

January 7, 1989

Mrs. William D. Case
3517 Little York Rd.
Dayton, OH 45414

Dear Mr. Berger,

Just recently, I received your name from Bernice Wilson as one interested in the Plattenberger family. Through her, I also contacted Mildred Donley and now have a copy of her interesting book. My great grandmother was Mary (Polly) Plattenberger from Middletown Pa, who married Isaac Cassel of Montgomery Co, Pa in 1825 and came to Ohio in 1835. My Aunt, Mabel Cassel Vernon, has worked for many years on our family history and traced all of our ancestors back to Immigrants, all of whom were in Penn. by the time of the Revolution. She thought that Polly was a dau. of George, son of Rev. John 1st. However, I found that Polly had 2 brothers and 2 sisters living near her, all of which did not seem to fit into George's family. I searched for information on the family in many libraries but could find out very little about the Pliberngs. Finally, through the Organization Palatines to America, I located Bernice Wilson and a whole new world opened up! I am particularly interested in this family because I am in the posession of some remarkable little " papers" that I found after my father died. They had obviously been passed down in the Plattenberg family and then through the Cassels to him. There are about 13 of them about 4 " x 5" dated in the 1750's and several signed on the back, Johannes Plattenberger Jr. It is my impression that little papers such as these were done as handwriting practice by children in the early schools or to amuse themselves on Sundays. Several are Christmas greetings, prayers, hymns but the most interesting to genealogists are ones commemorating the deaths of other children in the family. I am sending you copies. Since you are descended from Christian you will be surprised to discover that he died at the age of 9 years old. Obviously, the name was used again and your ancestor was probably born shortly after the death of the first Christian, Nathaniel, Christain and little Anna Marie Palmer probably died at the same time¹⁷⁵⁶ of some epidemic. Anna Marie was no doubt the daughter of one of Barbara's brothers. If he^{was} the son of Barbara he would have to have been born in 1757 or before her death in 1758. I suppose it is also possible that he could have been the son of Johannes 2nd wife. There is no question in my mind as to the authenticity of these papers. They are very old but well preserved. I am not sure that Johannes Jr. wrote all of them either, but they are enough to tell me that my great-grandmother Polly Plattenberger was a member of that family. A german friend translated them for me. What do you call these papers? A woman who has done some research on Penna Dutch folk art called them " Vorschrift " but perhaps, living in the midst of old Penna you could give me a better idea. I thought perhaps you might be interested in the other paper I am enclosing. It is the beautiful frontspiece from a singing book haded down in the Cassel family to a cousin of mine. I'm sure it is very valuable. The colors are still vibrant. Can you tell us anything about it. ?

It is truly wonderful to have these treasures and I wonder how many others that would shed some light on our ancestry are lurking in some attic or worse, have been carelessly thrown away because no one could read them !

Even though you are descended from Christian P'berg, I am wondering if you have unearthed any information about John III. Since George and family moved to West Virginai shortly after the Rev. War, that leaves only John who could be the father of my Mary - Polly. Her brother Jacob was born in 1796 (1850 census) Any of the other brothers by John's second wife would have been to young to be the father of this family. Polly had a sister Susanna living with the family who never married and when she died in 1870 her estate was divided between her 2 brothers , Jacob and Peter, her sister Elizabeth Plattenberger wife of John White and the children of her sister Polly and Isaac Cassel.

Mildred Donley's book states that John III had 9 children and mentions Mary and Jacob but not the other three. But since there are no dates given for their births it may be that the list is not complete. I intend to ask her what was the source of her information, of course, but I did want you to know about the 2 Christians and, since I am writing you, thought that You being close to the source of information might be able to shed a little light on my problem.

My Cassel line goes back as follows: Mary Ellen Cassel Case, dau. of Homer D. Cassel, M.D., s/o William Henry Cassel, s/o Benjamin Cassel, s/o Isaac and Mary Plattenberg Cassel, Isaacs father was known as Jacob the Miller of Skippack, s/o Isaac, Son of the immigrant Yellis Cassel who came on the "Friendship" in 1727. I understand that two of the Cassel homes are still standing today . Are you familiar with any of the Cassels.? Other lines from which we claim descent are Kolb, Detweiler, Rittenhouse, Janson, Schumacher, Van Sintern. Perhaps we have some other common ancestors.

I'm doing all this with the idea of writing a family history for my family and when I get the Plattenbergs straightened out I will just about have it finished. Besides the actual names, dates, and places my Aunt had so many interesting stories to go along with them I felt it was too interesting to keep in a filing cabinet. She is still living but frail. However she is thrilled that I am doing this book and I want to get it finished so that she can enjoy it and know that her work has not been neglected. I'm finding she made other mistakes too but that is inevitable, especially when you consider the difficulties of doing this kind of work 25 years ago. Please excuse my terrible typing, It is getting late so will close. Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely

Mary Ellen Cassel Case

11. Zum Christtag 1756.

Dein großer glück machst allein,
dass du ein Kind warst du müßt gern

13. Zum Christtag 1757

Der eld fagon, auf Befwagen,
wies du warst zu warten so kam?
ich bin Gründer und der Kind
wird vom Prinzen Beßfelchen

15. Christian Flottenberger geboren

25. Jun. 1747

Kinder-Loening am Dom tag
1756.

Wenn Jesus nicht der ewig Heiland
wir, wir wären noch in ewig
Ende - Gott.

geboren
born

Kinder fassung
Child as a child
lit. relieved of living
If Jesus were not our savior
we would all be devils.

10. Zum Christtag 1756.

Wer fürt Dom Stalle und Prinzen
der weiß kein weiß was ihm widerfrißt
So wohl wird ihm.

1. Friedrich Flatterberger.
geboren am 5. Novemb. 1753.
Kinder-Loſung 1758.
Gieb uns deinen Friede
der o. Jesu!

8. Anna Maria Palmérin
geboren am 16. October
1747.
Kinder-Loſung an dem Tag
1758.
Ostermonsach ist dasch
herrn Gott,
für ringet. Falgen bey so
mancher fließ.

9. Nathanael Flatterberger
geboren
26. Januar.
1751. B.
Kinder-Loſung an dem Tag
1758. t.
Dum dies für uns erlöste.



This Note
Booklet belongs to
Susana Kassel, a
practiced singer in the Skip-
packer School*****

Written on 16th
September
1792

This is a reproduction of a singing book copied by Susana Kassel, born 1782. She was the sister of our third great grandfather, Jacob the Miller of Skippack. It was passed down in the Cassel family and given to Jesse Cassel by his great Aunt Deborah Merkle Cassel wife of Jesse Cassel, Susana's nephew.

Diese Noten-Büchlein Gehört Der
Musica Singe Ein
Geübter Sänger in Der Schule
Parther Schuhle.

Ohr Mannschen mögen, haben,
Vom mein Leben Gott,
Rief Gott ich Ich kann.

1301 Bradford Road
Oreland, Pa. 19075
April 16, 1989

Dear Mary Ellen,

Sorry for not getting back to you sooner regarding your letter of January 7th on the Plattenberger family. I haven't spent too much time on that family lately but found your letter and little "papers" very interesting.

My research shows that my ancestor, Christian Plattenberger, was born on June 25, 1747. That date came from the Moravian archives from the Church at Schoeneck, Pa. where Christian was a member until he moved to Maryland around 1850. This is the same date that appears in the little paper (#6) that you sent to me. The date of 6th July was probably the date on which he was baptized. Since we know that he didn't die at an early age, I suspect that these papers served some other purpose than to commemorate the death of a child. Several of the papers were apparently prepared in 1756 but I'm not sure of the reason they were written. Christian would have been 9 years old in 1756, too young to be confirmed. Perhaps, as you suggested, they were writing exercises in school or Sunday school. If I'm correct about this, then there was no second Christian Plattenberger born at a later date.

