Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Penna. 18704





Mrs. Stuart Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas

78746

Hope your appraisal
happens & we keep
everything. My best
wishes to Ellie that
she receives Relatives
previous Acquisitions
promptly. Love to "ranch out
just like it" Best wishes!
& Much
Elsie

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DAR # 674023

5 Nov. 1982

Dear Ruth, Wish you could have been with us Oct. 30 – Mary & Glenn were here and Dorothy Kershner Steele & Russ. Russell came for dinner.

We had such a grand time together – Imagine! each of us a descendant of a different one of the Three Brothers!!

Our camera didn't flash correctly so our pictures of us "today" – I hope Glenn's will be better. A get together of descendants of folks of the 1st part of the 18th century seems special to me!

MRS. NELSON STAUFFER
88 JOHN ST.
KINGSTON, PA 18704

WILKES-BARRE, PA 187
PM
14 APR
1987



Mrs. Stuart Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas 78746

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13 Apr. 1987

Dear Ruth,

It finally dawned on me today why Johannes Kershaw's b. 1693 La. Mr. d. 1743 in Pa. mill was in Phila. Pa. The reason was that Philadelphia County was then his residence. Bucks Co. Pa was formed in 1752 from Bucks Lancaster & Philadelphia counties.

Bucks & Phila. were two of the original 3 counties Chester Co was the third. Lancaster was formed from Chester in 1739. (See page 203 Vol II)

It's the geography & the way counties were formed that baffles me many times. I think the above is the reason tho' for the mill being in Philadelphia.

Hope you are well.

I hear from Mary once in a while.

Elsie

22 Sept. 1981

Dear Elsie:

Hallelujah! What a marvelous work you have accomplished! Generations will bless your name. Oh, how right you are--your index will really make a big difference to people who have only a limited time. Everyone dreads indexing, but it really is almost the most important part of a work on genealogy. I thank you. We all thank you!

I am going to forward your index to Bill Kershner in Charlotte, and let him put it on his computer. I think he can make a printout from it, and will at the same time get it into his basic computer listing he is beginning. That way it will only have to be typed once. My older son has a printer for his home computer that puts out a very neat, printed-looking letter with somewhat smaller typer than my typewriter, so surely Bill's big business one can do the same sort of thing. Additional names from the proposed appendix III can be easily inserted.

I counted 91 full pages at about 27 names per page, making more than 2450 entries. That is prodigious! I have carefully noted and saved your valuable cards with suggestions, and appreciate them very much. I probably would have overlooked the correction of the Faust name to Dietrich in the Appendix III we plan. I think it would be well if I send these appendices to you for checking. I bet no one knows more about George C. Kershner's book than you! But first I have to prepare these, and give Mary time to correspond with the newly-discovered daughter of George C. Kershner. Altho the booklet is not copyrighted, it would be very nice to have her assent and support for re-issue by the Kershner Family Association. Mary has written and asked that we send a separate copy of the new index to the few libraries that already have copies of the book--DAR in Washington, Mormon, and Berks Co. Pa.Historical Society. I don't see getting this ready before early spring, but am thinking of suggesting to Bill that he announce it in the first issue of his new quarterly Kershner Kinfolk. It will be a long-time dream come true.

We just got back from Arizona last evening. Left Sept. 1. There are piles of mail and business to attend to, but your big fat package caught my eye first. We'd been hesitant to visit high altitudes. My husband has some emphysema and coronary arteryches lined with calcium, and during a bout of anemia more than a year ago, he was quite uncomfortable at my home in West Texas (altitude 4900'). But his hematocrit is at an all-time high and his pulmonary specialist said go ahead, but take it easy. It worked out fine. We slowly ascended, taking five days to get to 5500' (nearly a thousand miles) in our high-topped camper van. Fortunately, we had some rains and it cooled off enough to sleep in the van after we got 300 miles away from central Texas. But it was tiring. I was glad to see your encouraging report on Nelson's diagnosis and your aching neck, and hope things continue to get better.

This pile of mail also has a nice note from Evelyn Kerr. She says she has sent you a continuation of her grandmother's lineage. If this wasn't in time to get into Vol. III, it is just the sort of thing Bill Kershner will be wanting for an early issue of the proposed quarterly newsletter. We visualize putting updates into this quarterly, which can then be combined into a supplement to the other volumes.

Again, thank you and do accept my admiration and appreciation for your well-done index. It will make all the difference.

Affectionately,

PS Please save all your slips of paper until we can get some copies made of the list. What if it got lost in the mail? Horrible thought.

24 April 1981

Dear Elsie:

I've heard now from our primary Gabbert researcher, Peggy S. Joyner of 5008 Dogwood Trail, Portsmouth VA 23703. I thought if she already had the kind of Gabbert data that had jingled your bells, I wouldn't ask you to repeat it. I quote:

"Gabbert - I have been in contact with people working on them and it is amazing how none of the researchers have the same data. One gives origin as Switz. and others Germany. No one has ever shown me anything to indicat where the first Jacob Gabbert/Gebhart/Kephart, etc. came from prior to arrival in Augusta Co. He is my ancestor. I would love to have a copy of Elsie's info and will send money to cover if you plan to get a copy...There is always the possible chance that it might have the one record which will get my line off the ground."

So--we would very much like to have copies of your records on the earliest possible Gebharts of Berks Co. Many German families from that area went direct to Virginia. Peggy is a C.G. (Certified Genealogist), teaches classes, etc., but this is her own family. Peggy is a member of the group of professional genealogists that is now preparing an additional volume for the Strassburger & Henke series--Vols I, II, III are ships' lists to Philadelphia. The addition will give the locations from which they immigrated. I knew that Zweibrucken origin would grab her, so I sent your whole letter to her! Peggy is also working on reference book on Germans who came to Augusta Co, and from whence they came. Our Kershners will be included in both books, I think.

