
Matilda Ash
Elizabeth Burns (deceased)
sons: George
Adam
signed by mark
executor: John Ash

1790 Census--Washington Co., Md.

John Moudy 1 male adult, 1 female adult

Pennsylvania in 1780 (tax lists)

Moudy, Balzer York Co., Manahan Township Baltus?
(from Pennsylvania Archive, Ser. 3, Vol. 21)

1790 Pennsylvania Census

275 Moudy, Mathias 1 / 1 / 4 / - / -
275 Moudy, Stophill 2 / - / 2 / - / -

1800 Pennsylvania Census

Moudy, Matthias 30010/03011 York Co., p. 1407

1810 Pennsylvania Census (Index)

Moudy, Christopher York Co., Franklin Twp., p. 1113

1820 Pennsylvania Census (Index)

Moudy, John Cumberland Co., South Middleton Twp., p. 24 is this the John from Md.?
Moudy, John Cumberland Co., South Middleton Twp., p. 25
Moudy, Mathias Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 66

1830 Pennsylvania Census Index

Moudy, John York Co., Franklin Twp., p. 280
Mondy, Matthias Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 7
Mondy, William Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 17

1840 Pennsylvania Census Index

Moudy, Christopher York Co., Franklin Twp., p. 215
, Francis Green Co., Jefferson Twp., p. 127
, Jacob Green Co., Jefferson Twp., p. 127
, Joseph Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 47
, Mathias Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 53
, William Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 43
, William Chester Co., West Nautmeal Twp., p. 37
Mondy, Francis "Nort" Co. (Northampton or Northumberland?)
Mauch Ch_____, p. 212

1850 Pennsylvania Census Index

Moudy, Abraham Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 349
, David Berks Co., Douglass Twp., p. 306
, Francis Greene Co., Jefferson Twp., p. 136
, Jacob Greene Co., Jefferson Twp., p. 129
, Joseph Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 362
, William Cumberland Co., Carlisle Twp., p. 354
, William Cumberland Col, Carlisle Twp., p. 335
, William Chester Co., Honeybrook Twp., p. 393
, William Cumberland Co., North Middleton Twp., p. 52
Mondy, Abram Cumberland Co., South Middleton Twp., p. 155
, George Chester Co., West Nantmeal Twp., p. 205
, Margaret Dauphin Co., Harrisburg Twp., p. 95
, Robert Allegheny Co., Pittsburgh Twp., p. 158
, William Berks Co., Douglass Twp., p. 314
, William Chester Co., West Nantmeal Twp., p. 203
, John Chester Co., "W. Bra." (Bradford or Brandywine Twp., p. 295

Historical & Biographical Annals of Berks Co., Pa.--1886

Montgomery, Vol. I.
First tax list (1754?):
Amity Twp.--Mathias Moud

History of Cumberland & Adams Counties (Pa.)--1886

Roll of Taxpayers of Latimore Twp., Adams Co., Pa., in 1807:

