THE BIGLER FAMILY

Descendants of Mark Bigler who immigrated to America in 1733

by

Norman Burns

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Mark Bigler immigrated to America in 1733 and settled eventually in Frederick Co., Maryland where he died in 1787.

He had three sons: Mark J., who lived near Roanoke, Virginia; Jacob, the forefather of the Mormon Biglers of Utah; and Israel who migrated to Washington Co., Penn. and was the ancestor of the Church of Brethren Biglers of Ohio and Indiana.

When I began this history in 1958, the Ohio branch of the Bigler family knew only (as stated in the biography of my grandfather Cyrus Bigler) that "Moses Bigler, the father of Cyrus, was a native of Maryland, born in 1818, and his father, David Bigler, was also born in that state."

In the course of the present research, we learned that David's father was Israel Bigler, that Israel's father was the immigrant Mark Bigler, and that the family had originated in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. We were happy also to discover the existence of Bigler kinsmen in Utah and Virginia.

I wish to express my appreciation to all those who contributed so generously of their time and energy in this work, and especially to the following: my mother Mabel Bigler Burns and my uncles Charles, Jacob and Ray Bigler for first hand information on Cyrus Bigler's family; Charles H. Bigler, his daughter Marguerite Bigler Stolte, and Epaminondas Bigler, all of Darke Co., Ohio, and Julia Ann Cary of Amlin, Ohio, who provided most of the information on David Bigler's children in Ohio; Edythe Neff of Syracuse, Indiana, for her wealth of historical material and photographs relating to David Bigler's children in Indiana; Clark M. Garber of Butler, Ohio for his contributions on the Garber family; Perry Bigler of Marianna, Penn., for data on Biglers in Washington Co., Penn.; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler of 6650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah and Mr. Horace J. Bigler of 2975 Melbourne St., Salt Lake City, Utah for their invaluable material on the Utah Biglers; Franklin Keith Brough of Salt Lake City for his book Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler; Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Virginia for her assistance on the history of the Virginia Biglers; Mr. Christian Lorch, Deputy Archivist State Archives, Berne, Switzerland, who kindly guided me through Bernese source material; Mrs. Virginia Peterson of Alexandria, Va. who typed the first draft and Mrs. Rosita Butler of the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan, for typing the final draft of this manuscript.

Copies of this history may be obtained (at cost) by writing to the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan or my mother, Mrs. Harley A. Burns, Bradford, Ohio. I would welcome any additional information that may be received from other members of the family to supplement or correct this history.

Amman, Jordan
October 4, 1960

Norman Burns

Amman, Jordan
October 4, 1976

3813 North 37th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207
Oct 4, 1976
Mark Bigler, our earliest known ancestor in America, came from somewhere along the Rhine River, according to the family tradition. He had three sons: Mark, Jr., forefather of the Presbyterian Biglers of Virginia; Jacob, forefather of the Mormon Biglers of Utah; and Israel, ancestor of the Baptist Biglers of Western Pennsylvania and the Church of Brethren Biglers of Ohio and Indiana.

The diary of one of Mark Bigler's descendants, Henry William Bigler of Utah, written sometime before 1900, stated: "My great grandfather Mark Bigler was born some where on the river Rhine in Holland and when a young man came to America and settled in Pennsylvania where he raised a family of Several children how many I never learned. He had three Sons and a daughter, called Catharine, Sons names were Israel, Jacob and Mark." (1)

Amanda Bigler Drake of Pennsylvania, writing to her nephew Israel Bigler in 1907, when she was about 78 years old, recalled that: "My grandfather was born in Frankfort some time in Seventeen Hundreds. She was referring to her great grandfather Mark Bigler I, not her grandfather Israel who was born in 1747 probably in Frederick Co., Md. When grown to manhood he started for America. He took passage on a sailing vessel with some others of his acquaintance. For some time they went all right until a great storm struck them and their ship was wrecked. Some of the crew stuck to the wreckage and were blown a hundred miles out of their course. They were almost starved and had given up all hope of ever getting to land. It lest a ship came along and took them on board, so they finally landed at Baltimore [actually Philadelphia] after a voyage of three months on the ocean." (2)

Another of Mark's descendants, William S. Bigler of Pennsylvania, writing about 1937, said: "The Biglers were originally of Swiss descent. The earliest records show that Marcus Bigler, our earliest known ancestor, left Switzerland early in the 17th Century on account of religious persecution and moved with his family to Frankfort, Germany. Not being entirely satisfied with conditions in Germany, the same family later sailed for America via England on the brig Richard and Elizabeth Captain Christopher Clayper in command and landed in Philadelphia Sept 28th, 1733. (3)

(1) Unpublished Journal of Henry William Bigler of Utah (son of Jacob, son of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., W. Va, son of the immigrant Mark Bigler I) now in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler, 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah.
(2) Clark M. Garber, Garber Historical and Genealogical Record, Vol. I No. 1, 1937, p. 101. Amanda Bigler Drake was the daughter of Michael Bigler, son of Israel, son of Mark Bigler I.
(3) Unpublished Notes of William S. Bigler of Washington Co., Penn. (son of Henry, son of Michael, son of Israel, son of Mark Bigler I) now in possession of Perry Bigler, RD 1, Marianna, Penn. Another descendant of Israel Bigler, Andrew Bigler of Kansas City, Missouri (who probably never heard of either Henry William Bigler or William S. Bigler) wrote Edythe Noff of Syracuse, Ind. July 9, 1934: "I would like to meet that party that said I was a Dane. They would surely meet their Waterloo. I have always claimed Swiss Dutch." (4)
The Bigler family appears to have originated in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. East of Berne there is an area known as Das Berner Mittelland, a rolling hill country with numerous rural towns and villages where Biglers have dwelt for centuries and where many Bigler farmers are still living today. This is the country settled by the Allemani tribe in the IV or V Century A.D. It is a beautiful land of small farms alternating with little woods (called "wald") that spread over the valleys and stretch up the slopes to the very tops of the lower mountains. To the east one can see the snowy peak of the Jungfrau on a clear day. Walking through the countryside, as I did in July 1960, one sees the farmers with their wives and children busy harvesting wheat, sometimes with machinery and sometimes by hand, or making hay which they store in huge bank barns for winter use. They pause from their work to wish passers-by "Gruss Gott", that is "God's greeting". Here are the Bernese house-barns, with the house at one end of the structure and the barn at the other. The tinkle of the cow bell is never far away, for dairying is a major occupation here. There is an atmosphere of plenty about these Bernese farmsteads, with their stacks of small pieces of firewood stored under the broad eaves of the house, their well-kept gardens of vegetables, potatoes, currants and raspberries and surrounding orchards of apple, cherry and pear trees.

Under the old Swiss system followed in this area, families were citizens of both the town (including all rural villages within its jurisdiction) and of the canton where the town was located. The Biglers were "old citizens", before 1800, of seven towns, including their rural villages, clustered within a 20 mile area east of Berne, namely: Muri, Stettlen, Vechigen, Worb, Gross Hochstetten for Oberthal, Rubigen and Eggviill. These are the only towns in Switzerland where Biglers were "old citizens" before 1800. Biglers are found in many other Swiss towns but their citizenship in those towns dates from after 1800. (2) In all of the Swiss towns the name is invariably spelled Bigler.

The earliest written record I found of Biglers in Berne came from a parchment tome, begun in AD 1389 and entitled Altes Udelbuch von Bern, located in the State Archives of Berne. Mr. Christian Lerch, Deputy Archivist of the State Archives, to whom I am indebted for most of my

(1) Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Familienforschung, Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz, Polygraphischer Verlag, Zurich, 1940. This book was prepared by the Swiss Genealogical Society with the cooperation of the Swiss Government (Service fédéral de l'état civil). Some say that the name Bigler originally referred to one who came from the town of Biglen (near Worb). Although some Biglers live in Biglen today, the family was not "old citizens" before 1800.

(2) In 1960, there were 130 Biglers listed in the telephone directory of Berne, an additional 91 in the towns and villages east of Berne, 31 in Zurich, 19 in Basel, 13 in Geneva; in Germany, only 2 in Frankfurt am Main, none in Munich; and in Austria, 3 in Vienna, none in Innsbruck.
information on Berne, explained that the Altes Udelbuch is a list of persons resident elsewhere who obtained "external citizenship" in the old city-state of Berne. This they could acquire by buying property, or even fractions of property, within the city of Berne and by furnishing military service to Berne. In return, Berne offered them protection within the city walls during times of trouble and undertook to espouse their just legal claims against feudal or ecclesiastic lords where they lived. The Altes Udelbuch records many Biglers who availed themselves of the protection of "external citizenship" of Berne, including the following:

AD 1389  "Cuutz Bigler of Herolfingen is an external citizen of Berne having property for which he paid 3 florins, consisting of the upper house of Cuno of Schwartenburg between the house of John Zollikofer and the other house of Cuno of Schwartenburg". Mr. Lerch says this property was in the southeast corner of the "crossroads" which is a block south of the City Hall.

AD 1400- Hans and Yost Bigler, brothers from Schlosswil, paid 3 florins (equivalent to about $150 in current purchasing power) for a part of a house on the same street as Cuutz Bigler.

AD 1429  Three Biglers from Worb, Hensli the younger, Ulrich and Peter, bought property rights in the City Hall of Berne (built in 1110 and still standing), a then current method of acquiring "external citizenship" in Berne.

AD 1450  Hensli Bigler bought the house in Berne owned by Hensli Bigler.

The Reformation came to Berne in 1528. Thereafter, the Reformed (Zwingli) Church became the state religion of Berne. Children were required to be baptized soon after birth and these baptismal records are still available in the church or official archives of most towns. I visited all of the towns (except Eggwil) where Biglers were "old citizens" before 1800 and found many Biglers listed in the baptismal records before and after 1700 but no reference to Marcus Bigler born in 1705. As an indication of the large number of Biglers in this area before 1700, the following records were copied at random:

Worb

1571  Caspar Bigler from Rufenacht, near Worb, served as witness in a baptism.

1573  Uli Bigler, from Vielbringen, near Worb, baptized. Today 9 of the 30 telephone listings in Vielbringen, and 6 of the telephone listings in the nearby rural village of Allmendingen, are Biglers, mostly farmers.
Niklaus, born Aug. 25, 1705, son of Hans and Catharina Bigler of Vielbringen.

Michel, born Aug. 3, 1708, son of Niklaus and Catharina Bigler of Vielbringen.

Vechigen

Michel born, son of Gilgen and Margaret Bigler.

Mathias born Feb. 12, 1578, son of Leonhard and Christina Lehman Bigler of Dentenberg.

Michel born, son of Moriz and Katry Bigler of Dentenberg.

Stettlen

Hans Bigler, godfather at baptism.

Benedek, born April 17, 1676, son of Martin and Barbara Bigler.

Niklaus born, son of Christian and Maria Bigler.

Muri

Niklaus (Niggi), Barbara and Leni Bigler, godparents at baptisms.

Munsingen (for Rubigen)

Marti, daughter born of Hans and Barbara Bigler.