In Washington Co Md, I haven't seen any sign of Kershner-Gabbert relationships. Our David Kershner b 1750, moved to Virginia around 1785; it was his son Jacob b ca 1781 who married Peggy Gabbert 1801. John, probably her brother, moved to Greenbrier Co (W)VA, where some of his descendants again intermarried with Kershners.

In Frederick Co Va, we have Michael Gabbert's admn. 1748 by Hannah Gabbert. In Augusta Co Va, Mathias Gabbert and our Jacob Gabbert resident in 1768.

I can't guess how many pages this Gabbert material runs to, but don't spare the Xerox machine! If the copies come out well, I can make copies at my cheapy 5¢ copy place and send to Peggy. If they're hard to copy, please make two of everything and send one set to Peggy. That would probably save postage anyhow. I would like to donate a set to her. She has helped with some extremely difficult Pa. Kershner research and I'm grateful. Let me pay you for both sets.

You are getting to be a fine Pennsylvania Kershner source! I had a letter from Judy Cashner, who praised you heartily for material you'd sent. I wrote her that you both need a copy of The History of the Kershner Family by George C Kershner (d 1966), published by Ammon G. Kershner M.D. (d 1978). Mary & I quote it a lot. It traces mostly the line of Conrad Kershner I of Windsor Twp, but unfortunately, its 90 pp are NOT indexed. I keep trying to find a volunteer who will make an index, so we can re-publish it. I also am sending Judy the address of Dr. Lester Karschner, who did publish his line from John Karschner b 1809 Northumberland Co. Sounds the same as Judy's. He's a retired Lutheran minister, Hanover Pa. He got in a little too much of a hurry and needs some revisions in early lines, but his 63 pp are at least in printed form and very helpful.

Many thanks for your jingling bells,

13 July 1981

Dear Elsie:

William E. Kershner Jr. has returned my copy of George C. Kershner's History of the Kershner Family, and noted that he had sent yours direct to you.

I asked his opinion about placement of the extra pages I had inserted for my own use, and he may write me a letter later, but he didn't express any ideas about it with the copy. I think it is important to decide this before you get to the indexing.

It's my feeling that it would be more appropriate to add these pages at the end and call them Appendix III, plainly labeling them as additions to the original by me. I should take the blame if they are wrong. Specifically, these are:

The introduction, which I think should follow the Table of Contents (not be put into Appendix III.)--It won't need a page number. It would be well to add Appendix III -- page 93, to the Table of Contents , not trying to make it look like part of the original page.

Page 7a and 7b are inserts referring to the 10th line from the bottom of page 7. They should be moved to Appendix III, and a marginal note should be inserted by that 10th line, referring to pp ?? in the appendix. (At the same time, please white out a page reference I neglected to remove at the top of p 7, and change the number from p 93 to p 4.) I added these two pages because Dr Ammon's translation differes from George C.'s.

Page 69a is a Certificate of Survey for Christian Rodarmel, 3 July 1744, not included in the Brief of Title of the Conrad Kirschner farm. The three steps in obtaining land from the Proprietors were: 1. A Warrant, a sort of hunting license, for a specific quantity of land; 22. 2. A Survey, made after the applicant had chosen his land and made some improvements on it; 3. A patent (before 1776) or a grant (afterwards). In this case, the first holder of a warrant did not carry out the next two steps, and Rothermel was awarded a warrant 17 Mar 1742. I think George C. did not understand this proceedure--he consistently mixed up the terms, which might really confuse readers further. A reference to the location of this copy of the handwritten certificate of survey should go in the margin of page 69, under "2- Vacating Warrent," third line, ending "July 3 1744."

Page 74a should have a reference on page 74. All of page 74 is badly wrong--"diagram" is badly drawn and is not of "grant," but is intended to be of Rothermel's deed of sale to Conrad Kirschner (labaled on page 72 as "Copy of the Warrent of the 1744 Grant") wherein Rothermel reserved 65 acres of the patent, which was 250 acres plus 6% for roads, about 265 acres, leaving 200 acres for Kirschner. The diagram at the bottom of the page is so drawn that it doesn't make sense. In 1766, Conrad got a warrant for 92 more acres (not granted till 1782). I've re-drawn and put these on p 74 a and added the 1813 and 1830 deeds showing the division after his death. There is a reference on p 79 to 79a which refers to this bottom drawing I made, but I since moved it to p 74a--the 1813 and 1830 deeds. Please adjust this marginal page reference.

The 3-page will of Johannes Kirschner, 1742, which I borrowed from my Vol. II., needs page numbers in Appendix III, and a reference by his name at the top of p. 4.

There is a chart at the end, made in 1973 and corrected to date, showing some of the relationships that suggested to us that the Pennsylvania and Maryland Kershers were likely related. There are still unsolved problems on it, mostly in Pennsylvania.

I made a short index of early Kershners, which I marked "Omit," so it may not be in your copy. If it is, discard it. There was also a duplicate title page which I marked "omit". I regret not taking care of these last details before copying.

RBK

88 John St.
Kingston, Pa. 18704
30 Apr. 1981

Dear Ruth,

I have been delayed in getting your copies made. Our Library's machine is out of order AGAIN and it is a new one too. If it isn't fixed by tomorrow I will have it copied somewhere else. I will send Peggy Joyner's copy to her. No charge- my little return for all that you have sent to me.

There is material on deeds, wills etc on the Ohio Gebharts which I did not include, but the material on the first families shows some Gebharts named Jacob and since the family names were borne by the different families I thought there might be an older Jacob somewhere.

