

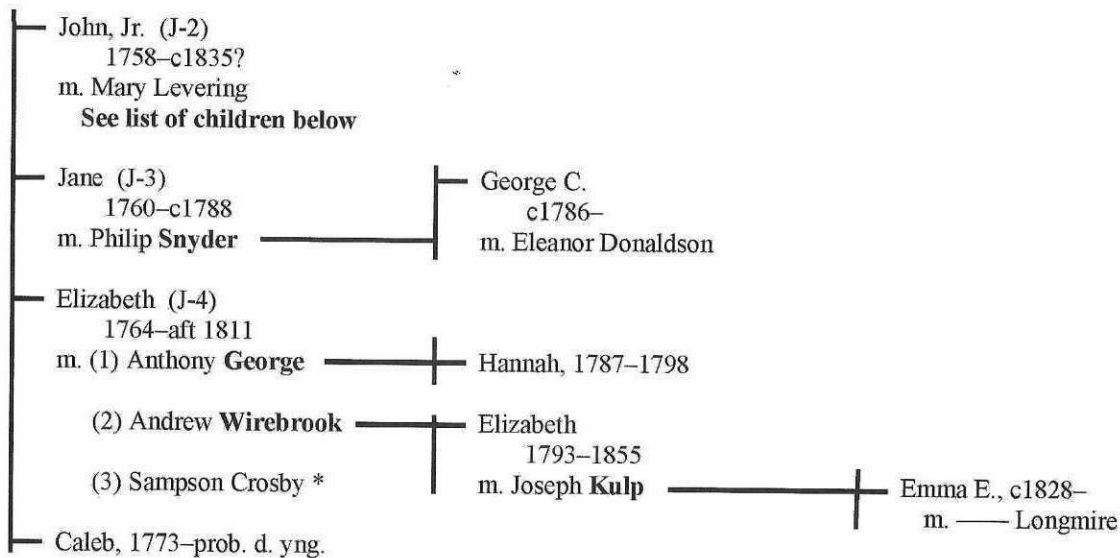
The John Reser/Rezer Branch

Descendants of John Reser/Rezer (J-1)

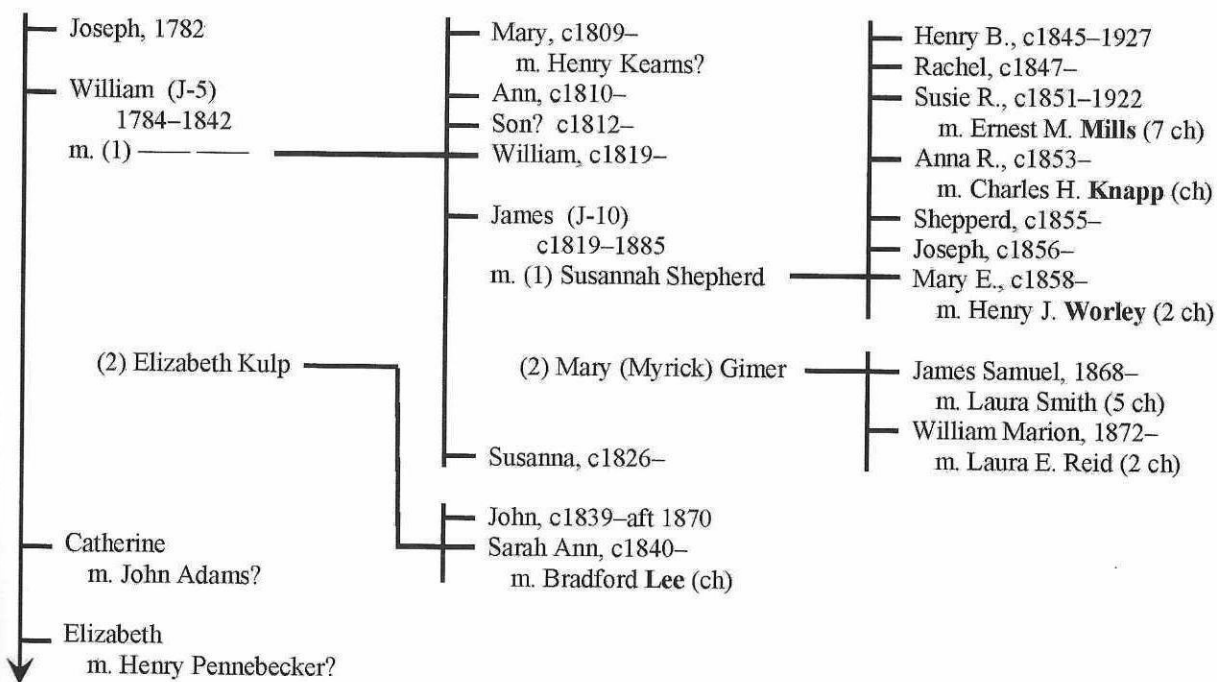
c1730-1793

m. (1) Hannah Armitage

m. (2) Rebecca (Braden) Charlesworth \*



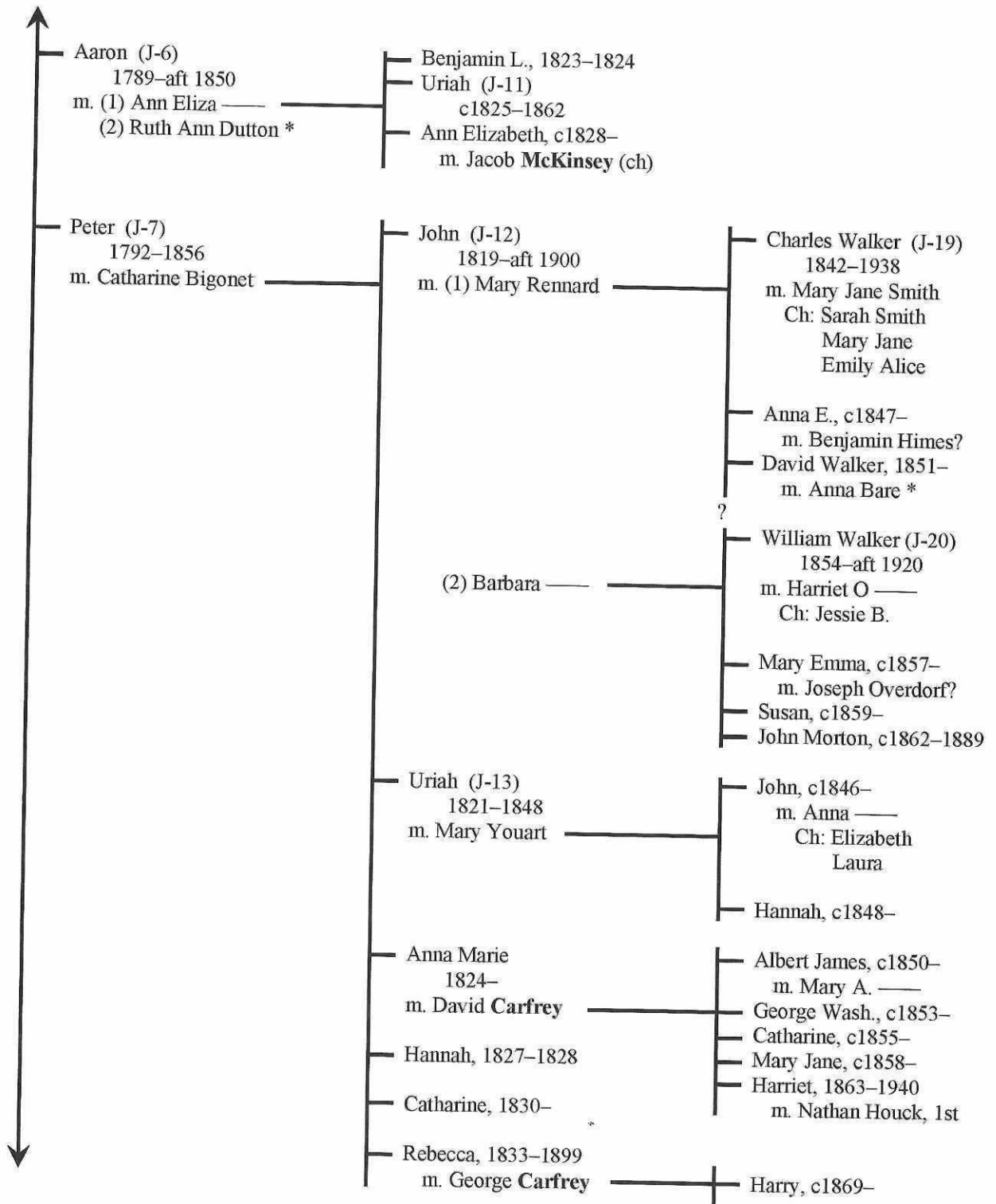
Children of John Rezer, Jr. (J-2)



(continued  
on next page)

\* no children  
by this marriage

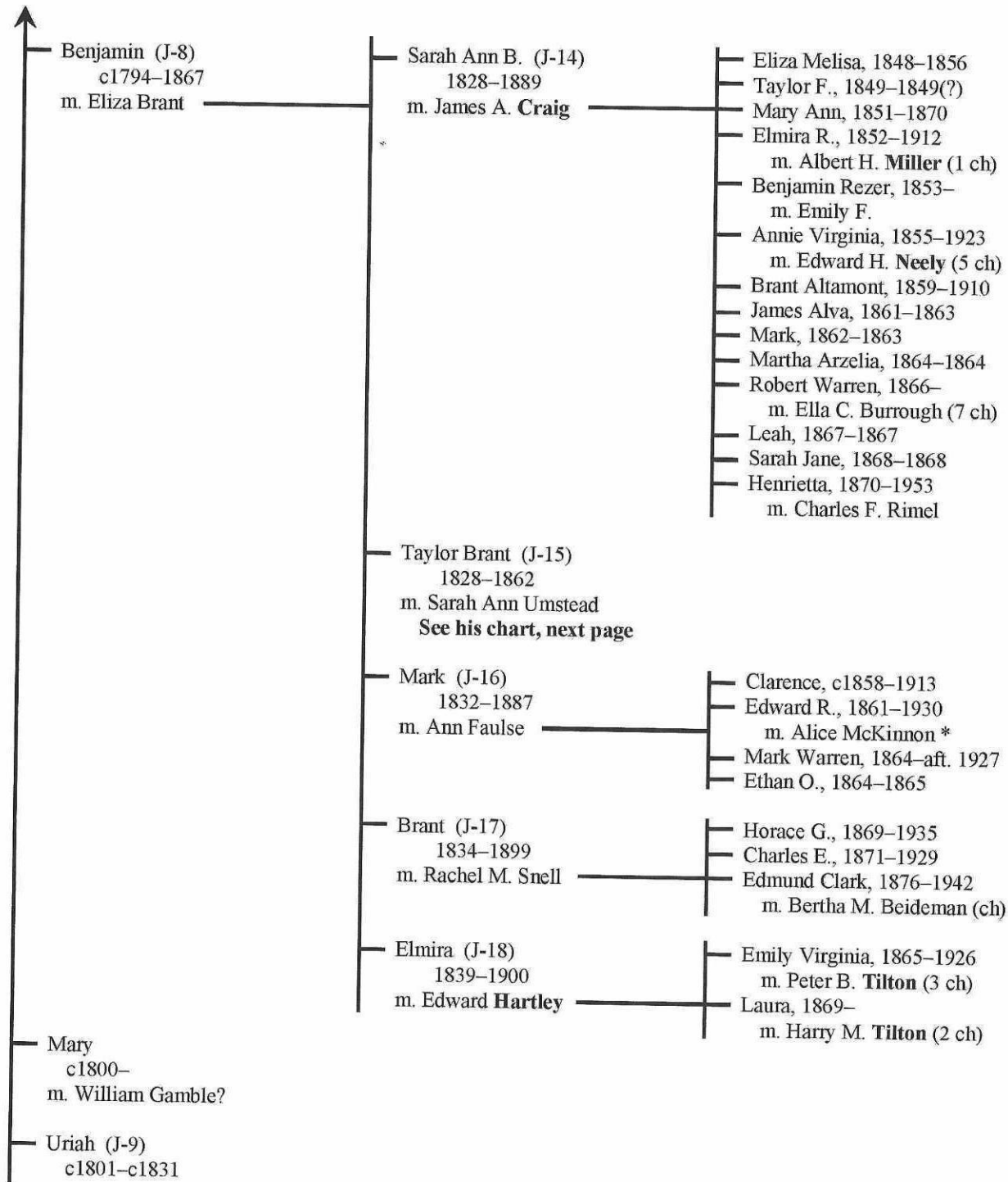
Descendants of John Rezer, Jr. (J-2)  
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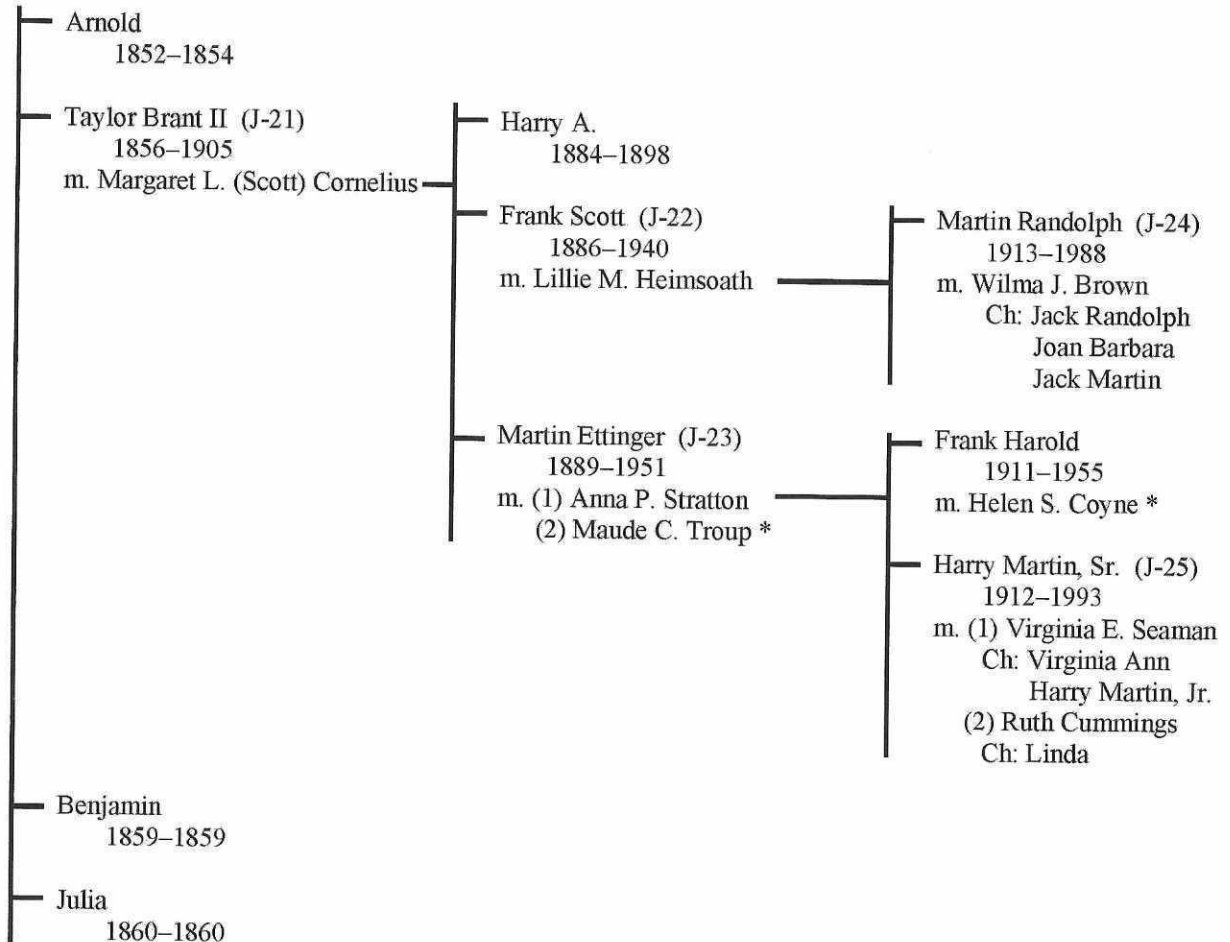
\* no children  
by this marriage

Descendants of John Rezer, Jr. (J-2)  
(continued)



\* no children  
by this marriage

**Descendants of Taylor Brant Rezer (J-15)**  
1828-1862  
m. Sarah Ann Umstead



\* no children  
by this marriage

## *The John Reser/Rezer Branch*

### John Branch Credits

I am greatly indebted to Joan (Rezer) (Brown) Derry (1), Wilma (Brown) Rezer (2), and Mrs. M. Kramer Graham (3), for much of the information about this branch. Prior to April 1992 I was totally unaware that John Reser (J-2), son of John Reser (J-1), may have survived beyond teen age, married, and created another branch of the family. These ladies had collaborated for some years in doing extensive research into their Rezer background, and suspected but could not prove the parentage of their ancestral John Reser. Learning that I was then doing Raser research in the Philadelphia area in support of this book, they generously offered me access to all of their records in hopes that I might finally be able to prove the connection. Using their detailed family tree structure and supporting research notes, beginning in 1992 I included the examination of records of all potential John-branch members in my subsequent research activity. Since then, Joan Derry has frequently and generously provided me with her new findings, many of which were discovered using Internet sources. While I also was unable to find a positive connection, I was able to confirm the accuracy of their work and to augment their findings to some extent. My particular contribution has been to document reference citations, and to construct biographical accounts for John-branch members in the same style used for the other Raser branches. Possibly someday our combined effort will enable another researcher to discover the missing record that unquestionably will bridge the gap. EJR

J-1. **JOHN RESER**, son of John Bernhard Reser (A-2) and Anna Elisabeth ———, probably was the Reser's first child born in America. The lack of his appearance in Schwarzenau church records, and the timing of his appearance in American records, suggest he was born about 1730, probably in the family house on Germantown Avenue. He likely was named for his grandfather; in a 1761 newspaper article John's name is given as Johannes Roeser (1).

Little is known of John's early life. He may have worked while a youth in his father's bakery, and later in his brother Baltes's tannery in Germantown. After 1754 he may have assisted his aging father, who had taken over operation of the tanning business of John Restine (husband of John's sister Sophia) on Old York Road at Milestown in Bristol Township. During this latter period John's father agreed to sell him, for £175, a seven-and-a-quarter-acre tract at the southeast corner of present-day Old York Road and Oak Lane Avenue (plots 36 and 38 on the map of Bernhard Reser's Milestown lands), which contained a stone house built by Bernhard. The sale had not yet been formalized when his father died in June 1761, but in accordance with the terms of his will, Bernhard's executors gave John a deed to this tract in November 1761 (2). At that time John Reser was identified as a saddler of Bristol Township.