After the Reformation, religious persecution was prevalent in Berne, since any departure from the official Reformed Church was regarded as heresy before God and virtual treason to the State of Berne. The Anabaptists, known in America as the Mennonites, were subjected to over two centuries of the most severe persecution. Anabaptists men and women were dunked in the River Aare in a scientific way to prolong the torture as long as possible until life became extinct. Others were sold to the Venetians to work as galley slaves on Venetian ships plying the Mediterranean. Great numbers had all their property confiscated and were expelled from Berne as destitute refugees. (1) In the period between 1671 and 1711 several hundred Anabaptists left Berne for Alsace, among them being Grabers, Biglers, Mullers, Lehmanns - names frequently associated together in America, (2)

(1) Ernest Muller, Geschichte der Bernischen Taufer, Frauenfeld, 1895, p. 361 quotes an official Bernese document concerning imprisonment of Anabaptists: "Trini Bigler from Worb, a simple and poor woman of 52 years (and another woman) prefer to remain in prison in Berne than to go home to Worb. They shall remain following their desire, as they are sick". Taufer is the German Swiss name for Anabaptists. Bernese document dated 1718.

(2) Delbert Gratz, Bernese Anabaptists and their American Descendants, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, 1953. Dr. Gratz states that in the 17th Century very few Bernese migrated directly to the U.S. but rather that they went first to other nearby countries and eventually from there to the U.S. He notes p. 169 that the name Graybill (Krehbiel) is of Bernese origin and that large numbers of Garbers and Gerbers from Berne were in the Anabaptist movement.
Photostat of Altes Udelbuch von Bern of entry in year A.D. 1389

"Cuntz Bigler of Herolfingen is an external citizen of Berne having property for which he paid 3 Florins, consisting of the upper house of Cuno of Schwartzenburg between the house of John Zollikofer and the other house of Cuno of Schwartzenburg."
Hans Bigler's farm at Vielbringen

Farm at Vielbringen

Old street in Vielbringen
Bernese house-barn at Herolfingen

Road through "wald" to Dentenberg

Church at Worb

Bernese style barn near Rubigen
After 1671, hundreds of Bernese, both Anabaptists and others, fled to the Palatinate, to Holland and elsewhere in Europe. Plans for settling Germantown, Penn., were drawn up by Mennonites in Frankfurt, Germany. The Church of the Brethren (Dunkards) was founded at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, many of the early members coming from the Palatinate and German Switzerland. The first Church of Brethren settlement in America was at Germantown in 1719.

Against this background, it seems likely that Mark Bigler's parents or grandparents fled Berne during the wave of religious persecution after 1671, that they settled somewhere in the Palatinate, and that Mark was born probably in the Palatinate. If one knew the names of his parents or grandparents, it might be possible to trace his family, through the baptismal records, to the particular village in the Bernese midland where their forebears lived for a thousand years.

Beginning about 1720, the "America fever" spread throughout the Palatinate and a growing number of members of dissident sects in the German Swiss and German Rhine country moved down the Rhine Valley to Rotterdam, the great seaport at the mouth of the Rhine in Holland, from whence so many sailed for the promised land. This great wave of emigration went mainly to Pennsylvania, for William Penn, who thrice visited the Palatinate, encouraged the migration of all those who sought freedom from religious persecution of the Old World in his Quaker land of Pennsylvania.

Biglers in York County, Penn.

Mark Bigler arrived at Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 1733 on the Brigantine Richard and Elizabeth, Master Christopher Guymer in command, that sailed from Rotterdam. (1) Among the ship documents was a list of Palatines (Rhinelander) on board including Marcus Bigler, age 28. Another list of "Palatines imported in the Brig Richard and Elizabeth" and reported as having taken the oath of allegiance to the Province of Pennsylvania included Mark Bigler. No other Biglers were reported on this ship.

Family tradition has it that three Bigler brothers came together to Pennsylvania from the old country (see Cyrus Bigler's Biography, Nicodemus Bigler's letter of Feb. 5, 1880 and the oral tradition of the Virginia Biglers). Many Biglers arrived in Pennsylvania in the decades 1733-53--none reported as arriving before 1733--but of these I have been able to trace relationships only between the brothers Mark and Michael.

Bigler. This relationship was discovered only through the accidental finding of Michael's will of September 21, 1763 at Frederick, Maryland where he mentions his brother Mark. Michael Bigler arrived at Philadelphia, May 30, 1761, on the Snow Francis and Ann, from Rotterdam, the only Bigler on that ship. Ship papers reported him as Michl Biegler among the "Palatine men on board" and as Michel Bigler among those who took the oath of allegiance to the Province of Pennsylvania on May 30, 1761. He and Mark appear to have been close associates all their lives, and his name has been carried on by some of Mark's children.

A complete list of all Biglers reported as arriving in Philadelphia in the period 1727-1775 is shown below. It is possible, in fact probable, that some of these were related to Mark and Michael but there is no written evidence to this effect. (1) Among these were:

September 18, 1733 - Pennsylvania Merchant of London.
Mathias Beighler
Maria and Anna Bigler - women
Anna, Elizabeth and Andreas Bigler - children
This ship, which arrived only ten days before Mark Bigler landed in Philadelphia, had the first reported arrivals of Biglers in Philadelphia.

(1) There are numerous references to Biglers of these given names in eastern Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Archives but I have not attempted to establish their identity or relationship with the original immigrants. Among these are:
Matthias Beegler or Mathius Bigler on "toner of duty" with, and in list of males 18-53 in district of, 8th Battalion of Lancaster militia apparently 1781 (Penn Archives V 7:825 and 858)
John Bigler or John Biegler, farmer of Pine Grove twp., Berks Co., 1779, 1780, 1781, 1784 (Penn Archives III 18:256, 368, 517, 647).
John Bigler or Beegler, Fourth Battalion, Philadelphia Militia, 1777, 1778
1779 (Penn Archives VI 1:29, 69, 295, 750, 303, 95, 455, 967).
John Bigler or Beigler, butcher in Philadelphia, tax lists, 1769, 1779, 1780, 1781 (Penn Archives III 11:191, 797; III 15:284, 617).
Peter Bigler, or Biegler or Beegler, weaver in Pine Grove twp., Berks Co., 1774, 1779, 1780 (Penn Archives III 18:256, 368, 515, 647; III 26:247).
Martin Bigler, farmer in Greenwich twp. and Albany twp., Berks Co., 1767, 1779 (Penn Archives III 18:57, 238, 561).
George Bigler or Biegler or Beighler, First lieutenant, 5th battalion of Lancaster Co. militia, 1777, 1779, 1781 (Penn Archives III 23:437; V 7:685, 837; VI 3:95).
George Bigler or Beighler, married Ann Miller July 17, 1764, county not indicated (Penn Archives II 2:29); tax returns Richmond twp., Berks Co., 1767 (Penn Archives III 18:16); tailor with 11 acres Maxatany twp., Berks Co., 1784 (Penn Archives III 18:635).
Jacob Bigler, widower, m. Dorothea Catherine Dimpkin 5-12-1768 St. Michaels and Zion Church, Philadelphia (Penn Archives (?) Series Vol. 2, p. 333 Penn. Marriages Prior to 1810).
Dec. 11, 1744 - Carteret, from Rotterdam.
  Jacob Bickler and Philip Bickler

Oct. 17, 1749 - Dragon, from Rotterdam.
  Johannes Bigler.

Nov. 30, 1750 - Sandwich, from Rotterdam.
  Hans Jacob Bigler.

Oct. 7, 1751 - Janet, from Rotterdam.
  Martin Bigler and George Bigler.

Sept. 15, 1753 - Patience, from Rotterdam.
  Jacob Bickler (or Bigler?), age 21.

The question is asked sometimes whether William Bigler, Governor of Pennsylvania 1852-55, and his brother John Bigler, Governor of California 1852-56, were related to our family. I have not been able to discover any direct relationship. Their father was Jacob Bigler, born about 1774, keeper of the "Yellow Tavern" in East Pennsborough twp., Cumberland Co., Penn. (married to Susan Dock), where John was born in 1804 and William in 1811. Thereafter they migrated to Mercer Co., Penn. Whether their father, Jacob, was the son of the immigrant Jacob Bickler of 1744, or of Hans Jacob Bigler of 1750, or of Jacob Bickler of 1753, or of another immigrant Bigler, I do not know. (1) The towns of Bigler and Biglerville, Penn. took their name from Gov. William Bigler.

Our meager knowledge of Mark Bigler in the New World comes from a few legal and church records. That he moved about considerably and that he prospered is evident from those fragmentary records. It is a pity that the early Brethren were so little inclined to write about their own lives. From the legal records alone they appear to have marched stiffly through the pages of history, clothed in an austere legal atmosphere.

(1) A Jacob Bigler appeared on the tax lists of Dover twp., York Co., 1779-83 (Penn Archives III 21: 58, 198, 456, 586, 685) whose son Jacob Jr. was mentioned in his father's will of Nov. 5, 1787 (York Co. Will Book H. 274). Jacob Bigler Sr. of Dover twp. stipulated in his will that his house and estate in Dover town go to his "dear wife Suvia" and thereafter should be divided equally "among my four Chiltern shear and shear alick except my oldest son Jacob shall have twenty Shilling more and above his Equal Shear", the other children being Joseph, Barbara and Magdalina. A Joseph Bigler of Dover twp. (presumably the son of Jacob Bigler Sr. of Dover twp.) appears in the early records of York County (Penn Archives VI 2:273) as follows: "To Hum these presens may come. Greetings. Know all men by these presents that I Joseph Bigler of Dover township York County have in the 1th class Serv'd a touer in the Militia in Camp Security in the County of York for Casper Spahr of the Same place and the same Casper Spahr has fully paid me for Sd. Service. Witness my hand and Seal this 19th Day feber 1787 Joseph his X mark Bigler."
whereas in fact they must have been sturdy and vibrant personalities with interesting stories to tell if only the tale had been told.

The first record is that of a land warrant issued to Marcus Bigler by the Province of Pennsylvania, on Oct. 18, 1738, for 200 acres in Lancaster County (Penn Archives III 24:359)*. This may have been in the Manor of Springetbury on the Little Conewago River, adjacent to the land of Leonard Leyst or Lease. However, neither the Lancaster Court House nor the York County records which I examined personally (York County having been carved from Lancaster County in 1749) indicates that Mark Bigler converted this warrant into a deed of actual ownership. The York County records do not show any land ownership in that county by Mark Bigler from their beginning in 1749.

Michael Bigler—Mark’s brother—had various land transactions in what is now York County. He received land warrants for 100 acres on April 25, 1744, and for 50 acres on March 17, 1745, in Lancaster County (Penn Archives III 24:362). On February 2, 1761 he sold to Thomas Armor for “Three Pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania ... a certain Tract of Land situate adjoyning my other Land then in Lancaster County now in Manheim Township in the County of York aforesaid and the same was granted unto me by a Warrant from the Honourable the Proprietaries of the Province aforesaid bearing date the Seventeenth day of March which was in the Year of our Lord one thousand and seven hundred and forty five for Fifty Acres more or less ...” (York Deed Book A.178). These fifty acres appear to have been in the bitterly disputed “Digges Tract” claimed by Pennsylvania and Maryland, both of which were issuing title to individual settlers for the same tracts of land. Thus, we read where Peter Welty entered caveat against acceptance of a patent granted to Thos. Armor in the rights of Michael Beighler’s warrant of March 17, 1745 for 50 acres in Manheim twp., York Co., which land was claimed by Welty under Maryland title (Penn Archives III 24:246).

On July 27, 1759, “Michael Beagler of the County of York ... Yeoman” sold to Peter Aston two lots on King Street on the West side of Codorus Creek—these being the third lot from the Town Land of York—each lot being 65½ feet on King Street and 230 feet deep, for “sixty Pounds lawful Money of Pennsylvania” (York Co. Deed Book A.341). King Street is now one of the principal streets of York.