The gravestone of Anna Margaretha Gebhart showing her birthdate seems to be the connection to the German material. Birthdates are slightly different, but could it be a difference between the new and Old Style of dating? Schuyler Brossman found the stone and verified it in his church cemetery which proves that someone had done a good job on the data. You will want to read and reread the material, but it may give a base for finding Jacob Gabbert in Germany. Good luck.

Do you have any copies of George G. Kershner's History of the Kershner Family ? If so I'd like to have one. Send it if you like and I'll remit the cost promptly. Maybe I could try the indexing for you (seems that I should do something in the family's interest. You would have to tell me how it is done- Ive no idea.

I'm so glad to know that Judy Cashner found her line. See how all your tid-bits help and give encouragement to all of us late comers to the family fold!

I had a man recommended to do search in Bedford Co., Pa. Court House, but he did not findanything on Jonathan Kershner so I guess that is a cold, dead trail. I have written to a Bedford historical Soc. to try to get the name of churches in the area of Dublin Twp. but have not heard from them to date. So many of my SASE's are wasted that way!.

copy to P. Joyner.

Elsie

Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704

24 May 1981

Dear Elsie:

We pop in and out of town quite a bit, so I frequently get behind in my correspondence. But that doesn't mean I didn't appreciate the very interesting Gabbert papers. Thank you for sending Peggy some. I've been through them pretty thoroughly, and did not really see a good connection.to the Gabberts of the the Shenandoah Valley, who were pretty well established there as early as 1748, when Michael Gabbert's estate was administered by Hannah Gabbert in Frederick Co. In 1767, Mathias Gabbert's land in Augusta Co was processioned, and he was a witness in 1768 when Jacob Gabbert, Peggy's father, bought land nearby. The name there was spelled variously Gabort, Gabhart, Gebhart, Geabhart, Gabart, Gabert, but the current spelling is Gabbert. They still live there, and they are still intermarrying with Kershners, but they don't know anything about their colonial history.

Surely they must have come from Pennsylvania, for theShenandoah Valley was only beginning to be settled near the Potomac about 1743. Your data will be a big help to us in sorting out Pennsylvania records, I'm sure.

About George C. Kershner's little book, which I'm yearning to have indexed--I have one copy. Mary has one copy. There are 90 pages, mimeographed. I took mine apart and put it in a spiral binder for ease in copying, and can easily run it through a Xerox machine. This is a University town, and we have good copy services.

I indexed Vol. II and much of Vol. III, and can offer some practical suggestions. The best way is to lay in a supply of 3 x 5 slips of paper and a shoe box to put them in. Start at the first page after the table of contents. Type, print, or write legibly, one name per ~~page~~ slip of paper, last name first, followed by page number, each and every name on that page. We also indexed the town, state, or colony, and especially the county, where ever mentioned. Do not let yourself be seduced to putting more than one page number on a slip of paper: it gets to where it takes too much time to search back for the slip, and besides, messes up the next step, which is checking.

At the end of each page, go back over the slips and match them to the page, checking for spelling, completeness, proper page number, and so on. All of these entries should be checked, preferably by a different person, but if you don't do it while the slips are still in page order, it takes endless time.

After all pages are done, alphabetize. A set of alphabetical dividers for 3x5 cards is helpful. Then assemble all slips for the same name, in order of page numbers, and paper clip together. It is now ready to be typed. This should be with carbon ribbon, in a format that can be reduced about 25%, but we have people who are happy to do that part. Will send typing directions if you want to do it.

I say 3x5 slips (or thin cards, if you prefer) because the slips/cards then can be used in my filing system after serving their indexing purpose! We copy names exactly as we find them spelled, surname capitalized, and females cross-referenced to husbands' names. Because Mary and I were dealing with such numbers of Kershners with the same names, but scattered through three centuries and sea to sea, we added identifying dates to the names of individuals. This would not be necessary for George C. Kershner's History of the Kershner Family, because it covers fewer individuals and places. Besides, he didn't have as many dates as we did.

There is a problem about my copy. I have made notes in it that should be ignored in alphabetizing, tho I think it might be a good idea to put some footnotes in an appendix if we re-publish. Some new information has turned up, and some corrections need to be made. Does this sound like something you could do for the cause? If so, let me know. I'll Xerox and donate you a copy which you may keep!

Just had a letter from Lois Kershner, Box 574, Moran KS 66755, who appears to be related to the Augustus Monroe Kershner, b 31 Oct 1840, Northumberland Co Pa. If you have any idea where this record came from, please let me or her know. (Vol I: p 464, typo says 364). Herb Bair had it.

Dear Ruth,

8 Apr 1981

The power of attorney letter was the one you sent to me in Feb 1980. It gave the names of the surviving children of Jonathon Kershner who died in Bedford Co. Pa. in 1814. & that is what I sent to Mary Kershner of Michigan. Mary said she is the married May 30 & that she is trying to curb her family search for a while & finds it hard to do so!

I have letters sent to Bedford Co. Hist. Soc. - trying to find a church where may have records of death & burial of Jonathan & his wife. No answers so far.

Haven't heard from Mary Luttley Kershner Almen or Luttley for awhile either.

Bedford Co 1938
John Ricks

Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704



Mrs. Stuart Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas 78746

Talked with Dorothy Monday
Still hypotone - She likes it
Get together when returned
over.
Elaine

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Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704

WILKES-BARRE, PA 187
PM
23 MAR
1981



Mrs. Stuart G. Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas 78746

Route 2
Winthrop, IA 50682
April 8, 1981

The Kershner Family Association
4603 El Salvador
Houston, Texas 77066

I've been looking for information on a JOHN KARSCHNER (b. 13 Nov. 1809) for a long time. Last month I received much information from Mrs. Elsie Stauffer in Kingston, Pa. linking our John with his father MARTIN KERSHNER (b. 1762 Penn.) and then back to a Conrad Kirshner (b. 15 Sept. 1717 Germany) and then to Johannes Kirshner (b. 26 Nov. 1693 Germany) and Gertrude Faust. Mrs. Stauffer said all the above information was in the VOL. II of THE KERSHNER FAMILIES OF MARYLAND by Ruth Bownds Kershner.

