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THE BEECH GROVE

(Newsletter of the Familie Hagenbuch)

HAGENBUCH

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Why "The Beech Grove"

I have found a few different designs for the Hagenbuch coat-of-arms in my research (more about that in another newsletter). But all of them have one thing in common: the beech tree. The beech tree was an important symbol to the early Germans in Europe. The tree stood tall, straight and strong. Because of its smooth bark it was used to write on. The German word for Beech is Buch. Therefore, the early German people called their compiled writings on the beech tree bark a Buch (book); but the original word Buch means beech tree.

While traveling in Switzerland in 1979, we stumbled onto the town of Hagenbuch which lies north of Zürich (again, more of that in another newsletter). The symbol which the town uses is above and will be used on the cover of every newsletter. The symbol shows a beech tree inside an enclosure. The name Hagenbuch literally means "enclosure of the beech tree" which can be taken in two ways. Either a beech tree is within an enclosure or a group of beech trees form the enclosure (a grove). I like to think that our family took the name Hagenbuch hundreds of years ago because they lived in an area where there were many beech trees. Therefore, our newsletter is called The Beech Grove.

Editor's Column

This is the first of many newsletters I hope to put together about our family: Hagenbuch. First, let me mention that it is up to you, the readers (family and friends), to keep this newsletter functioning. I will need to have two things from you periodically to help me out.

The first has to do with your contributions concerning family information. Please let me know about births, deaths, marriages, etc. in your immediate family so that I can add this information to my records. Also, I would appreciate you letting me know now and then which articles you like best and which ones you disliked. Also, let me know how I can improve the newsletter. This is new to my genealogical work, so suggestions will be helpful. Furthermore, if you have an interesting family story that you think our family would enjoy reading, please send it to me so that I can include it in the newsletter. I would also like to begin a column concerning "Letters to the Editor". So if there is any info you would like to give to our family in letter form, send it to me and mark it as such.

You may have a poet in your family or you may run across a poem, cartoon or joke that deals with family relationships. I am looking for any contributions along this line. Finally, if your immediate family is planning a reunion, send the date and place and I will include it in the newsletter. Possibly a member of another Hagenbuch clan will be traveling through your area when you are having a reunion and will stop in for the chance of getting acquainted with long-lost cousins.