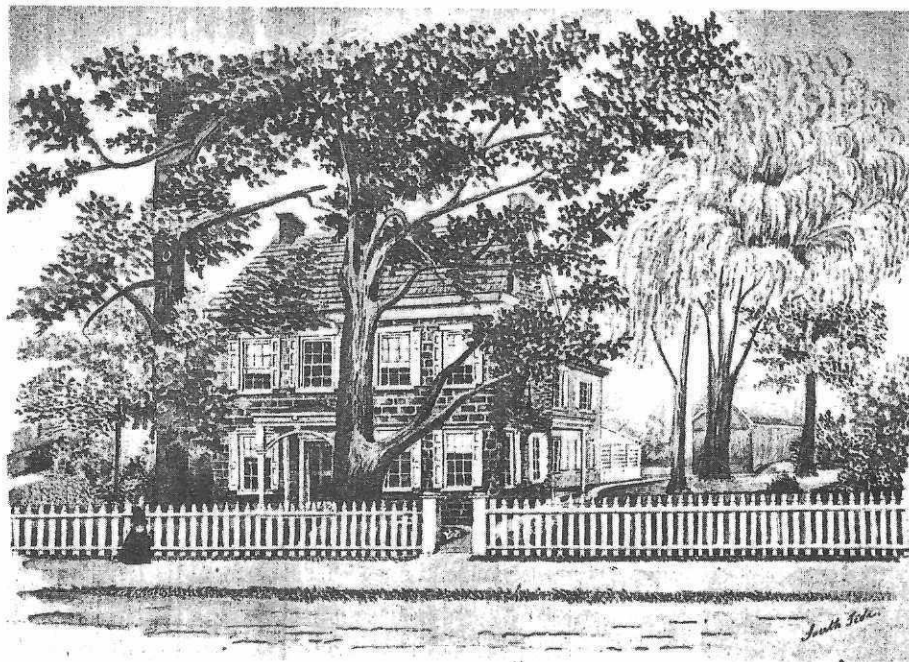
By 1757 John Reser had married **HANNAH ARMITAGE**, daughter of Benjamin Armitage, Jr., and his second wife, Jane Pope. Benjamin was the son of Benjamin Armitage, Sr., and Mary Charlesworth—all three had come to America from England about 1702. The Armitage and Charlesworth families were among the founders of the Abington (Montgomery County) Presbyterian Church in 1714; later most of Benjamin, Jr.'s, children were baptized there, including daughter Hannah on 8 April 1739 (3).

Soon after arriving in Pennsylvania, Benjamin Armitage, Sr., purchased a 200-acre tract in Bristol Township. In 1728 he conveyed this tract to Benjamin, Jr.; in 1737 Benjamin, Jr., expanded the tract by buying 137 adjoining acres from the Lukens family (4). By the time Bernhard Reser had completed his own land acquisitions in Bristol Township, the Armitage property bordered his land on the north and west sides for more than a mile.

By 1765 John Reser had become a tavern keeper; on 10 August of that year, as Jno. Reeser, he was issued a license to operate a tavern in Bristol Township (5). In the two previous years the only licensed tavern keeper in the township was Benjamin Armitage—since he no longer appears after 1764 it is possible that John Reser

took over this tavern business. In *The Pennsylvania Gazette* of 21 August 1766 (AA), John posted a notice that he intended at 9 o'clock every Tuesday and Friday morning "to proceed from Mr. John Lukens, at the sign of the George, the corner of Second and Arch streets, Philadelphia, with a light red covered stage waggon ... for his house, at the sign of the King of Prussia, in Miles Town," returning the same afternoon. "Those gentlemen and ladies that incline to take the country air ... may depend upon having good usage."

On 19 November 1766 John Reser and his wife Hannah mortgaged their property to John Shoemaker, miller of Cheltenham, for £300; the loan, plus interest, was due in one year. Two months later John and Hannah took a second mortgage loan on this property from John's brother, Baltus Reser (A-3), for £100 (6). By early 1768 Shoemaker's loan had become overdue, and he began increasingly to press for payment. Eventually John realized he would have to give up the property, and in the 30 June 1768 issue of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (AA) he advertized it for sale. He described the tract as "having a neat, large, and commodious stone dwelling house, two story high, compleatly finished with 4 rooms on a floor; a compleat cellar under the whole; a stone kitchen, well finished, with two ovens; a large stone barn and stables, well finished; a large and convenient vault, well arched, and paved with brick; a garden and neat summerhouse, well inclosed; an orchard, containing 100 apple trees of the best kind of grafted fruit, bears every year, a compleat shed for either waggons or horses, two good and never failing wells of water, one of which has a pump in it; the whole premises is well inclosed. The said house has for years past been a well accustomed tavern, known by the sign of the King of Prussia; the situation very pleasant, and suitable for a gentleman country seat." Before John could find a buyer, Shoemaker brought a suit against him in Common Pleas Court. Shoemaker won the suit, and in late August the tavern and land, "late the estate of John Raser," were taken in execution and sold at public auction (7, 8). George D[e] Benneville was the highest bidder at £405. DeBenneville, a "Practitioner of Physick," was the same George Benneville whose property at that time formed the entire southern boundary of Bernhard Reser's Milestown estate. Mrs. Anne de Benneville Mears, a descendant and an Old York Road historian, wrote that the Reser house long remained with the de Bennevilles and was known as "Bonneval Cottage" (9\*). The loan to Baltus Reser never was satisfied.



"Bonneval Cottage," about 1890

Erected by Bernhard Reser in the 1750s; John Reser's *King of Prussia* tavern 1765–69. (P-126)

Since John Reser still had a license to operate a tavern in Bristol Township in 1769, it seems likely that DeBenneville allowed him to continue his business there for a time. However, on 15 January 1770 John obtained a license to operate a tavern in Philadelphia city (10). It is possible that John had come to realize that his Milestown location was too far removed from the business activity of the city, and the loss of his property made it an easy decision to relocate to Philadelphia. A newspaper article later that year mentions his tavern in Third Street, between Market and Arch Streets, and nearly opposite Church Alley—which would place the tavern on the west side of Third Street (11). Subsequent newspaper articles identify John's tavern as the *King of Prussia* inn, indicating that he had carried his tavern sign with him on the move from Milestown. That he employed bound help in his tavern is indicated as early as March 1775, when John Raser advertized a £3 reward for the apprehension and return of Philip Marks, his Dutch servant man, who had run away from his Third Street location taking with him additional suits of clothing (12).

After the removal of the Resers to Philadelphia in 1770, they became associated with the Second Presbyterian Church—at that time occupying a brick building on the northwest corner of Third and Arch Streets. The church had been founded in 1742, with Benjamin Armitage one of the charter members (13\*). The first three Raser children, born earlier in Milestown, were baptized here on 28 February 1772; their son Caleb, born in Philadelphia, was baptized here on 22 October 1773 (14).

How John Reser was affected by the Revolutionary War is not clear—Philadelphia was occupied by the British from 26 September 1777 to 18 June 1778, when they finally abandoned the city and returned to New York. John's name, variously spelled Razer, Raisor, Razor and Rasor, and identifying him as a tavern keeper or innkeeper, appears in war-related tax lists for the North Ward of Philadelphia from 1774 through 1782 (15).

John Reser is almost certainly the man who was assigned to Capt. Adam Foulk's 3rd company of Philadelphia City Militia early in the War. In a general return of the 4th Battalion, when called into service in July 1777, private James Donovan is listed as having served John Rasor's tour of duty. In August 1780, as John Razer, Senr., he appears in a general return of Capt. Foulk's 6th Company, 5th Battalion. But how much time he actually served is unclear, since he later was fined for non-appearance at musters when associated with both the 4th and 5th Battalions. The reason for distancing himself from active participation might be that, as an innkeeper—particularly during the British occupation of Philadelphia—it was prudent to maintain a neutral appearance and accept fines for non-appearance at musters as a cost of doing business. (16)

Soon after the British withdrawal, the property of various persons judged to be actively sympathetic to the British was confiscated and put up for sale to raise funds for the patriot cause. At the 14 September 1778 sale of household goods of Oswell Eve, gunpowder maker of nearby Oxford Township, John Rasser bought pewter dishes, a large copper kettle, and for £19 a riding chair—all of useful support to his tavern business (17). Later that month John Raser signed a receipt for reimbursement for assisting in this and another sale; in December, at yet another sale, he bought a bed, bedding, rug, bottles and corks (18).

Post-war tax lists show John Rasor, innholder, usually being taxed on one or two horses, a cow, and a riding chair/chaise, as well as on his occupation (19). At times he was taxed additionally for silver plate, a family wagon, a bound servant, and even a billiard table! It is obvious that he did not own the *King of Prussia* inn, renting it from the Joseph Fox estate or subsequent owners (20\*). These tax lists spell his name in many ways, but they tend toward Rasor or Razor, suggesting his name was then pronounced *Ray-sor* or *Ray-zir*.

Hannah Raser died in 1781 and is said to have been buried in Abington Presbyterian Churchyard. By her father's will of 1773 she and "her heirs & assigns for ever in full of her part or share of my Estate" were devised a message and lot in Milestown "lying in the fork of the York road & bounded between the two roads containing about one acre ..." (21). Benjamin Armitage died in December 1781; tax lists for 1782–83 recognize this bequest by assessing John Rasor's estate for one acre and a dwelling (19, 22). The property soon

came into the joint ownership of Hannah's two daughters, who for many years rented the property to Isaac Childs, a mason. A century later, in 1897, a presumed descendant sold the property out of the family (23).

John Razor married again, on 10 April 1782, to **REBECCA** (nee **BRADEN**) **CHARLESWORTH**, in the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia (24). She was the widow of Abraham Charlesworth, of Upper Dublin Township, Philadelphia County, whom she had married by license dated 26 February 1763 (25). Abraham Charlesworth had died in late-1781, leaving a will in which he gave his widow Rebekah all of his personal estate, and the use of rooms in their house. The executors were to rent out the Charlesworth plantation and apply the proceeds equally to his widow and their three daughters; if Rebecca remarried she was to get £200 from the sale of the real estate, with the remainder going to the daughters (26, 27\*). The 1783 Upper Dublin tax list shows a Peter Bizbing farming a 200-acre tract rented from "John Raser's estate" (28). Eventually, on 19 February 1787, John Raser, innkeeper, and his wife Rebecca, quit claimed her interest in the estate in return for £200, plus £58.5 in interest, from her daughters (29).

In March 1784 John Raser, tavernkeeper, for £220 bought four acres of meadow ground in Moyamensing Township, with buildings and improvements (30). Moyamensing Township was located immediately south of Philadelphia City, extending from present-day South Street to about Mifflin Street. The hay from the meadow would have ready use in the stables associated with his taverns. The ultimate disposition of this property was later to figure heavily in his last will and testament.

After the war John continued to be active in the militia. He continued as a private in Capt. Adam Foulk's 6th Company of the 1st Battalion of Philadelphia City Militia, where he appears on muster rolls in 1784 and 1785 (31). In the Philadelphia city directories for 1785, John Raser is listed at 9 Third Street; also as John Razer, innkeeper, *Bunch of Grapes* inn, Third between Market and Arch Streets. How this inn was related to John's *King of Prussia* inn is not known—possibly it was only a name change resulting from a change in property ownership. The *Bunch of Grapes* was mentioned at various times in the newspapers from September 1785 to 1789. A notice appearing in the *Pennsylvania Packet* for 25 March 1789 called for "Gentlemen of the Third Battalion [of Philadelphia Militia] to meet at John Razor's Bunch of Grapes in 3rd to elect lieutenant colonel and major this day."

In the 1790 US census John Raizer, with tavern, is listed in the Southern district of Philadelphia at 46 Fourth Street, with 4 males 16 and above, 1 male under 16, 2 females, and 1 free black (32). Possibly some of these persons were guests or servants. Next door were three more free blacks; possibly they were in his employ. The position of this entry in the census seems to indicate that the tavern was on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Fourth Streets—almost two blocks southwesterly from the *Bunch of Grapes*. A historic buildings map shows that the *Moon and Seven Stars* inn was located here from about 1785 to 1808 (33). Biddle's 1791 city directory lists John Raser, innkeeper, 46 South Fourth Street, which confirms that he indeed had relocated his business to this area. No evidence has been found that John ever owned any of his Philadelphia inns, so it seems likely that he either rented the facilities or only operated them for others.

By 1792 John Razer had moved his residence to the Southwark district of Philadelphia, renting a brick house with a four-acre orchard from the Joseph Carson estate. He was still listed as an innkeeper, and was taxed on a horse, cow and riding chair (34). This move put him closer to his meadow lot in Moyamensing Township, which township was located due west of Southwark (Southwark was in effect a triangular bite taken out of the eastern part of Moyamensing Township). In September 1792 John witnessed the will of his son-in-law, Andrew Weerrebrook/Wirebrook.

The will of "John Razor of the District of Southwark ... being weak in Body but of sound and well disposing Mind and Memory...," is dated 3 August 1793; John also wrote a codicil, probably the same day although it is dated exactly one month earlier (35\*). He died several weeks later, about 28 August, soon after

the start of the great yellow fever epidemic which ravaged Philadelphia—but his name does not appear in a list of the fever victims published at that time. As John Raser, he was buried 29 August in the Germantown Lower Burial Ground (36). The inventory of his estate, taken 3 September, totaled £118.8.8—the more valuable items were nine tons of hay, £36; a bay horse, £22.10; and a thirty-hour clock, £7.

By his will, John Raser (as he twice signed his name) gave all of his personal estate to his daughter Elizabeth Crosby, except for his silver watch which was to go to his grandson George Snyder. The income from his four-acre meadow lot was to go to Elizabeth until his grandson reached the age of 21 years (Elizabeth to maintain and improve the meadow lot during this time), after which the lot was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between whichever of his three grandchildren (George Snyder, Hannah George, or Eliza Wirebrook) then survived. The will goes into great detail expressing his wishes should various devisees die before his grandson reached, or would have attained, age 21, but only Hannah George died prematurely. When the property finally was sold at auction in 1809, grandson George was the buyer.

John Raser's will is peculiar in several significant respects, raising questions of his mental state at the time. When the will was drafted he seems to have twice mistakenly identified his granddaughter Hannah George as Hannah Wirebrook; the error appears to have been realized when his codicil was written and the earlier errors were then corrected by erasures—a legal no-no. Elsewhere John names “my Grand Son George Snyder the Younger Son of George Snyder the Elder” and appoints “my trusty Friend and Son in Law George Snyder the Elder” to be one of the executors of his will—even though other facts all point to a Philip Snyder actually being his son-in-law. In addition, he states in his will that he is “revoking disannulling and making void and of none Effect all and every other Will and Wills by me heretofore made hereby publishing and declaring this and only this to be my last Will and Testament.” These seemingly overly-assertive words suggest he had written an earlier will whose contents were absolutely not to be considered. John makes no explicit mention of his deceased daughter Jane—the mother of George Snyder, nor is there any indication that he ever had a son John.

Based on many years of study by John Rezer descendants it is generally believed that for some unknown reason John Reser, Sr., deliberately excluded any mention of his son (and his son's issue) in his will—causing most researchers to believe that the Reser line had ended in this branch. No record has been found which positively indicates that John Reser, Jr., survived past 1772, when he was baptized at age 14. However, having reached that age, his continued survival was much more likely. On 24 June 1780, a John Räser (J-2?) was married to Anna Maria Levering in St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germantown; both were identified as residents of Plymouth Township. Why the marriage took place in Germantown is not known. Mary Levering (as she is usually known) had been born there in 1762, but a year or so later her father had removed to Plymouth Township, where he became a large landowner. No persons appear in the Germantown church records near the time of their marriage who would seem to be related. John Reser/Rezer (J-2) clearly appears in the census records 1810–30; the latter year places his birth in the 1750–60 time frame, which would include John Reser, Jr.'s., 1758 birth year.

In August and September 1780 John Razer, *Senr.*, appears in returns of Capt. Adam Foulk's 6th Company of the 5th Battalion, Philadelphia City militia; this is undoubtedly John (J-1), born about 1730 (37). In an undated return, but known to be 1780, a J'no Razor appears in a return of Capt. Andrew Norney's 1st Company, of Plymouth Township, of the 6th Battalion of Philadelphia County militia; he is clearly John (J-2), born 1758 (38). Since *at that time* both battalions were composed of Philadelphia County men—Montgomery County was not set off until 1784—it is possible that John of the city was identified as senior *only* to distinguish him in the county militia records from the younger, country John. Hence, no family relationship is proven by this designation, and no where has John (J-2) been seen designated as *junior* (39\*).

Earlier Revolutionary War records show a John Razor appearing in a muster roll of Capt. Benjamin Weiser's company, which was in barracks at Philadelphia in early October 1776. This company resulted from

a resolution of Congress in 1776 to raise four companies in Pennsylvania—to compose the “German Battalion”—which were to serve for three years unless sooner discharged. The muster roll shows enlisted men being mustered beginning on 10 July 1776; John Razor was mustered on 24 July, but was reported as deserted on 30 September—the last of nine men to desert since 20 August (40). No record has been discovered of the consequences of these desertions.

It has been suggested that this John Razor might be our John, Jr. (J-2), and his desertion may have been the reason for his patriot father to disown his son. However, there is much uncertainty as to this John Razor’s identity. Benjamin Weiser was of a prominent Berks County family, and all of his officers were from Berks. It would seem likely that most of the privates were recruited from that area. But it is possible that Weiser’s officers may have recruited in the Philadelphia area—which had many families of German origin—as well as back home in Berks County. Since Berks County contained a number of families with Reser/Razor-like surnames, this John’s relationship to our Philadelphia County Reser family is wholly speculative.