Stoffle Moudy, carpenter $50

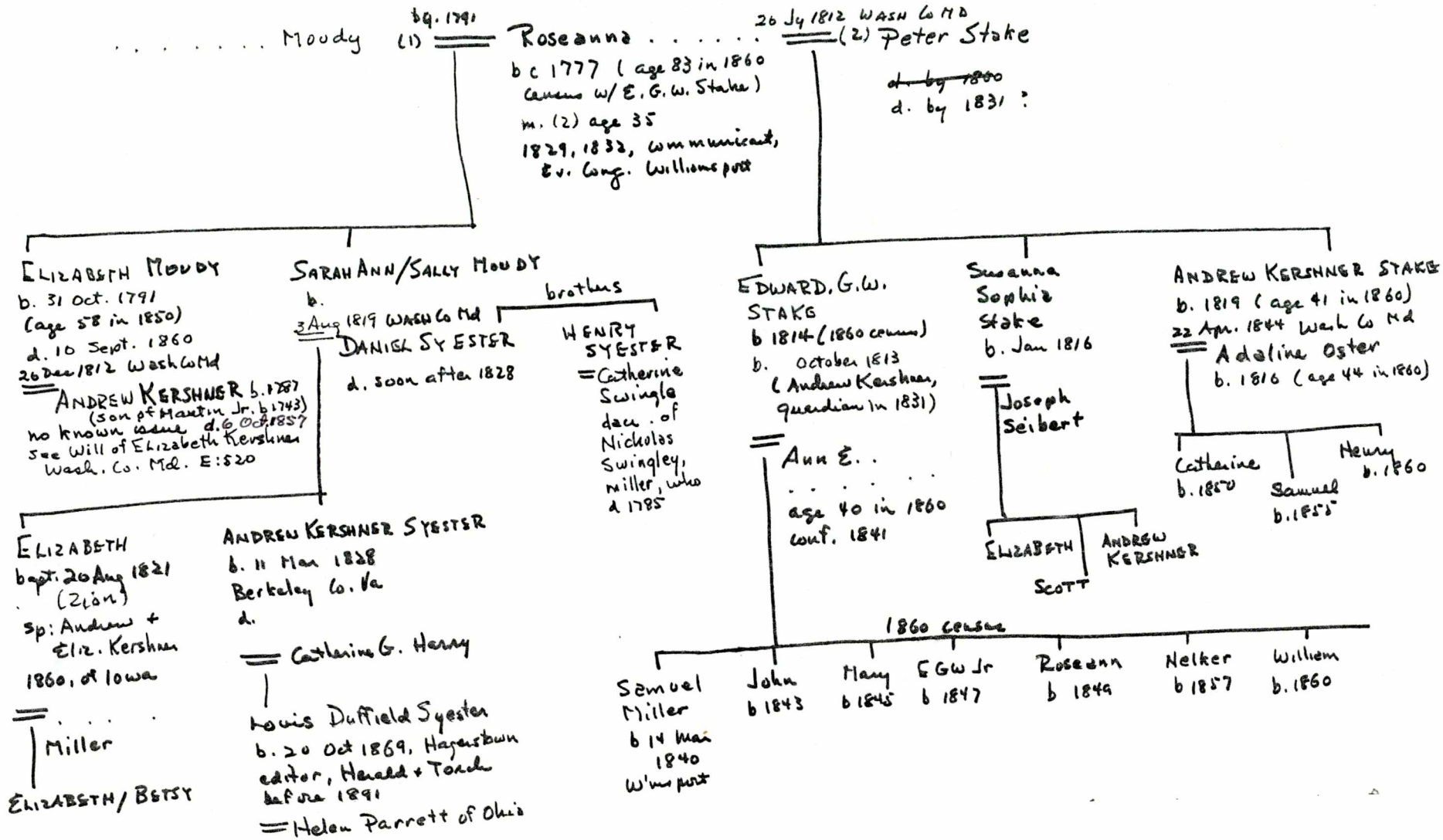
Andrew Kershner b 1787

Ans w/ post card 30 Jan 79
another " " 31 Jan.
Roseanna b 1777 –
if age 83 in 1860. Could she
have been 88? David K 1748
Rachael Rosina b 1772.

---

30 Sept 1980

Sent copy of 26 Jan 1979 letter +
orig chart to Moody researcher
Anna Tarwin 1117 W. National,
Brazil Indiana 47834.
Catherine Moody, 24 May 1791 –
12 Mar 1868, m 15 Oct 1812 Wash Co IN
Joseph Herr/Harr.



1850 - 1860 Census. Georgia Kwiatowski.
Soyster/Syster records, " "
"Kershner Families of Maryland" 1978
CHART By Ruth B. Kershner 1979

STUART G. & RUTH B. KERSHNER, 1414 Red Bud Trail, Austin, Texas 78746, 512/327-2020

6884 Weber Rd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63123
26 Jan 1979

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for all the pages of data, it helped me so much to fill in a lot of gaps. I envy your ability to write up all this interesting material. As you can readily determine, I am not a typist, so please forgive my errors. I am sorry to have taken so long to acknowledge receiving the information. I also feel that I should send you a couple of dollars for zeroxing, and I really am happy to get all this data, I do appreciate it.