After studying the papers, I have doubts that they pertained to the deaths of children. The one on Nathaniel (#9) was prepared in 1756 but records show that Nathaniel died in 1751, shortly after his birth. He is buried in the Moravian Cemetery at Lititz, Pa. Two other children of Johannes Blattenberger are also buried there, Elizabeth who died in 1749 and Anna Rosina who died in 1758. Johannes later had a second child named Anna Rosina, born May 17, 1761, by his third wife, Ottilia Margaret (Zimmerman) Boetzell. The paper on Friedrick (#7) was dated 1758 but we know that he lived to marry and raise a family in Lancaster Co. The german word "losung" means password or watchword. Perhaps, these papers had something to do with memory phrases or little sayings that they wrote to practice writing skills. I'd be very interested in the translation that you have of these papers so we could confirm what they really are. By the way, I haven't done much research on Penna Dutch folk customs so I can't be of much help on what the papers were called or on the frontspiece from the singing book. I wish I had more knowledge in that area. I know that the early Germans did some beautiful art work.

You also asked about any information on John III. Mildred Donley and I differ quite a bit on some of the Plattenberger lines. Before corresponding with Mildred and Bernice Wilson, I had done some Plattenberger research on my own and pieced together some of the family lines including John III who married Anna Maria Magdalena Ettley. However, my list of his children is different than those shown in Mildred's book. Enclosed is a copy of my family sheet. Among John's children I show a Margaret, born in 1795, but not the Mary or Polly who was your ancestor, unless Margaret was known as Polly. Do you know the date of birth of your Mary or Polly Plattenberger? That would help to nail down the right family line. According to my research, John III also had a daughter named Susan and a son named Peter. However, I never found a son named Jacob.

The family of Peter Blattenberger, son of Johannes and Barbara (Palmer) Blattenberger, seems to match more closely what you're looking for. Peter, who was married to a Susanna Eby, had two sons Jacob and Peter and a daughter Elizabeth who married a John Weid (or White) in 1820. Enclosed is a copy of my family sheet. I also show a daughter born in 1789 who could be your Mary or Polly. I also enclosed a copy of Peter's will which mentions children Jacob and Peter and daughter Susanna. If you think that this line looks correct, I can look through my notes to find out what sources were used to develop the information.

I guess that's about all for now. I'd better close now and get this in the mail to you. Looking forward to hearing from you so we can straighten this out.

Sincerely yours,

Dale E. Berger

Mrs. William D. Case
3517 Little York Rd.
Dayton, Ohio 45414

June 3, 1989

Dear Dale,

I was so excited when I received your letter. It was quite a surprise in more ways than one. I had just about given up ever hearing from you thinking perhaps you had lost interest in genealogy or just didn't find my letter interesting. I was just about to leave for a trip to Germany to visit my son and his wife in Mainz. He is a dentist in the army there on his second tour of Germany. He wanted to take me to Holland in the spring to see the tulips in bloom. I would have written you right back if I had had the time because you were such a big help to me. I think you are probably exactly right about my great-^{gr}a mother coming from the Peter Blattenberger family. The dates of the children you have listed all agree quite well with census records and cemetery records that I have found here in Montgomery Co. Ohio except for Peter who according to census records would have been born in 1804, but that could easily vary by the time the census was taken. Polly/Mary was born 29 Oct 1805 and died 5 Aug 1879. You don't give a month and day for Peter's birth in 1805-- is it possible this was an estimate and he was born in 1804? Even if he was born early in 1805, it's possible Mary could have been born in late Oct. possibly prematurely. Susanna is listed in Mont. Co. Census as sister of Mary Cassel living with them in 1850 and 1870 census lists. She died 21 Sept. 1870, probably soon after the census taker left!. She is not listed in 1860. Maybe she was with another relative at the time.

Now that you have pointed this out, I don't see why I didn't see it, except that Mildred's book says nothing about the family ever coming to Ohio.

When she said the children were handicapped I assumed a mental or very serious physical handicap. Since both Susan and Jacob both lived to ripe old ages the handicap must not have been too severe. Possibly it was a club foot or some hip dysplasia. At any rate it appears Jacob married twice. His wife is listed as Margaret in 1870 and he is buried with one named Ida. I don't know if he had any children as they would have left home before he appears in the Ohio census. At the age of 73 his occupation is given as "farmer". His wife Margaret was 70 years and born in Wurtenberg Germany. They also had a 22 year old domestic living with them. I will enclose a copy of the Settlement of Susan's

estate although I doubt if it copies well. But now, where did you get the information about this family... and I wonder why there is no mention of Mary/Polly. It is not surprising that she is not mentioned in the will as none of the other daughters except Susan are either. Mary would have been the youngest and if the records came from a family Bible, sometimes they never got around to entering the last child. Or it is possible that this family may have been going to Mennonite or River Brethren church by the time she was born and their records were not good. The will mentioned 6 children which could include Mary if the older unnamed daughter died young.

Of course the main reason I thought Mary was descended from Rev Waf John ~~Waf~~ II was the fact that she had the papers he wrote in her possession. However the fact that she was the youngest child of the youngest child Peter. They were probably the last to leave home and got the family heirlooms, such as they were. Could explain this.

But now to the part which concerns you, the little papers. Incidentally I did find a woman familiar with this type of thing and she also called them "Vorschrift." I have had them translated by two different people and they both agree that they referred to the deaths of these children. The first was a German gentleman who happened to be our guest as a part of a "Sister City" exchange. He was quite elderly but sharp and spoke very good English. He wrote the translations from old German to modern German and then to an English translation. He explained the expression

Opposite and for myself for my wife to pray in name of S.
Lösung is past tense of v. lösen

Kinder Lösung" as meaning "Child released from living" It is an idiom not used in modern German. The verb lösen means to untie, release, loosen. Or perhaps one could say "relieved of suffering." Or possibly it is as used as a euphemism for death much as we say "passed away" today. The word "losen" which you found does not have the two little dots over the O and is this a different word - to wager. (umlaut)

Several years later I found another woman and asked her to translate some of the papers into a little more poetic English and also gave her one of the "death notices" She was born in Germany and translates for a living. She simply translated it as "died as a child" which is how we would put it today. So I think there is no question as to the meaning or authenticity of these papers. There is no frivolity to any of these papers. They all deal with Biblical themes, Hymns and religious holidays. The very fact that they were preserved lends credence to them.

According to what I have been able to piece together of the family of Jochannes I there could have been room for the birth of the second Christian in 1757. In your obit of John you say Anna Rosina was born when Barbara died. But your chart shows Anna dying May 29, 1958. According to Barbara's obit which was sent to me by Bernice, she died Jan 26, 1958. Mildred's book states Anna Rosina was born in 1956 and died in 1758. Frederick would have had to have been the son of Margaret. The obit states that Barbara had borne 9 children and 4 sons and 2 daughters were still living when she died. The daughters would be according to your FGS, Anna Rosina who died after her death and the oldest dau Anna Maria. Assuming my little papers are accurate, and your dates are accurate thet four sons would be Daniel, Johannes, Frederick (who died later in the year 1758) and Peter. If Frederick died just before his mother that leaves your Christian as a 2 year old and one of the four surviving sons. I'll include a copy of the obit. assuming you do not have a copy or you would have figured this out for yourself !

I sent to Lanc. Co. for land transactions of John P'berg and was sent among others the sale of lots in Mannheim from Margaret Zimmerman to John in 1767 and then in 1768 they were transferred to Anna R. and Margarethe who couldn't have been more than 4-6 years old. Someone gave me the idea that Margaret Zimmerman and Ottila Boetzel were believed to be the same person, but in the contract she is listed as Margaret Zimmerman, widow. (in 1767). Why would they turn over property to two little girls ? Incidentally they are called the "two only daughters" of Margaret and John Plättenberg. It doesn't say they didn't have any sons. (death notices etc)

I'm sure this is all very disconcerting to you. I know what it is to think you have everything all figured out and then to have someone throw a monkey wrench into the works. I sent copies of these papers to Bernice and Mildred. Mildred solved the problem nicely by ignoring it. We exchanged several letters but I think she is burnt out.. She could give me no documentation or sources for any of her information. She is presently (or at least several months ago) living in a mobile home which she hates and is trying to sell and move back into a larger home. It's no wonder she can't find anything. She says she has no plans to revise the book. Too bad for she has such a good start. I understand that she put it together in a big hurry for the family reunion but it's a shame she isn't going to put it in a better form. I expect if I ever get my book done, I'll feel the same way.