Unfortunately, the will of John Raser raises more questions than it provides answers. How the mistakes got introduced into the will, and how it still managed to be proved and recorded, remains a mystery. What may have happened is that when John, on his deathbed, expressed his wishes to his attorney, his memory of names was impaired, or the attorney thought he knew to whom John was referring. Only after the will was drafted in legal form and the words read before the witnesses, was it apparent that the will was defective and should be redrafted. But the possibility that John might die before this could be done, and his insistence that this will was absolutely necessary to invalidate any earlier wills (or he might die without a will and his intestate estate be assigned to court-appointed administrators with unpredictable results), caused everyone to agree to make corrections but otherwise proceed with a defective will. The brief codicil, made “Since writing the above will,” was added on the same paper with Hannah George’s name spelled correctly, but mistakenly dated July instead of August—just a sign of the hasty circumstances? The defective will may have passed muster in the probate office simply because it was overwhelmed handling the estates of so many yellow fever victims.

It seems clear from the will of John Reser that he was in both a physically and mentally weakened state at the time of its writing. The obvious mistakes in the will, and the strange revocation wording, suggest the possibility that he was acting vindictively when he wrote his will, and deliberately cut off his son. Being neither able to prove or disprove an actual father-son relationship, but recognizing the peculiar circumstances surrounding the will, I have chosen to err on the side of possibility and have included John Reser (J-2) and his descendants in this book.

Children (RESER), the first four probably born in Milestown, Philadelphia County, and the last in downtown Philadelphia (14):

- + 1. John, Jr. (J-2), b. 13 Jan. 1758. Assumed to be the John who m. 24 June 1780 Anna Maria Levering, and who d. poss. 1835.
- + 2. Jane (J-3), b. 3 Dec. 1760, d. poss. 1788, m. abt. 1785 Philip Snyder.
- + 3. Elizabeth (J-4), b. 7 Nov. 1764, d. aft. 1811, m. (1) 10 Sep. 1786 Anthony George, m. (2) — Andrew Wirebrook, m. (3) 9 June 1793 Sampson Crosby.
- 4. Child, bur. 7 Sep. 1769 in Gtn. Lower B.G. (41).
- 5. Caleb, b. 14 Oct. 1773, prob. d. young. No doubt named after his uncle Caleb Armitage, who was a Bristol Twp. innkeeper and captain of a Rev. War militia company.

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J-2. **JOHN RESER, Jr.**, son of John Reser (J-1) and Hannah Armitage, was born on 13 January 1758, probably in the family’s stone house in Milestown, Philadelphia County, Pa. He was baptized on 28 February 1772, at the age of 14 years, in the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia—two years after his parents had removed to downtown Philadelphia (1). It would seem likely that John, Jr., being an only son, worked in his

father's taverns in his younger years. Therefore, he probably worked in the *King of Prussia* inn in Milestown, and after 1770 in the *King of Prussia* in Philadelphia—at least into the war years, when military service may have forced him to be elsewhere.

In 1780 a John Reser begins to appear in records as residing in Plymouth Township (which in 1784 was included in the newly-formed Montgomery County). No positive evidence has yet been found that this John Reser is the son of John (J-1). However, he was of the right age, and circumstantial evidence has led us to believe this was quite possible [see discussion under John (J-1)], accordingly, his descendants have been included in this genealogy.

On 24 June 1780 John Räser and **MARIA LEWERING** (Anna Maria Levering), both of Plymouth Township, were married in St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Germantown (2). Usually known as Mary Levering, she was born in 1762 in Germantown, Pa., the daughter of Wigard Levering and his second wife, Elizabeth——. Wigard Levering earlier had owned several tracts in Roxborough Township; he sold this land and moved to Plymouth Township about 1763, where he became a large landowner (3).

John Reser also appears in Plymouth Township in 1780 in a return of the 6th Battalion of Philadelphia County militia, as private Jn'o. Razor in the 8th Class of Capt. Andrew Norney's 1st Company (4). Joseph and Benjamin Levering (probably Mary's older half-brothers) were members of this same company. In 1781–83 John Reser appears in successive annual tax lists in Plymouth Township as Razor, Razor and Raser; in the 1783 list he was taxed on one head of cattle (5).

Wigard Levering wrote his will on 24 May 1782, when he was "sick of Body" (6). His wife Elizabeth, who was named an executor, was to have use of the whole plantation on which they dwelled until their youngest son, William [born about 1767], reached the age of 21, "the more Effectually to Enable her to raise and Educate" their minor children. At that time the plantation was to be divided equally between Elizabeth and sons Peter and William. Their four youngest daughters, including Mary (Rezer), were each to receive £100 from the proceeds.

In the first post-war tax list of mid-1785, Elizabeth Levering was taxed on 200 acres and a dwelling, while nearby were John Rezer, taxed on only 2 horses and a cow, and Mary Rezer, taxed on one acre and a dwelling (7). Mary does not appear in subsequent tax lists, nor does John ever appear with land. What seems to have happened is that Mary's mother allowed John and Mary Rezer to live on and use an acre of the plantation which contained a dwelling, for which they paid the taxes and probably also provided labor in return. In Elizabeth's final accounting of Wigard's estate in June 1800—which included disbursements back to 1782—she recorded an earlier payment of £13.2.6 to "John Razor for 7 months work" (8). The same account includes a payment of 15 shillings to "Catharine Razor for 4 days of reaping." Catharine probably was John's young daughter.

Also after the war, in 1785 and 1786, John Razor and the Levering men are listed among the male white inhabitants of Plymouth Township between the ages of 18 and 53 years who were capable of bearing arms, and who continued to be assigned to the militia company of Capt. Norney (9). John Razor no longer appears in Plymouth Township tax lists after 1788.

It should be noted that, along with John Razor, a Frederick Razor also appears in the 1786 list of Plymouth Township men eligible for militia duty—the names, however, *are not listed close to one another*. In 1785 Friderik Reaser had appeared in a similar list as an inhabitant of the somewhat distant Upper Division of Gwynedd Township (10), and in 1786 he appears, as Frederick Razer, in a muster roll of Capt. Christian Dull's company in that same township (11). The 1786 Plymouth listing raises the question whether Frederick and John might be brothers, or closely related. Frederick Raser/Reaser, saddler, also appears in Plymouth

Township tax lists for 1788–99 (12). In the 1800 census Frederick Razer appears in Norriton Township, which adjoined Plymouth Township (13). This Frederick is widely believed to be the son of Frederick Razer/Rasor of New Providence Township, Montgomery County—a completely different family—and his appearance in Plymouth Township with John Razor is believed to be purely coincidental.

We are not sure where the Resers were living at the time of the 1790 census; they may have been missed by the census taker, or are hidden in the headcounts of a more prosperous person's household. Also, during the 1790s the Rasers have yet to be found in Montgomery County tax lists—possibly the family had moved to nearby Chester County. But by 1800 John and his family again appear in Plymouth Township, being listed simultaneously in the 1800 census and tax lists. The counts of males and females in the census suggest that John Razor was head of a household in which some older persons were living—possibly they included his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Levering (who is listed in the census, but with no headcounts) and two of her older single or widowed children (14). However, most of the Reser children appear to have still been living at home in 1800. During his appearances in Plymouth Township, John Raser is usually listed as a laborer (in 1786 he was called a farmer, but had no land). Prior to 1790 he owned two horses and a cow, but in 1800–02 he owned only a horse and eventually he owned no livestock. The Resers maintained a close relationship with the Leverings; by the 1802 will of Margaret Levering, Mary's aunt by marriage, John Rasor received a ten-plate stove (15).

In the 1806 Plymouth tax list John's entry is crossed out, probably indicating he had moved out of the township. Between 1809–16 John Rasor appears in the tax lists of adjoining Upper Merion Township. He was always listed as a laborer, and usually owned a cow; occasionally he was taxed for a dog. Possibly in 1810 he was a farm laborer working for Ebenezer Rambo. The 1810 census for Upper Merion seems to indicate that no more than four of John Razor's children were still living at home; the others likely were residing with other families and working as hired help (16). Son Aaron Rasor first appears in the Upper Merion tax lists in 1814, son Peter in 1816, and son Uriah in 1826.

Elizabeth Levering, Mary's mother, died on 12 October 1813, aged 81 years, 7 months, 2 weeks and 3 days; she is said to be buried in Leverington Cemetery, Roxborough (17). A year earlier she had written her will, in which she requested that her wearing apparel be divided equally between her three surviving daughters. After giving two acres of land to her daughter Alice Cox, most of the remainder of her estate, real and personal, was to be sold by her executors and the proceeds divided equally between her five children or their heirs—first named was Mary Razer (18).

By 1817, John, Aaron and Peter Rasor all had left Upper Merion Township. In 1819 both John and Aran Razer appear in adjoining Tredyffrin Township, in Chester County, where John was a tenant residing on a three-acre tract; his only taxable personal property was his dog (19). He appears in Tredyffrin in the 1820 census with his wife and a male 16–25 (probably Uriah) and a female 10–15 (probably his youngest daughter) (20). He continued on this tract for two more years (in 1821 he also is called a day laborer), but in 1823 and 1824 John and Aaron Raser appear in the Philadelphia city directories as laborers residing on Race Street near Schuylkill Third (now 20th Street). By this time John and his sons were following the pattern of frequent removals that beset the poor and unskilled who were forced to move about in search of opportunities for employment of their labor.

For several years John's whereabouts are unknown, but in 1828 John Razer reappears in Tredyffrin Township (with his dog!) as an inmate; i.e., a married or widowed head of family residing in another person's household, or in a building on their property. His stay was short—the next year, when laborer is also appended to his name, his entry in the tax list is crossed out.

John Rasor is listed in the 1830 census in Upper Merion Township, immediately next to his son William (21). The headcounts suggest that both John and Mary were still alive, and that sons Aaron and Uriah, and Aaron's two young children, were living with them. John Rezzzer appears in the Upper Merion tax records for 1834 and 1835, always next to Aaron and with the minimum tax (50 cents!) for his occupation. His name appears next to Aaron's in the spring of 1836, but is crossed out, indicating he had either left the area or died. By this time John Rezer would have been 78 years old—it is possible that he died about this time. No death or burial records have been found for John or Mary Rezer, and since they were so poor they are unlikely to have had permanent grave markers.

Children (RESER/REZER), possibly all born in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa.:

1. Joseph, b. 6 Nov. 1782, bp. 26 July 1783 (22). No records have been found showing that he reached maturity. However, an Eliza Reezer, wife of Joseph, who d. 23 Feb. 1857, aged 69 yrs. & 7 mos., is buried in Old Swedes Churchyard, Upper Merion Twp.; she was of the right age to have been the wife of this Joseph (23).
- + 2. William (J-5), b. 16 June 1784, d. 8 Mar. 1842, m. (1) by 1809 —, m. (2) 3 Jan. 1839 Elizabeth Kulp.
3. Catherine. She poss. is the Catherine Rezzzer of Delaware Co., Pa., who m. 1 Sept. 1825 John Adams of Chester Co., Pa. (24).
4. Elizabeth. Poss. she m. 28 Dec. 1806 Henry Pennebecker, and had Maria Anna, bp. 24 Dec. 1807 in the Ref. Ch., Whitpain. Or was she the Elizabeth Rezzzer who m. 25 Feb. 1827 Jesse Ramsey in St. Michael's Evang. Luth. Ch., Germantown, Pa.? (25).
- + 5. Aaron (J-6), b. 10 Sept. 1789, d. aft. 1850, m. (1) abt. 1822 Ann Eliza —, m. (2) 29 Apr. 1830 Ruth Ann Dutton.
- + 6. Peter (J-7), b. 1 May 1792, d. 29 June 1856, m. 2 Aug. 1818 Catharine Bigonet.
- + 7. Benjamin (J-8), b. abt. 1794, d. 12 Feb. 1867, m. 3 Nov. 1825 Eliza Brant.
8. Mary. Could she be the Mary, age 48, wife of William Gamble, tobacconist, age 47, living in Easttown Twp. in 1850? (26). Uriah, son of Aaron (J-6), resided with the Gambles at this time.
- + 9. Uriah (J-9), b. abt. 1801, d. poss. abt. 1831, prob. never mrd

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J-3. **JANE RESER**, eldest daughter of John Reser (J-1) and Hannah Armitage, was born on 3 December 1760, probably in the family's stone house in Milestown, Philadelphia County, Pa. She was baptized on 28 February 1772 in the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia (1), a couple of years after her parents had removed to downtown Philadelphia.

About 1785 Jane Reser married **PHILIP SNYDER**. However, Jane's father, in his will of August 1793, mentions "my Grand Son George Snyder the Younger Son of George Snyder the Elder of the City of Philadelphia Coachmaker," and appoints "my trusty Friend and Son in Law George Snyder the Elder" and daughter Elizabeth Crosby to be executors of his will (2). Jane is not mentioned—she probably had died by then—but the wording implies she had married a George Snyder.

George Snyder, coachmaker, appears in the 1790 census living at 49 Sugar Alley (now known as Filbert Street), between Market and Arch Streets, with a presumed wife and a son over 15 years old (3). At the same time, Philip Snyder appears living between Vine and Race Streets, somewhat close to the Delaware River, with a presumed wife and two males under 16—a better fit for the known facts (4). Subsequent legal papers all tend to support the assertion that Philip Snyder was indeed Jane Reser's husband.

According to DAR applications, Philip Snyder was born in Pennsylvania in 1757, served in the Revolutionary War as ensign of a company of foot soldiers of the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment, and was appointed by Gen. Anthony Wayne to recruit troops. Philip is said to have died in 1793 [was he a yellow fever victim?], while Jane is said to have predeceased him in 1788 (5).

By the terms of her grandfather Armitage's will, in 1781 Jane became an heir to her mother's one-acre house lot in the fork of the road at Milestown. Initially the lot was taxed as John Raser's Estate, but from 1785 through 1793 it was taxed as Philip Snyder's Estate; and thereafter as the Crosby's Estate (6). On 13 November 1811, George C. Snyder of the Southwark district of Philadelphia, accountant, for \$500 sold to his aunt Elizabeth Crosby the undivided moiety in this lot which he had acquired as the only child and heir of his "mother Jane Snyder who died intestate ... his father Philip Snyder is also deceased" (7).

Jane's father largely structured his own will of 1793 around the age of grandson George Snyder. Until George reached (or would have reached) the age of 21 (i.e., about 1807), the income from John Raser's four-acre meadow lot in Moyamensing Township was to go to John's younger daughter Elizabeth. At that time the executors (daughter Elizabeth, and George Snyder, Sr.) were to sell the lot and distribute the proceeds equally among John's surviving grandchildren. The executors finally sold the lot in November 1809 at a public auction; George C. Snyder, the grandson, turned out to be the high bidder and acquired his grandfather's four-acre meadow (8).

Children (SNYDER), probably born in downtown Philadelphia:

1. George C. [Crosby?], b. abt. 1786, living in Phila. in 1807 when he had become of full age. On 25 March 1807, as "the Son of Jane Snyder and Grandson of John Reeser," he sold his interest in the residual ground rents of his great-grandfather Bernard Reeser (A-2) to George Royal (9). The next day he signed a deed with a similar lineage description (10). DAR records indicate he m. Eleanor Donaldson (5).
2. Poss. another son, b. bef. 1790 and d. by 1793 (4).

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J-4. **ELIZABETH RESER**, daughter of John Reser (J-1) and Hannah Armitage, was born on 7 November 1764, probably in the family's stone house in Milestown, Philadelphia County, Pa. She was baptized on 28 February 1772 in the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia (1), a couple of years after her parents had removed to downtown Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Reser was married three times. Her first marriage, as Elizabeth Raser, was on 10 September 1786 to **ANTHONY GEORGE** of Philadelphia, in the First Baptist Church, Philadelphia (2). They had one daughter before his premature decease.

Elizabeth was married second to **ANDREW WERREBROOK/WIREBROOK**. A 1792 tax list seems to indicate they were then living in her father's house in the Southwark district of Philadelphia (3). Her husband died in early-September 1792; six months later his widow gave birth to a daughter. Andrew left a deathbed will giving Elizabeth all of his property, including "Negro Boy Bob now apprentice to Andrew Davise Blacksmith" in Milford, Delaware (4). John Raser and Philip Snyder witnessed the will.

Elizabeth's third marriage, on 9 June 1793 to **SAMPSON CROSBY**, took place in the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia (5). At that time her daughter by Andrew Wirebrook was only two months old. In 1801 the Crosbys were among the signers of a deed disposing of some of Bernhard Reser's Germantown property (6).

Sampson Crosby, innkeeper of Southwark, wrote a will in September 1805 which suggests he then had no children. He owned several lots in downtown Philadelphia, which he bequeathed to his "loving wife Elizabeth," step-daughter Elizabeth Werebrook; George Snyder, "son of Philip Snyder, deceased"; or his own sister Lucy, wife of Dr. Francis Kitteridge of Massachusetts, depending on who survived (7). Sampson Crosby was buried on 29 January 1811, aged 50 years, in the Second Presbyterian Churchyard (8). The church records call him a "stranger" in 1798 and 1811, suggesting he was not a member of this church.

Elizabeth's father, in his will of August 1793, left her most of his personal estate, all debts due him, and all the hay in the stone barn on his four-acre meadow lot in south Philadelphia. The nine tons of hay, which inventoried at £36, was the most valuable item in the inventory. She also was to receive all income from the rental and/or use of this lot until her nephew George Snyder reached age 21 (which would occur about 1807), after which the lot was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between George Snyder and any of Elizabeth's surviving daughters. The lot was finally sold for \$1167 in November 1809 at a public sale conducted at Sampson Crosby's inn, *Sign of the Shepherd*, on Moyamensing Road; nephew George C. Snyder was the high bidder (9).

Through inheritance, Elizabeth Crosby and her sister Jane had come into ownership of their mother's one-acre houselot within the fork of York Road at Milestown (see plot 60 in the map of Bernhard Reser's Milestown lands). Jane's half interest passed to her only-son George C. Snyder, who in November 1811, for \$500, sold this half interest to his aunt, Elizabeth Crosby, widow of Southwark (10). No further record of Elizabeth has been found prior to her mention in the recitation of a deed in which, on 9 August 1897, Emma E. Longmire, widow of Philadelphia, sold the one-acre houselot to Zebulon Engle (11). The deed cites how Elizabeth Crosby came to own the whole of the property, and subsequently "intermarried with Joseph Culp and afterwards died on or about the Twenty eighth day of October AD 1855 intestate leaving surviving her husband, and one child, Emma E. Longmire, the said Joseph Culp died on or about the Seventh day of August AD 1866 Whereby the said Emma E. Longmire became Vested of the whole of the said premises in fee."