You asked if I knew the maiden name of Daniel SYESTER'S wife Sarah or Sally, it was MOUDY, and she was a sister of Elizabeth Moudy KERSHNER (Andrew KERSHNER'S wife). Washington County records:

KERSHNER, Andrew to Elizabeth MOUDY 26 Dec 1812

SYESTER, Daniel to Sarah Ann MOUDY 3 Aug 1819

I am somewhat confused as to the parents of these sisters, I always thought they were daughters of George MOUDY and his wife Eva, but I have no proof. In write-ups in the various county histories of Maryland, Edward STAKE is mentioned as a cousin to Andrew K. SYESTER. There is a marriage in Washington Co. for:

STAKE, Peter to Rosanna MOUDY 26 July 1812

Is this a sister to Elizabeth and Sarah MOUDY or is this a marriage for their widowed mother???? This would explain Elizabeth Kershner listing Edward STAKE as her brother. In 1860 Maryland Census:

STAKE,	E.G.W.	46	Merchant	$2000 R.E./$8000 P.P.
" ,	Ann	40		All born Md.
" ,	John	17		
" ,	Mary	15		
" ,	E.G.W., Jr.	13		
" ,	Rosann	11		
" ,	Nelker	3		
" ,	William	6/12		
" ,	Roseanna	83		$400 R.E./ $500 P.P.

This is evidently Edward Stake's mother living with them. Also in Washington Co., Md. 1860 census:

STAKE,	Andrew K.	41	Supt. Canal	$150 P.P.
" ,	Angeline	44	All born Md.	
" ,	Catherine	10		
" ,	Samuel	5		
" ,	Henry	2/12		

Marriage record for:

STAKE, Andrew Kershner to Adaline OSTER 22 April 1844

The spelling of her first name could be that I couldn't read the records or the census taker could have misspelled it, anyway I am sure it is the same person.

I am going to reorder census and marriage and other records for Washington County and recheck my information. At the time I searched them back in 1970, I didn't know a lot of the names associated with my Soysters. I order films through the L.D.S. Mormon Library Branch in our area.

Shortly after I received your first card, I had a letter from a Larry Palmer in Waynesboro, Va. saying that he had seen my name at the Washington Co. Library as researching "Kershner" and telling me to write to you as you had published two beautiful volumes on the Kershner family. Wasn't this nice of him? I spent one day last October at the Wash. Co. Library, but I didn't think of asking about Kershner then, I had asked about Soyster and made out a list of names. I was in the Western Md. Room in the evening and asked Mr. Frye and he checked for Soyster and suggested that I make a list. No one was listed as being interested in Soyster.

Re: 1850 Washington Co., Md. Census:

MILLER, Nelson	28	$6000 P.P.	b. Md.
" , Elizabeth	20		b. Va.
" , Clarence			b. Md.
SYESTER, Elizabeth	45	(Mother of Andrew K.)	"
" , Lewis	25		"

This is Elizabeth (nee MOUDY) and her daughter Elizabeth MILLER and son Lewis and she was mother of Andrew Kershner Syester.

There was a Michael KERSHNER in Cumberland, Md. in 1800 census. I think that he purchased military lots in Allegany County shortly before 1800. Do you know what family he was from?

My ancestor moved from Washington Co. to Franklin Co., Penn. for a short time, then to Cumberland in Allegany Co., Md. My immigrant ancestor Johan Michael ZEISTER came to Philadelphia from Germany in 1742. The part of Philadelphia County where he settled was taken in 1752 to form Berks Co. I noticed that Nicholas SWINGLE also lived in Berks Co., also the WHITMANS (WAITMANS). From Berks. Co. Michael ZEISTER (SOYSTER, SYSTER, etc.) migrated to Frederick Co. in 1772, later in 1776 was made into part of Washington County. He had four sons, Daniel, Henry, Jacob and Michael, and I am descended from Jacob, and wouldn't you know, I have found less data on him than I have on the other brothers. I have never found a marriage record for Jacob, I only know his wife was Charity and in Franklin County, Pa., I am at a loss as records there are nil for church, etc. and Allegany Co. isn't very good for church and the marriage records were lost.

I just can't tell you how much I appreciate the material that you sent to me and many thanks. Do you still have some copies of your volumes for sale?

Sincerely,

Georgia Kwiatkowski

Georgia Kwiatkowski
6884 Weber Road
St. Louis, Mo. 63123

Martin; Dr. Samuel C., who practised medicine for some time in Boonsboro, is deceased. Mrs. Troup died in February, 1864; Mr. Troup died in 1886. Mr. Troup was a tanner for many years in West Beaver Creek, and became quite wealthy. He and his wife were members of the Reformed Church in Funkstown. Jacob Ressley, grandfather of Eliza (Cushwa) Troup, was with Washington's army at Valley Forge.