The Bigler name appears in early church records of York County. Rev. Morgan Edwards, referring to the Little Conewago congregation (2) about 20

(1) Brough, Freely I Gave, p. 2
(2) The Little Conewago congregation of Manheim and Heidelberg townships met in the houses and barns of members for many generations. The Black Rock Church of the Brethren (Brodbecks, Penn.), with its first regular church building constructed in 1876, is regarded by Brethren historians as the lineal descendant of the original Little Conewago congregation (Eisenberg, Church of the Brethren in Southern District of Pennsylvania, Quincy Orphanage Press, Quincy, Penn., 1911 pp. 194 ff). There are no Biglers either in the present congregation of the Black Rock Church or in other Brethren churches of that area. Nor are any Biglers listed for the early years in the records of the Historical Society of York County for the cemeteries of the Brethren and other denominations in York and Adams counties.

* * As recorded on p.359: “Warrant” Date of Survey (1738) “Oct 18, 1738” for 200 acres in County of Lancaster.

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miles southwest of York—the first Brethren congregation west of the Susquehanna River—wrote in his *Materials towards a History of the American Baptists*, Philadelphia, 1770:

"Their beginning [Little Conewago Church of the Brethren] was in 1738 when one Eldrick, Dierdorff, Bigler, Gripe, Studfman and others united into a church, having Rev. Daniel Leatherman to their assistance. He left them and went to Monocasy [Maryland]."

This was less than two decades after the arrival of the first Brethren in Pennsylvania with their Elder Peter Becker at Germantown in 1719. The Bigler mentioned here must have been either Mark or Mathias, since Michael and the other immigrant Biglers had not arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738.


Marx Biegeler

Biegeler, Anna Maria, born March 30, 1741; baptized Aug. 21, 1741. Sponsors Andreas Hill and Catarina Kuntz. (1)

John Michael Carl

Carl, Marie Catarina, baptized Nov. 12, 1739. Sponsors Marx Biegler (Bigler?) and wife.

John Michael Biegler and Susanna Reuscher, married Dec. 11, 1741 (the immigrant Michael Bigler landed at Philadelphia May 30, 1741. Michael Bigler appears to have married twice, since the Orphans Court Docket of York Co., 1749-1778, reports a Michl Bigler who married Rosina, widow of Adam Boyer.

St. Matthews Lutheran Congregation of Conewago, York County reported the baptism of a John Michael Bugler (written with umlaut), born May 17, 1743, son of John Michael Bugler (church records of the Historical Society of York County). Since the Brethren do not practice infant baptism, it seems odd that these early Biglers were baptized by a Lutheran minister. It may be that Mark and Michael Bigler were then members of the Lutheran or the Reformed Church and became Brethren later.

Biglers in Frederick Co., Maryland

Mark Bigler moved from York County to nearby Frederick County, Maryland, presumably in 1743 the date of his first recorded acquisition of

(1) Since there is no mention of an Anna Maria Bigler in the will of Mark Bigler I, one wonders whether she may have been the daughter whose children were named in the will of Mark Bigler I. Note similarity of names with those of the family of the immigrant Mathias Bigler, suggestive of possible relationship between Mark and Mathias Bigler.
land in Frederick Co. A descendant of Mark's son, Mark II of Botetourt Co.,
Virginia (letter of Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Va. to Norman Burns,
dated April 10, 1959) states that old family records in their possession in-
dicated that the immigrant Mark Bigler first lived in Lancaster, Penn. (a
part of this county became York Co. in 1749) and moved from there to Frederick
Co. in 1743.

The Court House records of Frederick County indicate that Mark Bigler
acquired several tracts in Frederick Co., Md., the first in 1743, a second in
1750 and another in 1761. (1) These tracts upon his death were passed to his
son Mark II who in turn transferred them (and possibly some land of his own)
to his brother Israel in a deed of April 13, 1802 (Frederick Co. Deeds WR
22:527). This latter deed described the various tracts, all contiguous and
converted into one tract, that had been acquired by Mark I over the years,
namely: "a tract called Mark's Delight originally on the first day of March
1743 granted Mark Bigler; A tract called Bigler's addition to Hulls Choice
originally on the thirtieth day of October 1750 granted to the said Mark
Bigler And a tract called the Resurvey on Hull's Choice originally on the
29th day of September 1761 granted the same Mark Bigler ... Containing two
hundred and fifty nine and a half acres of land" for the sum of four hundred
pounds current money. The deed was signed by

Mark Bigler (seal)
her
Catrina n Begeler (seal)
mark

Attached was a certification by the Clerk of Court of Botetourt County,
Virginia, dated April 20, 1802, that "Mark Bigler and Cathrine his Wife" had
affixed their seals to the deed.

The original purchase deed is available for one of these tracts where
mark Beigler, a farmer of Frederick County, purchased for "Twenty Pounds
Current Money of the Province ... a Parcel of Land called and known by the
name of Beigers addition to Hulls Choice lying and being in Frederick County ...
on the North side of Great pipe Creek Containing and laid out for fifty Acres
of Land more or less Together with all and singular the Buildings and Improve-
"ments ..." (Frederick Deed Book F. 981). One can infer what Mark Bigler must
have felt for this fertile and beautiful farm land of Frederick County from the
name he gave his first acquisition there = Mark's Delight.

The Frederick County court house records show the purchase on December
25, 1781 by Mark Bigler and his wife Mary Catharine Bigler of a 26 - acre
"parcell of Land called Hickory Bottom situate on great pipe Creek in Frede-
rick County" (Deed WR 3:2). It is not clear whether this deed referred to
Mark the father or the son - and thus whether Mary Catharine was the full name
of the wife of the father or the son.

Mark Bigler made his last will on March 19, 1787, when he was near his
journey's end. Soon thereafter, on April 25, 1787, his son Israel appeared in
the Frederick County court testifying that this document was the true will
of his deceased father. This will and land record I discovered after long
search at Frederick, Maryland on February 24, 1959, thereby definitely estab-
lishing the relationship between Israel Bigler of Washington Co. Penn.

(1) These tracts would appear to be in the northwest part of the present
Carroll County that was carved from Frederick County in 1837. See Carroll
County Notes in Frederick County Court House records, Annapolis, Md. (Frederick Co. Deeds WR
22:527).
(ancestor of the Ohio and Indiana Biglers) and Mark Bigler of Frederick County, Maryland. Heretofore, we knew from the family tradition of the Washington Co. Biglers that the name of Israel Bigler's father was believed to be Mark Bigler but documentary proof of the relationship was missing; nor did we know where Mark Bigler had lived. The presumption was, from the Church and legal records cited above, that he lived in York Co., Penn., but there was also a tradition that the family had come from Maryland. The Census of 1790 did not list any Biglers by the name of Mark or Israel in either Pennsylvania or Maryland, an omission that raises an interesting conjecture as to how Israel Bigler happened to escape the vigilance of the Census taker. However, in searching through will lists in the Library of Congress, I came upon the will of Michael Beighler, dated 1763, at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland. A search of the Annapolis records disclosed that this was the will of a Michael Beighler of Frederick Co., Maryland who bequeathed some of his property to Mark Beegler, son of his brother Mark Beigler. Thus the trail lead to the green hills of Frederick County, Maryland, where I discovered 172 years after his death that our first ancestor in America had lived over half of his long life on a farm that he called Mark's Delight. It was a solemn and impressive moment to read in the dusty records of the Frederick Court House the last will of our earliest ancestor in America, to have his words come to life again after having been lost and forgotten for so many years, and to imagine what one could from his last thoughts about the kind of person he may have been.

Mark Bigler voiced his devout spirit in the words of his will, "I most Humbly bequeath my Soul to God my Maker Beseeching his most Gracious Acceptance of it". He showed a tender solicitude for the welfare of his dearly beloved wife Catharine in the requests to his son to "keep two Cows for his Mother winter & summer as his own are kept" and to his tenant to harvest her share of the grain and to "Carry it up Stairs for her". His cherished plantation... Containing two hundred and thirty five Acres of pine Crick hundred and Frederick County was bequeathed, in accord with European tradition, to one son Mark. Named in the will were his other nine children each of whom received specified sums of money, namely Israel, Jacob, Catharine, Elizabeth, Salome (Salome) Phebe, Julianna, Hester and Barbary, and two granddaughters.

Thus Yeoman Mark Bigler, wandering immigrant from the Rhineland, after more than four score of eventful years, blessed with sons and daughters and many fertile acres came to his last resting place in Frederick County Maryland, in 1787. He had lived through stirring times when the American colonies struggled for and gained their independence. Now (1787) they were on the verge of formulating that great document, the Constitution, that made America the kind of country where the descendants of Mark Bigler, and of all others like him, could enjoy a heritage of freedom. Mark Bigler's descendants are now legion, of many different religious faiths, engaged in varied material pursuits and living in many states from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific Ocean.

A copy of Mark Bigler's will dated March 19, 1787, follows (Frederick County Will Record G.M. 2:236b)

* See Appendix I, "CATHERINE MILLER, WIFE OF HENRY MILLER.*
+ See Appendix I, "ELIZABETH BIGLER, WIFE OF HENRY MILLER.*
In the Name of God Amen I Marks Beigler of Crick hundred and Frederick County State of Maryland Yeoman being weak in Body yet through the Abundant Mercy and Goodness of God of a sound and perfect Understanding and Memory do Constitute this my Last Will and Testament and desire it may be received by all as such. Imprimis I most Humbly bequeath my Soul to God my Maker beseeching his most Gracious Acceptance of it. Imprimis. I Give my Body to the Earth to be Buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Dear Wife and my Executors hereafter named, and as to my Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me with in this Life I will and positively Order that all my Just Debts and funeral Charges be fully paid and Satisfied. Item I Give unto my dearly beloved Wife Catherine the full third part of the Issues Rents and profits of the plantation whereon I now dwell Containing two hundred and thirty five Acres of Land to be paid to her yearly and every year during her natural Life by my Son Marks Beigler, and likewise my Son Marks shall provide and keep two Cows for his Mother winter & summer as his own are kept Item, I Give Devise and Bequeath unto my aforesaid Son Mark Beigler and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever all the above Described Tract of Land and plantation to be wholly to his proper Use after the Decease of my Aforesaid Loving Wife Catherine his paying the Legacy herein after mentioned and Likewise it is my Will that aforesaid Wife shall have the Sole Use of the House I now dwell in during the full Term of her Natural Life, and Likewise I Give unto her all my Household and Kitchen furniture. Item, I do Will and Order that my aforesaid Son Marks Shall pay to my Daughter Elizabeth Wife of Henry Eller the sum of six pounds lawful Money of the State of Maryland. Item I Give to Elizabeth Eller my Grand Daughter the sum of Sixteen pounds of Like Money aforesaid to be paid by my aforesaid Son Marks Item I give to my Grand daughter Ester Randabush the sum of four pounds to be paid as aforesaid. Item I give to my Daughter Salme wife of Samuel Tomme the sum of Twenty Shillings of Like Money aforesaid. Item I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Phoebe Wife of Lazarus Fonderburge the sum of six pounds of Like lawfull Money to be paid as above Imprimis I Give to my Daughter Catharine Wife of Henry Miller the sum of five Shillings if demanded. Item I give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Hester the sum of twenty pounds of Like lawfull Money aforesaid to be paid by my aforesaid Son Marks Item I give and Bequeath unto my Son Israel Beigler the sum of one Hundred pounds lawfull money aforesaid to be paid to him when ever demanded after my Decease by aforesaid Son Mark Beigler. Item I give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Julianna the sum of twenty pounds of Like money aforesaid to be paid by my Son Marks Whereas I have already assisted my Son Jacob Biegler. Imprimis I Give unto him the sum of Two Shillings and Six pence if demanded Item I give unto my Daughter Barbary the sum of five Shillings to be paid as above, and as to the Grain now in the Ground that Christian Laman has farmed, It is my Will and I do Order that the said Laman shall Deliver the third part Thereof in the Bushel to the Use and Benefit of my aforesaid Loving Catharine and to Carry it up Stairs for her and I do hereby Constitute and appoint my Son Marke Beigler and my Son Israel Beigler joint Executors to this my Will and Testament Revouking hereby and disannuling all former Wills or Wills Ratifying and Confirming this and no Other to be my Will and Testament in Testamony Whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Affixed my Seal this nineteenth Day of March in the Year one
Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty seven Anno Domini 1787 declared by the said Marks Beigler as his Last Will and Testament Signed Sealed in the presence of us (seal)
Christopher Erb
John Hull
Windle WH Hisseone

Frederick County April the 25th 1787

"Then came Israel Beigler and Solomnly affirmed and declared that the foregoing Instrument of Writing is the True and Whole Will and Testament of Marks Beigler late of Frederick County deceased that hath come to his hands and possession and that he doth not know of any Other — "Geo. Murdock Reg."