The subject Joseph Culp appears to be the Joseph Kulp whose gravestone, in the Germantown Mennonite Cemetery, states that he was born 9 August 1790, and died 7 August 1866 (12). The 1850 census shows him in Bristol Township as a farmer, age 59, with wife Elizabeth, age 56, and daughter Emma, age 21—and no other household members (13). He is undoubtedly the Joseph Kulp, employed in agriculture, who appears in the 1840 census with a household of five, of whom three fit his 1850 family; the others were a male of 20-to-30 years, and a female of 60-to-70 years (14). The elderly female could be Rebecca Kulp, born 14 July 1775, died 23 February 1847, who is buried in Germantown next to Joseph.

The census records would place Elizabeth Kulp as born about 1793/4, and Emma born about 1825-30—hence a marriage as early as 1824. At this time Elizabeth (Reser) Crosby would have been at least sixty years old, and too old for childbearing. Assuming the chain of title was legitimate, it seems most likely that Joseph Kulp married Elizabeth's *daughter*, Elizabeth Wirebrook—who having been born six months after her father had died, may have been raised as Elizabeth Crosby. Without further facts I have assumed this to be the true connection.

Child (GEORGE), probably born in downtown Philadelphia:

1. Hannah, b. 7 June 1787, bp. 14 July 1788 (15), d. 22 July 1798, "aged 11 years the 7th of June" (16). She was bur. 24 July in the Second Presbyterian Churchyard (17) with a commercial gravestone.

Child (WIREBROOK), probably born in Southwark, Philadelphia:

2. Elizabeth, b. 31 Mar. 1793, bp. 19 Oct. 1804. "The child's father was dead—his name was Wirebrook & she was presented in baptism by her mother & step-father" (18). She was alive in September 1805, showing that she survived early childhood. She is probably the Elizabeth who married as early as 1824 Joseph Kulp—an actual marriage record might help resolve the uncertainties about her—and had one known child, Emma E., who married — Longmire. According to the 1897 deed, Elizabeth died on or about 28 October 1855; her burial place is not known.

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J-5. **WILLIAM REZER**, son of John Reser, Jr. (J-2) and Mary Levering, was born 16 June 1784, probably in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa.; he was baptized on 18 July 1784 in St. Peter's

Lutheran Church in nearby Barren Hill, Whitmarsh Township (1). At this time his parents were living in Plymouth Township on a small lot owned by Mary Reser's mother.

William Reser lived much of his adult life in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., judging from tax and census records. He appears in tax records there from 1809 to 1840. Up to 1820 his name is given as Razor, but afterwards Rezzar is most common. Legal documents show he could not write, always signing his name by mark. Through 1826 he is identified as a laborer; for the rest of the time he was assessed at a minimum rate, indicating he still was only a laborer. From time-to-time he owned a cow, but he had no other taxable property except a dog. (2)

Wm. Reser appears in the 1810 Upper Merion Township census with a wife and two females under ten years of age (3). In the early 1809 and 1810 tax lists he is identified as single and taxed accordingly, but the next year he was taxed as a married man. Allowing for a delay in changing his assessment, he probably was married by 1809; the name of his wife remains undiscovered. In the 1819–21 tax lists he was too poor to pay for the education of his daughters Mary and Ann, who were "Educated at the Expençe of the County."

In 1820 William Razor appears in the Upper Merion Township census with a wife, and three males and two females—all under age ten; one person was listed as engaged in manufactures (4). In 1826–28 his sons William and James were educated at county expense; the tax lists give the same age to both, suggesting they were twins. In the 1830 census he appears next to John Razor, age 70–80—of the right age range for John to be William's father (5). William's age is given as 50–60, while his wife's age is given as 40–50—possibly the census taker marked the wrong column for William's age. The census lists only one child—a daughter under five. Possibly one or more of the older children had died, or had left home to become laborers. The 1832–36 tax lists indicate William's daughter Susan was educated at county expense.

On 3 January 1839 a William Razor married Miss **ELIZABETH KULP**, in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barren Hill, Montgomery County, Pa.; both were called residents of Roxborough (6). The next year Wm. Razor, age 40–50, appears in the Roxborough census with a wife, age 30–40, and a male under age five; William was then engaged in agriculture (7). This record suggests that William's first wife had died and he had remarried a younger woman. However, his gravestone implies he was born about 1793–94, while church records leave no doubt that William, son of John, was born in 1784. The question arises whether these Williams were the same person.

Strengthening the likelihood that they were the same person is the fact that William Rezer is shown as "gone" in the Spring 1841 Upper Merion tax list—essentially at the time he appears as a Roxborough resident (the tax lists were often somewhat behind the facts since on-sight reassessments were only made every several years). Also, his brother Peter Razor first appears in Roxborough in the 1840 census, and his brother Aaron also had departed Upper Merion Township (for Chester County) just about the same time.

However, the Upper Merion tax lists show a William Rezzar there in late 1841 and other Raysors there in 1842—most notably Owen, who first appeared in 1838. This William could have been William's son, who was born about 1819 and was now of a taxable age. Owen Raysor is known to be a descendant of the ancient Frederick Razor family of New Providence Township, Montgomery County. Despite some questions, the author believes Elizabeth Kulp was indeed our William's second wife. Possibly William had represented himself as a younger man—and looked it—to his prospective bride, who duly reported him as such in later years.

In March 1842 William Razor, "sorely afflicted in body," left a deathbed will in which he bequeathed everything to his wife Elizabeth, and mentioned no children (8). His property included a messuage and lot in Roxborough Township which, as William Razor, carter of Roxborough Twp., he had bought of Joseph Katz, farmer, on 29 March 1839 subject to a \$500 mortgage (9). The tract, of 13 acres 37 perches, was situated on

the southwest side of Ridge Turnpike Road in Roxborough Township. Since William's personal estate was insufficient to pay his debts, the orphans court ordered that this property be sold. On 30 September 1843 an Elizabeth Razor (undoubtedly his widow) bid \$2,225 at public auction for the property, but subsequently was unable to produce the money. The sale was voided and the land later was sold to John Crawford of Montgomery County for \$1,000 (10). Bidders on William's personal property included Benjamin Rezer, who probably was his brother—further supporting the belief that this William was the son of John (J-2).

Elizabeth Razor was the daughter of Jacob Kulp/Colp, cooper of Roxborough Township, who died intestate by 1853; in that year she resided in Conshohocken, Montgomery County (11\*). She is erroneously listed as Elizabeth Royor, age 42, in the 1850 census in Conshohocken (12). Living with her then were Sarah A. Royer (i.e., Razer), age 10, and Margaret Cox, age 18. Elizabeth Reazer was still living in Conshohocken in 1860 with her two children (13), and as Elizabeth Raysor she was still with them in 1870 (14\*). As Elizabeth Razor she was still living with daughter Sarah Lee in 1880, but son John was no longer with them (15).

William Razor died 8 March 1842, aged 48 [*sic*] years, and was buried in the Roxborough Presbyterian Churchyard with his wife Elizabeth, who died 21 September 1889, in her 83rd year (16, 17).

Children (REZER) by his first wife, probably born in Upper Merion Twp., Montgomery Co., Pa.:

1. Mary, b. abt. 1809 (3). Poss. the Mary Reaser who m. 8 Feb. 1827 Henry Kearns—both were of Upper Merion Twp. (18).
2. Ann, b. abt. 1810 (3).
3. Possible son, b. abt. 1812–17 (4).
4. William, b. abt. 1819 (2).
- + 5. James (J-10) (twin?), b. abt. 1819 (2), d. 2 July 1885, m. (1) 30 Aug. 1845 Susannah Shepherd, m. (2) 14 Apr. 1867 Mary (Myrick) Gimer
6. Susanna ("Susan"), b. abt. 1826 (2).

Children (RAZOR) by Elizabeth Kulp, probably born in Roxborough, Philadelphia Co., Pa. (13):

7. John, b. abt. 1839 (7). Prob. the John Raser, age 10, living with Rachel Culp in Roxborough Twp. in 1850 (19). Living with his mother in 1860; working as a heater in a rolling mill (13). Living with his sister Sarah's family in 1870; working as a sheet iron roller (14).
8. Sarah Ann, b. abt. 1840 (12). She m. abt. 1860 Bradford Lee, age 22, who was working as a heater in a rolling mill; they were living with her mother that year (13). By 1870 they had a family of three chn.; her mother and brother John were living with them (14\*).

NOTE: The burial records of the Protestant Episcopal Christ Church (Swedes), of Upper Merion Twp., list the burial of a William Rezzler, of unstated age, in the Swedes Churchyard on 27 February 1860 (20). The 1860 Montgomery County, Pa., mortality schedule for Norristown lists a William Raysor, blacksmith, age 77 years, b. Pa., as having died of palsy in January 1860 (21). Despite the month discrepancy (was it too cold for burials), these would seem to be the same William, who would have been born about 1782. This looks suspiciously like William (J-5), who was born in 1784—which raises the question whether the William who married Elizabeth Kulp in 1839 might not be *his son William*, who was born abt. 1819.

However, various records leave no doubt that Elizabeth Kulp was born about 1807, and that her husband, William Razor, died between 1839–43. This seems to confirm that the William and Elizabeth who are buried in the Roxborough Churchyard were indeed husband and wife. Since her William was born about 1793 (if we can believe the inscription, or copy thereof), he was much too old to be the son of William.

Elizabeth's William did not mention any children in his will, nor do the orphans court papers related to his estate. However, her William had little to pass on of note except his mortgaged house and lot. The children of

William (J-5) by his first marriage all seem to have disappeared from the area before 1850; while the children of the presumed second marriage were infants. Hence, the lack of mention of children does not weaken the two marriage conclusion.

J-6. **AARON REZER**, son of John Reser, Jr. (J-2) and Mary Levering, was born 10 September 1789, probably in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa. He was baptized 24 May 1790 in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barren Hill, Whitmarsh Twp., Montgomery County (1). The baptismal record gives his parents as *Adam* and Ann Maria Raser. The appearance of this name over the years suggests that Adam may be a misreading of an easy-flowing, hurriedly-written Aaron. The reason for its substitution for John in this case is less clear—however, there is little doubt that John was the father.

Aaron Reser served in the War of 1812–14. He appears as Aaron Razer, a volunteer member of Capt. James Robinson's Norristown Rifle Company, a unit of the First Brigade, Second Division, Pennsylvania Militia, drafted, organized and detached per order of 12 May 1812 (2). On 13 November 1814 Aaron Raizer is listed, along with Peter Raizer (his brother), in Capt. James Robinson's Company of the 18th Section of Riflemen; they were then "in the service of the United States [at] Camp Dupont" (3). Eleven days later they are identified as members of Capt. James Robinson's 4th Company, 1st Regiment of Pennsylvania State Volunteer Riflemen, when they acknowledged receipt of additional pay (4).

Aaron Raser appears in the Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., tax lists in early 1814 as a singleman; his father, and brother William, had resided there at least by 1809 (5). About 1819 Aaron and his father moved to adjacent Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, where Aran Razer, classed as a single freeman, is called a laborer in a tax list (6). In the 1821 tax list his name is crossed out, and he reappears the same year back in Upper Merion Township as a singleman.

About 1822 Aaron Rezer married **ANN ELIZA** —, whose maiden name remains undiscovered. Around the time of his marriage, and for a year or so afterwards, Aaron and his father resided in downtown Philadelphia, where they are listed in the 1823–24 city directories as laborers living on Race Street near Schuylkill Third (now 20th Street). Apparently they soon returned to Upper Merion Township, where in January 1824 Aaron's first known child was buried in the Christ Episcopal (Old Swedes) Churchyard (7). The tax records for 1822–25 for Upper Merion are missing, but during 1826–28 Aaron Rezzzer is listed there as a laborer and was taxed at a married person's rate.

Aaron continued to make frequent moves, probably trying to find work wherever he could. In the 1828 Chester County septennial census Aaron Raser, laborer, is listed in Easttown Township (8). The tax list for that year identifies Aron Raser as an inmate; i.e., the head of a family residing in another person's household or in another building on the premises. The tax list there for 1829 lists Aaron Razer as a single freeman, but his name is crossed out. The entry suggests that his wife had died and he again had moved.

It is likely that Aaron had returned to Upper Merion Township and was living with his parents; if so he would be the male 30–40 in his father John's household in the 1830 census, and the male and female under five would be his two children (9).

On 29 April 1830 an Adam Razer was married to **RUTH ANN DUTTON** by the minister of the Lower Merion Baptist Church (10). Despite some questions, it seems likely this is our Aaron. Aaron Rezzzer reappears in the Upper Merion tax lists in 1832 as a married man, and continues there until 1839, when his name is crossed out. The tax lists for 1833–35 indicate that the Rezzzers were so poor that their two children had to be educated at county expense.

In the 1840 census, Aaron Raser is listed in Tredyffrin Township with a female 10–15 (11). This record suggests that his second wife also had died, and he was living with his daughter Elizabeth. The 1842 septennial census for Tredyffrin identifies Aaron Razer as a laborer (8). The associated tax list classifies him as a single freeman, and taxes him lower (twenty cents county tax, ten cents state tax) than any other singleman in the entire township—indicating he was extremely poor. In 1845 Aaron Razer appears as a single freeman in nearby Charlestown Township. In the 1850 census he was living in East Caln Township, Chester County, in the household of Jacob McKinsey, his son-in-law (12). His whereabouts after 1850 remain undiscovered.

Children (REZER):

1. Benjamin L., b. Dec. 1823, d. 4 Jan. 1824, aged 20 days; bur. Christ Epis. (Old Swedes) Chyd., Upper Merion Twp., Mont. Co., Pa. (7).
- + 2. Uriah (J-11), b. abt. 1825, d. 15 Nov. 1862, unmarried.
3. Elizabeth, b. abt. 1827/8. As Eliza Razer she was m. by Rev. James F. Brown to Jacob McKinsey on 4 Oct. 1846; both were of Chester Co. (13). In 1850, Jacob McKinsey, 26, cooper; wife Ann E., 23; chn. Lydia C., 4, and Pattima(?), 1, along with Aaron Raiser, 70 [sic], no occ., res. in East Caln Twp. (12).

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J-7. **PETER REZER**, son of John Reser, Jr. (J-2) and Mary Levering, was born 1 May 1792 (1), probably in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa.

Peter Reser served in the War of 1812–14. He appears as Peter Raser in a muster roll of Capt. Jonathan Tucker's 8th Company, Philadelphia County Militia, organized in April 1813 (2). On 13 November 1814 Peter Raizer is listed, along with Aaron Raizer (his brother), in Capt. James Robinson's Company of the 18th Section of Riflemen; they were then "in the service of the United States [at] Camp Dupont" (3). Eleven days later they are identified as members of Capt. James Robinson's 4th Company, 1st Regiment of Pennsylvania State Volunteer Riflemen, when they acknowledged receipt of additional pay (4).

Peter Raser appears in the 1816 Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., tax list as a single person (5). On 2 August 1818, as Peter Raser, he was married to **CATHARINE BIGONET** by the pastor of the nearby Lower Merion Baptist Church (6). According to her gravestone, and the family traditional record, Catharine was born 25 April 1791 (7). She was the daughter of Anthony Bigonet and Maria Elizabeth Egi (8). Deeds related to the disposition of the estate of her brother, Jacob Bigonet, druggist of Philadelphia City—who left a will dated 9 January 1847—indicate that her siblings included John Bigonet, farmer and cooper of nearby Springfield Township; Maria, wife of Henry Kerper, of Chestnut Hill; and Hannah, widow of Samuel Tarter, of Manayunk (9).

Peter Razer appears in the Whitmarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pa., tax lists for the years 1827–30; in the last year his name is crossed out, suggesting he had moved elsewhere. Peter Razer owned no taxable property and was assessed as a married person; in 1829 he was described as a cooper. He was sufficiently poor so that in 1828–29 his two oldest children had to be educated at county expense.

On 27 May 1828 the Rezzers had three of their children baptized in St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in Norristown, Pa. (10). In the 1830 census, Peter Razor is listed in Roxborough, Philadelphia County, with his wife, two boys and a girl; John Bigonett (probably his brother-in-law) and family are listed next to him (11). In 1832 and 1836 their two younger daughters were baptized in nearby Germantown and Barren Hill. The 1840 census also lists Peter Razor and family in Roxborough, with three persons engaged in manufactures and trades (12).

By 1842 Peter Raser had moved to Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pa., where he is listed in the septennial census of that year as a mechanic, age 52. In the tax list for the same year, and for 1843, Peter Raser is identified as an inmate; i.e., the head of a family residing in another person's household, or living in another building on their premises. But by 1844 he had moved further west to East Caln Township, where he appears as an inmate and laborer. The 1845 list indicates he was residing on land owned by a Mr. Parke.

Peter Raiser, cooper, with wife Catharine and daughter Rebecca, appear in East Caln in the 1850 census, listed adjacent to Jacob E. Parke (13). But by 1854 Peter had returned to Montgomery County, where he appears as Peter Razzer, farmer of Springfield Township, with wife Catharine Bigonet—both signed documents in 1854–55 by mark, indicating they were illiterate (9).

Peter Rezzzer died 29 June 1856, aged 64 years, and was buried in St. Peter's Lutheran Churchyard, Barren Hill, Montgomery County, Pa. (7). In 1860 his widow was living in Manayunk, Philadelphia County, in a house with the Charles Black family (14). City directories indicate she resided at 128 Hermitage Street, Manayunk, from at least 1866 until her death. She died 14 December 1868 of apoplexy (15), aged 77 years, 7 months and 19 days, and was buried alongside Peter. She died intestate, leaving an estate of only \$734 in cash (16). Despite their poor circumstances, the Rezzzers both have gravestones.

Children (REZZER) (1\*):

- + 1. John (J-12), b. 28 Oct. 1819, bp. 27 May 1828 (10), d. post-1900, m.(1) abt. 1841 Mary Rennard, m. (2) Barbara —.
- + 2. Uriah (J-13), b. 9 Nov. 1820 [*sic*], bp. 27 May 1828 (10), d. 17 Dec. 1848, m. 4 Sep. 1845 Mary Youart.
3. Anna Marie, b. 25 Feb. 1824. As Anna M. Razer of Downingtown, she was m. in Downingtown on 25 Dec. 1848 by Rev. A. G. Compton to David Cafrey of Springville (17). In 1860 Anna Maria, 35, wife of David Carfrey, 34, cabinet maker, appears in South Coventry Twp., Chester Co., with four chn. (18). David Carfrey served as a private in Co. B, 26th Rgt. Pa. Vol. Inf., from Sep. 1862 to mid-1864, mostly as a provost guard at Corps HQ in Phila. In 1870 Davis Caffry and wife Mariah appear with five children in West Vincent Twp., Chester Co. (19).
4. Hannah, b. 11 Oct. 1828 [*sic*], bp. 27 May 1828 (10), d. Nov. 1828.
5. Catharine, b. 6 May 1830, bp. 11 July 1832 in Gtn., Pa. (20). See note 14 for possible husband.
6. Rebecca, b. 11 Dec. 1833, bp. 6 Dec. 1836 in Barren Hill, Pa. (21\*), d. 6 Nov. 1899. In 1860 Rebecca was living in Manayunk in the household of Frances Garth, and was employed as an "operative" (22). She m. bef. 1869 (16) George Carfrey, brother of David, and appears in 1880 in Phila. as Rebecca, 45, illiterate, wife of George Carfrey, 52, laborer, with son Harry, 11, "Fitts" (23).