Since then, we've heard of there being III volumes now. Are Vol. I & II still available for sale? If so, please send some details as to what is covered in them and what the price would be. I would guess that Vol. III goes into lines now distantly removed from our line. What is covered in the new book?

After 4 years of frustrated searching, this has been a terrific breakthrough to find there are many relatives out there somewhere with much information we did not know! If we can help with information on our line, please let us know and we'll do what we can.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Judy Cashner

Mrs. Burton Cashner

29 April 1981

Mrs. Burton Cashner
Route 2
Winthrop, IA 50682

Dear Judy:

Your warm letter was very welcome. All of us who are involved in the research are committed to helping each other, and I think you are going to get an extra portion! There is no charge, but we do need your help, too.

Elsie Stauffer can help you make your connection with MARTIN KERSHNER b 1762,PA. Volume III of The Kershner Families of Maryland is expected to contain her research results.

We are also coming along very well with our German research, and you will be able to take the Kirschner/Kuerschner/Kerschner (or whatever spelling) back to around 1570. William E. Kershner Jr. is coordinating this research and doing charts for Vol. III. To get on Vol III list, write Mary Maxwell (see below).

Vol. I and Vol. II have been sold out for a long time, BUT we took the precaution of placing copies in 75 libraries, of copyrighting it so the Library of Congress has it, and having it microfilmed by LDS (Mormon). Also, I had it microfilmed by a private firm, which is authorized to sell copies, in either microfilm or book form.

Your offer to help with information on your line is appreciated. Please supply a copy to Mrs. Stauffer and also send one to Mary Kershner Maxwell. She is the principal author of this series, and handles the midwestern migrations. Write to Mrs. Glen Maxwell, 1622 W. St. Vrain, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. I think this is too late to get into Vol. III, but she has the master files.

You and Elsie really need a copy of The History of the Kershner Family, by George C. Kershner (d 1966), which was put into mimeograph form by Dr. Ammon G. Kershner (d 1978) and distributed to a few of his family members. Dr. Kershner gave me a copy and Mary a copy, and we placed one in the LDS Library and one in the Berks Co. Historical Society.

This is an account of the immigrant ancestors of your Martin Kershner b 1762, and of some of his descendants, though not of yours. It runs to less than 100 pages, and it is my ambition for the Kershner Family Association to sponsor a re-issue of this uncopyrighted volume. However, it is not yet indexed. It must be indexed before it is acceptable to research libraries, and until it meets our standards, in this way, I cannot recommend it, as a publication project. It's a very interesting little book, with accounts of the home of Conrad Kershner b 1722 (Martin's father), parts of which are now in Winterthur, the DuPont museum at Wilmington, Del., and other historic connections.

I am looking for a volunteer to make an index, because I am so tied up with the other volumes that I can't possibly undertake it. It's not very difficult. You sit down at your typewriter, and go down a page, typing each name, surname first. (You can use a separate 3x5 slip for each name, or do two columns on a legal page, with at least six spaces between names so you can cut into slips.) Then check, the alphabetize, and re-type with a carbon/or good black ribbon, ready for offset.

If you can find a volunteer who will undertake the index, I will donate a Xerox copy of this volume to you, to keep, and of course you will be able to put your own index with it and won't have to wait for publication. Jean Rigler got her high school/college age daughters to do an index!

Please write to Howell Microfilms, 3406 Marlbrough Court, College Park, Md 20740. Ask for prices of printed books, separate volumes as well as both, softbound as well as hard. Would you please send me a copy of his reply?

Elsie Stauffer

88 John St.
Kingston, Pa. 18704
23 March 1981

Dear Ruth and Mary,

I have sent whatever pertinent material that I found in your two books to Mary Karshner of 10677 West Ten Mile, Oak Park, MI 48237 . She had written to me saying that Ruth had referred me to her. I want to thank Ruth for the trust placed in me. It was good for me to go over the books and check on what was there. I had read it several times and put on charts what I needed, and then went on to other things. Now I have it a bit more together.

These are the parts I used:

From Volumn 11-- pgs. 203; 204; my famous page 219; 176
From Vol. 1 -- page 398

I had found a birth in Egle's NOTES AND QUERIES and a bit from Morton L Montgomerys Biographical section of THE HISTORY OF BERKS COUNTY, PA. :

Egle's--- Annual Vol.1900
John Martin, b. 22 Feb. 1751; bap. 12 Apr. 1751; parents Karcher, Martin and wife Anna Elisabetth Shufert; Sponsors were Philip Fenstemacher and wife Elisabeth.

The reference in Montgomery's History was in the biography of the Burkhart Family which stated , " John F. Burkhart, b. 1823.....In 1838 he commenced his apprenticeship to the trade of tinsmith with George Kershner of Friedensburg, Oley twp. Berks Co., Pa."

I have guessed that this George Kershner was the son of Jonathan who died in Bedford Co. Pa. in 1814. The letter giving power of attorney for the settlement of Jonathan's estate in Bedford, Co. has his son George living in Oley Twp. in 1838.

I also sent Mary Karshner a copy of that letter. Did you tell her about the new book? I did. I said the new book would tell of the family in Germany.

I also had a letter from Mrs. Burton Cashner, Iowa (only 30 miles from Herman Burkert whose stories helped me find the connection to the Kershners) Burton seems to be of Dorothy Steele's family..