Michael Bigler would appear to have arrived in Frederick County long after his brother Mark settled there. A deed in the Frederick County Court House (Deeds F, 1198) dated Nov. 29, 1760, records that "Michael Beeghler of York County in the Province of Pennsylvania Farmer" purchased for 210 pounds of current money a "tract or parcell Called the resurvey on Frembling (or Trembling?) ... Standing on a draught of Kitchotkin ... Containing & now laid out for Two Hundred & Twenty six acres of land." This deed was sealed and delivered in the presence of a Daniel Leatherman. Another deed of Aug. 15, 1764 records the purchase by Michael Beegler of a "Parcel of Land called I would not ... standing by the head of a spring that falls into Broad run a Draught of Kitchotkin" containing 25 acres (Frederick Co. Deeds J, 765).

A copy of Michael Bigler's will, dated Sept. 21, 1763 follows: (1)

"In the Name of God Amen The twenty first Day of September in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and sixty three, I Michael Beigleer of Frederick County (farmer) well in Body and perfect Mind and memory thanks be given unto God therefore Calling unto mind the mortality of my Body & knowing that it is appointed for all Men once to die, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say principally and first of all I Give and recomand my Soul into the hand of God that gave it, & for my Body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent Manner at the Discretion of my Executor nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, & as touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to

(1) Frederick Co., Book of Wills Al 227. Another copy, differing slightly in detail, is filed at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. Michael's widow, Rosannah Bigler, mentions in her will of Sept. 9, 1785, her dowry from her deceased husband of York Co., several of her children named Boyer, and her daughter Catharine's husband, Daniel Leatherman, who was her executor (Frederick Co. Wills G.M. 2, 172).
bless me in this Life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and Form. Imprimis it is my Will and I do order that in the first place all my just Debts and funeral Charges be paid & satisfied. Item I give to Mark Beegler, Son of my Brother Mark Beigler the Sum of five pounds current Money. Item I give all and singular of the movable & real Estate to my Beloved wife Rosinah her Heirs and assigns forever and mak her to be my only & sole Executor, and I do hereby disallow Revoke and disannul all and every former Testaments Wills, Legacies and Executors by me and in my Name in any ways before willed & Bequeathed Rattifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will & Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the Day and Year above written:

Michael Beighler (seal)

"On the 20th Day of November 1761 Came Daniel Leatherman & John Arnold two subscribing witnesses to the aforesaid will, and made Oath on the Holy Evangelgs of Almighty God that they did see the Testator Michael Beighler sign and seal the said Will & publish pronounce and declare the same to be his Last Will & Testament & that at the Time of his doing he was to the best of their apprehension of a sound & disposing Mind & memory and that they also saw Matthias Hursman & Bartley Booker the other subscribing Witnesses to the said Will Sign their Names as Witnesses thereto ..."

Numerous reference in Michael Bigler's transactions to Daniel Leatherman recalls the fact that the Little Conewago congregation of the Brethren had been organized in 1738 by Rev. Daniel Leatherman. Rev. Leatherman, leaving Little Conewago in 1756, settled at Garfield, Maryland, and later at Routzahn's mill where he died in 1798. His son Daniel Leatherman Jr. moved to Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn., in 1781. Mark Bigler's son Israel (our ancestor) also moved to Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn. where he was a member of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. Considering these personal relationships, it seems almost certain that the brothers Mark and Michael Bigler were members of the Little Conewago Church of the Brethren in York County Penn. and that they moved from there to the Brethren community in Frederick County, probably either the Beaver Dam or the Pipe Creek Brethren Church.

Virtually nothing is known of Mark Bigler's daughters. Accounts concerning his sons and their descendants follow. All of his male descendants appear to have left Frederick County, Maryland, for I was not able to discover any Bigler in that county in 1959.

† See information on his daughter Elizabeth, who m. Henry Ellen Catharine Beiler, who m. Henry Miller, Appendix 7-8.
PATSNT FOR MARK'S DELIGHT, MARCH 1, 1743*

Lieber P.T. No. 2, folio 23, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Charles [abbreviated symbol unclear] Know Ye that for and in consideration that Mark Bigler of Prince Georges County in our said province of Maryland, hath due unto him twenty-six acres of land within our said province by virtue of so much part of a warrant for fifty-two acres granted the said Bigler the sixth day of October seventeen hundred and forty-three as appears in our land office and upon such conditions and terms as are expressed in our conditions of plantation of our said province, bearing date the fifth day of April sixteen hundred and eighty-four, and remaining upon record in our said province together with such alterations as in them are made by our further conditions bearing date the fourth day of December, sixteen hundred and ninety-six, together also with the alterations made by our instruction, bearing date at London the twelfth day of September seventeen hundred and twelve, and registered in our Secretary's office of our said province together with a paragraph of our instructions bearing date at London the fifteenth day of December seventeen hundred and thirty-eight in our land office.

We do therefore, Grant unto him the said Mark Bigler all that tract of land lying in the said county called Mark's Delight beginning at a bounded white oak standing on the south side of Great Pipe Creek and about two perches distant from the said creek and running thence south thirty-four degrees west sixteen perches, then north fifty-three degrees east fifty-eight perches, then south seventy-three degrees west sixty perches then north ten perches, then north forty-two degrees east sixty-two perches then north fifty-five degrees east forty-three perches then by a straight line to the beginning tree containing and now laid out for twenty-six acres of land more or less according to the certificate of survey thereof, taken and returned into our land office bearing the date the first day of March seventeen hundred and forty-three and these remaining together with all rights, profits, benefits and privileges thereunto belonging, Royal Mines excepted.

To have and to hold the same unto him the said Mark Bigler his heirs and assigns forever beholding of us and our heirs as of our Manor of Calverton in fee and common socage, by fealty only for all manner of services yielding and paying

* A virtually identical deed of March 1, 1743 in Lieber P.T. No. 2, folio 3 conveyed a 26-acre tract called Hickory Bottom on the north side of Great Pipe Creek, adjacent to the 26-acre tract called Mark's Delight on the south side of Great Pipe Creek, both of which are described in the deeds as having been a part of Calverton Manor. Calverton Manor was located in what is now Carroll County, formerly a part of Frederick County before 1837, which was included in Prince Georges County when Mark Bigler obtained his deed in 1743.

** The deed for Hickory Bottom, folio 3, reads: "called Hickory Ridge Beginning at two bounded black gum trees standing on the north side of Great Pipe Creek and in a short turn of said creek on the south side the creek abouts (?) West from the beginning is a bank of large red rocks & running thence North forty-two degrees East twelve perches then South Eighty degrees East seventy-two perches then South forty-eight perches then west eighty degrees then west eighty perches then by a straight line to the beginning tree containing and now laid out for twenty-six acres of land more or less" ....
therefore, Yearly unto us and our heirs at our receipts at our City of Saint Marys, at the two most usual feasts in the year, Viz. The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint Michael of the Archangel, by even and equal portions, the rents of one shilling and a half penny sterling in Silver or Gold and for a fine upon every Alienation of the said Land, or any part or parcel thereof, one whole years rent in Silver or Gold, or the full Value thereof in such commodities as we and our heirs or such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed by us and our heirs, from time to time to collect and receive the same shall accept in discharge thereof; at the Choice of us and our heirs or such officer or officers aforesaid.

Provided that if the said sum for a fine for Alienation shall not be paid unto us and our heirs, or such officer or officers aforesaid before such Alienation and the said Alienation Entered upon Record, either in the provincial Court or County Court, where the same parcel of land lyeth, within one Month next after such Alienation, then the said Alienation to be void and of no Effect. Given under our Great Seal of our said Province of Maryland this first day of March Anno Domini Seventeen hundred and forty three Witness our Trusty and well beloved Thomas Bladen Esq. Lieutenant General and Chief Governor of our said province of Maryland, Chancellor and keeper of the Great Seal thereof.

SURVEYOR'S DESCRIPTION OF PATENT (Lieber L.G. 64 No E, folio 273)

Mark Biglers Cert 26a Mark's Delight** pat 1 March 1743 Prince Georges County By virtue of a warrant granted out of his Lordhips Land Office of this Province to Mark Bigler for fifty-two acres of Land bearing date of October 6th Etc.

I therefore certifie as Deputy Surveyor of Prince Georges County unto his Excellency Thomas Bladen Esq. Governor of Maryland I have carefully laid out for & in the name of him the said Bigler all that Tract of Land Lying in the said County called Mark's Delight Beginning at a bounded White Oak standing on the South side of Great Pipe Creek & about two perches distant from the said Creek and running (sic) thence South thirty four degrees West sixteen perches then North fifty three degrees West fifty eight perches then North forty two perches then North sixty five degrees East forty three perches then by a straight line to the beginning Tree contain as now laid out for twenty six acres of Land to be held of Calverton Manor Surveyed this 1st Day of March 1743 Pet Dent Dpy Sur Pr Geo. Coty. July 9th 1744 Exam & past. B. Young Exam.

