

HONORING THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL GLATFELTER (died 1824)

Dr. Noah M. Glatfelter wrote in his 1901 history of the family that Casper Glatfelter had five sons: Felix, Henry, Michael, Casper, and John. He did not know then of the existence of a sixth: Solomon. Drawing on what his father had told him in 1859, Dr. Noah wrote that son "Michael had an only son, George, who moved to Ohio and had [a] son and daughter. Here our knowledge of this branch ends." Consequently, he wrote, his book would deal entirely with the other four sons. The only additional information Dr. Noah had by 1910 was that Michael was buried in Bupp's Union graveyard.

In the years after 1910 family researchers found bits and pieces of data about Michael. Not until 1947 were two sources found which improved greatly our knowledge of this man and his family. First, in the spring of that year the undersigned found, in the pulpit of Shuster's (St. Peter's or Yellow) Reformed church, a register recording the baptism of twenty-seven of Casper Glatfelter's grandchildren, including four of Michael's children. Second, later in the same year Nell W. Reeser, a descendant of Felix, informed me that she had found the estate papers of our Michael Glatfelter in Washington County, Pennsylvania. There was no tombstone for him in Bupp's Union, after all.

We still do not know when Michael was born. All we can say is that he was younger than Henry, born 1752, and older than Casper's youngest son, also named Casper, born in 1758. Michael's name appears often enough in militia lists to establish that he did his military duty during the American Revolution.

The register of the old Reformed church in York records the marriage on September 5, 1780 of Michael Glatfelter and Anna Maria Hess, daughter of Ulrich and Ursula Hess, who owned a large farm near the present Jacobus. Rev. Jacob Lischy baptized Anna Maria on August 5, 1759. Her sponsors were her future parents-in-law: Casper and Mary Glatfelter.

On October 11, 1781 Michael became the owner of a 132-acre property, given the survey name Bear Hollow, which was located in a part of Shrewsbury Township which became Springfield in 1835. It is along Yellow Church road, southeast of St. Peter's church.

The baptism of the oldest child of Michael (George) was recorded in the Shuster's Lutheran register in 1781. Baptisms of four others were entered in the Shuster's Reformed register: Michael (1788), Margaret (1792), John (1797), and Philip (1802). Michael and Mary were sponsors for five children born to relatives and friends. In 1783, when the Lutherans and Reformed at Shuster's were building a union church, Michael promised to contribute some 200 wood pieces for the framing. In 1788 he was a member of the committee which met with the head carpenters to settle accounts.

In the fall of 1798 Michael's family lived in a one-story log house, whose dimensions were 25 by 20 feet. It had three windows with 36 panes. The barn was log, 40 by 20 feet. There was a still house, 16 by 14 feet.

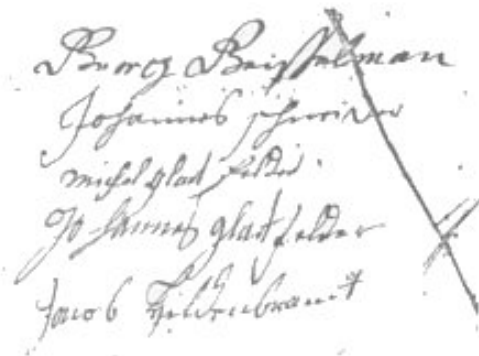
On May 6, 1809 Michael and Mary sold their farm and moved West. On November 9, 1809 "Michael Clatwelder late of the County of York" acquired a property of some 186 acres in Somerset County, Washington County. Since 1972 his old place has been owned by Earl Brown Orchards Inc.

Michael made his will on December 10, 1823 and it was probated on June 11, 1824. His heirs were his wife and six children: Jacob, John, Philip, Margaret, George, and Mary wife of Andrew Ault. In the early 1830s the Aults were in Morgan County, Ohio, and George was a resident of York County.

In the more than half a century that the undersigned has been historian of the family association, only one person has asked for information on the family of Michael Glatfelter.

July 23, 2001

Charles H. Glatfelter
Historian



A collection of handwritten signatures in cursive script, including names like "Burg Baigelman", "Johannes Glatfelter", "Michael Glatfelter", "John Glatfelter", and "Jacob Glatfelter". A large diagonal line is drawn across the signatures.

Two Glatfelter brothers, Michael and John (Johannes), were among the five men who signed the May 1768 settlement of accounts with the head carpenters who built a union church at Shuster's