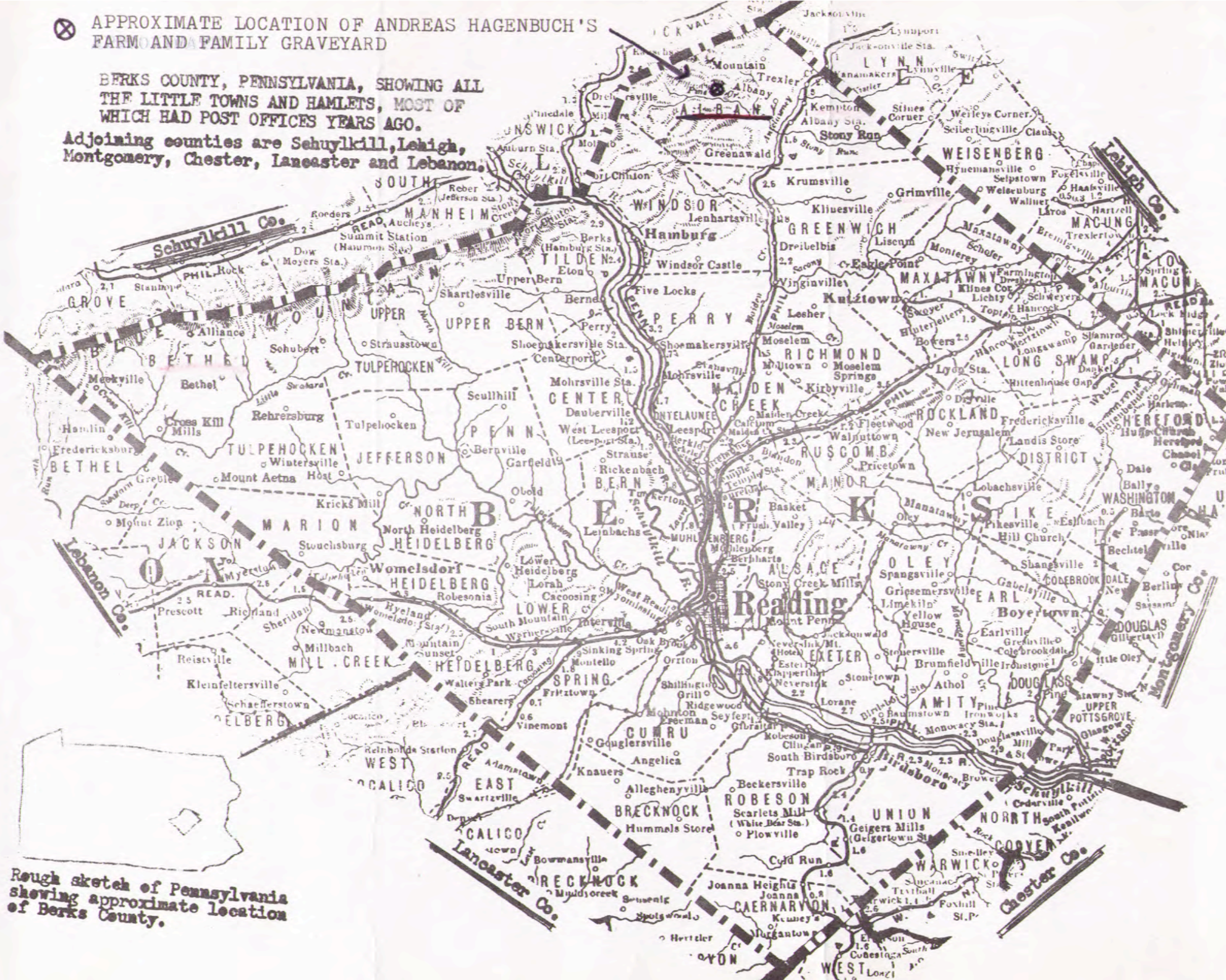
The second thing I will need from you either annually or quarterly is your payment for the newsletter. Several persons have already sent their annual payment of $4. However, if you mentioned to me that you were interested in this newsletter, you will receive this first copy. If after reading it, you decide against it, please send me $1 to cover the cost of this copy and let me know that you are no longer interested. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter throughout 1982, please send your $4 payment. Although postage costs ran a bit higher than expected, the cost will stay $4 for 1982.

Now since I've written of your contributions, let me contribute a little information about myself. Most people are already acquainted with me and many of you have met me. My wife Linda, my six month old son Andrew, and myself live near Selinsgrove, PA. I teach fifth grade at a neighboring school district. Linda taught there also (high school math) for seven years but has other interests now since Andrew and our new home have come along. Linda is an excellent seamstress and makes much of my clothing and her own. She is an excellent homemaker all around. Although teaching takes up much of my time, I also give piano lessons, serve on our Lutheran church council, and record our family history. I am also seeking other employment possibilities since I have my Master's Degree in Educational Administration (which qualifies me to serve as a school principal). Both Linda and I thoroughly enjoy our new home and status as parents. We welcome any of you to stop in and visit with us.

Interesting Photo

This little soldier is ready for the parade! The photo is of Robert Del Roy Hagenbuch II who was born in Shenandoah, PA on 12 Dec 1894. Robert eventually did become a soldier and served in World War I as a plane mechanic in England. Robert married Mildred Ann Tepe in 1919 and they had seven children: Robert III, John, Kathryn, Fred, Donald, Dorothy, and Lois. You may have heard of Dorothy before. She is Dorothy Hagenbuch Hillegass who organized the Hagenbuch Autumn Years Club a few years ago.

Robert Del Roy Hagenbuch II died on 7 Feb 1942 and is buried at St. Thomas Cemetary, Bedford, PA. Robert's great-grandfather was Robert Hagenbuch, son of John-born 1785.