Incidentally in your paper on John I you say that Barbara is his 2nd wife. What is the source of information for this statement?

With regard to John III... when I still thought he was my ancestor I sent for orphans Ct. records and it looks like he died just before his father. Apparently, Anna Mary Ettley his widow married Joseph Bolton and then died herself shortly afterward leaving a number of minor children. The orphans court records are full of references to these 3 estates. It looks to me like the John who died in Mississippi was their son, John IV, born Jan 1, 1794. They also had a son, George, bapt. 1804. John B'berg and wife were given as sponsors for John's bapt. I found this in a Book Called Dauphin Co. Records by Gen. Publishing Co. while in Cleveland, but neglected to check on the church where it took place. I will get this together for the next letter if you are interested. this is all very confusing, but I'm not giving up !

Thanks for all the help you have given me. I hope all this will be some help to you. I may add that I don't want so long to write again.

Please don't think I'm being negative. I hope all this will be some help to you. I may add that I don't want so long to write again.

1301 Bradford Road
Oreland, Pa. 19075
July 9, 1989

Dear Mary Ellen,

Thank you so much for the additional material on the Plattenberger family. I already had a copy of the obituary of Barbara Plattenberger but it was in German and I never had it translated. It seems to answer a number of questions about her and the children of Johannes. I spent most of yesterday going back over all of my notes on the Plattenbergers and resolved some questions but probably created several new ones. I'll try to answer all of the questions that you raised in your last letter.

With regard to the Peter Blattenberger family; I took the dates of birth of Peter and Susanna's children from Mildred Donley's book. She shows the year of Peter's birth as 1805 but I don't know where she got her information. In my own research on the Plattenbergers, I never came across any baptisms, marriages, etc. on the Peter and Susanna line. I think that the settlement of Susanna's estate which you sent to me definitely proves that the Maria/Polly who married Isaac Cassel was from this line. Perhaps a baptism record will turn up later on Maria to prove it once and for all. Could you send me copies of any information you have gathered on Peter and Susanna's children and their descendants so that I can add these to my records. It looks like you have a lot more information than Mildred had in her book on this branch of the family.

There are many remaining questions pertaining to the immigrant Johannes and his wives and I don't feel that we have all the answers at this time. But, for what its worth, here are my best guesses based on the information we have so far:

WHAT WAS THE BIRTHDATE OF JOHANNES BLATTENBERGER?

The baptismal records of the Catholic Church in Bavaria show that Johannes was born on 12 October 1721. That date agrees with Johannes' age of 22 years on the ships log when he arrived in 1743. The questionable item is that Barbara's obituary said they were married in 1734. Barbara was 22 at that time but Johannes would have only been 13 years old. I guess that's not impossible but it is a little strange. In the absence of any other information, I think we have to accept the 1721 date as being correct.

WAS JOHANNES MARRIED ONCE BEFORE HE MARRIED BARBARA PALMER?

This is an interesting one. The notion that Johannes could have been married once before marrying Barbara Palmer came from an interpretation of the 5th sentence of the memorandum of Barbara's death where it stated "It was in 1734 when she married Johannes Plattenberger who is a widower now." There was some initial uncertainty as whether the phrase "is a widower now" meant that Johannes was a widower before Barbara married him or after she died. However, since the sentence says "widower now", it was most likely meant to apply after her death.

Also, in a letter from Mildred Donley, she felt that it was strange that there was a 4 year gap between the births of Anna Maria in 1737 and Philip in 1741 when it was common to have a child every two years. Therefore, perhaps Anna Maria was a child of a first wife. On the other hand, a Moravian record of Anna Maria and her husband J. George Buerstler stated that Anna Maria was a daughter of John and Barbara. Of course, there's always the possibility that she was "adopted" by the second wife Barbara.

If Johannes' birth date of 1721 is correct as we assumed above, then he was only 13 years old in 1734 when he married Barbara Palmer. He would have been much too young to have had another wife before 1734.

Based on all the evidence so far, I conclude now that Johannes was married only twice; to Barbara Palmer in 1734 and to Ottilia Margaretha Boetzell (or Zimmerman) in 1760. The reason for the 4 year gap between Anna Maria and Philip could be that another child who we don't know about at this time was born and died in that period. If the child died at birth there was probably no baptismal record in the church in Bavaria.

WAS THE THIRD CHILD DANIEL BORN IN 1743 BORN IN GERMANY OR LANCASTER, CO. PA.?

He was most likely born in Lancaster County after Johannes and Barbara arrived since the notice of Barbara's death says they came to America with only two children, not three. The two would have been Anna Maria born in 1737 and Philip born in 1741.

WHAT WERE THE DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH OF ANNA ROSINA BLATTENBERGER?

The Moravian records of burials in the Lititz cemetery indicate that Anna Rosina died in 1758 of "tooth fever" at age two. Therefore she was born in 1756 and the birth date of 29 May 1756 is probably correct. I was in error in saying that Barbara died in childbirth.

WHAT WAS THE BIRTHDATE OF PETER BLATTENBERGER?

If Anna Rosina was born in 1756, then Peter must have been born between 1753, when Frederick was born, and 1756. That would make his birthdate 1754 or 1755.

WHAT WAS THE CORRECT NAME OF JOHANNES' SECOND WIFE?

I'm still unsure at this point if her maiden name was BOETZELL or ZIMMERMAN but I'm fairly sure that Ottilia and Margaret were the same person. Deed H-370 in 9 January 1767 mentions "Margaret Zimmerman of Manheim Tsp., widow. Property on High Street transferred to John Plottebarger of the same place. This may have been a house or piece of land left to Margaret by her first husband or it could have been left to her by her father which meant it was still on the records under her maiden name of Zimmerman. Margaret also may have used her maiden name after her first husband died and she became a widow. The marriage record at St. Paul's Reformed Church at Manheim shows her name as Ottillia Margarethe (Zimmerman) Boetzell of Altohooe. Until anything else shows up, I guess we'll have to assume that her maiden name was Zimmerman and her first husband was a Boetzell.

In your letter you mentioned sending for Orphans Court records for John III who married Anna Mary Ettley and that their son John IV is probably the one who died in Miss. territory. My research indicates that John III was the one who died there in 1817. John III served in the Revolutionary War at age 16 in 1781 and later commanded the Swatara Guards as a Captain in the war of 1812. In 1821 a bond was issued to his widow Mary Blattenberger in Lancaster Co. to dispose of his estate (Lanc. Co. Bond Ref. 1821, Bond Bk. A-1, Page 52). It appears that John III had a military career and was killed in an Indian battle in 1817. It probably took until 1821 to prove that he had died so his estate could be disposed of. You said that John IV was born 1 Jan 1794. My FGS shows a birthdate of 1 Nov. 1801 and shows George born on 30 May 1803. Some more confusion for both of us! Could you please send me your notes on this.

To add to all the confusion, when checking my notes, I came across several marriages and one baptism that don't seem to fit into the picture anywhere.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster

A John and Elizabeth Plattenberger had a daughter Catharine born 22 Oct. 1779. John is believed to have died early and his widow, Elizabeth, married a John Lehman on 6 March 1794. Who was this John Plattenberger?

Misc. Marriages:

Barbara Blattenberger married Peter Brossman
 John Blattenberger married Elizabeth Eby (Could this be the John and Elizabeth mentioned above?)

