

Date: Saturday, May 2, 1998 8:41:47 PM  
From: opdengraf@hotmail.com  
Subj: Re: Updegroves  
To: Updegroves@aol.com

I will attach all the info that I have. It is a lengthy document prepared by my cousin. My father had an adopted brother Arthur who is not mentioned in the document. He is said to have moved to Calif. and never heard from again. He was a teenager when he left Oklahoma for Calif. It would have been somewhere around 1925-1930. Hope this helps.  
Janice

>From updegroves@aol.com Mon Apr 27 16:45:40 1998  
>Received: from Updegroves@aol.com  
> by imo13.mx.aol.com (IMOV14.1) id PHCSa29777  
> for <opdengraf@hotmail.com>; Mon, 27 Apr 1998 19:44:20 -0400 (EDT)  
>From: Updegroves <Updegroves@aol.com>  
>Message-ID: <c129ea56.35451855@aol.com>  
>Date: Mon, 27 Apr 1998 19:44:20 EDT  
>To: opdengraf@HOTMAIL.COM  
>Mime-Version: 1.0  
>Subject: Updegroves  
>Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII  
>Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit  
>X-Mailer: AOL 3.0 for Mac sub 84  
>  
>Hello, I am an Updegrove in California with roots in Skukyll County.  
Any  
>info?  
>

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----- Headers -----  
Return-Path: <opdengraf@hotmail.com>  
Received: from rly-zb02.mx.aol.com (rly-zb02.mail.aol.com [172.31.41.2])

These brothers Abraham Isaac, Derick Isaac, Herman Isaac and their wives, mother, and sister Margarit Isaac were three of the 13 families who founded Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Derick Isaac, the eldest of the three emigrant brothers and the leader of the settlers, was born in the early 1640s in Krefeld. In 1681 he married Noleken Vijten. Their marriage certificate is of unique historical interest. So far as is known it is the only extant marriage certificate issued by a meeting of Friends on the Continent of Europe and the first and probably the last - one issued by the Krefeld Friends. It was written in Dutch, awarded to a Dutch named couple of Op den Graeff and Vijten, and signed by 19 persons, all of whom bore Dutch names. This is good evidence of their Dutch ancestry and perhaps Dutch nativity. Nearly all the "witnesses" on the certificate emigrated from Krefeld to Pennsylvania as a single religious community.

Herman Isaac, the second brother, was born in 1646. Apparently he had some quarrel with his fellow Quakers in Krefeld for in 1679, he and five others were banished from that community. The story of their persecution (imprisonment and exile) was recorded in a pamphlet entitled "Remonstrance, to Baron von Kinski, Sheriff of Meurs, also to the Magistrates and Inhabitants of the City of Krefeld, as well as to the Clergy of the Same City." Herman Isaac and Hendrik Janez authored this "Remonstrance" and it was published in 1680 in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Herman Isaac was readmitted to the Krefeld Friends Meeting and his name appears second on the marriage certificate of his brother Derick Isaac and opposite that of his wife, Liesbet Isacks van Bebber,

Abraham Isaac, the youngest brother, was born about 1650, also in Krefeld. Although married when he came to America, little is known about his wife, Catharina,

And not much is known of the sister Margarit Isaac (except that she married Peter Schumacher, Jr., in 1685) or of their mother, Greitijen Peters, except that she died in Philadelphia within weeks of their arrival.

The Op den Graeff families and other Krefelders met Francis Daniel Pastorius, a young German lawyer and agent for William Penn, on the latter's travels through Germany in search of pioneers to settle in the American Colony of Pennsylvania. Pastorius agreed to represent the Krefelders in acquiring 15,000 acres in "Penn's Woods." They wanted to go to the Colonies to escape the interminable wars and religious strife that had so long plagued Europe.