⊗ APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF ANDREAS HAGENBUCH'S FARM AND FAMILY GRAVEYARD
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SHOWING ALL THE LITTLE TOWNS AND HAMLETS, MOST OF WHICH HAD POST OFFICES YEARS AGO.
Adjoining counties are Schuylkill, Lehigh, Montgomery, Chester, Lancaster and Lebanon.
Schuylkill Co.
Lehigh Co.
Lebanon Co.
Lancaster Co.
Chester Co.
Montgomery Co.
Reading
Albany
Stony Run
Greenawald
Hamburg
Windsor Castle
Five Locks
Kutztown
Virginville
Eagle Point
Krumsville
Grimville
Kleinsville
Lenhartsville
Shoemakersville
Centerport
Strausstown
Schubert
Alliance
Bethel
Meckville
Hamlin
Fredericksburg
Cross Kill Mills
Rehrersburg
Tulpehocken
Wintersville
Mount Aetna
Host
Scullhill
Berrysville
Garfield
Jefferson
Mount Zion
Kricks Mill
Stouchsburg
North Heidelberg
Womelsdorf
Robesonia
Richland
Prescott
Sheridan
Newmanstown
Millbach
Reistville
Kleinfeltersville
Schaefferstown
Mill Creek
Heidelberg
Spring
Fritztown
Shearers
Vinemont
Douglassville
Gouglersville
Angelica
Knauers
Allegheny ville
Hummels Store
Bowmansville
Muddy Creek
Spotswood
Joanna Heights
Caernarvon
Morgantown
Hertzler
Coventry
Warwick
Geigers Mills
Plowville
Scarlets Mill
Beckersville
Trap Rock
South Birdsboro
Birdsboro
Douglass
Amity
Oley
Exeter
Earl
Boyertown
Douglassville
Pottsgrove
Upper Pottsgrove
Glasgow
Limekiln
Yellow House
Spangsville
Griesemersville
Stony Creek Mills
Mount Penn
Lorane
Shillington
Ridgewood
Mohnton
Sinking Spring
Orton
Lower Heidelberg
Lorah
Cacoosing
Wernersville
Intervilla
Oak Brook
Lower Alsace
Upper Alsace
Muhlenberg
Leinbachs
Rickenbach
Obold
Berne
Perry
Upper Bern
Shoemakersville Sta.
Mohrsville
Mohrsville Sta.
Dauberville
West Leesport
Leesport
Maiden Creek
Lyon Sta.
Moselem
Moselem Springs
Richmond
Maidencreek
Fleetwood
New Jerusalem
Walnuttown
Ruscombmanor
Pricetown
Basket
Frush Valley
Lobachsville
Pikesville
Hill Church
Esilbach
Shangsville
Bechtelsville
Washington
Dale
Bally
Hereford
Landis Store
Frederickville
Rockland
Longswamp
Hutten house Gap
Long Swamp
Macungie
Trexlertown
Weisenberg
Heidelberg
Tilden
Windsor
Greenwich
Maxatawny
Monterey
Lisenm
Dreibelbis
Kline sville
Lynn
Albany
Kempton
Stines Corner
Weiley's Corner
Seiberlingville
Claus
Lynnville
Lynnport
Jacksonville
Mountain
Trexler
Drehersville
Millerg
Schuylkill
Auburn Sta.
Port Clinton
Reber
Jefferson Sta.
Roders
Aucheys
Summit Station
Hanuman Sta.
Dow
Moyers Sta.
Stoudt Creek
Berks
Hamburg Sta.
Eton
Upper Bern
Shartlesville
Berne
Penn
Phil. Rock
Stanmpe
Grove
Blue Mountain
Bethel
Tulpehocken
Jefferson
Marion
Jackson
Lebanon
Myerstown
Richland
Ryeland
Womelsdorf Sta.
Newmanstown
Millbach
Mountain Sunset
Reistville
Kleinfeltersville
Schaefferstown
Walters Park
Shearers
Vinemont
Reinholds Station
West Cocalico
East Cocalico
Swartzville
Adamstown
Brecknock
Hummels Store
Bowmansville
Muddy Creek
Spotswood
Joanna Heights
Caernarvon
Morgantown
Hertzler
Union

ANDREAS HAGENBUCH (came to America in 1737)

1st wife - Magdalena

- 1736 HENRY
  - John 1762
    - Reuben
  - Jacob 1765
    - Jacob
    - Joseph
    - John
    - Daniel
    - Peter
    - Stephen
  - Joseph 1778 +Stephen
    - Charles
    - William
    - Henry
    - Joseph
  - +Henry
  - +Christian
- c1740 +Magdalena
  - Catherina c1738
  - Maria c1745
- 1746 MICHAEL
  - Christian 1770
    - +Joshua
    - Stephen
    - +Michael
    - Jacob
    - Ruben
    - William
    - John
  - Henry 1772
    - Isaac
    - Samuel
    - William*
    - Benjamin(d)
  - Jacob 1777
    - Timothy
    - Michael
    - Amos
    - Nathan
    - Enoch
    - Daniel
    - Charles
    - Aaron
  - Andrew 1785
    - Henry H.
    - Aaron
    - Peter
    - Abraham(d)
- 1747 CHRISTIAN
  - Conrad 1790
    - John P.
  - Michael 1799
    - +John J.
    - William A.
    - Charles W.