Trinity Tulpehocken Reformed Church, Jackson Tsp., Lebanon Co.:

Catharine Blattenberger marr. George Hartman	12/6/1835
Jacob Blattenberger marr. Maria Schulz	5/18/1839
Christian Blatt. (?) marr. Matilda Weitel	5/14/1837

Tobor First Reformed Ch., Leboanon, Lebanon Co.

Elizabeth Blatt. marr. Johannes Blesterer 10/21/1828

On top of all this, we still have the question of the "Vorschriffts" that you found. Incidentally, I came across mention of these types of papers in an article in a genealogical column that I subscribe to from a Middletown, Pa. newspaper. A copy is enclosed. It says that Vorschriffts were writing samples prepared by the teacher for the student to follow and are now collectors items. On one hand, I want to be as objective as possible and take the information on its face value. But, on the other hand, the information doesn't fit into any other research findings. The pieces that don't fit are:

1. The Vorschrift on Nathanael Plattenberger indicates that he was "released from living", as you had it translated, in 1756. The Moravian records of burials at the Lititz cemetery say he died in 1751??

2. The Vorschrift on Christian Plattenberger say he was born 25 June 1747, baptized 6 July 1747, and died in the year 1756. The Moravian records of the Schoeneck church on file in the archives of the Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa. include an obituary on Christian Plattenberg which states he was born on 25 June 1747 and died 18 Jan. 1833 in Baltimore. The dates of birth are the same!! If there had been a second Christian Plattenberger, the date of birth in the obituary would have been different.

3. Barbara's obituary said she had 9 children. Our research turned up 10 which already raises a question. If we assume that both Frederick and Christian died in childhood and were replaced by two other children, it would raise the total number of children to 12.

4. If Frederick and Christian died as children, why isn't there any mention of their deaths and burials in the Moravian records of the Lititz cemetery along with Philip, Elizabeth, Nathaniel, Anna Rosina, and Barbara who are mentioned.

At this point, all I can suggest is that we keep the question of the Vorschriffts open. I appreciate the fact that two separate translators said that "kinder-losung" means "died as a child" but maybe those words had a different meaning in the 1750s when they were written.

This letter is really getting long so I better close for now and get it in the mail. I enclosed a few other items that may be of interest. The letter in German dated 22 Oct. 1981 looks like it came from an archivist and seems to give some more information on the Plattenbergers. It was sent to me by Franz Blattenberger who attended the Plattenberger reunion several years ago. If you know anyone who can translate it, could you please send me a translation. The other item relates to the Eby family. It looks like the Susanna Eby who married Peter Blattenberger was a daughter of George and Rosina. George was a son of George Sr. and Barbara Neff. They came from Switzerland.

Please let me know what you think about all of these questions. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sept 18, 1989

Dear Bernice,

Ever since I received your letter a month or so ago I have been wanting to write you but kept putting it off 'til I had a little more time to write a decent letter. Today I got another letter from you so I decided that was a signal I should just "make ' the time to write.

First, I must tell you how saddened I was to hear of the death of your dear husband. It must have been a terrible shock to you and your family. I just don't know how I could deal with such a situation. You seem to have a very close-knit family and I am sure that with their help and support you will make it through this difficult adjustment. Several of my friends have lost their husbands recently and have been immensely helped by a "Dealing with Grief" program in our church and the ensuing support groups. I am sure that there are similar programs in your area if you feel the need.

Bill and I have been "dealing with retirement" ! And doing pretty well at it. We have been doing a good bit of travelling... making up for all the years we never even took vacations ! We just got back from a wonderful trip to Alaska. We were on a group tour with my brother and sister and their spouses plus seven other couples, most of whom were friends of my sister. We had a great trip but I'm not in a hurry to go back although I'm sure there is more to see. We almost didn't get to go. Bill came down with a terrible flu virus that gave him a terrible fever and wracking chills. He ended up in the hospital four days and got out just before we were to go on the trip, fortunately, fully recovered. I've never seen him or anyone else so sick. I really thought I might lose him. My brother is our doctor and he decided to put him in, thank goodness. He was terribly dehydrated and after a gallon or so of I.V. he began to improve. They CT scanned him from one end to the other and did all the blood work etc and couldn't find anything but a virus. But it was scary. He felt fine on the trip but it wasn't really demanding. Next month we are going to England for a reunion of the Bomb Group he was in during the war. He has never attended any of the reunions before so this will be an experience. We've never travelled so much. There were lots of tottery old folks and widows on the Alaska Cruise, so I'm glad we're doing these things while we still can.

I would love to have copies of any information you find in the Chronicles of Middletown on the Bergs, Cassel or Jacob Kreibill (Graybill) whose wife was Elizabeth Delabaugh dau of Peter Delabaugh of Dauphin Co. John Cassel (1791-1880) son of Fred Cassel married Barbara Graybill. They lived in Maytown. Their son, Jacob and family came to Montgomery Co, Ohio about 1850.

I finally got smart and sent copies of the "Plattenberg papers" to the Moravian Hist. Soc and they confirmed that "Kinder Losung" refers to scriptures or "thoughts for the Day" for Moravian children as you said Franz and Ursula wrote you. I sent them some copies before I went to Germany but did not have time to go visit them as I had hoped to do. Maybe I'll make it another time. She wrote me a nice note inviting us to visit but by the time I got the note I had already made other commitments. But I must write them again.

I am glad to find that you are still maintaining an interest in genealogy and I wish that you would take it upon yourself to revise Mildred's book. Some one certainly should. She doesn't seem to be very interested any more and the book certainly could use improvement. Maybe you could set her on the golden throne and get her cooperation and notes. I agree that she seems to have used a lot of imagination when writing the book. Dale Berger has been very helpful and seems willing

to share his information. And of course I'd be willing to give you what I have found. There is a lot in the Orphan's court records which I mentioned about this family.

Now back to the little papers. If they weren't death notices, what do you think they were? Could they have been given to these children as "Birthday cards". Dale says there was a Nathaniel who was born and died in 1751 listed in the Moravian cemetery records, but here we have a Nathaniel, born in 1751 having a birthday in 1756!! That's not possible either. I am going to send them to the woman mentioned in the letter and see what she says about them. They are surely confusing. All this goes to show how difficult it is to translate old German. At least five different people I showed those papers to agreed that they were death notices, but they didn't know anything ~~about the~~ Moravian Church! I will let you know what Mrs. Margaret Wilde thinks about them.

Now to John's second wife, Margaret. You said that he Married Ottilia Margarethe Boetzel on Aug 24 1760 as recorded in records of John Casper Stoever. (But questioned the name Pfaffenberger) Dale gives the Date As Aug 19 1760 and says it was at St. Paul's Reformed church. Possibly these records both come from different sources. I'm inclined to agree that Pfaffenberger is not the same name as Plattenberger, but it's possible that someone made a mistake in transcription as often happens. However there is another piece of evidence to support your contention. I have a copy of a deed where John sells 192 acres which he bought in 1762 from Abraham Steiner and sold to Peter Greider in 1764. His wife's name is given several times as Anna Margrethe not Ottilia Margarthe. I don't believe Anna and Otilee are equivalent in any language although I could be wrong. In other transactions of which I have copies her name is given as Margaret.

However I also have problems with Margaret Zimmerman being Johannes 2nd wife. If Anna Rosina was born in May 1761 --- which would be barely possible if the wife were Ottilia Marg.... that would mean she was only 6 years old when they gave her and her sister the property in 1767. This is given in the deed as lot 14 in Mannheim town. It is on the south side of High St. The property Marg. Z. sold to John is described as on the north side of High St. They are definitely not the same piece of property. Of course the name Marg. Z. on the sale of the property to John 6 years after their supposed marriage doesn't make sense either. Why would she need to sell it to her husband? She could have given it to her daughters if she wanted them to have property. Both of these properties are lots in Mannheim, neither a farm as Mildred claimed. What evidence is there that Marg's maiden name is Zimmerman, except the sale of the property, which only offers a supposition? I just checked my last letter from Dale and apparently his source of info for the marriage gives " Ottilia Margarethe (Zimmerman) Boetzell of Altohoe" but he doesn't say what the husband's name was. (Pfaffenberger or Plattenberger.)