In late June 1683, the 13 families left Krefeld, sailed down the Rhine to Rotterdam, and boarded another ship for Gravesend, England. It took them almost a month to reach Rotterdam, and Penn's agent in England wrote several letters inquiring as to their whereabouts. Their delay apparently was caused by being stopped frequently along the river by princes and barons who demanded tolls. By the time the Krefelders arrived in Rotterdam, they were virtually broke. Fortunately, their passage had been paid earlier and their land in Pennsylvania already purchased.

Finally, on July 24, 1683, the 13 families boarded the Concord in Gravesend and set sail. Under the command of Capt. William Jeffries, the Concord was a British ship of 500 tons and carried 26 cannon and

sailors. The fare was 5 pounds per person older than 12 years. 50 shillings for those under 12, and free for those less than 1 year. Freight rate was 40 shillings per ton. For the voyage, 14 oxen had been slaughtered and 30 barrels of beer and bread and water were provided. The emigrants were advised to bring butter, cheese, and clothing sufficient for 2 or 3 years; iron for building; tools for all kinds of mechanics; rope; fishnets; and guns.

For 3 weeks, the Concord was not out of sight of the English coast because of winds. In a letter dated 1684, Herman Isaac wrote of the trip: "We sailed from England to America in six weeks. We had no storms, but at times more wind than at other times. Upon our whole voyage, we did not experience as much inconvenience as between Holland and England."

On October 6, 1683, the Concord docked in Philadelphia. From Herman Isaac's letter: "Our number did not decrease upon the ocean, but it was increased by two, a son and a daughter. The mothers were easy in labor and were shortly well again." Pastorius, who had arrived a few weeks earlier, greeted the Krefelders.

On October 25, these first settlers met and drew lots for parcels of land - town lots in what would become Germantown and larger acreages for farming. With winter fast approaching, the first order of business was to erect houses. A few families managed to build log cabins but most spent that first - and unusually severe - winter in caves. As to their life and prospects in their new home, Herman Isaac related it very simply in his 1684 letter: "One can obtain anything for money that serves for the necessities of life. William Penn is still alive and has acceded to our conditions,...One finds in Pennsylvania (excluding ourselves) Lutheran and Reformed. The former have two ministers. Their fruits, however, give testimony that they are teachers without the Spirit,.. The Reformed have no minister here at present. The Papists here hold no meetings;...We have Blacks or Moors here also as slaves to labor. Everyone receives his land according to how many or few persons he may bring over and that not altogether. At present there are upon our grounds oak, chestnut and poplar trees, together with other timber, much of which is not known to us. The trees do not stand close together, Ofttimes there stands not a single tree upon an acre, other times there may be 5, 6, 10, yea, even 12. Beneath the trees are many grape-vines. The ground is covered with alder-bushes and much grass, so that the horses, which have run day and night through the woods during the whole winter...are just as fat as if they had been fed in the stable....The Indians show themselves very amiable and friendly, and we live together with them, very quiet and peaceable. We travel day and night through!

the forest without the least fear of them. As I was writing this, several Indians came to us, among whom was a squaw with her child wrapped in the skin of a wild animal,"

In Pennsylvania, the three Op den Graeff brothers played prominent roles in the affairs of the Colony. In 1688 two of them signed the first protest against slavery, and in 1691, the Deputy Governor granted "naturalization" to all three,

In 1689 Derick Isaac and his 10 associates were granted a charter for the "German Towne" by Penn, who appointed him and three others to be the first burgesses. In 1692 he was one of the town's six committeemen; the next year he served as bailiff, the town's chief executive; and the year after that, he was appointed to conserve Germantown's right

of-exception, under its charter, from taxation. Derick died in May 1697. He and his Krefeld bride apparently had no children,

In addition to his part in the family's linen industry in Germantown and farming his own land, Herman Isaac became the agent for two large landholders. He too was one to whom Penn granted the charter for Germantown, being named in it "town President," and was chosen one of the town's first four burgesses. His fences were condemned in 1696 as being "insufficient" and he is not recorded as having held any more elective offices, Herman died in 1701 or 1702, leaving his land to Abraham, his only surviving brother, He and his wife appear to have left no descendants.