2nd wife - Maria Margareth

- Anna Barbara c1734
- Anna Elizabeth 1754
- John(d) 1755
- Christinia 1759
- +Anna Margaretha c1757
- JOHN 1763
  - +Andrew 1782
  - +Joseph
  - John 1785
    - Robert
    - (not sure if these)--Benjamin 1818
    - (2 sons belong here)-Samuel 1821
  - Simon 1788
    - +Elisha
    - William H.
    - +Samuel
    - George M.
  - John 1791
  - Jacob 1792
    - Jeremiah
  - Daniel 1803
    - Frederick
    - +Josiah
    - John W.
    - Frank H.
  - +Jonas 1810
  - Charles 1811
    - +Josiah
    - Artemus
    - Henry W.
    - Hiram

IMPORTANT-There is a possibility that Michael 1746, Maria c1745 and Christian 1747 belong to Andreas's 2nd wife and not first. Little info exists on this subject

NOTES:

This family chart covers four generations of Hagenbuchs, Andreas Hagenbuch being the first generation. On this chart, females have been eliminated for the third and fourth generations because of the lack of space. The chart covers the years of 1736(birthdate of Andreas' son Henry) to approximately 1900(death dates of some of the youngest persons in the 4th generation).

(d) - died young

\+ - descendants unknown

* - great-great grandfather of Mark O. Hagenbuch

Dates beside names indicate birthdates
c means circa or approximate birthdate

YOU MAY WANT TO KEEP THIS FAMILY CHART FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. WHEN I WRITE ABOUT A CERTAIN FAMILY, I WILL REFER TO THE ANCESTOR'S NAME AND BIRTHDATE SO READERS CAN FOLLOW FAMILY LINES.

Andreas Hagenbuch Comes to America

In 1681 William Penn was given land in America by the English King Charles II to fulfill a debt to Penn's father. The land was named Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods). Penn sent emissaries throughout the Rhineland area of Germany to find families who would come to Pennsylvania and settle there. This area of Germany, called the Palatinate, had been subjected to many wars over several hundred years and many German farmers, noblemen, etc. jumped at the chance to start a new life in Penn's colony.

Andreas Hagenbuch, aged 26, was one of these Germans who decided to leave his homeland for America. We know little of Andreas and what little we do know deals mainly with his life after landing in Philadelphia in 1737. His early life is shrouded in mystery. We know that he was born on the 11th or 19th of April, 1711 in the "Kingdom of Württemberg". This does not give us a precise locale, however. Württemberg in the 1700's included many towns and lands with the modern city of Stuttgart at about its center. It is reported through German research that Andreas was born in the village of Lomersheim which is West of Stuttgart. However, further research revealed that no Hagenbuch was registered in the Lomersheim churches in 1711 or lived in that town in 1735. So, the mystery continues.

We can be fairly sure that Andreas left for America in May of 1737 by traveling down the Rhine to Rotterdam, Holland. His wife Magdalena and two children were with him: Anna Barbara, probably 3 years old and Heinrich (Henry) age 1 year old. The trip down the Rhine lasted from 4 to 6 weeks because of 26 Custom Houses along the way. These stops meant searches, payment of money and layovers which cost more money.

When their Rhine ship came to Rotterdam, Andreas and family may have had another layover of 5 to 6 weeks which would mean more money spent because food and lodging were very expensive. Finally, the Hagenbuch family were boarded on the ship "Charming Nancy" for the voyage to England and another Customs House. An approximate date for the boarding of the ship might be mid-July, 1737. The commander of the "Charming Nancy" was Charles Stedman. The voyage to England took 1 to 2 weeks and in this case Andreas's ship landed in Plymouth.