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J-8. **BENJAMIN REZER**, son of John Reser, Jr. (J-2) and Mary Levering, was born about 1794, probably in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa.

Benjamin Reser served in the War of 1812–14. He appears in a muster roll, dated Camp Marcus Hook, 29 November 1814, as Private Benjamin Raser in Capt. John F. Ruhe's 5th Company, 2nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Light Infantry (1). He later appears in a receipt roll acknowledging pay for service from 4 September to 4 December 1814 (2).

Tax records indicate that Benjamin Raser, singleman, was living in Plymouth Township during the years 1818–23 (3). His name does not appear in the 1820 census, where he is probably included in the household of the family in which he was then employed—possibly the Leverings. In 1824 he moved to adjacent White-marsh Township, where he resided until 1833; during this time his name was usually spelled Raser or Razer. He is listed there in 1826 as a wheelwright, and is taxed as a married person. He sometimes owned livestock—

up to three horses and a cow. In 1826–27 he also was taxed in Plymouth Township on his occupation—possibly he conducted some of his wheelwright work in that adjoining township.

Benjamin Rezer was married on 3 November 1825 in the Episcopal Christ Church of Saints Peter & James, Philadelphia, to **ELIZA BRANT** (4). She was born 10 November 1803 in Montgomery County, Pa., the daughter of John Brant and Elizabeth Taylor of Whitemarsh Township. John Brant was a Revolutionary War soldier; he was the owner of the *Seven Stars Inn* on Ridge Pike in Plymouth Township, which he bought in 1815 and owned until his death in 1841. The building was torn down about 1957 to make way for construction of the Ridge Pike interchange of the Mid-county Expressway (I-476, commonly called the Blue Route). (5)

In the 1830 census Benjamin Razor appears in Whitemarsh Township in a household with his family and eight other males age 15–30—possibly boarders or wheelwright helpers (6). In May 1831 Benjamin Reser witnessed the will of Thomas Davis of Whitemarsh Township (7). In 1834 Benjamin Rezer moved back to Plymouth Township, where tax records indicate he was a tavern operator from 1834 through 1838. The 1837 list shows he was innkeeper of the *Seven Stars Inn*, for which he paid an annual rental of \$100. Prior to Benjamin's term, Isaac Wood had rented the inn, while afterwards Peter Dager was the operator. The Rezers remained in Plymouth Township until 1844, during which time they usually owned two horses and three or four cows. The Plymouth Township tax lists show his surname spelled eight different ways, but in 14 of the 19 instances the name contained one or two Zs.

In the 1840 census Benjamin Rezzler appears in Plymouth Township with his wife and five children; three family members were engaged in agriculture (8). John Brant, age 80–90, and Peter Dager are listed in the census immediately ahead of Benjamin.

The Rezer family moved to Philadelphia about 1845, where Benjamin begins to appear in city directories as a wheelwright. Until about 1851 he conducted his trade at 5 Wheelock's Place (near the intersection of Broad Street and Ridge Avenue), in the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia, while residing nearby at Parrish and Burns Streets. By 1851 the family had moved to Ridge Road (since renamed Ridge Avenue) and Ogden Street, beginning a succession of moves every several years until finally settling at 1225 North 19th Street about 1865 (9\*). These moves placed Benjamin on or close to Ridge Avenue, and generally moved him further away from center city.

Except for son Brant, the 1850 census shows all of Benjamin's children living with him, including his recently married daughter, Sarah Ann Craig, and her two children (10). In 1860 Sarah Ann and her expanding family were still residing with her parents, as were Benjamin's two youngest children (11). But when Benjamin and Eliza made their final move to North 19th street, the Craigs moved to their own house on Olive Street. It also appears that at the time of this move Benjamin retired—the city directories thereafter list him as “gentleman.”

Benjamin Rezer died of consumption of the lungs on 12 February 1867 in Philadelphia; his death record called him a wheelwright, residing at 1225 North 19th Street (12). He was buried in a single, unmarked grave lot in Mt. Vernon Cemetery, near Ridge and Hunting Park Avenues (5). Possibly his widow subsequently resided at 1606 Walter Street, where the 1868–69 city directory places Benjamin. By 1878 Eliza Rezer was living with her son Brant at 4007 Ridge Avenue, near Rittenhouse Street, in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia; she continued to reside with him until 8 November 1881, when she passed away in his house (13). Eliza (Brant) Rezer was buried with her parents and siblings in St. Thomas Episcopal Churchyard, Whitemarsh, Pa., far from her husband in his solitary grave in Mt. Vernon Cemetery. Descendants of Benjamin Rezer pronounce the name *Ree-zer* (5).

Children (REZER), first three probably born in Whitemarsh Township, the rest in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa. (14):

- + 1. Sarah Ann B. (twin) (J-14), b. 26 Feb. 1828, d. 19 Oct. 1889, m. 9 Feb. 1847 James Alexander Craig.
- + 2. Taylor Brant (twin) (J-15), b. 26 Feb. 1828, d. 8 Oct. 1862, m. 26 May 1850 Sarah Ann Umstead.
- + 3. Mark (J-16), b. 25 Dec. 1832, d. 4 July 1887, m. abt. 1857/8 Ann Faulse.
- + 4. Brant (J-17), b. 30 Jan. 1834, d. 3 July 1899, m. abt. 1868/9 Rachel Matilda Snell.
- + 5. Elmira (J-18), b. 16 Sept. 1839, d. 24 Apr. 1900, m. abt. 1864 Edward Hartley.

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J-9. **URIAH REZER**, son of John Reser, Jr. (J-2) and Mary Levering, was the least prominent of the Reser's sons. Based on the limited records seen, he probably never married, and may have suffered some mental or physical disability which kept him at home and would account for his obscurity.

Uriah was the last of four of John Reser's sons to appear in the Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa., tax lists (1). Since the birth years of the first three sons are approximately known, and Uriah appears last, he probably was born well after 1792.

Uriah Rezer first appears in the 1826 tax list (but the lists for 1822–25 are missing), which suggests he may have been born soon after 1800. Such an age would explain the presence of an otherwise unknown male in earlier Reser census records. He would then be the male under-ten in his father's family in Upper Merion in 1810, the male 16-to-25 in the John Rezer of Tredyffrin family of 1820, and the male 20-to-30 in John Razor's family in Upper Merion in 1830.

In the Upper Merion tax lists for 1826–32, Uriah Rezer is always listed immediately next to William Rezer, his brother. He is usually identified as single, and always was assessed at the higher single rate. In 1832 his name is crossed out. He may have moved elsewhere, but it also seems possible that he may have died about this time. No other records have been found for this Uriah.

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NOTE: Although the author was aware in 1994 of some of James Rezer's western movements (and had reserved the J-10 identifier for him), only manual census search aids were available at that time, making the effort too laborious to pursue him in depth. In 2007, using Internet search resources, Joan (Rezer) Derry was able to flesh out this family in great detail. I am indebted to her for most of the information which follows. EJR

J-10. **JAMES REZZER**, son of William Rezer (J-5) and his unidentified first wife, was probably born in Upper Marion Twp., Montgomery County, Pa., about 1819. He possibly had a twin brother William. His father was a poor, illiterate laborer; James was educated in the Upper Marion public schools at county expense. He is probably the James Raysor who appears in the tax lists of adjacent Plymouth Township in 1841–45.

On 30 August 1845 James Rezer and **SUSANNAH SHEPHERD**, both of Plymouth Township, were married by Rev. Isaac Hayhurst of Balligomingo (now West Conshohocken, Pa.) (1). He apparently remained in Pennsylvania for several years before joining the westward migration; in 1850 he appears in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, as James Rezer, laborer, with wife Susana and two small children; all four were listed as natives of Pennsylvania (2).

In the 1860 census James Resser and Susanah appear in the City of Knoxville, Knox Co., Illinois, with five children; his occupation was listed as street commissioner. As James Rezor, teamster, he was still there in 1870, having married the widow **MARY** (nee **MYRICK**) **GIMER** on 14 April 1867. James, Mary, and her children, George H, age 10, and Lucinda E., age 8, both born in Ohio, as well as their son James, age 2,

constituted their household. The census record indicates she was the owner of their residence. Attempts to find Susannah Rezzor or any of her children in the 1870 census have proved futile. She may have died by 1867 and her children been placed with other families—or they may just have been missed by the census takers.

Mary Gimer was born in Ohio in May 1840; her parents were both natives of Maine. As Mary M. Myrick, she married Peter Gimer in Vinton Co., Ohio, on 28 October 1856. She appears in the 1860 census in McArthur, Vinton Co., as the wife of day laborer Peter Gimer and with infant son George H. On 22 October 1861 Peter Gimer enlisted as a private in Co. E of the 53rd Regiment Ohio Infantry. He died of disease on 18 May 1862 at Camp No. 6, in Corinth, Mississippi.

In 1880 Mary Rezzor was still living in Knoxville with her four children, but without James. Son George Gimer, a teamster age 20, is listed as head of the household. According to a granddaughter, James deserted Mary when their son William was in third grade [i.e., about 1880], forcing William to quit school and work to support his mother (3). Apparently James had decided to move further west somewhat earlier [when William was three years old], as in the 1875 Kansas State census James Rezzor, farmer, appears in Crooked Creek, Mound Twp., McPherson Co., Kansas, with daughters Susie and Mary by his first marriage (4\*). Possibly financial differences, or conflicts between their mixed brood of children (his, hers and theirs), had prompted James to separate from Mary. In 1880 James was living in nearby Turkey Creek Twp., McPherson County, with his son Joseph; both were listed as farmers. James died there on 2 July 1885, a short obituary in the *McPherson Weekly Press* noting that "Another old settler passed away ... JAMES REZZER, of Turkey Creek township ... settled in that part of the county among the first, was a father-in-law to C. H. KNAPP and Mr. MILLS. He was known to nearly everyone in the southern part of the county, a good farmer and an honorable man." It should be noted that the Santa Fe Trail, over which many settlers moved westward, passed through the southern part of McPherson County.

In June 1900 Mary A. [*sic*] Rezzor was living in Clear Creek Twp., Payne Co., Okla., with her son William and his wife of eight months. Close by was her son James and his family; the brothers were both farmers. Her later whereabouts has not been discovered. It is possible that the Rezzor name has petered out in this branch of the family.

Children (REZZER), by Susannah Shepherd:

1. Henry B., b. abt. 1845 in Pa., d. 6 Feb. 1927 in the Soldiers Home, Center Twp., Grant Co., Ind. On 20 Sep. 1861, when a res. of Knoxville, Ill., he enl. as a Pvt. in Co. C, 51st Ill. Inf. for 3 yrs. At that time his occ. was printer, and he was 5 ft. 8 in. tall, with brown hair and brown eyes. He applied for an invalid pension in 1891. In 1895 he res. in Augusta, Butler Co., Kan. He never mrd.
2. Rachael, b. abt. 1847 in Pa. Possibly died young and the next dau. was given her name.
3. Susie R(achael?), b. abt. 1851 in Ohio, d. 24 Mar. 1922 in Riverside, Cal., m. abt. 1876 Ernest M. Mills; he was a US Deputy Marshall in Kansas in 1880. In 1875 she was a teacher, living with her father in Crooked Creek, McPherson Co., Kan. In 1900 she was a widow (Ernest d. 26 June 1893 in Phoenix) and proprietress of the "Mills House" in Phoenix City, Maricopa Co., Ariz. Terr. Susie had seven chn. (MILLS), incl.: Flora L., b. Feb. 1877 in Kan., d. 13 Dec. 1907 in Phoenix; Erma T., b. abt. 1878 in Kan.; Kate, b. Jan./Feb. 1880 in Kan.; Calla L, b. July 1884 in Ariz., m. abt. 1905 Harry C. Barron.
4. Anna R., b. abt. 1853 in Ohio, m. 8 Oct. 1873 Charles H. Knapp. In 1875 she res. in Crooked Creek, McPherson Co., Kan., near her father. Known chn. (KNAPP): H. C., b. 1874; Katy, b. abt. 1876, d. 1880.
5. Shepperd, b. abt. 1855 in Ill. In 1875 he was a small farmer in Crooked Creek, McPherson Co., Kan., living near his father. In 1880, as Shepherd Resor, age 25, he was working as a laborer on the farm of Hayden W. Linn in Coal, Vernon Co., Missouri. No further record.
6. Joseph, b. abt. 1856 in Wisconsin. His only appearance is in the 1880 census when, as a farmer, he and his father were living together in Turkey Creek Twp., McPherson Co., Kan. Called James's son, his name in the census record is written over a smudged entry, suggesting that the transcriber initially may have entered a wrong name and birthplace from his field notes (5). No further record.

7. Mary E., b. abt. 1858 in Ill., m. 7 Oct. 1876 Henry J. Worley, a farmer. In 1875 she was living with her father in Crooked Creek, Mound Twp., McPherson Co., Kan. The Worleys res. in Mound Twp. in 1885, in Topeka, Kan., in 1895—when Henry was called a machinist—and were in Wichita, Kan. 1910–20. Chn. (WORLEY): William H., b. abt. 1880; James R., b. abt. 1882, m. by 1915 Inez —.

Children (REZZER), by Mary (Myrick) Gimer, prob. both born in Knoxville, Ill.:

8. James Samuel, b. Jan. 1868, m. Laura Smith (6\*), b. Mar. 1869 in Ohio. In 1900 res. in Clear Creek Twp., Payne Co., Okla., on a farm adjoining his brother Wm. In 1910 he was a farmer in Lowe Twp., Noble Co., Okla. In 1920 he was doing cement work on houses in Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kan.; he was still there in 1930. Chn.: Isaac, b. Jan. 1890 in Kan.; William Marion, b. 25 Aug. 1896 in Okla., d. May 1954 in Wyo., m. Alice Pindell; Virgie E., b. June 1898 in Okla., m. John Dayton; Nita, b. abt. 1903 in Okla.; James, b. abt. 1907 in Okla. (6)
9. William Marion, b. Aug. 1872, m. abt. Oct. 1899 Laura Elizabeth Reid, b. 25 Mar. 1876 in Kan., d. 15 July 1966 in Col. In 1900 he was a farmer living with his wife and mother in Clear Creek Twp., Payne Co., Okla. In 1906 he moved his family in a covered wagon to Kirk Twp., Yuma Co., Col. (7), where he appears as a farmer in 1910 and 1920. Chn.: Orville Winfield, b. 9 Aug. 1900 in Perry, Okla., d. 7 May 2000, m. Isabella —; Teresa R., b. 16 May 1905 in Mulhall, Okla., d. 18 Aug. 2001, m. Lloyd Pugh. This branch of the family pronounced the name *Rez-zur*. (7)

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J-11. **URIAH REZER**, son of Aaron Rezer (J-6) and Ann Eliza —, was born about 1825, probably in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pa. His father was a common laborer who frequently moved about seeking work; he was so poor that, at least in 1833–35, Uriah and his sister had to be educated at county expense.

In the 1850 census Uriah Razor, tobacconist, age 24, appears living in Easttown Township, Chester County, Pa., in the household of William Gamble, tobacconist (1). Like his father, Uriah was so poor that the Easttown Township tax collector was exempted from having to collect militia taxes/fines from him for the years 1847, 1853 and 1855—in the last year he is noted as “left” (2). He appears in the 1859 Philadelphia city directory as Uriah Reazer, tobacconist and barber, on Market Street in West Philadelphia. The next year he is shown in the Wilmington, Delaware, census as Uriah Reyer, age 34, Segar Maker, residing in the residence of John C. Brison (3). But by 1861 he had returned to Philadelphia where, as Uriah Reysor, tobacconist, he was doing business at 9th & Coates Streets, and residing at 1203 Citron Street.

Shortly after Fort Sumter was attacked on 12 April 1861, Uriah Reazer was recruited in Philadelphia to serve in the Civil War for three months. He was mustered in on 24 April, serving as Second Corporal in Capt. Theodore Hesser’s Company K of the 18th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. His company primarily performed guard and military police duty in Maryland. At the end of their enlistment the company agreed to a ten-day extension; Uriah was re-mustered on 24 July and mustered out in Philadelphia on 7 August (4). Uriah Reazer then was immediately recruited to serve for three years. He was mustered in on 17 August 1861, serving as 1st Sergeant in Company F of the 82nd Regiment (5).

In November 1862, Uriah, with others of his regiment, were in Philadelphia on recruiting service. While returning home with other soldiers near midnight on November 14, they proposed to search the Kossuth Exchange Concert Saloon, on Seventh Street near Chestnut, for a possible army deserter. The ticket agent objected to their mission and summoned the establishment’s private officer, who forcibly pushed the soldiers into the street. The commotion attracted the attention of the audience inside, half of which streamed out onto the street. A melee soon ensued, during which Uriah received the most severe punishment. One witness reported seeing two or three men pressing his head against a cellar door; another reported seeing four or five men striking him heavy blows. He was able, however, with the assistance of friends, to get back home, where

he was immediately put to bed. At 10 o'clock on Saturday morning he died. A post-mortem examination the following day reported he had been severely beaten about the head, his face was swollen and discolored, his skull was fractured on the right side, and a large amount of blood leakage behind the skull had caused brain compression and death. (6)

A brief obituary noted that Uriah Reazer, Orderly Sergeant, Co. F, 82nd Regiment, P.V.I, died suddenly on the 15th instant, in the 37th year of his age. Relatives and friends were invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, 806 Darien Street, above Brown, on Tuesday afternoon, to proceed to the Monument Cemetery (6). His death certificate stated he was age 37, single, a soldier, and had died of a brain concussion received by "violence" (7). No record has been found that he ever was married.