Dr. Abram William Lakin and wife have ten children: William Troup, who married Amanda Johnson, resides in Leitersburg District, where he is in the Internal Revenue Service; he has three children, Allen, William and J. Robert; S. Edwin, of Colorado, who married Anna Ogle, and has five children; Mary E., who married Clarence Shafer; Josephine E., who is unmarried; David O., who married Miss Hoffman; Arthur D., at home; Allen R., who is an electrician in Baltimore; Anna E.; Robert T., who studied dentistry with his father and was educated at Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmittsburg, was graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1899, and has continued his father's practice ever since; Fairfax S., the youngest child, is an electrician in Baltimore, and is unmarried. The Lakin family attend the Reformed Church. Dr. Lakin and sons are Democrats. Dr. Lakin was quite successful in his practice, and is the owner of considerable property. Mrs. Lakin is also the possessor of valuable investments. The family is one of the best known and highly respected in Boonsboro.

HON. ANDREW KERSHNER SYESTER, for many years a leading member of the Washington County Bar, and one of the most prominent lawyers in western Maryland, was born March 11, 1828, in the neighborhood of what is now known as the North Mountain station, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Berkeley County, Va., now West Virginia. He was a son of Daniel Syester, who died soon after his son's birth.

After his death, Mrs. Daniel Syester returned to Williamsport, Md., of which place she was a native. Young Syester was reared partly in Williamsport and partly at the home of his uncle, Andrew Kershner, who had married his aunt. Mr. Kershner was one of the prominent citizens of Washington County, and resided about four miles west of Hagerstown on the Western turnpike. In 1842, the youth was sent to the Hagerstown Academy, then in charge of the Rev. Wm. Good. While attending school, he walked and some times rode into town five days of each week. In 1843, he entered the Preparatory Department of Marshall College, at Mercersburg, Pa., and the next year was ready for the Freshman class in college, which he entered in October, 1844. He was graduated in 1849 with the first honors of his class, the valedictory oration being conferred upon him. In the life of the Rev. J. W. Nevin, D. D., who was president of Franklin and Marshall College for many years, complimentary mention is made of Mr. Syester as a student.

Mr. Syester returned to Hagerstown in the autumn of 1849. In January, 1850, on the organization of the House of Delegates, of which his cousin, Andrew K. Stake, was a member, he was appointed one of the committee clerks of that body. At the close of the session of 1850, he returned to the farm of Andrew Kershner, and began the study of the law, first with Jervis Spencer, of Hagerstown. Soon afterwards he entered the offices of James Dixon Roman and Zachariah Claggett, who were then law partners, and with whom he finished his legal studies. He was admitted to the Washington County Bar, at the March term of 1853.

In the autumn of 1853 Mr. Syester was placed on the Whig ticket as a candidate for the House of Delegates. In order to save campaign expenses he made his canvass on foot, visiting the election districts of Hancock, Clearspring, Williamsport, Leitersburg, Cavetown, and Rohrersville, in this unostentatious manner. In those days butter boilings, corn huskings, and quilting parties were numerous in the rural districts. Mr. Syester attended many such gatherings while on his travels, making friends among the country girls, many of whom were induced to electioneer for him with their fathers, brothers, and beaux. The result was that he ran ahead of his colleagues on the Whig ticket, and received the highest vote polled by any candidate in Washington County that year. Upon the organization of the American or Know-Nothing party in 1854, Mr. Syester's commanding gifts of eloquence and fascinating personal address made him one of its leaders, and he was nominated as the Know-Nothing candidate for State's attorney, and elected over David H. Wiles. He served his full term of four years, but declined a second nomination. William Motter, afterwards Judge Motter, was his successor.

In the autumn of 1856 Mr. Syester was nominated as a candidate for judge of the Court of Appeals on the 24th ballot. The candidates voted for in the convention were George A. Pearre, of Allegheney; ex-Gov. A. W. Bradford, of Baltimore; John C. Smith, of Carroll; W. J. Ross and Grayson Eichelberger, of Frederick; Edwin H. Webster, of Harford; and Daniel Weisel and James Dixon Roman, of Washington. Upon the announcement of the 23rd ballot, Elias Davis, one of the delegates from Washington County, moved that the convention adjourn to meet in Hagerstown but this motion was voted down; then Frederick K. Ziegler, a delegate, withdrew Judge Weisel's name, and placed Mr. Syester in nomination. On the final ballot he received the votes of all the delegates except two, one from Washington County, and one from Allegany, for Mr. Roman. Mr. Syester's election was bitterly opposed by one of the defeated candidates for the nomination, but he was beaten by only seventeen votes in the judicial district, which comprised the counties of Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Washington and Allegany, by Judge Bartol, his Democratic opponent. Had Mr. Syester been elected, he would not have been eligible to the office, because he had not yet attained the age of thirty years, which was a constitutional requirement.