The other problem I have is with John III. I have never found the reference to him dying in Miss. You have mentioned that Egle's Notes state that he was in the Swatara guards and then died in Miss. Isn't it possible that John in the Swatara guards was the one living in Middletown and whose death is recorded in the probate records as Married to Mary Bolton. He seems definitely related to John II. Perhaps the one who died in 1817 is another John who remained in Lanc. Co. Since his estate is probated in Lanc. Co and it is stated in the papers that his wife also lives in Lanc. Co. Couldn't this be the John son of Daniel as mentioned on p. 16 of Mildred's book? I have a notion that Egle confused the two Johns. Mary Blättenberg Bolton definitely lived and died in St. Peter's Church. I received a copy of the church records recently which told of her death, gave baptismal records for John and George and stated she had 7 children by John. Thomas, John and George were given as minor children and have guardians

appointed after John's death. I haveen't figured out who the other 4 children are but since they didn't require guardians they were probably born before the church records are available. I would send you copies of the court records but they wouldn't be readable. You can get them through LDS libr. I believe I sent you the roll # in my last letter.

My niece is going to be married in Mass. in Nov. and I think we are going to go and stop in PA for some gen. research either coming or going. It should be fun. I could spend a month working on it, I know, and I am debating where I should go for the best use of my time. It's even possible I will get near Dale.

Well I have thrown enough at you for a while and must write some other letters.
I need to write Dale too. Think I'll send him a copy of this letter.

I really wish you would think seriously about a new version of the (P) Blattenberger book. It really needs doing.

Love, *Mary Ellen*
Mary Ellen

Mrs Wm. D. Case
3517 Little York Rd.
Dayton Ohio 45414

2ND Married — ca. 1774, ~~Warwick Twp.~~, Lancaster Co., Veronica Shonauer (widow of Michael Sensenig), born — ca. 1730, Warwick Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., died — ca. 1788, Warwick Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa. No Issue.

NOTE: For Revolutionary War Military Records see TERR 16 V1, N2, P43/46.
and also having a daughter Catherine born Oct 27, 1779
but did not connect it to Miller's book.
The book is probably new & well done. I think it came out
G2, GEORGE EBY 3
in T & Wayne

G2, GEORGE EBY 3, (George 2, Theodosius 1), Carpenter, Joiner, Gunsmith of Warwick Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., born — ca. 1738, Earl Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., died 16 Jun 1779, Stony Point, N.Y. Married — ca. 1760, Warwick Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., Rosina Eby Shauer, born — ca. 1743, Warwick Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., died 26 Apr 1819 WP. Issue:

Gl, Johann (John) Eby 4, born — ca. 1761, died 16 May 1820 WP.

Married 27 Nov 1786, Margaret Blattenberger
Cl^o, Elizabeth Eby 4, born — (ca. 1762, died after 1819,
Married — ca. 1790, John Blattenberger

Gl4, Susanna Eby 4, born — ca. 1768, died after 1819.
Married 27 Sep 1786, Peter Blatterberger

Married — ca. 1799, Miss Rebecca

NOTE: For Revolutionary War Military Records see TER 16 VI. N2, P51/52. The above outline supersedes Family Outline Chart 27, TER 16 VI. N2. We have previously given the name of George Eby's wife as Betsy or Elizabeth Neff but it appears this was incorrect.

— 1 —

Sept. 20, 1989

Dear Dale,

This letter should be short because most of the things I want to cover are in the letter to Bernice Wilson, a copy of which I'm including. I've had several letters from her this summer and as you will gather from the letter, she lost her husband from a heart attack while they were visiting her daughter awaiting the birth of her baby. Very sad and unexpected. I think she is coping as well as could be expected and I am encouraging her to continue with her genealogy and hopefully revise Mildred's book.

I asked a friend to translate the German letter from Franz Blattenberger, but as I suspected contained no information we do not already have. The handwritten part does have information you might not have so I'm sending it back to you with transl.

FAMILY OF JOHN III. I got the first inkling of this in a book I mentioned to you called Dauphin Co. Records which I ran across in Western Reserve Hist. Libr. in Cleveland. I wrote the library and asked them to copy the information for me as I did not get everything. The date of 1794 for John IV was given but that would have made his mother only 14 yrs. when he was born and that didn't seem likely. When the library sent me the info. they sent instead the records that they had for St. Peter's Church which was much better and gave the same date that you have for the birth of John IV. and George. Unfortunately, I've already managed to misplace the St. Peter's records or I would send them to you. The ~~old~~ film of the Orphans Ct. records shows a tragic story and I have tried to make a chronology to go along with the copies I'm sending you which are very hard to read. The typed transcripts are abstracts I found in another library and I'm also including them where available as they are easier to read and but they are rather carelessly done and do not always agree with the original. I've struggled with these things for weeks but think I finally have them copied for you and Bernice and fairly understandable. It is primary source material which is about all the genealogists will accept these days and should lay to rest the story about John III being killed in Mississippi. You will see that the John killed in Miss. had a wife Mary and 3 minor daughters and lived in Lanc Co. rather than Dauphin. Are you convinced or do you have other primary evidence. I think Egle must have made a mistake and got 2 Johns confused--- easy enough to do. I'm anxious to know what you think of my detective work. I don't know why I worry about it since I know now that John II and III aren't my ancestors, (thanks to you !!) I guess it's just because I have so many Plattenberger heirlooms. I have Mary P's spinning wheel, too. 1749
But you have certainly won the battle over the "plattenberger papers" When you wrote that Christian's church obituary said he was born in 1751, I was convinced, then I got the letter from the Moravian Hist. Soc. which explained it all. Too bad my translators didn't know more about the Moravian church. But then how are we going to explain Nathaniel's death in 1751 when we have a paper written for him in 1756. It could be he died in 1761 and the '6 was mistaken for a '5'. on the records. I'm seeing more and more how many mistakes are made on transcriptions of primary source material, let alone secondary material. I am getting to the place where I am very suspicious of any of the older books or records. I have found so many errors in my Aunt's work and have had to throw out a number of really "good" family lines. This really hurts especially if there is a lot of information known about them. But fortunately, I have "gained" an interesting family in the Eby family, There is a lot of information on various Eby lines and particularly Theodorus who was the ancestor of Susanna Eby Plattenberg. The pages you sent me on the Eby, ^{now} I have discovered is a relatively new book by Clyde Groff who has done a huge book on descendants of Groff family. ~~but~~ He is very thorough and the book is well researched.

But now I've gotten off the track again. The list of children you have for John III has several that appear to be his brothers and sisters. Phillip, married

Bapt name Philip son Johannes + Magdalena

to Rosanna Mc Glanahan died 20 Apr. 1854 (St. Peter's Church Records) is listed among the children of John II and is presumably executor of his estate. His name and b. date are listed on the record I received from the DAR on the application of Maranna Starr. These names on application agree with a few exceptions with Bernice's list of the children of John II and she has their baptism records for nearly all of them at Trinity Luth church at Lanc. PA. # 4 Susan, # 5 Margaret # 10 Isaac on your Fam Gr. Sh. are on both Bernice's list and the DAR list as well as mentioned in John II's will. The only one mentioned in the will but not in other records was Nancy who seems to be the youngest. They probably never got around to putting her name in the family Bible !

A-4-1

^{Ettley}
Anna Mary Plattenberg Bolton's death record at St. Peter's church said she was born 10 Oct. 1780 and died at age 35 yrk 1 mo. 8 days ^{that} would figure to 18 Nov. 1815. This fits with the chronology of the Microfilm records of OrPh, Ct. proceedings as well as with the settlement of her father's estate, She being a minor under the age of 14 at ^{the} time of the settlement and she was given ^{#1790} lot # 3 in ^{the} land which had been owned by her father. There seems to be no question as to the fact that John III's wife was Anna Mary Ettley although I have never seen proof of it.