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J-12. **JOHN REZZER**, son of Peter Rezer (J-7) and Catharine Bigonet, was born 28 October 1819. Like his parents, he was illiterate, and like other John-branch men of this period, he was a laborer and poor. John Rezzler first married, about 1841, **MARY RENNARD** of East Vincent Township, Chester County, Pa. Their first child, Charles, said he was born in Kimberton, East Pikeland Township, which is located near the East Vincent Township boundary line (1). John Rezzler's second marriage, possibly as early as 1852, was to **BARBARA** —, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1822 (2).

John Rezzler, tenant, subsequently appears in the 1844 Tredyffrin Township, Chester County tax list—also in 1845 when his uncle Aaron Razer also lived in this township (3). But in the 1850 population census, John Raisor, laborer, appears in adjoining Schuylkill Township with wife Margaret [*sic*] and the first two children (4). In the 1857 septennial tax census, John Razer, laborer, again appears in Tredyffrin Township (5).

In the 1860 census, John Rezzler, farm laborer, appears in Tredyffrin Township with wife Barbara and a Phoenixville post office address (6). A Susan Rezzler, "Lady," age 73, was living with John, his wife and six children. Logically, Susan could be John's mother, or an aunt, but so far no Susan has been found who might explain this mystery. In the 1870 census John Raysor appears in Phoenixville with most of his family (7). He was still there in 1880 with wife Barbara and their two youngest children (8). By 1900 John was a widower, living in Upper Providence Township, Montgomery County, with his son David (9). The whereabouts of John after that time has yet to be discovered.

Children (REZZER), probably all born in Chester County, Pa. (6, 7\*):

- + 1. Charles Walker (J-19), b. 19 Aug. 1842, d. 24 Nov. 1938, m. 28 Dec. 1867 Mary Jane Smith.
- 2. Anna E., b. abt. 1847, poss. m. by 1870 Benjamin Himes (7).
- 3. David Walker, b. Jan. 1851 (9); he was of Phoenixville when he m. 9 Dec. 1880 Anna Bare at the bride's home in Upper Providence Twp., Mont. Co., Pa. (10). In 1900 they owned their farm in Upper Providence Twp.; they were childless (9). In 1920 they were renting in Upper Providence Twp.; David W. was then a laborer working on public roads (11). In 1930 they were living in Phoenixville with brother William W. Rezzler's daughter (12).
- + 4. William Walker (J-20), b. Apr. 1854, d. aft. 1920, m. abt 1878 Harriet O. —.
- 5. Mary Emma, b. abt. 1857. Prob. the Mary E. with husband Joseph Overdorf (10) who res. in Phoenixville two houses away from William W. Rizzer in 1880 (13). Living in Phila. in 1936.
- 6. Susan, b. abt. 1859.
- 7. John M., b. abt. 1862, d. 1889, aged 26 yrs. As J. Morton Rizzer, bur. in Morris Cem., Phoenixville (14).

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J-13. **URIAH RAZER**, son of Peter Rezer (J-7) and Catharine Bigonet, was born 9 November 1821. He probably spent his early years in lower Montgomery County, Pa., where his parents resided in Upper

Merion and, later, in Whitemarsh Townships. By 1830 the family had settled in Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County; where they still resided at the time of the 1840 census.

About 1842 Uriah's parents moved to Charlestown Township, Chester County, where the next year Uriah Razer first appears in the tax lists as a single freeman (1). But in 1844 his parents moved further west in Chester County to East Caln Township, where his father Peter later appears in the 1850 census as a cooper. Uriah Rezzor, single freeman, appears in the East Caln tax list of early 1845 as a cooper; probably he had learned the craft from his father, who was identified as a cooper as early as 1829.

On 4 September 1845 Uriah Razer married **MARY YOUART** of East Caln; the marriage was performed by Rev. Alfred G. Compton (2). Mary probably was the daughter of John Youart of East Caln, who had married Mary S. Gray in 1822 (2). By early 1827 John Youart had died. The county school tax records show that Mary Youart (undoubtedly John Youart's widow) of adjoining West Bradford Township was so poor in 1832 that her daughters Sarah Ann, age 9, and Mary, age 6, had to be educated at taxpayer expense; the same was true in 1833 (3).

A newspaper notice of mid-December 1848 announced "the death of **URIAH RAZER**, of [Downingtown], who was instantly killed by a limb of a tree falling upon him while engaged in cutting timber in the woods of R. I. Downing. The deceased was a sober and industrious man ..." (2). His widow was married by Rev. A. G. Compton on 17 September 1849 to Washington Malin; both were of Downingtown (4). Washington Mellan, mason of East Caln, appears in the 1850 census with a four-month old son by Mary, as well as with Mary's two young Raiser children (5). In 1860 Washington Melln, master mason, and wife Mary appear in Fayette Township (McAlisterville P.O.), Juniata County, Pa., with her daughter Hannah (but not identified as a Razer) and six children by Melln (6). Mary and husband Washington Malin are buried in the Lost Creek Presbyterian Cemetery, McAlisterville; she was born 26 December 1825 and died 2 February 1900 (7).

Children (**RAZER**), prob. b. East Caln Twp., Chester Co., Pa. (5):

1. John, b. abt. 1846. In the 1860 census he appears as John Raser, 14, in the household of John Robison in McAlisterville, Pa. (8); in 1870 as John Razer, cabinet maker, with wife Annie, 18, and dau. Elizabeth, b. May 1870, in Juniata Co. (Mifflintown P.O.) (9); and in 1880 as John Razer, 33, farmer, with wife Anna, 27, and daus. Lissey, 8, and Laura, 5, in Wheatland Twp., Ellis Co., Kan. (10).
2. Hannah, b. abt. 1848. [See page 328 for a last minute update of the children's information.]

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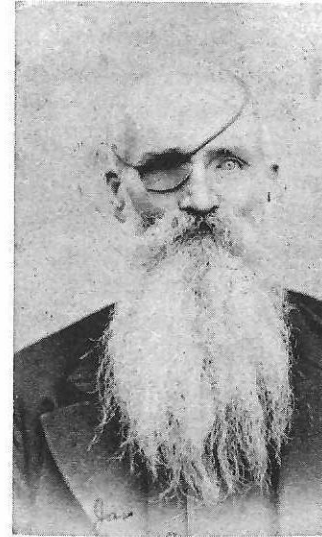
J-14. **SARAH ANN B. REZER**, daughter of Benjamin Rezer (J-8) and Eliza Brant, was born 26 February 1828, probably in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pa. She probably was raised there 1828-33, and in Plymouth Township 1834-44, after which her parents moved to the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia.

Sarah Ann married **JAMES ALEXANDER CRAIG** of Spring Garden on 9 February 1847 in Philadelphia; Rev. Fred'k. Ketcham officiated (1). James was born 1 May 1821 in Londonderry, Ireland, the son of James Craig and Martha Ferguson (said to be of Scotch ancestry), and emigrated from there to West Chester, Pa., in 1841. In 1844 James relocated to Philadelphia. Philadelphia city directories list other Craig men residing close to James, suggesting that other members of his family had also emigrated to America.

At the time of the 1850 census, James Craig and his family were living with Sarah's parents in Spring Garden; James was then listed as in the "Camphire business" (2). In September 1851, when James was involved with Taylor B. Razer in the short-term ownership of a lot in Spring Garden, he was called a house carpenter of Spring Garden (3). In the 1857 city directory he is listed as a carpenter at 201 Beach Street,

Kensington. The 1860 census indicates that James and his family were still living with her parents—then residing at 1700 Grayson Street (4). But about 1862, when her parents made their last move, Sarah Craig and her husband moved into their own house at nearby 1736 Olive Street, where they resided for many years.

On 13 September 1864 James Craig enlisted as a private in Company D, 198th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, to serve for one year (5\*). On 29 March 1865 (less than two weeks before Lee's surrender at Appomattox), during a skirmish on Boyton Plank Road, near Hatcher's Run, Virginia, he received a gunshot wound in the face. The rifle ball entered the left side of his nose and exited beyond his right eye, destroying the right eye and greatly impairing vision in his left eye. Within days he was placed in the Mount Pleasant U.S. Army Hospital, Washington, D.C., for treatment. In late April he was transferred to Satterlee U.S. Army Hospital in West Philadelphia, Pa., from which he was discharged on 27 July 1865. He received a disability pension for the rest of his life. (6)



James A. Craig, late in life (P-127)

Prior to 1869, city directories identify James Craig as a carpenter, but during 1869–85 he is identified as a roofer. His obituary states that because of his lost eye he could not continue his occupation as “contractor and builder,” and consequently “he invented several devices, among them a cement roofing, which business he followed a number of years” (7). The 1870 census gives his occupation as gravel roofer, with his son Benjamin working for him (8). At least in 1870–71 James conducted his business on Ridge Avenue at the corner of Poplar Street. The Craigs were still residing at their Olive Street address in 1875; the next year they appear at 1728 Grayson Street—where Sarah's brother, Mark Rezer, later resided. The 1880 census shows them residing in a single family house at 724 North 17th Street, close by their earlier residences. The census also indicates that Benjamin Craig had been joined by his brother Brant in their father's roofing business (9). By 1884 the Craigs resided at 2427 Montgomery Avenue. In 1885 James petitioned for an increase in his pension, complaining of frequent pain in his head and dizziness, and stating that he feared losing the sight in his remaining eye.

Sarah Ann, James Craig's wife, died of consumption at 1711 Judson Street, Philadelphia, on 19 October 1889, and was buried in Northwood Cemetery, at North 15th and Haines Streets. By the next year James had moved to Fort Washington, in Montgomery County, Pa., to reside with his son Robert. But in 1891 James removed to Battle Creek, Michigan, where on 16 June 1891 he was married in nearby Pennfield, by William S. Potter, a Presbyterian minister, to Mrs. Mary (Lack) Craig. She was born in England in July 1829, the daughter of William Lack, and was the widow of William Craig, James Craig's younger brother. She had several children by William Craig prior to his death on 14 January 1873 (10). James's marriage to William's widow was not well received by some members of his own family.

James died of cancer at 115 Green Street, Battle Creek, Mich., on 3 November 1898, and was initially buried in Bedford Township, Calhoun County, Mich., where his widow owned a 96-acre farm. According to a Philadelphia obituary, James Craig was a religious man, and “for many years [had] employed his leisure moments in city missionary work, ministering to sailors and the humble poor in Philadelphia. Today there are two thriving churches whose foundations were laid through his evangelistic labors. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian church of this city, and a member of Farragut Post, No. 32” (7). The next year his remains were brought back to Philadelphia and reinterred in Northwood Cemetery on 30 October 1899.

In 1899 James Craig's widow applied for a pension, claiming that James's cancer had resulted from blood poisoning emanating from his facial wounds, which had never fully healed—the claim was rejected on a

technicality. The 1910 census shows Mary Craig, twice a widow, and the mother of four children, now all dead, still residing in her Green Street house in Battle Creek (11).

Children (CRAIG), all born (and most died) in Philadelphia, Pa. (12):

1. Eliza Melisa, b. 3 Mar. 1848, d. 23 June 1856.
2. Taylor Forgerson [*sic*], b. 1 May 1849, d. 29 Oct. 1849(?).
3. Mary Ann, b. 12 Mar. 1851, d. 25 Apr. 1870.
4. Elmira Rezer, b. 27 Mar. 1852, d. 15 Mar. 1912, m. Albert H. Miller; only known ch.: James Albert. They res. at 1857 N. 28th St., Phila. Albert d. 13 Apr. 1916; bur. with wife in Northwood Cem.
5. Benjamin Rezer, b. 3 June 1853, m. Emily F. ——. In 1885 he was a carpenter.
6. Annie Virginia, b. 26 Apr. 1855, d. 1 Feb. 1923, m. 11 July 1879 in Phila. to Edward Hunter Neely; both bur. Northwood Cem. Five chn., incl. Benjamin Rezer Neely. They were the ancestors of Mary Kramer (Neely) Graham, who provided much help to the author on the John Rezer branch of the family.
7. Brant Altamont, 25 Feb. 1859, d. 1910. In 1885 he was a floor layer.
8. James Alva, b. 27 Apr. 1861, d. 6 Feb. 1863.
9. Mark, b. 21 Dec. 1862, d. 1 Sep. 1863.
10. Martha Arzelia, b. 7 Apr. 1864, d. 21 Sep. 1864.
11. Robert ("Rob") Warren, b. 29 June 1866, d. ——, m. 19 June 1888 Ella Celinda Burrough in Phila. Res. in Merchantville, N.J., Ft. Washington, Pa., and Phila., where they had seven chn. (incl. Benjamin Rezer and Elmira Rezer) between 1889–1913.
12. Leah, b. 10 June 1867, d. 25 Aug. 1867.
13. Sarah Jane, b. 10 May 1868, d. 19 Aug. 1868.
14. Henrietta ("Nettie"), b. 2 Jan. 1870, d. 15 Feb. 1953, m. 2 Sep. 1915 Charles F. Rimel.

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J-15. **TAYLOR BRANT REZER**, son of Benjamin Rezer (J-8) and Eliza Brant, was born 26 February 1828, probably in Whitmarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pa.; he was a twin to Sarah Ann Rezer (J-14). He spent much of his youth in Plymouth Township, where he probably worked assisting his father, who was both a wheelwright and tavern operator. About 1845 his parents moved to the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia. Taylor was living with them in 1850 when he is identified as a chair maker. (1)

Taylor Rezer married **SARAH ANN UMSTEAD** on 26 May 1850, in the 10th Street Baptist Church, Philadelphia. Sarah Ann Umstead was born in Philadelphia in 1829, the daughter of Arnold Umstead and Julia Ann ——. Her father was a blacksmith.

Taylor Rezer, cabinetmaker, begins appearing in Philadelphia city directories in 1852—he initially resided on Granite Street above Schuylkill 6th (now 17th Street). Beginning in 1857 he is henceforth identified as a chair maker; by then he had moved to Olive Street. The next year he was living with his father at 1633 Ogden street, but a year later returned to Olive Street. In the 1860 census he is not listed, but his wife and son Taylor Reeser are found living with her parents at 710 North 17th Street (2). In 1861 Taylor Brant, chair maker, made his final appearance in the directories, residing with Arnold Umstead's family. The movement and appearances of Taylor and his wife over these years suggest that there may have been some estrangement between them, although family tradition is mute on this possibility.

On 23 April 1861, eleven days after the attack on Fort Sumter, Taylor B. Rezer was mustered as a private for three months service in Company A, 22nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry; he was mustered out on 7 August in Philadelphia (3). On 19 August 1861 he enlisted for three years, probably leaving his family with the Umsteads. He was assigned to Company F, 29th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (4). Up until mid-1862 his unit was engaged in guarding ferries at river crossings in northern and western Virginia, while the army pursued Confederate forces in the region of the Shenandoah Valley. In June 1862

these Union forces were consolidated under Gen. John Pope into the Army of Virginia, and subsequently were ordered to proceed easterly to the area between Richmond and Washington to join the Army of the Potomac, which was being withdrawn from an abortive siege of Richmond. General Lee became aware of this plan and in late-August he was able to attack Pope's forces near Manassas, Va., before the two armies could join. In the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee capitalized on faulty Union reconnaissance, the weariness of Union troops, and his own daring to put Pope's forces in disarray. He forced their withdrawal toward Washington at a cost of almost 15,000 Union casualties. (4)

Taylor Brant Rezer was among the many Union soldiers taken prisoner on 30 August 1862. Under a humanitarian agreement then in effect, he was force-marched as a paroled soldier to Camp Chase, a Federal facility in Columbus, Ohio, where he was detained in an immobilized status. Although a Union camp, conditions were typically poor, with inadequate food, shelter and sanitary conditions—the overcrowding facilitated the development and spread of disease. On 26 September Taylor contracted typhoid fever, soon developing its debilitating and painful symptoms. He was hospitalized in Camp Chase's Hospital Columbus, where he died on 8 October 1862 (5). Initially he was buried in the nearby Columbus City Cemetery, but the following spring his body was brought back to Philadelphia and reinterred on 5 March 1863 in the American Mechanics Cemetery—then located at 32nd and Diamond Streets (6).

On 25 October 1863 Sarah Rezer appeared before the Orphans Court in Philadelphia to declare she was a soldier's widow with a dependent child and in need of a government pension; she was then living at 710 North 17th Street. Sarah died two years later, on 26 August 1865 of chronic diarrhea, at her father's 17th Street residence in Philadelphia; she was buried in American Mechanics Cemetery alongside her husband (7). In 1951 all of the remains in American Mechanics Cemetery were reinterred in Philadelphia Memorial Park, near Frazer, Chester County, Pa. Their orphaned son was raised by Julia Ann Umstead, his maternal grandmother.

Children (REZER), all born in Philadelphia, Pa. (1):

1. Arnold, b. 1852, d. 4 Apr. 1854, aged 2 yrs., in Phila.; bur. in American Mechanics Cemetery (8).
- + 2. Taylor Brant II (J-21), b. 11 Aug. 1856, d. 13 Nov. 1905, m. 16 Aug. 1883 Margaret Louisa (nee Scott) Cornelius.
3. Benjamin, b. 26 Jan. 1859, stillborn, bur. in American Mechanics Cemetery (8, 9).
4. Julia, b. 6 July 1860, d. 7 July 1860, premature; bur. next day in American Mechanics Cemetery (10).

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J-16. **MARK REZER**, son of Benjamin Rezer (J-8) and Eliza Brant, was born 25 December 1832, probably in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pa. As a boy he lived in adjoining Plymouth Township, but moved with his parents to downtown Philadelphia about 1845.

Mark is identified in the 1850 census as a carpenter, when he was living with his parents. Sometime in the late 1850s he married **ANN FAULSE**, whose parents remain unidentified, and by 1859 was living on Lehman Lane in Germantown, Pa. (1). In the 1860 census he appears with wife Ann and son Clarence in Germantown (2). The city directory for 1861 shows him still living on Lehman Lane, but by 1863 he had returned to downtown Philadelphia, where he lived with his parents at 1225 North 19th Street until 1869, in which year the directory places him at 643 North 17th Street.

In the 1870 census Mark Rezar, house carpenter, was residing in Philadelphia with his wife and three sons (3). City directories place him at 2136 Wright Street in 1870–75, and at 2023 Sharswood Street in 1876–77. Ann Rezer, his wife, died in Philadelphia on 26 November 1877 (3a). In the 1880 census, as a widowed carpenter, age 49—but mistakenly identified as his younger brother Brandt—he was living at 724 Borth 17th Street with the family of his sister Sarah (Rezer) Craig (4), but without any of his sons.