Up to the breaking out of the Civil War, Mr. Syester had been in steady opposition to the Democratic party, but at that time, when thousands were leaving its ranks, he joined hands with the few that remained. This change in his political affiliations was a surprise to his friends. In April, 1861, when Governor Hicks' personal staff resigned, he was designated by the Governor as one of his aides, with the rank of colonel, and his commission was sent to the clerk of the Washington County court. "I shall have to decline," Mr. Syester said when the commission was tendered to him, "because my sympathy is with the South, and I am opposed to coercion." A few days later Governor Hicks called an extra session of the legislature to meet in Frederick, and there being a vacancy from Washington County, Mr. Syester was nominated by the Democrats for the House of Delegates; but he was defeated by Lewis P. Fiery. In 1864 he was the Democratic candidate for Congress, but was defeated by former Governor Frank Thomas. In 1867 he was nominated by the Democrats as one of their representatives in the State Constitutional Convention, and was elected. In the autumn of the same year he was elected to the legislature and was offered the speakership by the friends of Governor Swann, but declined because he feared it would jeopardize William T. Hamilton's election to the United States Senate. It was chiefly through his exertions that Mr. Hamilton was chosen United States Senator at that session of the House of Delegates. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention of 1868, which nominated Horatio Seymour for president. In 1871 he was elected Attorney-general of the State and in 1882 he was chosen associate judge of the circuit court for Washington, Alleghany and Garrett counties over his cousin, Judge Edward Stake, by two votes. Judge Stake was a very popular man, and never failed to carry Washington County except on that occasion.

At the time of his election Judge Syester was in full practice at the Bar, and it was more than two years after his elevation to the Bench that he could sit in the trial of causes, except in appeals when criminal cases were heard. He was for years counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio, the Cumberland Valley and Western Maryland Railroads. In his variant practice he was counsel on one side or the other in twenty-eight criminal cases involving life or death. Some of the noted cases in which he was concerned, were the trials of Mrs. Mary C. Wharton, for the murder of General Ketchum, of the U. S. Army; of Joseph Davis, of Carroll County, for the murder of James Linn; of H. Crawford Black, of Allegheny, for the murder of W. W. McKaig; and of Mrs. Mary C. Rowland, charged with the murder of her husband. An incident of the Wharton trial was a sharp question and answer between Mr. Syester and Dr. Warren, a distinguished Baltimore physician. "Are not doctor's mistakes sometimes buried six feet under ground?" asked the attorney general. "Yes," answered the doctor, "and lawyers' mistakes are sometimes hung six feet above ground."

Mr. Syester filled a large space in the history of this County and State, and served creditably under three political parties—Whig, American and Democratic. In his various candidacies before the people he always carried Washington County, except during the war, and led every ticket at all times, except the last in 1882, when the popularity of his cousin, Judge Stake, placed Judge Alvey, who was without opposition in the county, above him. On all other occasions he was the highest

man on either ticket. At the election of 1882 he received the largest vote ever before received in Hagerstown by any candidate of either party.

As an orator, Mr. Syester always manifested many graces. In the trial of causes as well as on the stump, his voice was natural and his gesticulations were graceful and impressive. At all times, the junior members of the Bar found in him a friend and counselor, and he frequently assisted them without charge in the preparation of their cases. Had he chosen one of the great cities as the scene of his labors, he would have become one of the leaders of the American Bar, both in emoluments and reputation.

LOUIS DUFFIELD SYESTER, one of the leaders among the younger members of the Washington County Bar, was born on the site of the old Hamilton Hotel, in Hagerstown, October 20, 1869, and is a son of Judge Andrew K. and Catharine G. (Harry) Syester. He was educated at the Hagerstown Academy and was president of his class. While attending the Academy he was for three years editor of the High School Journal. He subsequently entered Dickinson College at Carlisle, Pa. in the class of 1892, and was president of his class, but was obliged to leave college on account of the invalidism of his father. During the last months of his college life, he was the college librarian and for some time before that, he was a member of the Belles Lettres Society and of the Sigma Psi fraternity. After leaving college he was for nine months city editor of the Evening Times, of Cumberland, Md., and later accepted a position as a reporter on the Philadelphia Times. Subsequently he returned to Hagerstown and became editor of the Herald and Torch, and at different times was employed on the Mail, and Globe of that city.