Anna Mary was probably quite young when she married John. He was 15 yrs older so I would question Samuel b. 1792 and Peter 1793 as well as those previously mentioned. Catherine, Anna seem likely although not mentioned in the Court proceedings as were John, George and Thomas (whose name you do not have) It's possible these girls were already married and didn't require the appointment of a guardian. Mary Pl Bolton's death info said she had 7 children by J. Pl. but that could have been wrong or the others might have died in infancy.

I must get this out of the way and into the mail after making a few more copies for you, I never seem to get all I need done on one trip. I do hope to hear from you soon and see if you agree that I have got it figured out. I am sorry it isn't better organized but I have spent way too much time on it already. Hope you can make sense of it.

As I mentioned in Bernic's letter we are planning a trip East to my niece's wedding on Nov. 11 and hope to do some work on my 2 Cassel families , both in Lanc. and Montgomery Co. in PA. Have you any good suggestions as to the best sources. There are so many available but I want to make the best use of my time.

Hope to hear from you soon
your "cousin"

Mary Ellen Case

October 10, 1989
1301 Bradford Road
Oreland, Pa. 19075

Dear Mary Ellen,

Spent the last two evenings carefully reviewing the most recent information that you sent me. Thanks so much for copies of your research material.

After carefully studying the Orphans Court documents pertaining to John II (born 1744) and John III (born 1765), I concluded, as you did, that some of the children that I had listed under John III were actually children of John II. By the way, you did a great job of organizing the documents in chronological order.

At the time that I did most of my research on this line of Plattenbergers, I came across some secondary research at the Pa. Historical Society in Philadelphia which came from Rachel Snavely, a daughter of the Magdalena Plattenberger who married Frederick Snavely. Magdalena was a daughter of John II and his second wife Anna Maria Brandon. A copy of my notes taken from the Snavely record is enclosed. Rachel Snavely listed a total of 19 children, supposedly all born to John II. 5 children by his first wife, Christiana Haines and 14 by his second wife, Anna Maria Brandon. At the time, I doubted the accuracy of this secondary research since the span of time over which the children of the second wife were born (1779 to 1805) far exceeded the normal 20 year period of child bearing. Also, since John II was born in 1744, he would have been 61 years old when the last recorded child, Isaac, was born in 1805. Your research seems to confirm the Rachel Snavely record plus adds another child, Nancy, to the list. The other strange thing was that the record of baptisms at Trinity Lutheran Church stopped with the baptism of Henry in 1789. That again gave me cause to believe that the subsequent children listed were perhaps children of John III and his wife Mary and were baptized at some other church. With both Johns being married to wives with the same first name of Maria, it was difficult to keep their children separated.

I originally listed Philip as a son of John III because the baptism record at Trinity Lutheran Church listed his parents as "Johannes and Magdalena", not Maria or Anna Maria, as in the other records from this same church. That led me to believe that Anna Maria Etley may have had a middle name of Magdalena. Now I realize that, since my research source was secondary (it came from a reprint in the Pa. German Series), there may have been a translation error or an error in re-listing the information for publication. I think the real proof is John II's will of 1813 which mentions his son Philip.

It appears from your research that John III died sometime between 2 Aug 1810, when he was listed in the will of his father John II, and 26 Oct 1813, when John Bomberger, the administrator of his estate, filed the petition to sell his home. Do you think it's safe to assume that the Mary Blattenberger who bought the house was John III's widow, Anna Maria Etley? Your research also proves that John III is not the one who died in Miss.

territory in 1817. I agree that it must have been another John, but which one is still unanswered.

Copies of my revised family sheets for John II and John III are enclosed. Let me know if you agree with the revised versions.

I was glad to see the question of the interpretation of the little papers with the phrase "kinder losung" was finally cleared up. The date of Nathaniel's death could have been 1761, as you said. If so, everything else seems to fit. I searched my research notes for something on Nathaniel and couldn't find anything but I know I didn't dream up the date of 1751. I must have found it somewhere. But it was odd that the letter you received from Henry Williams at the Moravian Historical Society didn't list Nathaniel as being buried at the Moravian graveyard at Lititz. I'll have to search again.

I'm not sure where the J. H. Blattenberg from Wayne County, Ohio fits in. I noticed that the article mentioned that he frequently attended national assemblies of the Sons of the American Revolution. Also that his paternal grandfather, John Blattenberg, served in the Mexican War. There may be some reference to his lineage in the SOA material if he claimed membership through the Blattenberg line as well as through his great-grandfather on his mother's side, Philip Mc Cracken. The Mexican War occurred between 1846 and 1848. Therefore, his grandfather John Blattenberg must have been born around 1820 - 1830. It's a shame that the article doesn't mention J.H.'s first name nor the name of his father, H. M.

You mentioned that you were planning a trip East in November and would like to do some work in Montgomery County on the Cassel family. I'd recommend that you spend some time at the Montgomery County Historical Society Library in Norristown, Pa. It is located at 1654 De Kalb Street and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 to 4, Tuesday from 1 to 9, and Saturday from 9 to 12. Their telephone number is 215 272 - 0297 if you want to confirm the times. I also spoke to an old genealogist friend of mine who said that the Cassel family of "Worcester Tsp." was already fairly well documented. If that's where your Cassel line was from, check for a family history before you do other research. Perhaps you'll get lucky and find something.

Also, while you're in Pa. please give me a call if you get a chance. I live near the Fort Washington exit of the Pa. Turnpike and I'm only about 20 minutes away from Norristown. My telephone number is 215 836 - 4727 and I'm usually home from work by 6:30 every evening. It would be nice if we could meet and talk about the Plattenbergers for a little while.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,

Dale Berger

Christmas 89

Dear Friends

It doesn't seem possible that in less than a month the "80's" will be a decade past and we'll embark on the "90's" I used to wonder where the years went and now I wonder what has become of the decades. According to the "life Expectancy projector" on this computer, we both have about 20 years left, so it looks like, barring some accident, we will both see the twenty-first century and a new millennium.

However, we're not taking any chances and are trying to make each year the best that it can be. We really enjoy our retirement and have no trouble keeping busy. After 30 years on the Vandalia Butler School board, Bill has finally decided enough is enough and did not run for re-election this year. It has been a most rewarding experience for him, but it's time to turn the responsibilities over to someone else. He still enjoys vegetable gardening, his woodworking shop and a more recent interest, the Vandalia Butler Historical Society. I'm still working hard on our family history and hope to have my book ready by this time next year. I also enjoy gardening and crafts and this past year put in a lot of time on our church bazaar, the proceeds of which go to support hunger projects all over the world.

This year seemed to be the one in which we traveled a lot, perhaps making up for all the years we never went anywhere!

After a rather mild and uneventful winter, I took off for Germany to visit Jim and Cheryl. They had been urging us to come in May to see the tulips in Holland. I couldn't convince Bill to go (May is garden planting time), so I bravely went off alone. The weather was absolutely perfect the whole time I was there. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Keukenhof, the beautiful estate which the Dutch bulb growers use to show off their latest achievements. Each area is planted by a different grower and each one tries to outdo the other! It was absolutely dazzling, every spring bulb seemed to be in bloom at the same time. Two other beautiful gardens I visited were the Palmengarten which had a magnificent display of rhododendrons and azaleas and the "Bundesgartenschau" which is the annual garden show of Germany and held in a different city each year. Jim says May is the best time to visit Germany and I agree. While in Germany we paid a visit to our friends in Lichtenfels and spent two delightful days in Schwarzenau with our newly discovered Cassel cousins.

Bill might as well have come with me to Germany for it rained the whole time I was gone and he didn't get the garden planted until July. Then it didn't do very well as the weather turned dry. We had to cancel our "Soup Party" for the second year in a row. But the year was not entirely "soupless" for he made a big kettleful to sell and raise money for our Historical Society's Pioneer Days celebration. It turned out great even if we did have to use canned veggies. Not to be defeated by the weather, Bill planted late spinach in August and enough came up to supply Popeye for eternity. We have frozen it, put it in bags for spinach salad and given oodles away to our friends and family.