** See L.G. 64 No E folio 277 Mark Bigler's Cert 26a Hickory Bottom Pat 1st March 1743 for tract "Called Hickory Bottom Beginning at two bounded Gum Trees standing on the North side of Great Pipe Creek and in a Short turn of said creek on the South side of the Creek about West from the Beginning is a Bank of large red Rocks running thence North forty two degrees East twelve perches then South Eighty degrees East seventy two perches then South forty Eight perches then West Eighty perches then by a straight Line to the beginning Tree containing as now laid out for twenty Six acres of Land to be held of Calverton Manor."
At the request of Israel Bigler the following was recorded this 6th day of May 1802

This Indenture made the thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two Between Mark Beigler of Bottetourt County of the State of Virginia of the one part and Israel Beigler of Frederick County of the State of Maryland of the other part - Witnesseth that the said Mark Beigler for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred pounds current money to him in hand paid by the said Israel Beigler before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof the said Mark Beigler doth hereby acknowledge and himself therewith to be fully satisfied contented and paid Hath given granted bargained sold released aliened and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant bargain sell release alien en scoff and confirm unto the said Israel Beigler his heirs and assigns forever All the following tracts or parcels of land viz --

a tract called Marks Delight originally on the first day of March 1743 granted Mark Beigler,

a tract called Beigler's Addition to Hull's Choice originally on the thirtieth day of October 1750 granted the said Mark Beigler

And a tract called The Resurvey on Hull's Choice originally on the 29th day of September 1751 granted the same Mark Beigler

Beginning for the outlines of the aforesaid three tracts reduced into one survey at a stone planted at the beginning of the tract called The Resurvey on Hull's Choice and running with said land allowing half a degree for variation to correspond with the lines as run in the year 1785 north sixty five and a half degrees East fifty six perches south seventy two and a half degrees East seventy four perches to a stone then starting a course to answer a call South fifty degrees East sixty and a half perches to a stone erected at the end of twelve perches on the first line of the aforesaid tract called Beigler's Addition to Hull's Choice then with said first line reversed making the same allowance for variation north seventy nine and a half degrees East twelve perches to a stone erected in the middle between the beginning trees of said land then with the given line thereof reversed South forty five and three quarter degrees East eighty six perches to a stone erected in the first line of a tract of land called Hickory Bottom then with said first line of said Hickory Bottom reversed allowing half a degree for variation South forty one perches to a stone erected in the fifth line of the aforesaid tract called Beigler's Addition to Hull's Choice then with said Resurvey on Hull's Choice allowing half a degree for variation and aforesaid South fifty one and a half degrees West eighty eight perches to a stone erected at the end of the third line of the aforesaid tract called Marks Delight.
then with said land as surveyed to correspond with the situation of said stone answering (?) three quarter degrees allowance for variation North one and three quarters degrees West ten perches to a stone North forty and a quarter degrees East sixty two perches to a stone in North East edge of Great Pipe Creek bearing South twenty four degrees West forty nine links from white oak marked V.W.R. still with said land North sixty three and a quarter degrees East forty three perches to a stone erected by the root of the beginning tree of said Mark's Delight then north thirty degrees and fifty minutes East thirty two perches to the beginning Containing two hundred and fifty nine and a half acres of land.

Together with all rights profits benefits and advantages to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining To have and to hold the said tracts or parcel of land hereby bargained and sold unto him the said Israel Biegler his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Mark Biegler for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth covenant grant promise and agree to and with the said Israel Biegler his heirs executors administrators and assigns forever that the said Mark Biegler his heirs executors and administrators the said tracts or parcel of land with the appurtenances as aforesaid unto him the said Israel Biegler his heirs and assigns as well against him the said Mark Biegler his heirs executors and administrators as against all manner of persons lawfully claiming by from or under him or them shall and will warrant and forever defend by those presents --

And the said Mark Biegler for perfecting the aforesaid deed according to the laws of Maryland Hath made ordained constituted and appointed and by these presents doth make ordain constitute and appoint Tobias Butler and William Ritchie of Frederick County in the State of Maryland or either of them his true and lawful attorney and attorneys empowering them or either of them as his attorney and attorneys to appear for him in any Court or before any judge or Justices to acknowledge the aforesaid deed according to the laws of the State of Maryland -- In witness whereof the said Mark Biegler hath hereunto set his hand and applied his seal the day and year first within written

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of David Rowland, Jacob Stoner, George Stover

Mark Bigler

Catrina X Begeler mark

State of Maryland Frederick County to wit -- which was thus endorsed to wit: -- On the sixth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and two, Tobias Butler and William Ritchie attorneys named in the foregoing Indenture or instrument of writing did severally acknowledge the within deed or instrument of writing to be the act and deed of the within named Mark Biegler and the land and premises therein mentioned with the appurtenances to be the right title and estate of the within named Israel Biegler his heirs and assigns according to the true intent and meaning of the same deed and the act of assembly in such case made and provided. Witness our hands Justices of the peace of said County --

John Schley Henry Kuhn

State of Maryland Frederick County On the thirtieth day of April in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand eight hundred and two Jacob Stoner one of the subscribing witnesses to the written deed of conveyance and letter of attorney personally appeared before us two Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath on the holy Evangels of Almighty God that he did see Mark Bigler the grantor named in the within deed of conveyance and letter of attorney sign seal and deliver the deed of conveyance as his act and deed and that he sub-
scribed his name as a witness thereto -- Given under our hands the
date aforesaid. John Schley       Henry Kuhn
At a court held for the County of Botetourt in the State of Virginia the 13th
day of April 1802. This Indenture of bargain and sale between Mark Beigler and
Catherine his wife of the one part and Israel Bigler of the other part, was ex-
hibited in Court and acknowledged by the said Mark and Catherine to be their
hands and seals act and deed she having been first privately[sic] examined as
the law directs which is ordered to be certified to the County Court of Fred-
erick in the State of Maryland.

In Testimony whereof I Henry Bowyer Clerk of the said County of Botetourt
have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of my said office the
20th day of April in the year of our Lord 1802 and of the Commonwealth the 26th.

H. Bowyer

Note by Norman Burns, Oct. 26, 1976. Mark Bigler II and Israel Bigler were
sons of the immigrant, Mark Bigler I, whose will, dated March 19, 1787, is re-
corded at the Frederick Court House (Wills GM 2:238). Under that will Mark
Bigler I gave "the plantation whereon I now dwell Containing two hundred and
thirty-five Acres of Land" to his son, Mark Bigler II of Botetourt, Virginia --
other bequests being provided in his will for his other children. On April 7,
1804, Israel Bigler sold the land he had purchased from his brother, Mark Bigler
II on April 13, 1802 -- one tract of 100 acres to John Garber and the other tract
of 169 acres to George Mousse (see Frederick Deeds WR25: 579 and 597).

The Deed Books at Frederick contain handwritten copies of the original
deeds (not the actual original copies) according to an official in the Deeds
Office, which may explain the inconsistencies in spelling in these early deeds.
It will be noted that some of the deeds describe the Bigler farm as having 259½
acres, in others 269½ acres; also that Mark Bigler I purchased Beigler's Add-
tion to Hull's Choice on October 30, 1750 but in other documents April 1, 1750.
These discrepancies might be due to copying errors, or to the absence of doc-
uments on some unrecorded transactions.

As of this date, I have not been able to identify the actual location of
Mark Bigler's "Plantation ... of 235 acres of Land" other than that is was origi-
nally a part of Calverton Manor, in Pipe Creek Hundred, in that part of
Frederick County that became Carroll County in 1836. It consisted of 26 acres
which Mark Bigler I had purchased at various times over the years, the first
purchases being two 26-acre tracts on March 1, 1743, namely: Mark's Delight on
the South side of Great Pipe Creek and Hickory Bottom "Beginning at two bounded
black Gum trees standing on the North Side of Great pipe Creek and in a Short
turn of said Creek on the South side of the Creek abouts [?] West from the be-
inning is a Bank of Large Red Rocks ...." (see Patents, Lieber P.T. No. 2 folio
3 and 23 and Lieber L.G. 64 No E folios 273 and 277, March 1, 1743, in Hall of
Records, Annapolis).
II. MARK BIGLER II - SON OF MARK I

Mark Bigler II, son of the immigrant Mark Bigler, settled near Troutville, Botetourt County, Virginia, where some of his descendants live today. He was born in 1717, the recorded year of birth of his brother Israel. He married Catherine Lease (possibly the daughter of Philip Lease or Leyst of York Co., Penn.) who was born in 1763. (1)

The first evidence of his presence in Botetourt County is that of a deed reporting his purchase of 80 acres of land there on Sept. 5, 1785, for twenty pounds of Virginia currency. (2) This farm and the original log house where he lived are now owned by Mr. H. B. Freeman (photo Plate A).

It is an interesting coincidence that the Virginia Biglers, like the Ohio Biglers, have an old, half remembered, tradition that they are descendants of one of three Bigler brothers who migrated together from the old country. The Virginia tradition is that three Beagler brothers immigrated with their father to Pennsylvania and that later some of the family migrated to Virginia, California and New York. (2) The oral tradition of the Virginia Biglers is that the immigrant Mark Bigler I first settled in Lancaster, Penn., moved to Maryland in 1713, and that his brother's name was Jacob. Since Mark Bigler I named one of his sons, Jacob, and since his two sons Mark II and Israel each named a son Jacob, there is a presumption that Jacob may have been the name of the brother or father of Mark Bigler I. The Ohio tradition is that three Bigler brothers came together from the old country to Pennsylvania, where they separated, one remaining in Pennsylvania, one going to Virginia and another to New York.

(1) Letters from Mrs. Emma Bigler Merrey (daughter of Mark Bigler IV) of Troutville, Botetourt Co., dated April 28, Aug. 17, Sept. 16, 1959, and March 8, 1960, supplied nearly all of the information in this chapter, except the estate and will records of Mark Bigler II which were obtained from the Clerk of Court, Botetourt Court House, Fincastle, Va.

A note by Mary Hoss Headman in Maryland Historical Magazine, Sept., 1915, p. 250 states that the wife of Mark Bigler II was Catherine, daughter of Philip and Margaret Lease or Leyst; and that Philip Lease arrived in America in 1749, was naturalized in Chester Co., Penn. Sept. 11, 1755 and died in Frederick Co., Maryland about 1769. Some accounts say Catherine was the daughter of Jacob Lease.

The Penn. Historical Society, Vol. 26, 1902, note by Mary Hoss p. 226, states that Mark Bigler II married Catherine Lease who was born 1763 and died Jan. 4, 1832. See Brough, Freely I Gave, p. 2 for the name Leonard Lease of York Co.

(2) Emma Bigler Merrey letter of Sept. 16, 1959 quoting a letter received by her sister Irene in 1948 from Carlie Watkins (wife of Leo Watkins and great grandson of Mary Bigler Sessler) who wrote that she and her husband's sister Zenella Watkins Firebaugh were arranging 2½ bushels of old family papers, one of which had "something about 3 Beagler brothers who came to America with their father and settled in Pennsylvania. Later some of the family migrated to Calif., New York and Virginia."

Lewis Rustin Summers, Amherst, Southwestern Virginia, 1769-1800, published by the author, Abingdon, Virginia, 1929, Minutes of Court House of Botetourt Co., Feb. 8, 1791. Mark Bigler exempted from payment of County and Parish levies until he recovered from his present infirmities."
Mark Bigler I, as noted above, bequeathed his plantation in Frederick County to his son Mark II. On April 13, 1802, Mark Bigler II and Catherine his wife, of Botetourt County, sold these lands, 259.5 acres, to his brother Israel, for four hundred pounds of current money. (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 22:527.)

A family Bible now in possession of the Sessler descendants of Mark II (originally purchased by Mark II's son Jacob on March 31, 1823) carries the notation: "Mark Bigler died in the 79th year of his age April 11, 1826. Catherine Bigler died Jan. 4, 1832, age 69 years." Catherine Bigler's will, dated 1831, left four of her children (Mary Sessler, Catherine Moomaw, Elizabeth Lavender and Mark III) 10 cents each; and the remainder of her property was left to her son Jacob and her daughter Susannah. Mark and Catherine Bigler, and their daughter Susannah, were buried in Haymakertown Cemetery, formerly known as Sessler Cemetery, about two hundred yards behind the log cabin on the farm of Mark II. The graves are marked with flagstones but no inscriptions are visible now, according to Emma Bigler Merrey's letter of Aug. 1959.

Mark II's will, dated Jan. 24, 1825, and filed at the Botetourt County Courthouse of Fincastle, indicates a familiar Bigler trait, namely a strong interest in the material welfare of his family. To his oldest son Jacob he devised "the whole of my lands Whereon I now live consisting of Three Tracts adjoining each other." To his wife he gave "all my household & kitchen furniture ... two Cows also two hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by my son Jacob in annuel payments ... she is also to have her chouse of a room in my dwelling House with nessery fewell & her maintenance during her Life furnished by my son Jacob ... "Specific bequests of money or livestock were made to his other children, Mark III, Catharine Bigler Moomaw, Elizabeth Bigler Lavender, Mary Bigler Sessler and Susannah.