I made a phone call and found Dorothy Steeles address in Dallas, Pa. She was one of the Pa. helpers for Vol. 11. If she answers my note, I will tell her about the Iowa Cashners and she may be able to help them further.

I am getting more and more excited about the third Vol. When do you want me to order those that I want? At the moment I know I'll want seven. I'll keep them for Christmas presents for my family.

Thank you again for your confidence in me!
Sincerely,

Elsie

10677 West Ten Mile
Oak Park, MI 48237

March 9, 1981

Ruth Bownds Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear Ms. Kershner:

I have been in touch with Mary Kershner Maxwell but as of yet I have been unable, despite her kind help, to connect my Karshner line to any of those researched by you or Mrs. Maxwell. Perhaps you may have some insights on my genealogical problem.

I have traced my line back to a George Karshner who was born in 1816 or 1817 in Bedford, Pennsylvania. He took up residence in Republic, Ohio in 1843 and lived there until his death in 1901. His death certificate lists his parents as unknown and thus far I have been unable to discover his parents.

The George Kershner on page 246 of your book has very similar dates but I am not aware that my George had any Maryland or Virginia connections. If you have any ideas on George's ancestors, I would appreciate the information.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Karshner

Mary Karshner

Note - 11 Mar 1981 - Check pp 172-174 Vol II KFA, Jonathan (Pa, of Peter) write to Elsie (Mrs Nelson) Stauffer 88 John St, Kingston Pa 18704

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MARY KARSHNER
10677 W 10 MILE RD
OAK PARK, MI 48237

27600 JEFFERSON AVE.
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICHIGAN 48081



Ruth Bownds Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas 78746

Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704

22 NOV 1980

88 John ST.
Kingston, Pa. 18704
21 Nov. 1980

Dear Mary and Ruth,

I guess I am just coming down to earth and to practical matters. I have been enjoying your books and have been anticipating the new one with the German information, and have just realized that there must have been some expense involved. I can at least take on the responsibility of becoming a member of the Kershner Association and so help in that small way. Let me know about the membership fees.

Just this week Schuyler Brossman of Rehrersburg, who helped me with so many things, sent me information which he found at the National Archives dealing with The Civil War papers of Josiah and Benjamin Kershner who were the sons of Benjamin Kershner, b. 1801(the son of Jonathan Kershner who died in Bedford Co., Pa.) and his wife Anna Brossman, b. 25 Dec. 1806.

I believe that you had the informationon Josiah Karshner from Alvin Kershner of Atlanta, Ga. , but I don't think that Luther Kershner of Berwick, Pa. knew the data that Schuyler found. This new information about BenjaminB. Kershner was especially interesting to my husband Nelson and me.

Pension Papers for Benjamin B. Kershner showed:
Benjamin B. Kershner enlisted in Co. I, 48th Inf. Reg. Pa. Vols.
He married Sarah Jane Rupert 2 May 1859 and their son was born 15 July 1861 and was named William Morris Kershner.
Benjamin was killed at Bethesda Church near Richmond, Virginia 3 June 1864.
Widow Sarah Jane Rupert Kershner, who was 22years old on the pension application (born 1842 supposedly) applied for her son and herself and witnesses for her were Henry J. Moyer and Nelson Brandon. Other later papers stated that she had married Nelson Brandon at some later date. The Kershners, Moyers and Brandon lived in the same area- of Ringtown P.o. Schuylkill Co., Pa.
Now comes the intriguing part, and I suppose to you two, who have been doing this sort of thing so long, it would be commonplace, but to me most fascinating.

My husband, Nelson Stauffer, had forebears in the Ringtown Valley and the above names rang bells. Nelson S. had been told that he was named for an"uncle" Nelson Brandon . His Gr. grandmother was Fyanna Rupert Moyer b. 1836 and married to Henry Jacob Moyer. Sister to Sarah Jane?

I called Luther Kershner of Berwick and told him that he has two cousins here at 88 John St. He plans to come to visit early in December. Mary, Luther is the person who just missed visiting you last summer when you were going on your vacation. I"M hoping that We can search together.

Don't forget to let me know when the book is ready. I had hoped t to give one to each of our children for Christmas, but will give them an IOU instead.

Bless you both and your husbands.

Elsie Lebo Stauffer

15 April 1980

Dear Cousin Elsie:

Your lively and interesting contribution to the Kershner research has been delightful to read, and Mary will join me, I'm sure, in rejoicing that you included such excellent references.

Your experience has made us feel that our philosophy of publication is really working out. Instead of tracing only one line, and ignoring everything that didn't fit, we tried to put in all the loose ends. Contributions such as yours have connected many of these loose ends, and we expect to hear of many others. Thank you!

Have you heard that we now have solid information that your ancestor, Martin Kerschner of Bern Co. (d. 1782) was a younger half-brother of Johannes Kerschner of Windsor Twp. (1693-1742). Martin was born 18 Sept. 1706 in Langenselbold, Hesse, now West Germany, son of Joh. Konrad Kirschner and Anna Margareta Keyser, and was married on 26 Nov. 1732 to Anna Elisabeth Schussert (or Schuffert).

We felt positive Martin and Johannes Kirschner were related, but Martin named as his executor his "trusty friend" Conrad, son of Johannes. The best date we had for Martin was the appearance in the Berks Co. Tax List of 1754 of his own son Conrad, whom we assumed must have been over 21 in order to be listed. Johannes Kirschner had died in 1742, and Martin not until 1782, so there seemed a possibility that Martin could have been an older son of Johannes. But the trusty friend reference made us uneasy.

Your research casts a little light on this kind of reference, with Peter Kershner referred to as a friend to his first cousin, Benjamin. Maybe the Germans just didn't use the terms uncle, cousin, etc.

Mary will have this documentation in her Vol. III.