After clearing the Customs House in Plymouth the voyage to America began for Andreas and his family. A historian of the times wrote: "the real misery begins with the long voyage. For from there the ships, unless they have good wind, must often sail eight, nine, ten to twelve weeks before they reach Philadelphia. But even with the best wind the voyage lasts seven weeks".[1]

After reading about the voyages of ships at this time, the word "misery" is an understatement. Andreas and family would have been packed aboard the ship (in this case, over 350 passengers) without proper food, water, or sanitary services. Diseases such as dysentary, scurvy, typhoid, and smallpox were rampant. Children were attacked first and died in large numbers. The resourcefulness of Andreas and Magdalena should be highly complimented since their children, Anna Barbara and Henry, lived through the voyage to reach America and lead long lives.

Storms were quite frequent during the long voyage and Andreas and family surely suffered through one of these. Following is an account of a storm during the voyage of the ship "Claudina" during the mid-1700's taken from the diary of A. Pfister.

"....a strong wind suddenly arose (simply good fresh air as the sailors said), but the water became rough, the waves struck over the decks, and all fires were ordered to be put out...On the 25th the whole sky became clouded over with dark and heavy clouds...In the cabins all articles, though tied fast, were broken loose and were thrown helter-skelter,the occupants likewise, many with bruised limbs, and there was no end to the spells of seasickness and of misery made ridiculous. The storm was ever growing worse. ..The raging sea was playing with the gigantic structure of the ship as with a toy; sailors were swallowed up by the waters, others committed suicide, and (people) who ventured on deck fell unconscious because of the force of the waves. ...

With a loud and deafening roar the huge waves wash over the ship; the decks and every port-hole had to be made extra tight. The (people) were lying in the lower compartments as if buried alive in coffins, gasping in the darkness after air and water; from moment to moment the most of them, quiet and depressed, expected to go out of this dark night into the eternal day of Heaven. Still on the next day the storm was raging and the heavy sea also continued, and this threatened to break the ship to pieces; but the clouds broke, the great downfall of rain ceased, the air became clear, the wind subsided (10 days the storm had raged)....It was not until the morning of the 30th that this violent sea had spent its fury; sound sleep reinvigorated exhausted nature; and when the (people) and sailors awoke to the beautiful day and looked out upon the glittering, smooth, quiet sea, ...they each and every one felt as if they had awakened to a new day of creation. The kitchen fires were again glowing, the kettles were steaming, the provisions, clothing, and bed linen, all so thoroughly wet through, were dried, everywhere repairs were undertaken, the masts were again properly set up, and the sails spread; on the deck praises to God were sung with fervent feelings of gratitude in devout meetings of prayer."[2]

We cannot be sure of the untold miseries and hardships that Andreas and his family suffered in the year of 1737. But the accounts above give us an idea what probably happened. We do know for sure that in early October, 1737, the "Charming Nancy" carrying 350 plus passengers; Andreas, Magdalena, Anna Barbara, and Henry Hagenbuch included, came in sight of the Delaware River. Finally on the 8th of October, the ship landed in Philadelphia. The first of the Hagenbuch family had come to the New World.

"Then (God) called unto a thousand peoples, and summoned the bravest among them. They came from the ends of the earth, each bearing a gift and a hope. The glow of adventure was in their eyes, and in their hearts the glory of hope. ... And they called (the land) "America". -by Abba Hillel Silver.

Sources....

1 Strassburger, Ralph B.; Pennsylvania German Pioneers, Vol. I; Pennsylvania German Society; 1934; pgs xiii-xxxv, pgs. 188-194.

2 Johannes Schwalm the Hessian; publ. by Johannes Schwalm Historical Assoc.; Precision Printers, Inc.; Millville, PA; 1976; pgs. 2-3.

