

**History of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania :  
with biographical sketches of many of its  
pioneers and prominent men / by Franklin  
Ellis and Samuel Evans.**

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EPHRATA TOWNSHIP.I

Geography and Topography. --This is one of the northern interior townships of the county, and was erected in 1838 from Cocalico township, and is bounded on the north by West Cocalico, northeast by East Cocalico, east by Brecknock, southeast by Earl, south by Earl, southwest by Warwick, and northwest by Clay township.

(snip)

The pioneers of what is now Ephrata township located in or near that part of the town of Ephrata known locally as "Old Ephrata," southeast side of the creek and railroad, and are given more at length in the history of the village of Ephrata. However, it is proper to state here that of the number of houses built in that locality from 1750 to 1780 there are quite a number yet standing and in good condition. Among them may be mentioned the one in which Amos Konigmachcr now lives, and the ones

occupied by Israel Erb, H. Mellinger, S. R. Hess, Reuben Hertzog, Chester Kilhaefner, and Samuel Garman.

Quite a large number of the nearly four thousand inhabitants of what is now Ephrata township are lineal descendants of the original settlers of a century and a quarter ago, and in several instances the land of the original settlers has descended along down in 'the same name to the fifth, sixth, seventh, and in a few instances to the eighth generation. Some of these instances are the old families of Mohler, Keller, Boyer, Fry, and Kempers.

\*\*\*\* In 1735 a patent was granted to John White, of Philadelphia, for sixteen hundred and forty-seven acres of land in what is now Ephrata township, and in the same or next year White conveyed to Henry Mohler one hundred and forty acres of this tract. Jan. 10, 1763, Henry Mohler, Sr., and his wife Elizabeth conveyed to their son Henry ninety-six acres of their one hundred and forty. This property is still in the Mohler family, probably where Samuel Levi Mohler now resides, a little east of the Mohler meeting-house, mentioned in church history.

Ludwig Mohler came from Switzerland in 1730 and located in this township, and had three sons, George, Jacob, and Henry. Of George we have no record. Jacob married and had a son and daughter. His daughter married a Mellinger, from whom probably sprang a large number of the Mellinger family in this county. The son, Jacob, married and had two sons, John and George. George was a bachelor. John married and became the father of six sons and two

daughters, viz.: Emanuel, Elias, Jacob, William, John, Richard, Nancy, and Polly. Emanuel married

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and became the father of one son and three daughters,—George, now living in Ephrata: Rachel, married to H. Herchelroth, of Ephrata; Sarah, married to Cyrus Miller, of Adamstown; Lizzie is single.

Jacob, son of John, died without issue; William, son of John, is still living, but without a family; John, son of John, went to Delaware; Richard, son of John, moved to Ohio; Elias, son of John Mohler, went West when quite young, and of him we have no record; Polly, married to a Mr. Snavelly, in Illinois; Nancy married a Mr. Weaver, of whom we have no record. Henry Mohler, son of Ludwig Mohler, had four sons and five daughters, viz. : Henry, Jacob, Christian, John, Mary, married a Mr. Pfoutz; the next daughter married a Mr. Herr; Susan, married a Bucher; Salome, married Martin Keller, and the other daughter married to Jacob 'Zugg, of Cumberland County. Henry Mohler, son of Henry, had three sons and two daughters. Mary married James Vogan; Elizabeth married a Mr. Ulrich. The sons were John, Henry, and Samuel.

The last-named Henry married and had five sons—Allan, Samuel, Simon, John L., and David—and four daughters,—Eliza, married to David Horst, of Cumberland County; Rebecca, died single; Hannah, married Peter Overholzer, of Oregon; Lydia, married E. Konigmacher.

Allan removed to Indiana, and Samuel, Simon, and John L. with their families remain in Ephrata town-

ship.

David Mohler died in 1883, leaving a large family, of whom W. K., a son, is in Ephrata, and Elias in West Earl.

John, son of Henry Mohler, had three sons,—Daniel, Henry, and John. Daniel removed to Cumberland County, and Henry to Ohio. John, son of the last-named John, married and had five sons—Cyrus, John G., Isaac, Levi, Reuben, Samuel—and two daughters. Reuben removed to Clay township; Isaac to East Cocalico; Cyrus, deceased; John G., Samuel, and Levi are each married and live in this township.

Anne married Henry Keller, and Salome married Benjamin Eherly, both of this township, and Henry removed to Ohio.

Samuel Mohler had three sons,—Ellranan, Richard, and Jeremiah. Elkanan removed to Illinois and Richard to Philadelphia, while Jeremiah married and still lives in Ephrata.

John Mohler was the grandfather of Levi Mohler, a member of the State Legislature.

Henry Mohler, a son of Ludwig Mohler, purchased from John White (before mentioned) two hundred and forty acres of land in 1736, and in 1749 ninety-six acres from Michael Witmer.

The house now occupied by R. Hertzog, a son-in-law of Simon Mohler, was built by Henry Mohler in 1764, and the house occupied by Christian Kelhaefer was built by Jacob Mohler in 1767.

The Landis families in this township are partly descended from the Mohlers, as a daughter of Jacob Mohler and granddaughter of Ludwig Mohler, the pioneer, married a Mellinger, and Mellinger's daughter married a Landis, from which sprang the Landis family of Ephrata.

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