With appreciation,

P.S. Mary just might come by and see you sometime! She and Glen usually arrange their trips to hop from home to home of the people they want to see on their trips east.

We usually visit my husband's brother in Falls Church Va. and sail with them. Then go on to see a son who lives in Connecticut. I've not had much chance to do active research in Pennsylvania.

31 Mar. 1980

Rec'd your card.
Have begun to put the material
I have together. Will try to
complete it by April 15.
There are some replies I hope to
have this week or next.
I have been trying to call Dorothy
Kershner Steele of Dallas, Pa. Just a
few miles from us!! No answer. I
suspect they may be in Florida. So
many people from this area go there.
Elsie

Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Penna. 18704

WILKES-BARRE, PA
-PM
1 APR
1980

John Hancock Patriot

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Mrs. Ruth Saunders Kershner
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Austin
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Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John Street
Kingston, Pa. 18704





The Stuart D. Kershners
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas 78746

Will forward the card you sent.
But this is definitely Gary
and Anna Beckman Newsletter
Family. I am very pleased
to have it. Last received
was in May many
moments happy
memories.
Hope you are surely
the best. Love, Nicely,
Elsie

© USPS 1978

Dear Ruth, 13 July 1980

Finally found the other two (or evidence of them) Kershners who were children of Benjamin (son of Jonathan, son of Peter, son of Martin Kershner pg 219 bottom of page - Vol 1.

The following is the reply from Luther Kershner of Berwick: "Byron Kershner's son Alvin M. lives at 96 Poplar St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30303 My grandfather, William (I don't know if it was his [illegible] taught school and had a store in Nuremberg, Pa. I had an uncle Cletus Byron Kershner, whom I was told was named after his uncle Byron. Could be some connection.

My son in L.A. has the genealogy books. I'll write Reinard and let you know.

Sincerely, Luther Kershner

address is 121 E. 5th St. Berwick, Pa 18603

88 John St.
Kingston, Pa. 18704
27 Feb. 1980

Mrs. Stuart Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear Ruth,

Than you for sending the copies. I had copies made and am returning them to you. I wrote to the Berks Co. register of Wills to ask how I might find the settlement of Jonathan Kershner's (of Bedford Co. Pa) (How these Kershners must go round and round in your head!) I'm new to this searching and am not sure how it must be done. I'll be hampered if it means spending days at the Berks Co. Court house.

I might inject a bit about me right here. I'm 69 years old, retired from teaching in the elementary schools in two areas of Pa. Schuylkill and Luzerne Counties. Wish I had taken a course in typing long ago! I've taught myself and I make lots of mistakes. My husband is retired also. We have lots of time , but he had some slight strokes and it left him physically OK, but he's afraid of going places, etc. We have three children- all married- and we have five grandchildren 6 yrs to almost 14 yrs.

I will have some data to add on the Berks connection, don't forget to let me know when you want it. In the meantime I shall try for more.

First, I read your book at random, but now, I am reading cover to cover. There are many names which I have found in Berks Co. Ankenny, Baum, Reidenour, Anspach , etc. However, I am surprised at the number of times kershners married kershners. The good genes certainly must have vastly outnumbered any bad ones! I am truly enjoying the ~~Saga~~ Saga.

Thank you again,

26 Mar—
postcard—
requested
data mentioned

MRS Nelson Stauffer

(Else?)

5 August 1980

Mr. Mack M. Kershner
Route 1 Box 290
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Kear Kershner Cousin:

Mrs. Mary K. Maxwell, author of Volume I of "The Kershner Families of Maryland" is preparing an addendum to both of the volumes, to include information that we've obtained since 1978. I have promised to help with the Virginia group of descendants, but I find that I do not have information on your connection.

You do have Volume II, which has some scanty information from public records of Augusta Co., so you know how little there is. Larry Palmer has now sent me a number of additional public records--marriages, cemetery records, and so forth, but little that is later than the Civil War and later 1800 periods.

Would you be kind enough to contribute your family records to connect back to some early ancestor of yours, your grandfather or great-grand-father if possible? At least two of the sons of Jacob Kershner (1781-1840) and his wife Peggy Gabbert seem to have stayed in the area, this son Jacob who married Polly Hemp, and his son Michael who married Sarah Lambert. At least two other sons stayed for a while, Peter and George, and I think Abraham and Harvey, the younger ones, did too.

We would very much like to draw this line down to the present, and would appreciate your help. I enclose a reply envelope.

Very truly yours,

Ruth Bownds Kershner,
author of Volume II

P.S. Mary is pressing me for this material, and I am now typing up what I have on Augusta Co. I should have noticed before that your connection was missing. Michael, Peter, Abraham, and Harvey were in the 1850 census. If you could even let me know right away if any one of these was your ancestor, it would be very helpful.

88 John St.
Kingston, Pa. 18704
13 Feb. 1980

to- Ruth B. Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear New, Old Cousin,

Your Kershner Book Vol.1 arrived yesterday and, of course, it is being read. Vol.11 had arrived at the beginning of last week and I have been fascinated by the history, names, places and activities you both have presented. You've made the pioneers come alive! Thank you.

I would like to have the copies of the estate records of Jonathan Kershner(b. ca. 1770) in Bedford Co. Will you please let me know the cast when you mail them ?

It seems terrible to me that no information other than the name Benjamin Kershner from Bernville and the names of cousins in Reading had come down to us. But then since I know that Jonathans children were orphaned early and that Benjamin, the son of an orphaned father, also died when his children were young, it seems more reasonable. It was a red letter day when I found your book in the reading room of the Berk's Co. Historical Society!

Thank you and your husband and Mary Maxwell for interest, time and material, you've done a beautiful job.