Mystery Stones Lost From Hagenbuch Graveyard

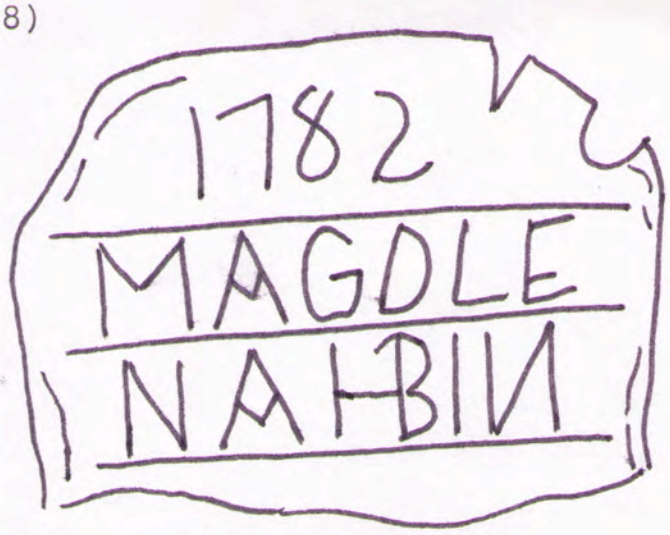
When America was first settled by colonists in the 1700's it was not uncommon for a family to have its own graveyard. One reason for this was a lack of modern preservation services. Therefore, when a family member died it was necessary to bury the body as soon as possible. Since many early colonists lived in the forest quite by themselves, this would mean having a family graveyard located on one's own land.

Andreas Hagenbuch was no exception. On his farm located near the town of Albany in Albany Twp., Berks Co., PA (see the map on page 4) is a graveyard which contains Andreas's and his kin's remains. The burial ground is located about 1000 feet from where Andreas had his home. It is on a knoll that the local Pennsylvania Germans call the "Kiss Hivvel" which means "loose ground". I have been to the graveyard three times and the first time it would have been difficult to recognize it as a graveyard.

In the Fall of 1978 I was traveling near Albany, PA looking for Andreas's farm. I had some clues where to find it and with some local farmers' help, I eventually stumbled onto my destination. The farm is now owned by Mr. Cloyd Trexler who speaks with a thick Pennsylvania German accent. He showed me around the farm buildings pointing out some interesting things (to be reported in another newsletter). I was just about to leave the farm when he mentioned that there was an old graveyard on the premises. It didn't take me long to get up on the knoll where he was leading. When a genealogist stumbles onto a treasure such as a graveyard where his ancestors are buried, it is quite a sight!

I'm sure that my excitement showed, expecially when I got down on my hands and knees to dig out the old stones with my bare hands. The graveyard hadn't had any care since the last Hagenbuch had lived there in the 1850's (Michael, son of Jacob-1777). The stones that could be seen were just barely sticking above the ground. My father and nephew were with me so that it didn't take us long to pull the stones out of the ground and set them upright. We found about 10 stones arranged in three rows. Many of the stones were made of the beautiful red rock which comes from the nearby Blue Mountains. One blow to my excitement was that none of the stones was inscribed, although it isn't uncommon to find gravestones without inscriptions from those early days.

After righting the stones and taking some photos, Mr. Trexler mentioned that he knew of at least one stone that did have an inscription. But we could not find it. Mr. Trexler said that several years before a lady stopped by his house and asked if she could look around. When she found the graveyard she took some photos (later sending one to Mr. Trexler) and then left. The stone with the inscription had been on the farm at that time and Mr. Trexler had the lady's photo to prove it. Furthermore, a letter from Mrs. Helen Hagenbuch Durham states that she had visited the graveyard in the early 1970's . At that time there were two inscribed stones. Mrs. Durham sent me the photos of these stones that have mysteriously disappeared. On page 8 are diagrams of the stones and possible explanations of the inscriptions.



The above diagrams of the missing gravestones show that the persons who were buried at these markers were both female Hagenbuchs. The HB hooked together on both stones most likely represents the name HagenBuch. The ending IN is a German suffix meaning female. The dates are most likely the death dates; the second is unmistakenably 1782 and the other probably is to represent 1781. Although the last number may be a hurried 7, this is not likely because the German way of making a 1 has the top line.

Since we have deduced what the HBIN represents (female Hagenbuch) and we are practically sure of the dates, the only information left is the first name of each female. The second stone is Magdalena (although the second A is missing). The first stone has the initials A M. Although I have searched my records over and over and tried to cover every possibility there were no Magdalena Hagenbuchs or any Hagenbuchs with the initials A M who would have died (or been born) in 1781, 1782, or even 1787.

The only possibility that I have thought of to explain the inscriptions of the missing stones is the following: Andreas may have had grand-daughters with the above name and initials who died as infants. Although I have searched my records for this possibility, the names do not show up. However, infant deaths were not always reported or kept record of in the 1700's.

The persons who are probably buried in the graveyard on Andreas's farm are listed below. Most of these have been documented through the history written by Enoch Hagenbuch (son of Jacob-1777;see next article).