The 1880–81 directories list Mark Rezer at 1728 Grayson Street, where Sarah (Rezer) Craig and her family had resided in 1876–77. Mark disappears from the directories of 1882–86, but he reappears in 1887 (probably reflecting an 1886 survey) as a carpenter residing at 1521 North 23rd Street. Mark died of consumption on 4 July 1887 at 1723 Stillman Street, Philadelphia; he was buried in Mount Peace Cemetery (an Odd Fellows cemetery), Ridge and Hunting Park Avenues, Philadelphia (5).

Children (REZER), all born in Philadelphia, Pa.:

1. Clarence, b. abt. 1858. He is prob. the Clarence Reser, 52, single, employed as a laborer on the farm of Ernest A. Freeman in Lake Twp., Siskiyou Co., Cal., in June 1910 (6), and who was reported to eastern relatives as having d. 21 Feb. 1913 in Dempsey (now Lava Hot Springs), Bannock Co., Idaho (7). No indication found that he married or had children.
2. Edward R., b. 18 June 1861 (8), d. 16 Mar. 1930 in East Liverpool, Ohio, m. Alice McKinnon (9); they had no chn. In 1880 he was employed as a paper ruler, boarding in a house at 1906 Girard Ave. in Phila. (10). Subsequently, Edward served an apprenticeship in the John Moser Pottery in Trenton, N.J., then later worked 30 yrs. for the Edwin M. Knowles China Co. in Chester or Newell, W. Va.; he subsequently worked a brief time for the Homer Laughlin China Co. The 1920 census shows them in their owned, mortgage-free house on St. Clair Ave. in East Liverpool (11). Edward's widow lived at 630 Inez Ave., East Liverpool, until she died there 6 May 1949. She and her husband are bur. in Riverview Cem., East Liverpool (12).
3. Mark Warren, b. 14 Feb. 1864 (13), d. aft. 1930 in Phila., Pa. He was a tinsmith, res. at 1839 Ringgold, Phila., in 1891 (1), and a tin and sheet metal worker of the 14th ward, Phila., when he bought a lot in Cheltenham in 1895 (14). As a single man, tin roofer, Mark was residing in a boarding house at 721 Green St., Phila., in 1900, and in a boarding house at 1507 Race St. in 1910 (15)—where Phila. directories also place him in 1910–13. In 1920 he was residing in a lodging house at 617 North 12th St. (16). He disappears from directories until 1926–27, when it is probably he who is shown, without occupation, residing at 632 North 11th St., Phila. Mark W. Rezer appears in the 1935 Florida state census for Hillsborough County as single, tin roofer, age 68 (17).
4. Ethan Osborne, b. abt. Feb. 1864, d. 27 July 1865 of marasmus, age 17 mos., at grandparent's house; bur. Odd Fellows Cem., Phila. (18). Seemingly a twin.

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J-17. **BRANT REZER**, son of Benjamin Rezer (J-8) and Eliza Brant, was born 30 January 1834, in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa. His early years were spent in Plymouth Township, but about 1845 his parents moved to the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia. (1)

He does not appear with the rest of his family in the 1850 census; possibly he was living elsewhere as an apprentice. He is first listed in the 1858 city directory as a morocco dresser (a tanner of high-quality goatskin leather) residing with his parents at 1633 Ogden Street. He probably continued living with his parents during several local moves until the late 1860s, when he resided briefly at 1742 Olive Street in Spring Garden—several doors away from his sister, Sarah Ann Craig.

Brant Rezer married about 1868/9 **RACHEL MATILDA SNELL**, daughter of Frederick Snell and Christiana Rhoads. She was born 18 April 1851, and baptized on 7 December 1851 in St. James Lutheran Church, Montgomery County, Pa. (1). At the time of the 1870 census, Brant Razer, morocco dresser, and his family were living in a rented house with Isaac Snell, his brother-in-law (2).

By 1870 Brant had moved to the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, living first on Riley Street near Mitchell. By 1878 he had moved to 4007 Ridge Avenue, where in the 1880 census his mother Elizabeth is shown living with him (3). At a later date the Rezers moved to Belfry, Whitpain Township, Montgomery County, Pa. Brant Rezer died 3 July 1899 in Belfry, Pa., and was buried in nearby St. John's Lutheran Churchyard, on route 73, Center Square, Pa. At his death he owned an 87-acre tract in Whitpain Township.

*The John Reser/Rezer Branch*

In 1900 Rachel Rezer is listed in Whitpain Township as a farm owner; her three sons were working for her at that time (4\*). About 1903 the widow Rezer married Robert E. Craig, said to be a relative, who was born in Ireland and emigrated to America in 1852; they were living in Bridgeton, N.J., in 1910 (5). Robert Craig died at his home in Bridgeton on 13 February 1915, aged 72 years, and was buried in Broad Street Cemetery, Bridgeton. Rachel Craig died at her son Edmund's home in Center Square, Pa., on 29 October 1918, aged 67 years; she was buried in St. John's Lutheran Churchyard, Center Square (6).

The Rezer's two older sons were both deaf mutes and never married. Over the years they worked as hired hands on various farms in Montgomery County. In later years they lived on the farm of their younger brother, who had to care for them. (7)

Children (REZER), all born in Philadelphia, Pa. (1):

1. Horace G., b. 27 Feb. 1869, d. 25 Feb. 1935, unmrd.; bur. St. John's Luth. Chyd.
2. Charles E., b. 19 July 1871, d. 18 Dec. 1929, unmrd.; bur. St. John's Luth. Chyd.
3. Edmund Clark, b. 2 Aug. 1876, d. 12 Apr. 1942 at home in Center Square, Pa.; m. 17 June 1903 in Center Square, Bertha May Beideman; ch.: Evelyn Miriam, m. 1935 Eugene DeLong Geiger. In 1920 Edmund owned a farm in Whitpain Twp. (8). He is bur. in Whitmarsh Mem. Park, Montgomery Co. His widow, who was b. 15 May 1883, d. in Oct. 1979, last res. Brandamore, Chester Co., Pa. (9).

J-18. **ELMIRA REZER**, daughter of Benjamin Rezer (J-8) and Eliza Brant, was born 16 September 1839, probably in Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, Pa. Her early years were spent in Plymouth Township, but about 1845 her parents moved to the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia, where she appears with them in both the 1850 and 1860 census.

Elmira Rezer married about 1864 **EDWARD HARTLEY**, probably in Philadelphia; he was born in August 1840 in Pennsylvania (1). In June 1870 the Hartleys were residing in Bloomsburg, Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., where Edward was working on the railroad (2). By 1880 the family had moved to Trenton, N.J., residing at 135 East Rose Street; Edward still was employed by a railroad (3).

Elmira Hartley died 24 April 1900 in Trenton, N.J., and is buried there in Greenwood Cemetery (4). Following his wife's death, Edward Hartley, then employed as a wire drawer, went to live with his daughter Laura Tilton. In 1900 they resided at 48 Division Street in Trenton (1), and in 1910 at 705 Center Street (5). He died 23 November 1918 at the home of his son-in-law, Harry M. Tilton, 768 Center Street, Trenton, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery with his wife (6).



Elmira (Rezer) Hartley,  
about 1890 (P-128)

Children (HARTLEY):

1. Emily Virginia, b. Aug. 1865 in Pa., d. 16 Feb. 1926 in Trenton, N.J. (4), m. abt. 1888 Peter Bloom Tilton, b. Sep. 1863 in N.J., d. abt. 1929. Chn. (TILTON): Edward Hartley, b. Oct. 1889; George I., b. Apr. 1891; Edna V., b. Dec. 1892 (7). Edw. H. Tilton was the father of Edria Gilman (Tilton) Hagios of Flemington, N.J.
2. Laura, b. Aug. 1869 in N.J., m. abt. 1889 Harry M. Tilton (brother of Peter B.), b. Nov. 1865 in N.J.. Chn. (TILTON): Elmira, b. Dec. 1892; Laura, b. Nov. 1896 (1).

J-19. **CHARLES WALKER REZZER**, son of John Rezzler (J-12) and Mary Rennard, was born 19 August 1842 in Kimberton, East Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pa. (1). In his youth he lived in various parts of Chester County as his parents moved about seeking work as farm laborers. In 1860 he was living in Radnor Township, Delaware County, working as a laborer on the farm of Enoch Davis (2).

In August 1862 Charles W. Rezzler, farm laborer from Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, enlisted in the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, as a substitute for Isaac H. Davis, age 26, farmer of Tredyffrin (3). On 6 November 1862 he was mustered as a private in Company F, 175th Regiment, for nine-months service. After intensive training his unit was transferred to New Bern, N.C., where they tried unsuccessfully to disengage Confederate troops at Blount's Creek and Washington, N.C. About July 1863 the regiment was sent to the upper Potomac where it engaged in harassing the retreat of General Lee. The regiment was mustered out in Philadelphia on 7 August 1863 (4). In 1905 Charles Rezzler, 5 feet 5 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, was granted an invalid soldier's pension (1).

Little is known of Charles Rezzler in later life. His obituary states that he left Kimberton after the close of the Civil War, and that as a young man he was employed at the Phoenix Iron Company (5). He appears as Charles Raser, teamster, age 30, with wife Mary, age 29, in the 1880 census for Easttown Township, Chester County, although his age is far off (6). The obituary states he was survived by three daughters, whose given names correspond with those in the 1880 census record. Pension records indicate his wife was **MARY JANE SMITH**, and that they were married in Philadelphia, Pa., on 28 December 1867 (1).

In the 1900 census the family was residing in a rented house in Radnor Township, Delaware County. This record indicates that wife Mary J. Rezzler was born in March 1843 in Pennsylvania, had been married for 35 years, and at that time had three of her four children still living (7). Charles was then a farm laborer, and daughters Sarah a dressmaker and Emma a servant; both were still single. In 1920 the Rezzers were living with their daughter Sarah in their owned house on the west side of Radnor Avenue, in Radnor Township (8). Sometime before 1930 Mrs. Rezzler died, and Charles resided alone in his house (9). He died 24 November 1938 of old age, at Ithan, Radnor Township, and was buried in St. David's Cemetery, Delaware County, Pa. (1); he was the last surviving member of the 175th Regiment (5).

Children (REZZER), all born in Pennsylvania (1, 5):

1. Sarah Smith ("Sallie"), b. 8 Nov. 1870; she was a dressmaker. Unm. and res. in Phila. in 1938.
2. Mary Jane, b. 5 Sep. 1872 in Phoenixville, Chester Co., m. 17 Apr. 1895 in Phila. to Elmer Ellsworth Yarnall, b. 22 Sep. 1864 in Newtown Square, Delaware Co., Pa., son of John Logan Yarnall and Marian Paiste (10); prob. res. in Phila. in 1938.
3. Emily Alice ("Emma"), b. 4 Feb. 1876, m. abt. 1901 Thomas Moore, b. abt. 1875 in Delaware. He was a farm laborer residing with the Rezzers in 1900; by 1910 he was a house carpenter with wife Emma and two chn., living in their owned house in Tredyffrin Twp., Chester Co. (11); still there in 1920 (12). In 1938 they res. in Strafford, Tredyffrin Twp.

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J-20. **WILLIAM WALKER REZZER**, son of John Rezzler (J-12), possibly by his second wife, Barbara —; he was born in April 1854 (1). In his youth he lived in various parts of Chester County as his parents moved about seeking work as farm laborers. In 1870 he and his older brother David were listed as carters, residing with their parents in Phoenixville, Pa. (2).

About 1878 William Rezzler married **HARRIET O.** —, probably in Phoenixville. She was born in Pennsylvania in July 1856; their only child was daughter Jessie B. (1) In 1880 they resided on Church Street in Phoenixville, when William is listed as a laborer and Harriet as a dress maker (3).

The Rezzers continued to live in Phoenixville, where William is listed as a teamster in 1900, residing at 368 Washington Avenue (1). By 1910, when William was identified as a laborer in a lumber yard, they had rented a house at 151 Gay Street; daughter Jessie and her family resided with them (4). They all were still there in 1920, when William was employed as a janitor in a public school (5). His brother later stated that William had "served as a janitor in the Gay street school for a number of years" (6). The family's whereabouts after 1920 has not been discovered.

Only child (REZZER), born in Pennsylvania (1):

1. Jessie B., b. Mar. 1879, m. (1) about 1900 — Oberholtzer. She had two ch., after which her husband was dead by 1910—he poss. was Charles M. Oberholtzer, a grocer (1, 4). Chn. (OBERHOLTZER): Charles Merrill, b. abt. 1900; Marian, b. abt. 1902 (4). Abt. 1910 Jessie m. (2) Isaac Oberholtzer and res. at 1000 Cherry St., Phoenixville; her uncle David W. Rezzar and wife were living with them (7).



J-21. **TAYLOR BRANT REZER II**, son of Taylor Brant Rezer (J-15) and Sarah Ann Umstead, was born 11 August 1856 in Philadelphia, Pa. At age four he was his parent's only surviving child. When his father enlisted in the Union Army in 1861, he and his mother went to live with her parents at 710 North 17th Street. They were living there when his paroled father died in a Union detention camp in 1862, and were still living at that address when his mother died in August 1865—two weeks after Taylor's ninth birthday. (1)

On 11 November 1865 the court granted guardianship for Taylor to his maternal grandmother, Julia Ann Umstead. Immediately afterwards she submitted a claim to the federal government for pension benefits, to which she was entitled as the guardian of a minor child of a Union soldier who had died in the war.

Taylor B. Rezer was living with his grandparents at the time of the 1870 census (2), and probably until about 1880. In that year he begins to appear in Philadelphia city directories, identified as a carpenter (two of his Umstead uncles, with whom he had been raised, were house carpenters). When the 1880 census was taken in June, Taylor Raizor, carpenter, was residing as a boarder in the dwelling of Francis and Mary J. DeHaven at 1732 Grayson Street (3). Directories list him there in 1880–81, in 1882 at 2017 Berks Street, and in 1883 at 1931 Woodstock Street.

On 16 August 1883 Taylor Brant Rezer married **MARGARET** ("Maggie") **LOUISA** (nee **SCOTT**) **CORNELIUS**, in the Methodist Church at 1425 South 12th Street, Philadelphia. Maggie was born in July 1857 in Philadelphia, the daughter of Francis M. Scott and Emeline D. Fulmer. Her father was a bricklayer, born in Scotland according to the 1900 census (4), and had served briefly in 1861 as a private in Co. G, 22nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. Maggie's first husband, Wesley D. Cornelius, was a mortar pointer from Lewisburg, Pa., who had died on 20 November 1882 from a fall down a flight of stairs—he was buried in Reading, Pa.

Taylor Rezer, carpenter, made frequent moves within Philadelphia over the years—he probably never owned a house. City directories chronicle the family moves: 1884–85 at 1804 Uber Street, 1886 at 1807 Sharswood Street, 1889 at 2634 Harold Street, 1891–92 at 3873 Taylor Street, 1899–1901 at 1925 North Woodstock Street, and 1903–05 at 1929 North Woodstock.

Taylor Brant Rezer died 13 November 1905 of heart disease at his home at 1929 North Woodstock Street, Philadelphia, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia. His widow appears in the 1907 business directory, selling candy from her North Woodstock address. By 1910 she was living with her two sons at 1918 (but next year at 1930) North Newkirk Street (5); by 1914 she was with son Martin at 2145 North Marston Street and by 1916 at 2140 North Marston. Maggie died 26 March 1919 of heart trouble at 2140 North Marston Street, Philadelphia, and was buried beside her husband in Greenwood Cemetery.

*Our Raser Family*

Children (REZER), born in Philadelphia, Pa. (1):

1. Harry A., b. 13 May 1884, d. 23 Aug. 1898 in Phila. of tuberculosis, bur. Greenwood Cem.
- + 2. Frank Scott (J-22), b. 5 Dec. 1886, d. 25 July 1940, m. 4 Sep. 1912 Lillie May Heimsoath.
- + 3. Martin Ettinger (J-23), b. 31 Dec. 1889, d. 28 June 1951, m. (1) 1910 Anna Pauline Stratton, m. (2) 1928 Maude C. (nee Halpin) Troup.

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J-22. **FRANK SCOTT REZER**, son of Taylor Brant Rezer II (J-21) and Margaret Louisa (Scott) Cornelius, was born 5 December 1886 at 1807 Sharswood Street, Philadelphia, Pa. He lived at various addresses in Philadelphia during his youth, as his carpenter father moved about the city. Following his father's death in 1905, he lived with his widowed mother and brother until some time after his marriage. In 1910 the three resided at 1930 Newkirk Street, Philadelphia; the brothers were then wagon drivers employed by a retail ice dealer (1). In 1911 Frank worked briefly as an ironworker (2).

On 4 September 1912 Frank Scott Rezer married **LILLIE MAY HEIMSOATH**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia. Lillie was the daughter of Henry Heimsoath and Geneva A. Overman, and was born 13 July 1887 in Bridgeton, N.J.—the seventh child of a large family. Her father was a railroad worker; after his death Geneva married William Spang. (3)

After their marriage the Rezers resided for short periods at North Lambert and North Darien Streets in Philadelphia, before settling for several years at 3121 North Marston Street. When Frank registered for the World War I draft in June 1917 he was described as 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall, of medium build, with blue eyes and brown hair; he was then employed by International Motor Company, 23rd and Chestnut Streets, as a "demonstrator on auto cars" (4). Over the years Frank worked at various jobs, including auto mechanic, coal truck driver and machinist (2, 5).

By the mid-1920s the Rezers had moved to Chalfont, New Britain Township, Bucks County, Pa., where Frank served as a fireman for the Chalfont Fire Company for many years. In 1930 the Rezers resided in the Old Soldiers' Home, operated by the Patriotic Order Sons of America in Chalfont, where Lillie was employed as the matron—87 "guests," mostly 65 years or older, were under her care (6). About 1934 Lillie Rezer separated from her husband and returned to Philadelphia to live by herself; she resided there at various addresses (7). Their son Martin continued to live with his father in Chalfont until he married in 1936.

Frank Scott Rezer died 25 July 1940 at Chalfont, Pa., of a cerebral hemorrhage; he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia. Lillie May Rezer died of old age at the Neshaminy Manor Home in Doylestown, Pa., on 6 October 1972. She was buried in the Rezer family plot in Greenwood Cemetery.

Child (REZER), born in Philadelphia, Pa.:

- + 1. Martin Randolph (J-24), b. 22 Aug. 1913, d. 22 July 1988, m. 3 Oct. 1936 Wilma Josephine Brown.