An inventory of the personal property of Mark Bigler, deceased, dated July 12, 1826, is filed at the Botetourt Co. Courthouse. From it, one may glean something of his way of life. It lists a considerable number of horses, colts, cows, calves, sheep, hogs and geese—an indication that he must have depended heavily upon livestock for his livelihood. It lists "eight hogs in the woods" appraised at $1.50 each, cows appraised at $9 each and geese at 25 cents each. It includes bags of wool, a loom, two spinning wheels, an apple mill, brass kettles probably for making apple butter or soap, bee baskets for honey, and a cow bell whose tinkle rings through the years to tell us that Mark Bigler allowed his cows to roam the woods.

The German Bible appraised at $5.50 suggests the German-speaking ancestry of Mark and Catherine Bigler. There is no reference in his will, or in other family records, to his religious affiliation. But the will was witnessed by Edward, William and George McDonald, and his personal property was appraised by Edward and George McDonald. Emma Bigler Merrey, writing me on April 28, 1959 of her paternal ancestry, said: "I know very little about their religion. My grandfather's family (Mark III) and my father's family (Mark IV) were Presbyterians. We live near the Mt. Union Presbyterian Church that has been serving the people of community since before 1832. The original building was a small brick structure known as the Mountain Union Meeting House and served as a place of worship for the different denominations. In 1832, the Presbyterian Church was formally organized. The old brick church was replaced by a

See p. 101 for additional information.
frame building in 1888, (photo Plate A) It seems evident that Mark II and his son Mark III must have fallen in with Scotch Presbyterian Mc-
Donalds and adopted their religious faith. Since I am a descendant on
my father's side of McDonalds, I cannot but commend other branches of
the Bigler and McDonald clans for consorting with each other.

A copy of the will of Mark Bigler II, including an inventory of
his personal property, follows:

Will of Mark Bigler II

"By permission of Almighty God I mark Beglar of Botetourt and
state of Virginia being of sound and disposing mind and memory
but well knowing the uncertainty of Human life do make the fol-
lowing disposition of all my Estate that is to say it is my will
and desire that all my just debts be paid out of my Estate after
the payment of my Debts I divide to my wife Catharine Beglar all
my household & kitchen furniture that may remain after the divides
hereafter made two Cows also two Hundred & fifty Dollars to be
paid by my son Jacob in annual payments as she may request it
which property she may dispose off amongst my Children at he
decease as she may think proper she is also to have her chouse of
a room in my dwelling House with nessary fewell & her maintenance
during her Life furnished by my son Jacob I devise to my son
Jacob the whole of my lands Whereon I now live consisting of
Three Tracts adjoining each other to him and his Heirs forever in
consequence of which he is to pay to my Wife the above Two Hundred
& fifty Dollars and to each of my Children the sum hereafter devised
to them I also give my son Jacob five head of horses waggen &
harness and the ballance of my cattle that remain after the devised
hereafter made I devise to my mary Sesler /usually written Sessler/
the property given her at her marriage also one hundred & fifty
dollars to be paid her by my son Jacob in one year after my Decease
I devise to my dauter Catharine Mcmmaw the property given her at
her marriage also one hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid by Son
Jacob in three years after my decease I devise to my Daughter
Elizabeth Lavinder the property given her at her marriage also one
Hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid her in five years after my
Decease by my son Jacob I devise to my son Mark one horse and
Colt already given him and one Cow also one hundred & fifty Dollars
to be paid him by my son Jacob in seven years after my decease I
device to my daughter Susannah two Beds & their furniture three
head of Cattle already (?) to her also one Hundred & fifty Dollars
to be paid by my son Jacob in nine years after my decease also
her accomodation in the same room with her mother so long as she
may remain Single and finally I do hereby constitute and appoint
my two Sons Jacob and Mark Executors of this my last will and
Testament revoking and canceling all former wills by me heretofore
made and declaring pronouncing & publishing this only to be my
last will and Testament in Testimony whereof I have this twenty
fourth day of January one Thousand and eight hundred & twenty-five
Signed & Sealed the same as such."

At Botetourt June Court, 1826

 signed Mark Bigler (seal)

†Photostat copy sent to N.Brown by Clark of Court of Fincastle in 1959. Ruth Bigler has a
long bond document, obviously very old, that might have been the original text for
which the Court house copy was made. Ruth Bigler's copy differs only slightly
from the Court house copy.
Inventory of Property of Mark Bigler II

"Pursuant to an order of Botetourt June Court 1826 we the subscribers met at the House of Mark Bigler Decd. and being Sworn proceeded to Inventory and appraise the Estate of Sd Decd. this 12th day of July 1826 as followeth to wit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 waggon &amp; gear</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old Bay Horse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bay Mare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sorrel Horse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sorrel Mare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 White Cow &amp; Calf</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Brindle Do &amp; Do</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Cows a $9 Each</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Stears a 7 Do</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Year Olds a $4.50 Each</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Calves at 1.25 each</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Hogs a 2,50 Do</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Shoats a 75 Do</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Hogs a 2.00 Do</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Gray Mare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bay Horse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Hogs in woods (described)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Shoats Do &amp; Do</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Sheep a 1.00 Each</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Windmill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Forks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Dung Hooks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cutting Box</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tub &amp; 1 Plane</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Half Bushel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Geese a 25 Ct each</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Barrels 75 2 Tubs 50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Loom and Hackling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apple Mill [probably for cider]</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Old Barrels</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Crosscut Saw</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Vise &amp; Iron wedge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Log Chain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(?) Bed &amp; Furniture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bureau</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Leaf Table</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Books</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 German Bible</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Brass Kettle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Bags of Wool</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Spinning Wheels</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Bee Baskets</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Chairs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Reel 1 small wheel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Large wheel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bottles</td>
<td>12½</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cups &amp; Saucers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cupboard &amp; Contents</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Furniture</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Table</td>
<td>1 50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tub &amp; Chair (or chain)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Slates</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Kegs</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cow Bell</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Old Wagon</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Iron Dog</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Crow Bar</td>
<td>75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milch Crock</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edw McDonald  
(name illegible)  
George McDonald

The written is a True Inventory of the Personal Estate of Mark Bigler Deed as far as has come to my knowledge

At Botetourt December Court, 1826

Mark Bigler III was born in 1788. He appears to have bought acres in 1821 about one mile from his father's farm, (1) and a second tract of 150 acres adjacent to the first in 1836. He lived in a four-room log cabin on one of these tracts after his marriage to Mary Peters in 1827. This log cabin is still standing but in 1908 a front was added to constitute the present white frame house shown in Plate A. It is not known when the log cabin was built but a stone in one of the chimneys bears the date 1800. White house begun in 1905 and completed about 1908 according to Ruth Bigler.

Mark Bigler III was a blacksmith. Longhand records of his blacksmith accounts are still in possession of his granddaughter Emma Bigler Merrey. He died Dec. 12, 1840 and was buried in Mt. Union Presbyterian Cemetery across the road from his farm. His wife continued to live on the home place and take care of her children after her husband's death, with the help of an old negro, "Black Sam" (who was not a slave). His 300-acre farm was divided among his widow (who received a widow's dower) and his children. His house and 85 acres of his original farm are owned today by the four daughters of Mark IV. The children of Mark Bigler III and Mary Peters Bigler were: Lucinda, Eliza Anna, Charlotte, Catherine, George, Susan and Mark IV. George (see photo Plate A), Charlotte and Susan eventually went to live in Auburn, Sagamon Co., Illinois.

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(1) Emma Bigler Merrey says the family has a paper indicating he was suing for title of 150 acres in 1821, and another paper indicating a deed of trust dated 1826.

+ According to best in possession of Ruth Bigler, which I examined in Nov. 1965. This deed is probably in possession of her nephew Paul Bigler, 2740 WILSHIRE Ave., S.W., Brandon Va. 24015 at this time (1970).
Mark Bigler IV was born May 18, 1814 on his father's home place where he lived until his death April 6, 1905. He served as a private for three and one-half years with Company K, 28th Virginia Infantry, during the Civil War. National Archives records (Envelope 14/4) indicate that he enlisted July 25, 1861 at Amsterdam, Virginia for one year; that he was confined to the hospital at Petersburg and Richmond from Oct. 16, 1861 to Feb. 10, 1862; and that thereafter he was "present" on muster rolls of Company K throughout the war until Jan 23, 1865 when he was reported as "absent on furlough of indulgence". His daughter, Emma Bigler Merrey, wrote me that he suffered many hardships during the Civil War, such as being without food and clothing; that he was in Pickett's Division at Gettysburg but did not go into battle because he had no shoes; and that he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 18th Regiment of the 26th Brigade, Fifth Division of the Virginia Militia on July 18, 1866. There is no other information in his military dossier at the National Archives. It would have been very interesting had he kept a diary of his experiences as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.

Mark Bigler IV was a cabinet maker, carpenter, undertaker, Justice of the Peace, and an elder in the Mt. Union Presbyterian Church. He died April 6, 1905 and his wife (Ann Eliza Smith) on Jan. 16, 1928. Both are buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery.

Mark and Eliza Bigler had seven children, all born on the farm of Mark III where he himself was born, namely: Nora, Ida, Frank, Harman, Emma, Ruth and Irene. Nora married Samuel K. Dodds and lived in Auburn, Illinois (but now lives in Oregon with her son Samuel K. Dodds Jr.) Frank lived on his father's farm and was an undertaker until his death in 1938. Emma, before her marriage to George E. Merrey, attended normal school and business college, taught grade school and worked for eight years with the Continental Can Company. Her husband was plant manager for the company's plants in Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., and Roanoke, Va. and Bedford, Va. Since retirement they have been living on her father's (Mark IV) farm at Troutville, now owned by her and her three sisters. Ruth, a registered nurse, now living at 803 Graydon Ave., Norfolk, Va., worked for Dr. Fitchett for almost 36 years and never missed a day from illness. When she learned of this Bigler history, she wrote, "We have never found a member of the family that we are ashamed to have on the family tree." Many years ago she nursed Mr. Oscar B. Ryder, former Chairman of the U. S. Tariff Commission, and his wife Nanine (both good friends of ours in Washington, D.C.) who told us that she was an excellent nurse. Harman, a rural mail carrier at Troutville, Va., had two children: Harman Paul, who served with the U.S. Army in China and Korea (ending with rank of Major) and is now chief structural engineer with the architectural and engineering firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern of Roanoke, Va.; and Margaret Ruth, a graduate of William and Mary College, now living in Roanoke. Photos of Mr. & Mrs. George E. Merrey, Ruth Bigler, and Mr. and Mrs. Harman Paul Bigler appear on Plate B.

Address of 06/1961: Nora and Samuel King Dodds 1 South West, 8th Ave. MELTON, FREEMANTLE, Oregon. She attended Bigler reunion in Utah in 1960.
Home of
Mark Bigler II
near
Troutville, Va.
1959

Mt. Union Presbyterian Church

George Bigler, son
of Mark Bigler III

Home of
Mark Bigler III and IV
near
Troutville, Va.
1959
Mr. and Mrs. Harman
Paul Bigler (1953)
Roanoke, Va.