In 1891 Mr. Syester, while managing editor of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania "Call," took up the study of the law in his leisure moments, his preceptor being Judge Edward Stake, who was then associate judge of the fourth judicial district of Maryland, who had himself read law with the distinguished father of his young pupil. He was admitted to the Washington County Bar in February, 1893.

In 1895 Mr. Syester was a candidate for State's Attorney of Washington County, and received a handsome vote. He was the Democratic candidate for the Maryland Legislature in November, 1897, and was elected by a vote that was next to the highest received by the eight candidates of the two parties. As a lawyer, he has been successful, and in the language of the Hagerstown Mail, "he has never hesitated to cope with the highest men in the professsion." He is well read in the law, and is held in the highest esteem by his brethren of the Bar. In making a specialty of criminal practice he has followed in his father's footsteps to some extent, but he also has been unusually successful in divorce cases.

Mr. Syester has served as aide-de-camp on the staff of General Mumford, quartermaster-general of Maryland.

Mr. Syester married Miss Helen Parrett, of Ohio, who was graduated at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa.

THE OSWALD FAMILY.—Barnet Oswald, the first representative of the family in America, was a native of the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, whence he emigrated to this country some time between 1730 and 1740. They landed far to the north, probably in New Hampshire or Massachusetts. The latitude being much too cold for them, they only remained a short time, probably one winter, when they removed to Lancaster Co., Pa., into what was then called the Swadara country, from a stream of that name, and near a village called Shafer Stettle. Barnet, the father, soon after died, leaving his child, only four or five years old, with his mother, to battle with life. What happened during the years immediately following his death is unknown to his family.

His son, Philip Oswald, grew up to manhood during those years, and married Margaret Spielman, a daughter of one of the emigrants who came over from the fatherland at the same time with the Oswalds.

During the year 1774, Philip Oswald went with a load of produce to Philadelphia from Lancaster county. His uncle, James Oswald, who was at that time employed in Benjamin Franklin's printing office, in that city, told him that Benjamin Franklin had just purchased a cargo of negroes, who had been gathered from some eastern state, and landed in Philadelphia. Mr. Franklin sold these negroes, and Philip Oswald purchased a girl about the age of eleven years. She was named Lett. This was about the time when slavery was abolished in

6884 Weber Road
St. Louis, Mo. 63123
10 December 1978

Dear Ruth:

I was so happy to receive your card yesterday, and thank you very much for writing to me and offering data on the SWINGLE family. I would like to have copies of the information that you offered me.

As I was looking through the Md. Gen. Soc. Bulletin, I did notice your name and was thinking of writing to you, as the SOYSTERS in Maryland were also related to the Kershners.

In the History of Washington County, Maryland, I am sure you have run across the name of Andrew Kershner SYESTER, who was Attorney-General of Maryland. He was named after his uncle, Andrew KERSHNER, who reared him after the death of his father, Daniel SYESTER, who was a brother of the Henry SEYSTER, who married Catherine SWINGLE.

I have been doing research on my SOYSTER family for about ten years and I have only found two other people that are interested in this line. The immigrant was Johan Michael ZEISTER and the name evolved into many other spellings as SEYSTER, SEISTER, CYESTER, etc. My maiden name was SOYSTER, which is the way my branch spelled it.

I didn't know that the Swingle mill was still standing in Maryland, that is very interesting. Have you ever made a trip to Maryland?

As my daughter's neighbors are having a baby shower for her this afternoon, I am going to have to make this letter short. I can't tell you how happy I was to hear from you and thank you so very much for offering to send me the SWINGLE information for which I am so very grateful. Please do send it to me.