Sincerely,
Elsie Lebo Stauffer
Elsie Lebo Stauffer

[illegible] February 1980

Dear Elsie Stauffer:

Enclosed are a couple of copies of documents relating to your research on the ancestry of Elmira Kershner, and I have also copied off data on a couple of cards. Please keep the originals, but send me copies of these.

In preparing to write, it's customary--and efficient--to put onto cards the information one wishes to use, then to arrange the cards in order of presentation of the material. I write direct from the cards, and in recent years, have been taking my notes directly onto cards when I read microfilm.

The earliest record I had on Jonathan Kershner of Bedford Co Pa. was sent to Mary Maxwell in 1963 by Eber Cockley, then president of the Somerset Co. Pa. Historical & Genealogical Society, publishers of the "Laurel Messenger." Mr. Cockley has since died, but his widow, Marguerite, has been most helpful to us. Mr. Cockley wrote that Jonathan Wilds was named administrator of Jonathan Kershner's estate in 1814. Subsequently, deeds and other records indicate that William Wilds was an adjacent landowner. I haven't pursued this further.

In 1974, in the LDS library at Sal Lake City, I read a number of microfilmed records of Bedford County Pa., and I think some of them were quite old films, negatives instead of positive. I'm not sure whether the ones I have copies of were negatives, but I did have difficulty in reading them, and wrote to Doug Woodard in 1977, and he had these Xeroxes made from the microfilms. There may be other libraries that can make Xeroxes from film, but at the time, this was the only one I know about.

By comparing the spellings in Vol. II p 172, you can see where I had problems. I was especially puzzled by "Clay Township." which eventually I realized was "Oley" not "Clay." This reading was confirmed when I got the copies--but the book was already in print, with Jacob Kerschner's name as Kerchner, etc. This is by way of apology for a less-than-accurate reading. I do try to reproduce the spellings exactly, and hope you will consult the Xerox copy of Deeds S:309 instead of my abstract.

This document, a Power of Attorney granted by Jonathan Kershner's heirs in 1838, ought to be quite suitable for your purpose, for therein appears Elmira's name and proof of descent. I have only abstracts of the other deeds, but you should be able to get copies from the state (county?) by quoting the references, if you feel you need them.

Jonathan Kershner was named in the will of Peter Kershner, Berks Co. (1810, I think), and Peter was the person named in the other document I'm sending, as the son of Martin and Elizabeth Kerschner. It is an agreement between Peter and Nicholas to share the waters of a creek which watered the meadow ground belonging to each of them. The date is 1771, and follows the deeds made to each of them in connection with Martin's will. You do need to locate the administration of Martin's estate following his death in 1782, specifically to locate a payment made to Jacob P. Kershner of Washington Co. Md. on behalf of Jonathan Kershner, his deceased brother, by 1816. This should be in Berks Co., and would have been made, possibly, by administrators of Peter's estate. It may be hard to find, since no one has mentioned it to me.

Since publication, we have additional information on Martin (d. 1782). There was no son Martin: scratch him from the chart. He was Martin Kercher of Hamburg. Martin Kerschner (d 1782), German records disclose, was a younger brother of Johannes Kerschner (b. 1693)--but a half-brother, which may explain why he described his executor as his "trusty friend" instead of his nephew.

Seattle - 19 Feb 1980

The baptismal record from the Evan. Kirchengemeind of Langenselbold, Hesse, says Joh. Martin Kirschner was born 4 Nov. 1703. His parents were Joh. Konrad Kirschner and Anna Margarete Keyser. Joh. Martin was married on Nov. 26, 1732, to Anna Elisabeth Schussert or Schuffert, daughter of Johann, dec'd.

So Martin was younger than we thought, just barely 19, and though we do not have any record yet of the birth of children to Joh. Martin and Elisabeth, it seems very likely that the Conrad who we conjectured was their oldest son and born around 1733, actually does fit in there pretty well.

Jean Rigler supplied me with abstracts of the English translations of the wills of Martin Kerschner (d 1782) and of his son Peter (d about 1809-1810--I haven't looked it up for you.) I suppose Peter's was in English, but I have a rather poor photocopy of Martin's in German--recorded, not the original, which Dave Hollenbach made in Berks Co. for me. Peter was a Rev. officer.

I feel that your problem of proof will likely be the confusion of the many Jonathans. I am convinced that some of them have been wrongly identified previously, and suggest that you do some map work along with the Vol. II material on the various Jonathan Kershners, so you can locate where they lived and when they moved.

Your Jonathan is called a blacksmith and farmer, and his wife is named as Mary Ann (Anna Maria, no doubt) in the Washington Co. records--the only mention of her name, I would suspect that they named Benjamin for their neighbor and relative, Benjamin Kershner b. ca. 1769, the relationship being rather distant, perhaps first cousins twice removed, only I don't know how you indicate the half-brother relationship of their great-grandfathers. A whole nest of Kershners lived in the neighborhood around St. Paul's, Clear Spring, Md., including your Jonathan's brother Jacob P. who married his first cousin Mary, daughter of Philip (b ca 1750 to old Martin and Elizabeth); his sister, Catherine Zacharias; his brother Daniel and wife Magdalena Schlatter or Schalter. There also lived descendants of Johan Georg b 1695 in Germany--George Jr. b ca 1734 1763, who married Mary Swingley, and their son Benjamin b ca 1784.

It was this latter Benjamin, married to Elizabeth Ankeny in 1807, with whom a John Kershner, born 1798, made his home. Descendants thought this John was their son, but he's too old: Mary Maxwell and I think he was the orphaned son of your Jonathan. He moved to Ohio, and I think Mary is in touch with some of his family there. The land of Benjamin and Elizabeth Ankeny Kershner adjoined that of Jonathan Kershner in 1814, two or three months before Jonathan died. We don't have a date of death, but we do have the deed Jonathan made and his administrator appointed, so it must have been between those dates. I think his wife died at approximately the same time, that relatives took the children back to Berks Co. except for John, age 16, and that Meisse was named their guardian, probably rented out the farm in Bedford Co. to support the children until they were grown, when it was sold, after the death of Benjamin, around 1838. Since Benjamin owned land in two states, administrators were appointed for each state. Complex, has to be assembled from many little bits, but makes sense to me.