Abraham Isaac was, like his two older brothers, a linen weaver and considered the most skilled of those who brought this industry to Germantown. Indeed, he and his brothers were largely responsible for making that community famous, as a contemporary put it, for "very fine German Linen, such as no person of Quality need be ashamed to wear." He too was one to whom Penn granted the charter for Germantown and one of six men appointed to serve as the first committeemen. Abraham was the town burgess in 1692 and was a member of the colonial assembly in 1689, 1690, and 1692. In t!

His last year a controversy arose within the Quaker community. Abraham and his brother Herman sided with the forces which issued an appeal against the Quaker Meeting and government. Although it does not appear that the Friends "disowned" Abraham, apparently he returned to his ancestral Mennonite society after 1708, His last years were marked by difficulties with the civil government. The fence overseers condemned his fences in 1696 as insufficient, His son Jacob "borrowed" a neighbor's horse without permission in 1701 and was fined a half crown; Abraham was condemned to pay the costs of the legal action involved, He quarreled with the sheriff about these costs and "did mightily abuse the Bailiff in Open Court" and was fined L2,10s. In 1704 he was sued by a neighbor for money due on purchased goods and after a court action had the debt arbitrated, That year, an old Krefeld neighbor and fellow pilgrim declared that "no honest man would be in Abraham's company," Abraham sued him for slander, but the neighbor was acquitted, These troubles apparently caused him to sell his brick house and other property in Germantown and move to neighboring Perkiomen, where he spent his remaining years. As his two brothers had died without issue, their portion of the original 2,000 acres reverted to Abraham.

He and his wife had four children - Isaac, Jacob, Margaret, and Anne. The descendants of the sons bear the names of Updegraff, Updegrave, and Updegrove.

The last glimpse of Abraham is in 1709 when he conveyed 300 acres of land on the Perkiomen Creek to his daughter Margaret and her husband, Thomas Howe, on condition that they take good care of him until his death, He died in 1731 and was buried in the Lower Skippack Mennonite Cemetery near Evansburg, Pennsylvania.

The family continued to live in this area of Pennsylvania for several generations - primarily as farmers, So far, no evidence has been uncovered that any male members continued the trade of linen weaving,

A Jacob Updegrove (born 1798, died 1873) !

Was a shoemaker and farmer in Berks County, His son William was born there in 1823 and

died in 1899 in Montgomery County. William's son, Thomas Franklin, was one of nine children. He was born in 1859 in Baumstown (Berks County), and when he was 8 the family moved to Montgomery County.

About 1884 Thomas Franklin and two older brothers, Jacob Bower and William Bower, left Pennsylvania claiming the land was too rocky for good farming - and rode horseback to Kansas. Outside Sterling they purchased suitable farmland. Another brother, Ulysses S. Grant Updegrave, followed a short time later. In Sterling Thomas Franklin met and married (1886) Mary Jane Gonder who had been born in 1868 in Ontario, Canada, within hearing distance of Niagara Falls.

Apparently after a dispute over a loan with one of his brothers, Thomas Franklin packed up his family wife, seven children, and hired hands - and settled on previously purchased property near Anadarko,

Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in 1902. On this trip they herded some livestock but the authorities

at the Indian Territory line slaughtered the livestock because of an outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease. Replacement horses had to be purchased to finish the trip. A goat was taken along to provide milk for the baby, (The goat must have been hidden in a wagon to evade destruction, because she arrived at the destination.)

The Updegrave family lived and prospered on their 160 acres in the Territory. The first task for Thomas Franklin upon arrival at his property was to drill for water. The well he found is still pumping water. Following Thomas' death in 1931, the farm was sold.

Footnote: My line is through Jacob (b.1798), Thomas Franklin Updegrave was my grandfather, His youngest son William Gonder married Paulita Sutphin in 1964, their child Janice (that's me!) b. 1964 married Michael DiMarco 1985 and we have two children- Eden b. 1987 and Shane b. 1989.

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