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J-23. **MARTIN ETTINGER REZER**, son of Taylor Brant Rezer II (J-21) and Margaret Louisa (Scott) Cornelius, was born 31 December 1889 in Philadelphia, Pa. He lived at various addresses in Philadelphia during his youth, as his carpenter father moved about the city. Following his father's death in 1905, he lived with his widowed mother and brother until two years after his marriage. In early 1910 the three resided at 1930 Newkirk Street, Philadelphia (1); the two brothers were then wagon drivers employed by a retail ice dealer. (2)

In 1910 Martin Rezer married **ANNA PAULINE STRATTON**. He appears in city directories as a driver, residing at 1930 North Newkirk in 1911–12, at 2030 North Lambert in 1913, and at 2145 (and later 2140) North Marston Street in 1914–21. When he registered for the draft in World War I, he was residing at 2140 Marston and was employed as a driver by R. P. Wolfe of 2027 West Susquehanna Street (3\*). In the 1920 census he is listed as running his own coal business (4). By 1922 he was a coal dealer at 1936 Glenwood Avenue, and by 1926 an ice dealer at 2713 Glenwood, where he also resided. Anna Rezer, his wife, died of pneumonia on 12 February 1925, aged 33 years, 2 months and 19 days; she was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Philadelphia. At her death her occupation was given as cap-maker.

In 1928 Martin Rezer married **MAUDE C. (nee HALPIN) TROUP**, a divorcee—her first husband was a musician. She had been living as a boarder with the Rezer family at least since 1920 (4\*), during much of which time she served as a caregiver to Anna Rezer, who was in declining health. Martin Rezer, ice dealer, and his wife appear in the 1935/6 Philadelphia directory residing at 5806 North 7th Street. In April 1942 Martin was required to register for the World War II draft, at which time he was described as a self-employed ice dealer, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 172 pounds, with blue eyes, gray hair and light complexion (5). The Rezers were still residing on North 7th Street when Martin died in Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia, on 28 June 1951. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Maude long survived him; she was an executive secretary at the Salvation Army Headquarters in New York City for many years. She died in Flushing, N.Y., in December 1979, aged 88 years (6).

Children (REZER), born in Philadelphia, Pa. (2):

1. Frank Harold, b. 10 Feb. 1911, m. 29 June 1933 Helen S. Coyne, no chn. In 1935 they resided at 5806 North 7th St., Phila.; in 1955 at 1001 Jamestown Rd., Broomall, PA. Frank suffered from high blood pressure, and in June 1955 traveled to Duke Univ. Hospital, Durham, N.C., to participate in a trial treatment program known as the “rice diet.” While there he had a stroke and died on 4 July 1955 (7). He was buried in Valley Forge (Pa.) Gardens. His widow d. 9 Apr. 1999 in Wilmington, Del. (8).
- + 2. Harry Martin, Sr. (J-25), b. 12 Sep. 1912, d. 3 May 1993, m. (1) 29 June 1935 Virginia E. Seaman, m. (2) 11 Aug. 1947 Ruth Cummings.

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J-24. **MARTIN RANDOLPH REZER**, son of Frank Scott Rezer (J-22) and Lillie May Heimsoath, was born 22 August 1913 in Philadelphia, Pa. He grew up in the Philadelphia area as a young child, moving to Chalfont, Pa., with his parents in the mid-1920s. On 20 April 1930 he was baptized at the 1st Baptist Church of Doylestown, Pa. (1)

On 3 October 1936 Martin Rezer married **WILMA JOSEPHINE BROWN**, at the 1st Baptist Church, Doylestown, Pa. She was born in Philadelphia on 19 January 1915, the daughter of Henry Kroehl Brown and Josephine Rosalie Haase. Her father was a vaudeville entertainer and died young. His widow never remarried; she worked for the Bell Telephone Company for over thirty years.

The Rezers lived in Doylestown for about two years before moving to St. Petersburg, Florida, but returned to Doylestown in June 1941. During much of this time Martin lived in the Doylestown area, where it was easier to find employment. Martin worked at various jobs over the years: as hosiery mill worker, oil burner repairman, gas station owner and house painter.

Martin enlisted in the US Navy on 27 November 1943 and was called into active duty on 4 December 1943—three weeks before his youngest child was born. He was assigned to the new destroyer *Mannert L. Abele* (DD-733), serving as a baker, and participated in the assault on Iwo Jima beginning in late February 1945, and the invasion of Okinawa beginning on 1 April.

On 12 April 1945—the day Franklin D. Roosevelt died—while on radar picket duty 25 miles northeast of Okinawa, the *Abele* was one of many naval vessels subjected to a massive Kamikaze and Oka bomb attack. The Kamikaze was a suicide airplane, while the Oka was a one-man rocket-propelled aircraft bomb launched from a mother plane, usually a medium bomber. In either case the Japanese pilot rode his aircraft to his death. In mid-afternoon the *Abele* was hit by a Kamikaze, followed one minute later by an Oka—the double blasting broke the ship's back, and within three minutes she sank. 73 of the crew did not survive; Martin fortunately escaped, and after three hours in the water he was rescued by another destroyer. During the attack Martin had been wounded in an ankle by gunfire, and collapsed beneath 30mm guns firing at the attacking aircraft—the tremendous noise ruptured both of his ear drums. He subsequently received a Purple Heart medal, and was discharged from the US Naval Hospital in Philadelphia on 27 August 1945. (1, 2)

After the war Martin returned to Doylestown, Pa., and lived there until about 1985, when he entered the Veterans Administration Hospital in Wilkes Barre, Pa. Most of the time while there he was ventilator-dependent. He died in the hospital on 22 July 1988 of emphysema, and was buried in Sunset Memorial Park, Somerton, Bucks County, Pa.

Wilma Rezer, Martin's wife, lived most of her life in Doylestown. She was a skilled seamstress, and operated there her own business, the Rock-a-Bye Baby Shoppe, from 1964 to 1975. She developed a passionate interest in the history of Doylestown, about which she subsequently wrote two books. She did extensive courthouse research into the history of early Doylestown land ownership and houses, much on behalf of the Doylestown Community Association. As such she was responsible for the wooden plaques on many borough houses which show the date of construction and the original owner's name. She died 21 September 1993 in her home at 165 West Oakland Avenue, Doylestown, where she had lived most of her life. She was buried in Doylestown (Pa.) Cemetery (3).

Children (REZER) (1):

1. Jack Randolph, b. 24 Aug. 1937 in Doylestown, Pa. He lived 16 hrs. before dying of a congenital heart anomaly the same day.
2. Joan Barbara, m. (1) James Richard Brown, chn. (BROWN): Michael Richard, Koreen Michelle (adopted); m. (2) Ronald Blair Derry. Joan was the principal researcher of the John Reser/Rezer branch of the family.
3. Jack Martin, m. (1) Agnes Louise Williams, chn.: Scott Randolph, Lyn Denise, Christy Lee; m. (2) Joy Hartman.

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J-25. **HARRY MARTIN REZER, Sr.**, son of Martin Ettinger Rezer (J-23) and Anna Pauline Stratton, was born 12 September 1912 in Philadelphia, Pa. After graduating from Northeast High School in Philadelphia, where he played both soccer and baseball, he began a professional career in baseball under contract with the Philadelphia Athletics. He played in various levels of the Athletics' farm system into the mid-1930s, before abandoning his dream of reaching the major leagues. He had started as a catcher, but switched to the outfield after breaking a knuckle bone in his throwing hand on three different occasions. (1)

Subsequently, after graduating from Jordan Institute, Philadelphia, with an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering, Harry went to work for United Motors in Philadelphia. He had risen to shop supervisor when World War II broke out and he tried to enlist in the service. However, due to his supervisory position, and the fact that United Motors was a major automotive parts contractor to the government, his job was declared war essential and he was deferred from military service—much to his disappointment.

Following World War II, Harry joined Electrical Maintenance Company, a small distributor of electrical insulating materials and component parts. He served as the company's salesman covering the territory from northern New Jersey, south to Richmond, Va., and west to Pittsburgh, Pa. As the company grew and other

salesmen were hired, he moved inside to oversee various administrative and sales functions, and eventually was appointed Vice President. When the founder and president died in 1958, Harry was appointed President.

In July 1966 the widow of the company's founder sold the business to Essex Wire Company. Its location at 915-17 North Broad Street in Philadelphia then became Essex Wire's distribution division, known as Insulation & Wire, Inc. Harry became regional manager overseeing branches in Peabody, Mass.; Hackensack, N.J.; and Baltimore, Md., as well as the Philadelphia location. He held this position until he retired in 1967.

During these years, Harry also served as the secretary of the Quaker City Chapter of the National Industrial Service Association (NISA), an organization whose goal was to establish and encourage ethical standards and practices for firms engaged in the sales and service of electrical and mechanical rotating equipment. Over time NISA became international, and changed its name to the current Electrical Apparatus Service Association (EASA). Harry served as secretary and member of the EASA Board of Directors for more than ten years.

Harry's favorite pastime was playing cards; he excelled in pinochle and gin rummy. As a young man he played in many pinochle tournaments in and around Philadelphia with his father Martin, or brother Frank, as a partner. He also was an avid golfer and pursued the game enthusiastically following his retirement. He was a member of the Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, Pa., where he served on its board of governors for many years and also chaired the Caddie Scholarship Committee.

Harry first married **VIRGINIA E.** ("Ginger") **SEAMAN** on 29 June 1935, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, 29th and York Streets, Philadelphia (2). Little is known of her background, but census records seem to indicate she was the daughter of Henry Elmer Seaman and Helen Seltzer, and was born in the Philadelphia area about 1915 (3, 4). In 1920, she and her mother were living in the house of her grandparents, Joseph H. and Anna F. Seltzer, in Philadelphia (4\*). About 1926 her mother remarried, to Joseph C. Hoffman, but Virginia appears to have been her only child (5). Virginia and Harry Rezer had two children before becoming divorced.

Harry married second, **RUTH CUMMINGS** on 11 August 1947 in Erial, N.J. She was born 10 November 1914 in Philadelphia, Pa., the daughter of Thomas Lawrence Cummings and Katherine Christine Schaeffer. Her father died from empyema during World War I, after which his widow married Edward Koehler. Ruth worked for a time at United Motors, where her "boss" was Harry Rezer. Ruth and Harry were residing in Drexel Hill, Delaware County, Pa., when she died on 30 December 1981 of a cerebral aneurysm in Chester Crozer Medical Center, Chester, Pa. She was buried in Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pa.

Following Ruth's death, Harry went to live with his daughter Linda and family in Aston, Pa. The upset of his wife's death soon brought on ulcerative colitis, which—while visiting his daughter Virginia in California in December 1982—forced him to be hospitalized. In the process of receiving a number of blood transfusions, he was infected with the hepatitis C virus. He lived with the condition for over a decade, finally succumbing to liver failure on 3 May 1993 in Riddle Memorial Hospital, Media, Pa. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Pa.

Children (REZER) by Virginia E. Seaman:

1. Virginia Ann, m. Donald Dean Mowery, chn. (MOWERY): David Scott, Kevin Jay (6).
2. Harry Martin, Jr., m. Katherine Mona Eckley, chn.: Jeffrey Scott, Richard Todd (1).

Child (REZER) by Ruth Cummings:

3. Linda, m. Lawrence Matthew Halvorsen, chn. (HALVORSEN): Brian Todd, Kristen Lynn (1).

**Children of  
Sarah Ann Rezer (J-14) (1828–1889)  
mrd. 1847 James Alexander Craig (1821–1898)**



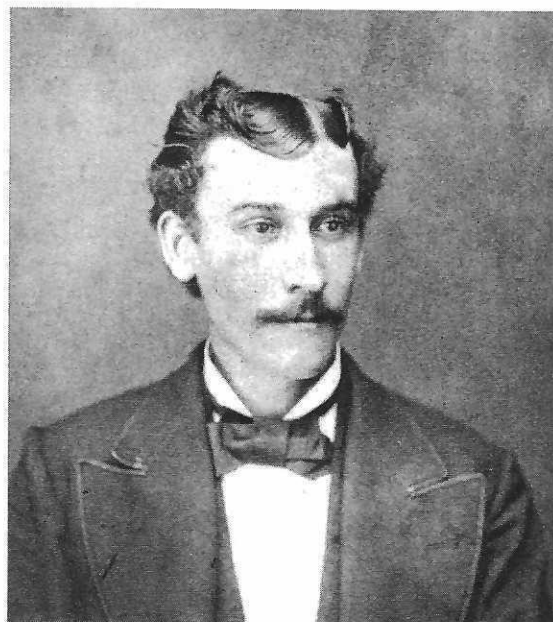
(P-129)

Elmira R. (Craig) Miller (J-14-4)  
(1852–1912)



(P-130)

Elmira R. (Craig) Miller  
in later life.



(P-131)

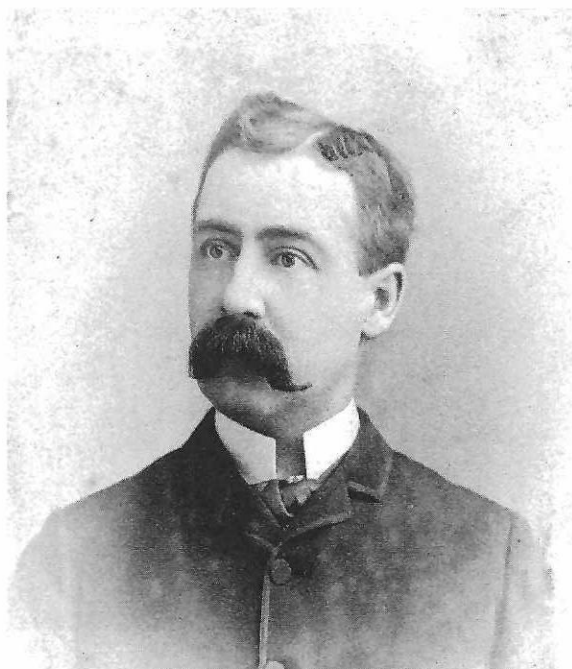
Albert H. Miller,  
husband of Elmira R. Craig

**Children of  
Sarah Ann Rezer (J-14) and James Alexander Craig**



(P-132)

Annie V. (Craig) Neely (J-14-6)  
(1855–1923)



(P-133)

Edward Hunter Neely,  
husband of Annie V. Craig



(P-134)

Henrietta (Craig) Rimel (J-14-14)  
(1870–1953)

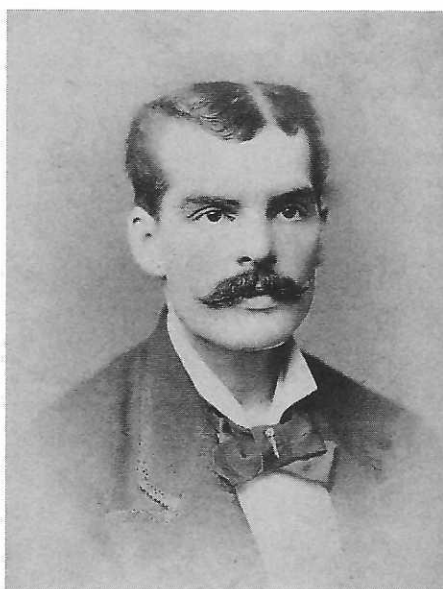


(P-135)

Annie V. Craig and  
Edward Hunter Neely

*Our Raser Family*

**Child of**  
**Mark Rezer (J-16) (1832–1887)**  
**mrd. late 1850s Ann Faulse (abt. 1831–1877)**



(P-136)

**Mark Warren Rezer (J-16-3)**  
**(1864–aft. 1930)**

**Children of**  
**Taylor Brant Rezer II (J-21) (1856–1905)**  
**mrd. 1883 Margaret Louisa (nee Scott) Cornelius (1857–1919)**



(P-137)

**Frank Scott Rezer (J-22)**  
**(1886–1940)**



(P-138)

**Lillie May Heimsoath,**  
**wife of Frank Scott Rezer**

*The John Reser/Rezer Branch*

**Children of  
Taylor Brant Rezer II (J-21) (1856–1905)  
mrd. 1883 Margaret Louisa (nee Scott) Cornelius (1857–1919)**



(P-139)

Martin Ettinger Rezer (J-23)  
(1889–1951)



(P-140)

Anna Pauline Stratton,  
wife of Martin Ettinger Rezer



(P-141)

Anna Pauline and Martin Rezer at Atlantic City

**Children of  
Elmira Rezer (J-18) (1839–1900)  
mrd. abt. 1864 Edward Hartley (1840–1918)**



(P-142)

Emily Virginia Hartley (J-18-1)  
(1865–1926)



(P-143)

Peter Bloom Tilton,  
husband of Emily V. Hartley



(P-144)

Laura Hartley (J-18-2)  
(1869– )



(P-145)

Harry M. Tilton,  
husband of Laura Hartley

*The John Reser/Rezer Branch*

**Wife and Son of Uriah Razer (J-13) (1821–1848)**  
**mrd. 1845 Mary Youart (1825–1900)**  
**Mary mrd. (2) 1849 Washington Malin (1805–1887)**



(P-146)

Mary (Youart) (Razer) Malin,  
mother of John P. Razer



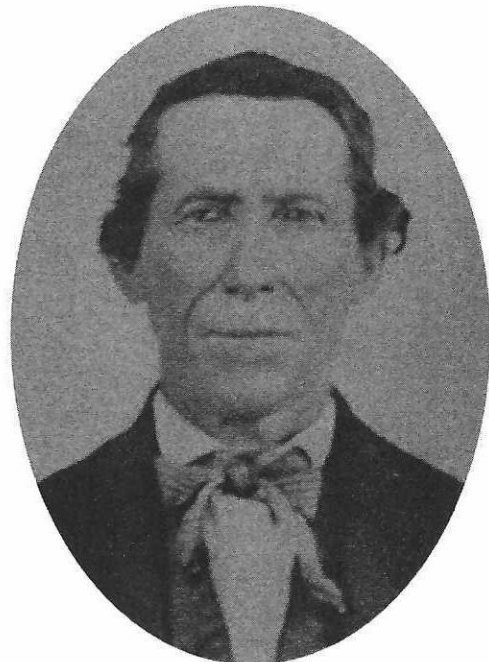
(P-147)

John P. Razer (J-13-1)  
(1846–1893)



(P-148)

Mary (Youart) (Razer) Malin  
in later years



(P-149)

Washington Malin,  
step-father of John P. Razer