Sincerely,

Georgia Kwiatkowski

14 December 1978

Dear Georgia:

The enclosed copies are by-products of preparation of a book, on "the Kershner Families of Maryland, 1731-1977", so I am cleaning out my files and, I hope, adding a little to your store of information. My co-author, Mary Kershner Maxwell, and I mailed countless sketches and chapters back and forth, and by agreement, I included the Swingle's Mill material in my Volume II. No Seysters are indexed in her Vol. I, but I think I have included all those indexed in mine, in this batch of material. Drafts that eventually became part of the book are stapled together. Some minor changes in wording were made, and some material added before the final typing in page format. I hope I've indicated changes that are pertinent to your research, but I don't guarantee that every word is the same as the published version.

Perhaps you will find the material on Andrew Kershner of interest. If you know the maiden name of his wife's sister Sally (Sarah), who married Daniel Syster, I'd appreciate the information. We did not adequately research Andrew Kershner, who apparently had no issue, nor were we able to contact any descendants of his sisters. People in Hagerstown say Andrew Kershner Stake was his grandson, but the records we did find show that is not true. The word is that A.K. Stake was an old drunk who let the house fall down. Probably no one wants to claim kin.

To answer your question, yes, we have made many trips to Maryland. My husband's brother, Steve Kershner, lives just outside Washington D.C. in Falls Church Va. and we have been up to go sailing on Chesapeake Bay with them nearly every year since about 1968. I have not gone to research Maryland, but have taken the opportunity to do so while I was there. I've been to courthouses in Wash. Co., Frederick Co., and Prince George's Co., and to the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis, to the Library of Congress, the D.A.R. Library in Wash. D.C., Wash. Co. Free Library, Md. Hist. Soc. in Baltimore, Wash. Co.Hist. Soc. in Hagerstown, and so on. The Maryland Hall of Records has fantastic land records, but almost impossible to search by mail. We have contacts in Hagerstown, and in cases of extreme emergency, I write Hilda Cushwa, a descendant of Capt. John Kershner, who works in the tax office in the courthouse, and has been a wonderful source of advice. The Wash. Co. Free Library is extremely cooperative as long as you avoid John Frye, who is in charge of the Western Maryland Room. He's a volunteer, opens the room twice a week for a couple of hours, but never answers mail. The regular staff will look up baptismal records and Xerox things for you, and has access to the genealogical materials. I used to write Mrs. Mary Brown, and tho I think she has now been moved to the bookmobile run, a letter to her would get to the right person.

drafts on Nicholas Swingle - Chestnut of court records Andrew K George K Jr. Benj. K. McGraw's mythology.

The Wash. Co. Free Library (that's enough address), Hagerstown maintains a card file and a cross-index notebook of persons interested in researching various lines. Ask them to put you on the list. Through that list, I got in touch with Ralph L. Swingley, 732 N. Bolton Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46219. I wrote him that Mary Kershner Maxwell had the 14pp of photostats of the Single court case, 1806, from the Hall of Records. I don't know whether he followed up of not. He was looking for a Michael Swingley (1785-1854), who was married in Berkeley Co. (W) Va. and emigrated to Ohio. I don't think he would have other than a tenuous connection with the family of Nicholas Swingle who died 1786 and had the sister grandchildren, but no son Michael. However, Michael could have been a son of the eldest, John George Swingle.

I don't recall checking the Wash. Co. Free Library's card file for Syster. Their records would be in the Williamsport area, near Swingles Mill.

I'd appreciate your reactions to these data.

July 31, 1998

Dear Ruth and Stuart: —

Surely appreciate the information you sent — you surely should be pleased with the publication of your book! It is Great.

I am so anxious to see Vol. I! Many has put so very much of herself into getting all this done.

The Kershner reunion was very successful- at least all of those who attended felt so and decided to have one each year on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day. There were 70 in attendance. They have reserved the American Legion Hall in Burdett, Ks. (20+ miles west of Larned) for the reunion next May. — We had a chicken dinner catered and will do the same next year. Hopefully we will have more branches of the family represented next year. All but one were descendants of Marion Kershner b. 1852 (Jim's grandfather). The one loner was a descendant of Frank Kershner b. 1856 (Marion & Frank were brothers).

So sorry your stay in Lawrence was cut short — I do hope your mother is okay by now.

Sounds like my brother, Al, in Austin will be leaving — they think they'll build on a lake not too far from San Antonio — said they were tired of the city etc. They love to fish & Al also loves to golf.

Best Wishes to You

Helen K.

HELEN FELL KERSHNER
1701 Winne Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

"Barn and Corral" oil by the Kansan Charles B. Rogers

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