Ruth Bigler, d. Mark IV

George and Emma
Bigler Merrey
Jacob Bigler, another son of the immigrant Mark Bigler, lived most of his adult years near Shinston, Harrison County, West Virginia. One of his descendants, Walter M. Elliott, wrote that:

"Jacob Bigler, a Revolutionary soldier, and his wife Hannah Booher Bigler lived in a log house on West Fork river about one mile above Enterprise (unincorporated), Harrison County, West Virginia, and on the opposite side of the river from State Road No. 19. This log house was torn down some years ago by George W. Harrison, a subsequent owner, and a new concrete dwelling house built in its stead within a few feet of the old house. Almost opposite this site, across and above the county road, Jacob Bigler was buried. The small graveyard was about 200 feet from the present county road in an old orchard and about in line with the fifth row of trees from the road. There were not more than six or eight persons buried in this graveyard, and the graves were marked with native stone or flag rock... There is nothing left to indicate a burying ground and the exact location of the grave of Jacob Bigler is not known. In the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, which is located between the orchard graveyard (now gone) and Enterprise, a monument has been erected in memory of Jacob Bigler. Hannah Booher Bigler is buried at the Righter graveyard near Saltwell." (1)

The story of Jacob Bigler's life - and of his sons Mark and Jacob who adopted the Mormon faith and whose descendants now live in Utah - is best told in the Journal of his grandson Henry William Bigler: (2)

(1) Account by Walter M. Elliott (son of Bathsheba Ann Martin Elliott, daughter of Charlotte Smith Martin, gr. daughter of Jacob Bigler of Shinston, Harrison County, W. Va.) 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va., dated 1932, with biodata on Jacob and Hannah Booher's children. When I first saw this account in the home of Perry Bigler, Marianna, Penn., Nov. 1958, I noted that one of Jacob and Hannah Bigler's sons, Jacob, died at Farmington, Utah, Sept. 2, 1859. I then wrote my friend Dale Clark of Farmington, who gave me the address of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler of West Jordan, Utah who first told me of the Mormon branch of the Bigler family. Therefore, the Ohio Biglers (descendants of Israel Bigler of Washington Co., Penn.) had not known of the existence of their kinsmen in Utah. Mr. Elliott sent me a second copy of his account on Sept. 9, 1959. The Boston Evening Transcript, Nov. 3, 1933 contains a short note on Jacob Bigler of Harrison County, W. Va., signed E. S. S., which is nearly identical with Walter M. Elliott's account.

(2) This Journal covering a long span of years and written before 1900, is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler, 8650 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah. Mr. Bigler is a fifth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co. I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Bigler and to Brigham Young University for the extracts from the Journal quoted in this chapter. Portions of this diary were published in Utah Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 5, April to July 1932.

U.S. Census of 1790 reported a Jacob Biglar (4 whites and one dwelling) in Harrison Co. in that year. Henry Haymond, History of Harrison County, Acme Publishing Co., Morgantown, W. Va., 1909 quotes Thomas Cheney's list of "tithables for 1785" from the mouth of West Fork River up to Simpson's Creek including Valley River which list includes Jacob Biglar, p. 275.
"My grandfather (Jacob Bigler) was born about the years 1752 or 3 in Bucks County Pennsylvania. He married Hannah Booker or Boother about the year 1780 and lived in Summerset (Somerset) County that State, their first child was born they called Sarah and in 1782 Grandfather emigrated to Harrison County Virginia (now W. Va.) and settled on West Fork River, the country was new and Sparsely Settled and the Indians troublesome, frequently making raids on the weak settlements, killing and Scalping or taking captives. I remember hearing grandfather Say he had worke on his farm having his gun near at hand and when plowing had it attached to the beam of his plow not knowing what moment he would want to use it to Save his scalp. Grandfather sometimes worked at the Coopering business and it was said he was industrious, jovial and fond of a Dram but never quarrelsome and a relative in a letter to me describes him in the following words, "He was a quiet man, Short and heavy set, handsome and a full blooded Dutchman". He died in September 1829 aged about 76 and I well remember being at the funeral. He died with Canker in the mouth. He was buried in his apple orchard."

"My grand mother Bigler was a mixture of dutch and welch and is described as being tall and slender, hair red and tolerable handsome, intelligent, industrious, and enterprising. I remember hearing her Say that the first time she ever saw my grandfather was at a house raising where she was assistant Cook. He had on a read coat and was one of the cornerman with ax in hand and as soon as she saw him she knew he was to be her Husband, She said that when she was a young woman that the women went out into the havest field and helped to reap the grain that she had reaped many a day that the farmers, men and women met together beginning with the wheat most forward and so continue until the grain was in the shock, each young woman choosing her partner to reap by her side, in those early days it was the sickle and reap hook Cradles and reaping machines was not known. Grand mother Bigler was born about 1760 and died the 18th July 1853 aged a little over 93 years.

"The following are the names and ages of their children in the order they were born. All born in Harrison County Virginia except the first born, namely.

Sarah or as she was usually called Sally, born 30th April 1780 in Summerset County, Pennsylvania.
2nd Hannah, born, 30th January 1783.
3rd Mark " 19th May 1785
4th Ruth " 28th April 1788
5th Nancy " 29th Nov. 1790
6th Jacob " 9th June 1793
7th Henry " 24th April 1796
8th Bathsheba " 29th June 1798
9th Mariah " 29th January 1801

If I remember right they had a little girl they called, Rebecca, it had a Hair lip and died when an infant.

"Grand mother Bigler had a brother and sister who came to Virginia with her and grandfather, namely Henry Booker and Barbary a widow she had married a man by the name of Hutchison."
Jacob Bigler served for some time as a private soldier during the Revolutionary War, in one of the eight German Battalions raised in Pennsylvania and Maryland under Resolution of Congress of May 25 and June 27, 1776. He enlisted as a private on July 26, 1776 in the Sixth Company of the German Regiment of Foot commanded by Col. Baron Arendt—sometimes referred to as Capt. George P. Keeport's First German Battalion of Continental Troops of Maryland. He is reported as having left the Company on Oct. 1, 1776 but his name appears again on the Company muster rolls of May 22, 1777 and July 18, 1777. (1)

Of the nine children of Jacob and Hannah Booker (or Booher) Bigler who reached maturity, two—Mark and Jacob—adopted the Mormon faith and moved west. Bathsheba remained in Harrison Co., near where one of her descendants Walter W. Elliott is living (at Clarksburg W. Va.). Probably some of the other children remained in that vicinity, but little information is available about them. (2)

Mark Bigler's family (Jacob G., Bathsheba, Melissa Jane)

Mark Bigler had a medium sized farm in Harrison Co., and negro slaves to assist him in the work. He was the first of the Biglers to adopt the Mormon faith, being baptized in Harrison Co., Sept. 23, 1834, only four years after establishment of the Mormon Church. In the words of Henry Bigler's Journal:

"At the time the Elders made their appearance in the neighborhood, the inquiry was who are they and where did they come from and my Uncle Mark Bigler who was always full of his fun and had no faith in any religion and had been heard to say he would go four miles the darkest night he ever saw to see an old heaghott. I was at work for my uncle at the time the inquiry was made and asked where did these Mormon Elders come from? My uncle said they had come from the moon and had found a new road to Heaven 400 miles nearer than the old route. But how did they get down? The answer was they greased themselves and slid down a rainbow. But up to this time he had not heard them preach. He soon went to hear them and believed their preaching."

(1) National Archives, Washington, card number 37063025 - 3179 - 191970. Also Archives of Maryland 18:263. Elliott’s account cited above says that this Jacob Bigler who served in the Revolution was the son of the immigrant Mark Bigler. Elliott does not indicate how he knew that the Jacob Bigler, son of Mark Bigler, was the same Jacob Bigler who served in the German Regiment.

(2) Jacob Bigler’s will dated May 29, 1829, filed at the Court House of Harrison Co., W. Va. and reproduced in Brough’s, Freely I Gave, mentions Jacob Bigler’s wife, Hannah, his children Mark, Jacob, Sarah Ross, Hannah McGowly, Ruth Whiteman, Arme Whiteman, Mariah Flowers, and his granddaughter Charlotte Smith. Information in Henry Bigler’s Journal concerning the life of Jacob Bigler, and the dates of birth and death of his children, is substantially the same as that of Elliott’s account.
He invited them to his house. (1)

Mark accompanied by his son Jacob G. left Harrison Co. in March 1838 for Far West Mo. where the Prophet Joseph Smith was establishing a large Mormon settlement. There Jacob G. was baptized into the Mormon faith, June 10, 1838. After buying a 2½ acre farm for $2,000 for himself and his father at Far West, Jacob G. returned to Harrison Co. for his mother and unmarried sisters—Sarah, Bathsheba and Melissa Jane—who accompanied him back to Far West, Mo. in the fall of 1838. When mob persecution forced the Mormon Church to leave Far West, they went first to Quincy, Ill. where Jacob Bigler died suddenly, Sept. 23, 1839. When the Mormons moved to Nauvoo, on the Illinois side of the great bend of the Mississippi River, Jacob G. with his mother and sisters accompanied them to Nauvoo in the spring of 1840.

Jacob G. Bigler (photo Plate A). The ensuing years were for Jacob G. Bigler and his Mormon brethren years of cruel hardship, unbelievable fortitude and enduring faith as told with eloquence in Franklin Keith Brough's Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler. Mr. Brough a great grandson of Jacob G. and Amy Lorette Bigler, born at Nephi, Utah in 1923, (present address, 123 Mars Way, Salt Lake City) has devoted careful historical research to this work which portrays something of the vision, courage and faith that enabled Jacob G. Bigler and his associates to survive the persecution, to meet the hardships and to build a community based on the principles in which they believed.

Of Jacob G. Bigler's life, I shall mention only a few facts from Mr. Brough's book. His first wife died of "the fever" at Nauvoo, Oct. 1842. Shortly after his marriage to Amy Chase at Nauvoo, June 18, 1844, the Prophet Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob. Soon after Jacob and Amy's first child was born on Feb. 8, 1846, the Mormons were forced by mobs to leave Nauvoo. Jacob G., his wife and baby, crossed the Mississippi River and began the long hard journey to Winter Quarters (now Omaha) Nebraska Territory which they reached Aug. 18, 1846. There Jacob G's mother died on Mar. 11, 1847 of consumption undoubtedly incurred by hardships of the trail. Jacob G. remained with his family at Winter Quarters and across the Missouri River at Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa until 1852. During this period he was ordained a Bishop of the Church in charge of the administration of tithes, and was elected probate judge of Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Jacob G. Bigler's family joined the Gardner company of 1852—consisting of 241 people, 45 wagons, 11 yoke of oxen, 21 horses, 96 cows, 117 calves, 91 sheep, 29 firearms and 18½ dollars in cash—that made the 1,000 mile trek over the hot plains from Kanesville, Iowa (leaving there June 10) across Nebraska to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and thence through Fort Bridger to Salt Lake City which they reached in mid-September. Their cattle swam across the Missouri River which was ever a half mile wide at the crossing. Some members of

the company died of cholera. Travelling along the Platte River, Jacob was forced to pull his wagon aside, while his wife gave birth to a daughter, Amy Lorette, on July 17, 1852. When the wagon train reached the mountains, they encountered a 5-inch snowfall. Finally in mid-September they arrived at Salt Lake City, founded five years before.