Magdalena Hagenbuch (Andreas's 1st wife)-birthdate unknown; died c1741 or c1748

John Hagenbuch-born Dec, 1755; died c1756

Andreas Hagenbuch-born 11(19) Apr 1711; died 1785

Maria Margareth Hagenbuch (Andreas's 2nd wife)-birthdate unknown; died after 1785

Michael Hagenbuch-born 17 Sep 1746; died 23(2) Mar 1809

Eva Elizabeth Kunz Hagenbuch (Michael's wife)-born c1745; died 1825

Jacob Hagenbuch-born 13 Jun 1777, died 8 Jan 1842

Magdalena Knepper Hagenbuch (Jacob's 2nd wife)-born 16 Dec 1789 or 22 Jun 1777;death date unknown

As reported before, most of the persons listed were documented as buried in the graveyard by Enoch Hagenbuch. I have misplace part of my copy of the history that he wrote so I am unable to check for sure which persons he positively mentions as having been buried on Andreas's farm. However, I believe Enoch also mentions a few daughters of Jacob Hagenbuch(1777) as buried there. If any readers have Enoch's history, would you please send me a copy.

Family Patriarch - Enoch Hagenbuch

"The Hagenbuchs are not among the distinguished men and women of our beloved land. They are, nevertheless, almost all of them, honest, temperate and industrious, and may be counted among our best citizens. I never have been able to find the name on prison or pauper catalogue, and it is to be hoped that none will ever so disgrace the name, coming to us untarnished from past generations." -quotation from the 1884 family history by Enoch Hagenbuch.

Enoch Hagenbuch was born 8 Nov 1814 on the homestead in Albany Twp., Berks Co. PA that his great-grandfather Andreas bought from the landholdings of William Penn's sons. Enoch's father, Jacob-1777, farmed the land and was a tanner by trade. Enoch's older brother Michael would eventually inherit the farm when father Jacob died. So, when Enoch married on 18 Jan 1835, he found other work. In his own words, he describes it: "(I) burned charcoal two summers for $18 per month... and worked for 40 cents per day... Chopped cord wood for 25 cents per cord. Cradled in the harvest field for 33 1/3 cents per day, and had to put in more hours per day than is done now" (written in 1884).

In the Spring of 1838, Enoch decided to move West. He bought a horse and wagon, and with his wife (the former Christina Greenawald) and two daughters, Harriet and Lydia ages 3 and 1, he set out and traveled to Muncy, Indiana where he bought 160 acres of land for $500. Enoch and his (growing) family had to clear the land and build a cabin. The interesting stories he wrote concerning early pioneer days will be included in another newsletter.

In March of 1842, Enoch and family (now numbering 5 children) moved to Richland Co., Ohio while the farm in Indiana was rented out. Enoch does not mention in his history what he did in Ohio for 3½ years. Only that he "worked there by the day and month". In the Fall of 1845, Enoch and family (now 6 children and one had died young) moved back to the farm in Indiana where Enoch bought 30 more acres. The year of 1851 must have been a monumental one for Enoch. He sold his farm for $1800 (to be used as a county poor farm) and traveled back to the homestead in Berks Co., PA for a visit. He had surely made a success of himself,and his family in Pennsylvania would have been proud of him. Enoch and Christina had 10 children by now.

In the Spring of 1852, Enoch returned to the West and this time with two two-horse teams. He bought 160 acres of land for $2000 in LaSalle Co., Illinois, northwest of Ottawa in Waltham Twp. Two years later his brother Charles would also move to Waltham Twp. and begin farming. Descendants of Enoch's brother Charles still live and farm in Waltham Twp., LaSalle Co., Illinois.

In his history, Enoch states that he and his family worked hard on the land in Waltham Twp. and he was able to give each of his children a farm and home. Enoch's children were: Harriet(married Elias Erb); Lydia(m. James Watt); James(m. Elizabeth Meyers); Mary (died young); Clara(m. John Gilmore); Christina(died young); Lucinda (m. Saban Brobst); Enoch, Jr.(m. Sarah Stanfield); Amos(m. Louisa Douvia); Adelina(m. Adolph Bartaway); Melinda(m. Edward Ferry); John (died young); and Henry(died young).