In mid-August we joined my brother and sister and spouses and 11 other couples for a trip to Alaska. We flew to Fairbanks and then worked our way South by train and bus through spectacular

scenery, glaciers and wildlife to Seward where we boarded the SS Rotterdam for a cruise to Vancouver, B.C.. Again we were blessed by wonderful weather and the opportunity to see glaciers "calving" close up and the interesting cities of Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka and Valdez. After a seven day cruise we disembarked at Vancouver and took a tour of that most beautiful city. The Camcorder which we bought to record the antics of our grandchildren provided us with a wonderful record of this unforgettable trip.

October found us in King's Lynn England participating in a reunion of the 392 Bombardment Group, B-24 unit with which Bill served as a bomber pilot in World War II. The real purpose of this gathering was to rededicate the refurbished monument which they had built after the war in memory of those who lost their lives from that group. Bill and I both enjoyed renewing old acquaintances with some of the men he had known and marveling at how much they had aged over the past 45 years ! It was a rather hurried trip with lots of activities including two days of sightseeing in London, but not much time to "do our own thing"

The final trip for the year was attending the wedding of our niece, Polly Cassel in Northampton Mass. We took a week to drive there stopping along the way to do some genealogical research in Lancaster Co. Pa.

In spite of all the gadding about, we've managed to spend considerable time with our children and grandchildren, who we are happy to say live close by. Fortunately we don't have to travel to see them. We are so happy with the way all five are growing up and think they are very lucky to have such nice "normal" lives. All children should be so fortunate.

But now we are ready to stay home for a while and are looking forward to celebrating the Christmas Holidays with our family and friends and counting our many blessings.

Our wish for you all is a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and gladness.

Our Love and Best Wishes

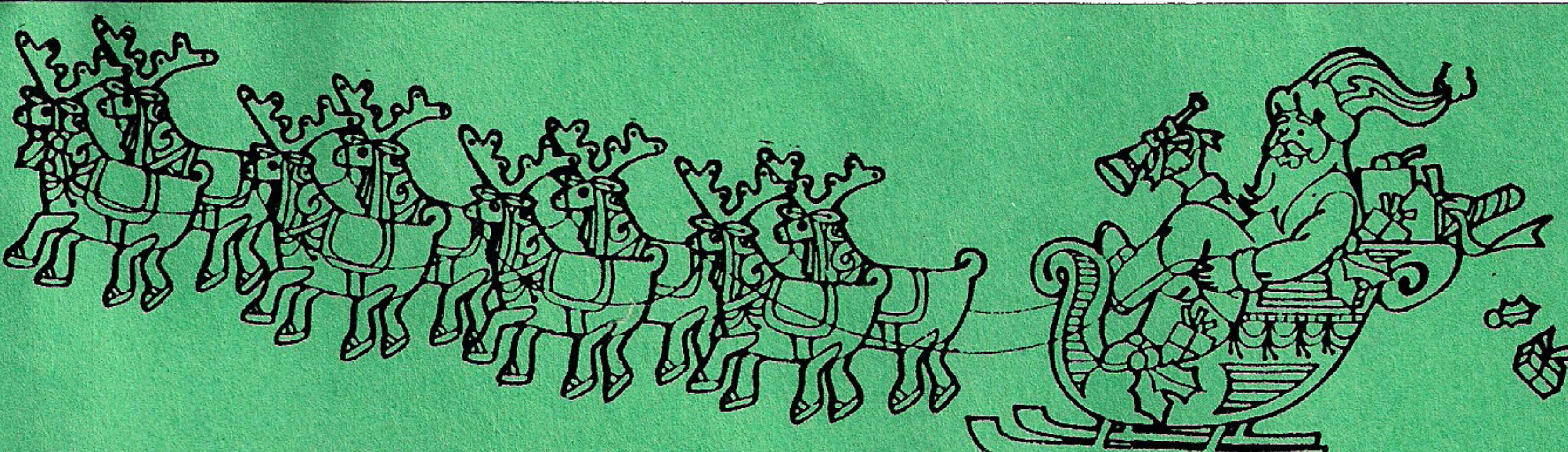
Mary Ellen & Bill Cass

Dear Hale -

Thought you might be interested in this Xmas letter. Thanks for your nice letter - sorry we didn't get to collect you on the trip - I may make it back that way in the spring.



Row 1. David (Chip's), Bill and "Reb", Mary E,
Celia, Natalie (Nancy, s)
Row 2: Janice (Chip's wife) their Dau. .
Jessie, Nancy holding Julianna, Lisa
(Chip's)
Row 3: Jim, Chip, Dale (Nancy's Husband



Christmas 1992
November 24, 1992

Dear Friends

I used to wonder why people were so excited about celebrating a New Year. Probably because my life has been pretty routine and I've never had a year that I considered bad, I was never anxious to see it over. But now I'm beginning to understand because 1992 started out bad and at certain times got worse.

You may remember that last year's letter found me "recovering" from gall bladder surgery and a bout of pancreatitis. I thought I was doing fine but deteriorated through the holidays and to make a long story short I ended up back in the hospital with more surgery for an awful abscess of the pancreas. Thanks to wonderful doctors and 2 more weeks in the hospital I have fully recovered and no reason to expect any more problems in that line. I don't seem to have the stamina that I once had but I've never been this old before either, so I can use that as my excuse!

While I was recovering I got the idea of putting on historical house tours for our local historical society, which Bill is president of this year. They turned out to be very successful and earned us lots of money for the restoration of the old one room schoolhouse that the society moved to their property last year. Due to the efforts and financial contributions of many of our members the building has been restored to a 1864 version and at our "Pioneer Days" celebration last fall, demonstration classes were put on by former teachers much to the delight of children and adults as well. A wonderfully sucessful program. During the pioneer Day celebration Bill and I made vegetable soup in our 55 gal soup kettle which earned us another \$500. There is still more to do and now we are going to have Christmas tours to earn more money to finish the job.

I guess maybe it's just because we are getting older but it seems we have lost a great many friends this year. One, very close to us died after gall bladder surgery, which really shook me up! But the worst for our family was the death of Bill's 49 year old brother, David Case from congestive heart failure. David was a much beloved teacher in our school system who had run a very successful DECA program (jobs and a change of attitude for kids who were likely dropouts) Just before his death, the whole family had been together near Buffalo for the wedding of our niece and David seemed more like his old self than he had since his heart attack several years ago. It didn't seem possible that he could be on life support in the hospital 2 days later. Thank goodness we all had that wonderful time together.

You've heard the bad news, now the good news! As Bill's 70th birthday on Sept 21 approached his brother and sister decided we should celebrate it in a big way to thank him for all the nice things he's done for the family and with the cooperation of the rest of us, put on a great surprise party for him at the local community golf club (not that he ever plays golf). Fortunately I was able to come up with a big enough ruse to get him there without even a suspicion and he was speechless. Most of the family was there and a few of our closest friends. The big surprise was his birthday present, an 8 week old Golden Retriever pup, something he's always wanted but was afraid to get! He's named him "Rebel" after the plane he flew in WW II, "Rebel Gal". And he's living up to his name, a bull in the china shop when in the house which fortu-

nately isn't often! People keep telling me he will calm down by the time he's a year old-- don't I hope.

This newsletter wouldn't be complete without the annual report on Bill's garden. Well this year we had lots of rain and lots of vegetation... so much that our deer population has increased by "leaps and bounds". Now that he's got the rabbits under control with cats and the coon and groundhog population with live traps, the deer have taken over. There are said to be more deer in Montgomery Co than when our pioneer ancestors came here in 1802. One day last summer Bill saw a doe with THREE fawns cross in front of our house from the trees beside the house to the wooded area on the other side and several weeks later I took pictures of them back in the garden. They ate nearly all the green beans and all the flowers off of 50 brocolli plants, leaving nothing behind but the little branches! I guess we'll have to fill up the empty spaces left in the freezer for brocolli with venison!