This has run on much longer than it should. It was such an interesting puzzle, and I'm convinced I could not have formed any theory if I hadn't just collected EVERYTHING, whether it seemed to fit or not.

Do send your own account to Mary Maxwell for her Vol. III. I am not going to do any more on your line except perhaps the German records.

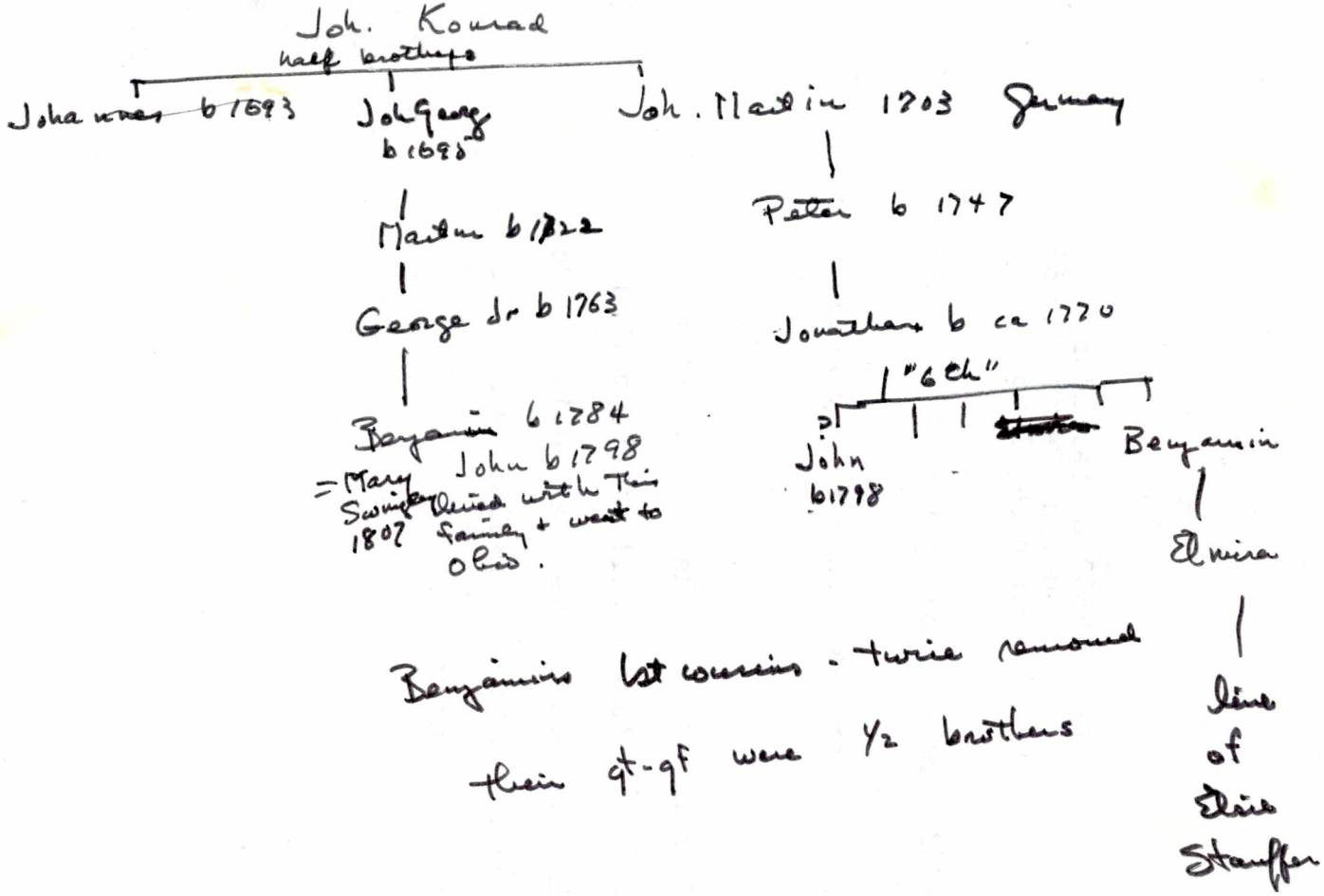
Mrs. Nelson Stauffer
88 John St.
Kingston, Pa. 18704

WILKES-BARRE, PA 187
PM
13 FEB
1990



Mrs. Stuart S. Kershner
1414 Red Bud Trail
Austin
Texas

78746


Joh. Konrad
half brothers
Johannes b 1693
Johgeorg b 1698
Joh. Martin 1703 Germany
Martin b 1722
Peter b 1747
George Jr b 1763
Jonathan b ca 1770
"6 Ch"
Benjamin b 1784
= Mary Swinger 1807
John b 1798
lived with their family + went to Ohio.
John b 1798
Benjamin
Elmira
Benjamins 1st cousins - twice removed
their gt-gf were ½ brothers
line of Elias Stauffer

4603 El Salvador
Houston, Texas 77066
March 24, 1978

TO: All who have ordered Kershner Family books, Volumes I and II

FROM: Jack K. Halley, Secretary, Kershner Family Association

SUBJECT: Volume I

The Volume II of this set of books was mailed out a couple of weeks ago. The Volume I will not be mailed until sometime in April. Do not become alarmed if you do not receive it right away. It will be mailed as soon as the author has completed the indexing.

jkh/