On 7 Mar 1895, Enoch died. I have no record of his burial place, although I believe it would probably be somewhere in Waltham Twp., LaSalle Co., Illinois (possibly a reader could help me out on that). His family history which he wrote in 1884 is interesting and filled with family information. He will always be remembered as a prominent member of the Hagenbuch family.

Poem

"The Family Meeting"

by Charles Sprague

We are all here!
Father, Mother,
Sister, Brother,
All who hold each other dear.
Each chair is fill'd-we're all at home:
To-night let no cold stranger come:
It is not often thus around
Our old familiar hearth we're found:
Bless, then, the meeting and the spot;
For once be every care forgot;
Let gentle Peace assert her power,
And kind Affection rule the hour:
We're all-all here.

We're NOT all here!
Some are away-the dead ones dear,
Who throng'd with us this ancient hearth,
And gave the hour to guiltless mirth.
Fate, with a stern, relentless hand,
Look'd in and thinn'd our little band:
Some like a night-flash pass'd away,
And some sank, lingering, day by day;
The quiet graveyard-some lie there-
And cruel Ocean has his share-
We're NOT all here.

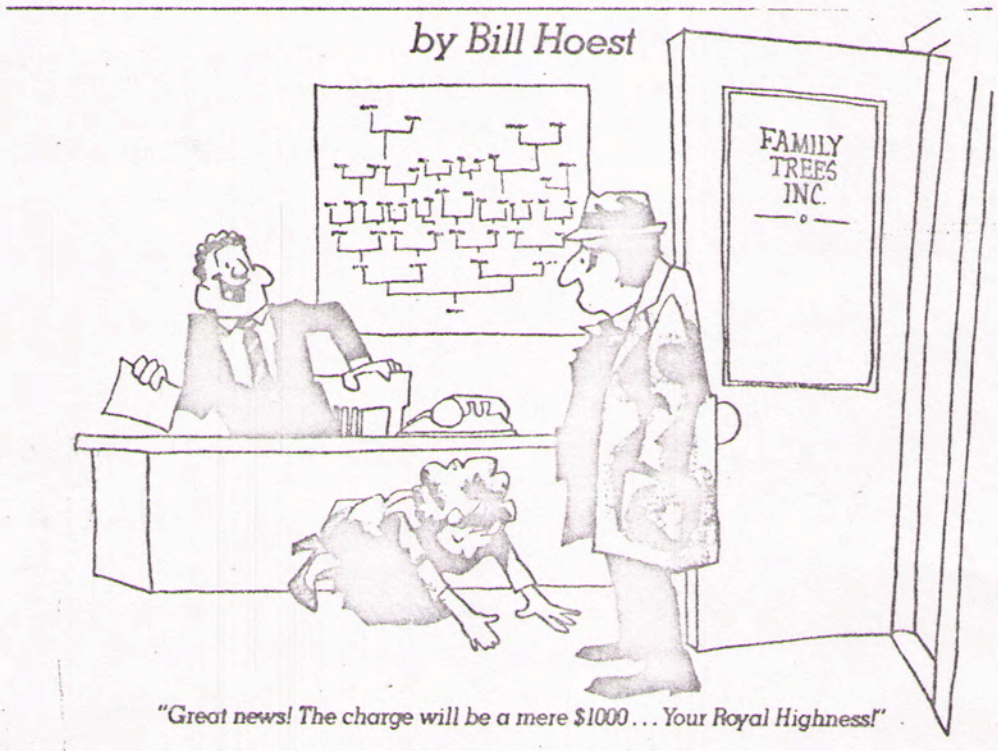
(continued...)

We ARE all here!
Even they-the dead-though dead, so dear;
Fond Memory, to her duty true,
Brings back their faded forms to view.
How life-like, through the mist of years,
Each well-remember'd face appears!
We see them, as in times long past
From each to each kind looks are cast;
We hear their words, their smiles behold,
They're round us, as they were of old-
We ARE all here.

We are all here!
Father, Mother,
Sister, Brother,
You that I love with love so dear.
This may not long of us be said;
Soon must we join the gather'd dead;
And by the hearth we now sit round,
Some other circle will be found.
Oh! then, that wisdom may we know,
Which yields a life of peace below;
So, in the world to follow this,
May each repeat, in words of bliss,
We're all-all HERE!

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN MAY!

Send all contributions for newsletter by April.



"Great news! The charge will be a mere $1000... Your Royal Highness!"