We haven't done any travelling this year to speak of although I did take a couple of genealogical jaunts to Penn. and N.Y. which turned out to be moderately successful and lots of fun. One especially interesting trip was to the restored home in Lancaster Co. PA which was built by our ancestor Durst Eby in 1727 and has recently been purchased and in the process of restoration by another of his descendants. I am on the last leg of my family history book and hope to get it finished as a Christmas gift to my family this year.

Since July I have been conducting workshops for our church's annual "Hunger Bazaar". I have been responsible for the Christmas shop and I'm thrilled to say we earned about \$3500 for our efforts. The whole Bazaar will net over \$10,000, all of which goes to feed hungry mouths around the world. However it's a relief to have it over and now we can get on to Christmas.

In spite of the sadness of this year we have had many blessings, not the least of which are our wonderful children and grandchildren. We were delighted to have Jim who lives in Virginia Beach home for the birthday party but sorry that his wife Cheryl who had just started a new teaching job couldn't get away. Which of course is why she's not in the picture with the rest of the family. Nancy, our daughter couldn't pass up the opportunity to take apart time teaching job in our local vocational school where she teaches child care and child development. Her own 3 darling daughters are living proof of how well she knows her subject, although it has been very hard for her to be away from them even for a half day.

Chip's family is growing up too fast to suit us, they are so busy with all their activities, it is a real treat for us to see them even though they are only 3 miles away! But I guess we wouldn't want it any other way... busy kids are generally good kids and his certainly are that!

When our children were little we always had their picture on our Christmas cards but finally had to drop the idea when Nancy started mugging and wouldn't take a decent picture. Now her children are doing the same but we thought it would be nice to let you old time friends as well as our new ones, see what a handsome family they turned out to be. The picture was taken at the birthday party and shows the newest member Rebel. We are justifiably proud of them and as long as they stay healthy and happy we feel that we have the greatest blessings of all.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year.

With much love

Mary Ellen Bill Case

Book is finally finished in whopper 282 pp.
Thanks for your help

July 23, 1993

Dear Dale,

It's been quite a while since our paths have crossed but it looks like they will cross again soon. I'm delighted to be able to attend the great 250th Blattenberger arrival reunion. I've not met Omaha but talked to her on the phone and she has really done a fantastic job as far as I can tell.

I'm so glad you are going to handle the genealogical part of the reunion, you sure looked organized to me when I visited you. Since that time I've done very little Blattenberger research, but I have written it all up and along with the rest of my father's lines I have "self-published" a book on the family. I'm copying out everything that has do with Blattenbergers and descendants and will enclose with this letter. Whatever seems appropriate can go in the new book. Later when I have more time I will send more information on descendants of Polly Blattenberger and Isaac Cassel that I did not include in my book because they were not our direct ancestors but are definitely descendants of the Blattenberger family.

This Tuesday my sister and I and our spouses are going to Maui, Hawaii to help celebrate the 100 th birthday of our third cousin on Mother's side who was her best friend and cousin when they were girls. Mother's been dead since 1951 but her cousin Mildred is still going strong, an absolutely remarkable woman. She is sharp as a tack plays duplicate bridge, golf, if she can work it in, sings and plays the piano and is a great story teller. I hope I got some of her genes. Anyway it's going to be a big affair and a great vacation for us. We'll be back Aug. 7 just in time to get ready to go to PA !

I said I hadn't done any Blattenberger research lately but some just fell in my lap about the time I got the invitation to the reunion, a Cassel\Blattenberger cousin called me and said she had just got around to reading her grandfather's diary which he kept for many years. He mentioned one day (I forgot to ask her for the specific day but will get that later) that his great-uncle Peter had died and that he was the twin brother of his grandmother Polly Blattenberger Cassel. How's that for a bombshell? It just shows you that information can pop up any time and explains why their birthdays were so close together. Mildred's book lists Peter as a son of Peter PI. and gives a date of 1805. But I have no idea where she got it. Do you I found other birth records for their children Jacob and Susanna in Manheim German Reformed church records but nothing for them. It seems odd that if there were a record for Peter that some notation would have been made that he was a twin. She must have had some information as she gave the names of some of his children. However in the 1880 census of Montgomery Co Ohio he and his wife Barbara were listed as grandparents without occupation in the home of Nora and Henry Weine. I assume she was his daughter but could have been his granddaughter, possibly.

No

Polly's death certificate states she died March 10, 1876 of pneumonia at the age of 71 years, 4 mos and 13 days. I used the date finder on the PAF and it calculates to a birthdate of Oct 29, 1804 instead of the 1805 date I had been given. Maybe I can find Peter's death certificate and see if the dates agree. But even if they don't, the fact that Marjorie's Grandfather made the statement they were twins is sufficient primary evidence for me. I don't think the exact birthdate is that important. Incidentally Polly and Isaac had twin daughters, Elizabeth and Susanna in 1840. I'll have to give all this to the fellow in the family who is so interested in twins.

Well I must close this and get in the mail to you. Omaha didn't say to whom to send the info, but I assume you are the one. I am not including all the supporting data as you probably have most of it but will be glad to supply any information I have that you don't. If there's anything else you need to know, please ask. Looking forward to seeing you in August. I'm bringing my friend Sue Tolle again. My husband has some eye problems and besides is not terribly interested in Genealogy but Suzy is always good for a trip and wants to visit the Lanc. Co. Menn. Hist. Soc. Library. I feel lucky as I didn't want to travel that far alone.

Sincerely

Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Case
3517 Little York Rd.
Dayton, Ohio 45414

No doubt the following pages are a lot more than you want to know. However I included the memories of my brother, Bill Cassel (who followed in his father's steps) my sister, Carol Badgley as well as my own because that is the kind of information you asked for in our biographies! Just hope that everyone doesn't take the request so seriously as you will be inundated! I have done the whole book in this fashion - but remember I don't expect you to use it all!

Entered date 11/1/93

from the diary of D. E. Cassel
Kinsey
Montgomery Co. OHIO

✓PAC
#2
96+97

October 25, 1885, Sunday

at home in A.M.

Uncle Peter Blattenberger died this morning. He was a twin brother of my grandmother Cassel who died 9 years ago. Uncle Peter died sudden, aged 80 years, 11 months, 28 days. I went to Miami Co. to let our friends know about Uncle's death.

Oct 27, 1885 Tues.

Attended Uncle Peter Blattenberger's funeral. Bros. Sam Herr and Eby preached from Rev. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord".

David Engle Cassel was the son of Jacob Cassel and Leah Engle. Jacob Cassel was the son of Isaac and "Polly" (Mary) Blattenberger Cassel. She and Peter were the youngest children of Peter Blattenberger and his wife Susannah Eby. From their ages at death, their birthdate figures out to October 28, 1804.

OCTOBER, SUNDAY 25. 1885.

At home in A.M.

Uncle Peter Blattenberger died this morning. He was a twin brother to my grandmother Cassel who died 9 years ago. Uncle Peter died sudden, aged 80 years, 11 months, 28 days. I went to Miami Co. to let our friends know.

MONDAY 26.

Returned home from Miami Co. this forenoon.

P.M. Dredged up balance of my peach, blower, potatoes,

OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY 28. 1885.

Butchered 2 young hogs and cut into quarters to take to market.

Father helped me fix fence in P.M. picked some fruit.

The fence repaired 70 ft.

THURSDAY 29.

Worked all morning and we had a very warm night. Father is getting along well.

TUESDAY 27.

Attended Uncle Peter Blattenberger's funeral. Bros. Sam Eby and Eby preached from Rev. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord &c".

FRIDAY 30.

Helped Father to build a new fence. Father made some savings and land.