Jacob G. and his family proceeded to Nephi, Juab Co., Utah, a small pioneer settlement then only one year old, which they reached Oct. 18, 1852. Here they spent the rest of their lives, contributing in full measure to the building of a happy and prosperous community. In Nov. 1852, Jacob G. was ordained a Bishop of Juab Co. by his brother-in-law George A. Smith. He served in six sessions of the territorial legislature between 1853 and 1858. When Federal authorities persecuted the Mormons in 1858, he and other bishops were forced to flee to the mountains for six months to avoid arbitrary imprisonment. With a change in Federal policy, he returned to his home, to be elected Mayor of Nephi in 1859. He was absent from Nephi from April 1861 to Sept. 1863, serving as a Mormon missionary in Ireland and England. He served as Probate Judge of Juab Co., Feb. 1864-April 1876; was appointed by President Brigham Young as the first President of the Juab Stake Sept. 20, 1859; and was called to be Patriarch of the Juab Stake in July 1877, a position he held for 30 years. In carrying out these responsibilities, Mr. Brough says: 

"Bishop Bigler wanted always to help others lift themselves to higher things. He was always positive in thought and action. He pointed out the better way of life. It was his constant effort to inspire the people so that their land, through their faith, would be a blessing to them. Above all, he wanted unity among people."

The human qualities of Jacob G. Bigler are apparent from his many deeds and words. When Indians around Nephi sorely tried the settlers' patience in 1855, he advised moderation. He recorded in his diary: "Indians quite saucy, shooting arrows into squashes, picking our peas, etc. ... I counseled the saints to be prayerful and keep the spirit of the Lord and not let our feelings be excited or do anything to the Indians which we would sorrow for in a day to come. Although they are saucy, stealing our grain, destroying our melons, pumpkins and squash, and once in a while steel a beef animal, we have got to bear with them ... and show them that we are their friends." (Brough, p. 80)

Jacob G., although firm was somewhat easygoing and liked to tell jokes and stories. When he did, everyone stopped what they were doing and listened. His grandchildren often met with him at the post office on Sundays when all would go to pick up their mail. In Mr. Brough's words: "He seemed tall and stately to them as he wore a cape lined with red flannel. Proudly they would say, 'Hello Grandfather!'. And Jacob was always happy to see them. He would bend down and give them a big kiss. And with his long white beard, this doughtless tickled the children. If the grandchildren stopped at the house, Amy always had doughnuts or cookies with which to treat them."

He lived in Nephi (but had 2 farms west of town) where there were rows of beautiful roses down the walk in front of the house. He had brought apple cuttings from Virginia to Nephi. He was especially fond of his well-cared-for, irrigated, garden where he raised currants, raspberries,
gooseberries, strawberries, fruits and vegetables. Mr. Brough says that as his strength left him, he would still work when he could in his garden. He would sit on an old chair in the garden as he hoed his raspberries, and after a while he would become very tired. Then he would lie down, his wife would bathe his feet and comb his hair and beard to comfort him as best she could. His mission in life was completed Feb. 23, 1907. And fifteen weeks later, on June 8, 1907, Amy Lorette joined her husband in the life beyond.

Bathsheba Bigler (photo Plate A). Bathsheba, the daughter of Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler, was born at Shinston, Harrison Co., W. Va., May 3, 1822. She accompanied her brother Jacob G. to Far West, Missouri, in 1838. She was married to George A. Smith, a cousin of the Prophet Joseph Smith, on July 25, 1841 at Nauvoo, Ill., by Elder Don Carlos Smith, who was a brother of the Prophet Joseph Smith. George A. Smith became a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and later a counselor of President Brigham Young (Brough p. 11).

Bathsheba Bigler Smith served the Mormon Church in many capacities, including the Presidency of the General Relief Society. She died at Salt Lake City, Sept. 10, 1910. A short sketch of her life (as copied by one of her granddaughters, Irene Merrill Richards, 105 South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, from the notes of another granddaughter Alice Merrill Horne) follows:

"June 26-1895. Grandmother B. B. Smith dictated her life and Alice Horn her granddaughter wrote up a "Sketch of the Life of Bathsheba Smith" as follows:

Bathsheba W. Smith, the daughter of Mark and Susanah Ogden Bigler, was born near Shinston Harrison Co., West Virginia, May 3d 1822. Her father came from Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent. By occupation he was a farmer and stock raiser. Susanah came from Maryland. She was pious and gentle, had southern hospitality and generous qualities, adept and artistic with her needle. Both families through conscientious motives had given their slaves freedom.

Bathsheba's parents gave their children the schooling available in a new country. The country was hilly and the roads were of a primitive character, the mode of travel was chiefly on horseback. In this Bathsheba excelled. She grew up in a family of seven. During her 15th year some Latter Day Saints came preaching, and she believed what was taught. In answer to prayer, she received an abiding testimony that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Lord and that the book of Mormon was a divine record. The Elder George A. Smith became acquainted with the Bigler family. On the 21st of August 1837, with most of her family she was baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Soon after this her father sold his home and took his family to Missouri. On arriving they found the state preparing to war against the Saints. A few nights before they reached Far West they camped with a company of eastern saints but separated, choosing different ferries over Grand River. The company in which the Biglers traveled arrived safely. But the others were overtaken by a mob and 17 were killed and others wounded at Hauns Mill. A few days after they arrived in Far West, there was a battle and David Patten was wounded, and brought to the house where the Biglers were staying. Bathsheba witnessed the death of this beloved apostle. The Prophet, patriarch and others were taken to prison, and the saints had to leave the state. In the spring great
was their joy to have them returned to the saints at Quincy, Ill.
In 1840 the Biglers moved to Nauvoo, where Bathsheba had many opportunities to hear the Prophet preach, and was privileged to become acquainted with his family.
She married George A. Smith in July 25th 1841, after his return from a two years mission in England. On the 20th of March 1842, Bathsheba by special invitation attended the first organization of Relief Society, and became a charter member.
In July 1842 their son Geo. A. was born and in two months later her husband went on a mission in the eastern states.
They received their endowments Jan. 31, 1844. Bathsheba heard the Prophet charge the twelve with the duty and responsibility of the ordinances and sealing for the living and dead.
In the spring of 1844, Geo. A. went on another mission and soon after persecution began in the city of Nauvoo and ended in the martyrdom of our beloved Prophet and Patriarch. Geo. A. returned about the 1st of Aug. and on the 11th our daughter was born and we named her Bathsheba. They with many others left Nauvoo, and crossed the Mississippi, left a comfortable home, the accumulation of four years. Our parlor was turned into a paint shop to prepare wagons for the journey West. We took some clothes and bedding and a few provisions, and left everything to our enemies. We crossed over on the ice as did hundreds of families.
My mother died on the 11 of March 1846, March 14, 1847 according to Brough p. 37 and in April my son John was born, he only lived four hours. I was sick for a longtime. July 1st 1846, about 300 miles from Nauvoo we were met by a military officer of the U.S. who made a demand of 500 men to go to the Mexican War. Four of our teamsters went to help make up the quota. Geo. A. started in April with the pioneers for the West, and left us at Winter Quarters. After he returned we all started west in June of 1846. Pres. Polk at different times, acknowledged to some of our people that he was indebted to the Mormon people in the state of N.Y. for his election. By raising wheat corn, buckwheat potatoes and other vegetables and making elderberry and raspberry wine, and preserving plums and other fruit we were able to get rid of scurvy. We planted and others who came after us reaped the prairie.
In Sept. 1847 a conference was held in a grove on Misquit Creek, about 2000 saints were present. Cowdry, one of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon was there. He had been ten years away from the church and had become a lawyer of some prominence in Ohio and Wisconsin. At this conference I heard him bear his testimony to the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon as is recorded in the testimony of the three witnesses in that book.
Indians, Ute and Sioux bothered us. It took lots of time and persuasion for our men to protect our food against these thieves.
About the 1st of Dec. the pioneers returned. They had found a place in the heart of the Great Basin beyond the Rocky Mountains, so barren, dry, isolated, we thought even the religious bigots would not desire to rob us of it. The pioneers had laid out a city and commenced building a fort. I often went with my husband on errands of mercy among the saints.
At Winter Quarters they had built 700 log cabins and one hundred fifty dugouts. Our wagon cover was torn with the wind and we were glad to get into a house again. I was at Hyde Park when through the spirit of the gospel, they decided to organise the first Presidency of the Church according to the pattern laid down by the Lord in the Doctrine and Covenante. The remaining saints were compelled by the Government, so they had to build homes again in Iowa. Many of the families were those of the men who had joined the Battalion of the U.S. to fight Mexico, and who were only waiting the return of their husbands to go west.

We arrived in Salt Lake City, we drove to my Father in laws John Smith Patriarch of the church. There I met my sister Malissa Jane Bigler Lambson and her husband. They invited us to supper. It was a delight to be in a cozy home, with blazing fire on the hearth, where no winters blast or the deserts bleak winds could blow smoke into ones eyes, or strew ashes on ones shoulders. We lived in our wagons until my husband built a comfortable room for us.

We took up land over Jordan, fenced it and sewed wheat. All this was destroyed by rising water which over flowed the banks. We rented land higher up in Cottonwood, plowed and sewed it. From this he obtained flour for a year. Geo. A. nearly build a home for me but was called south to build a settlement 150 miles away. Father Smith invited us to stay with him which we did, but we furnished our own provisions and I did the work for the family.

My house was finished and I moved into it on March 20, 1857. We made carpets. I spun flax and made the cloth we needed. Our children were glad to be in their own house where they could entertain their friends. They had nice voices and George played the flute and drum. We had many pleasant evenings. George worked at the printing press for $200 a year.

My son was set apart for a mission to the Indians. He played his flute, and the Indians became angry because the soldiers who had just passed thru (played the flute also) had killed some of the indians, so they shot him as he was taking his horse to water. Jacob Hamblin who was in charge of the Mission put George on his horse and fled for their lives. When he died Hamblin buried him in his Navajo blanket, in a shallow grave. A posse left Salt Lake for his body, but they recovered only three bones and a lock of hair and his hat, Jan. 3d 1861. Our daughter was married to Clarence Merrill and moved to Fillmore in 1865.

Our daughter had 14 children. I was happy to have 4 of them live with me, so they could have advantage of the University in those early days, until they moved to Salt Lake finally.

1870. I made a tour to Colorado, and up the Virgen River, Long Valley, Kanab and St. George, with my husband, Pres. Young and party.

1872. Geo. A. went to Europe and Jerusalem and Cairo, Paris. He was gone 8 months. Leila, Bathsheba's daughter, was with me part of the time. In Nov. '73, I spent the winter in St. George. I have visited the saints through Utah. I was secretary of the 17 Ward Relief Society, and counsellor to Sister Grant in the 13 ward. I was a counsellor to sister Horne in the Senior Retrenchment Society. My husband was not well, we did all we could. He died on Sept. 1st, 1875 at the Historians Office.

Since that time Bathsheba Bigler Smith had spent her life as ever for others Family, Temple and Relief Society, being President of the General Relief Society (the first society of its kind in history) for ten years. She died Sept. 20, 1910, at Salt Lake City, at her daughter Bathsheba Merrills home, at the age of 88 years. She was the first woman to have her funeral service in
Bathsheba Bigler, wife of George A. Smith, Utah

Jacob G. Bigler, of Nephi, Utah

Louis Burtran Bigler II family, Oct. 1953

From l. to r: Louis Burtran Bigler II and wife Hazel; Richard Bigler and wife Arlene; Carolyn and Marilyn, daughters of Darlene; Darlene Bigler Williams.

B. row l. to r: Louis Burtran III; Anna Gae Bigler and her husband Robert Melroy; Barbara and husband David Louis Bigler; Wallace L. Williams husband of Darlene Bigler.
Henry W. Bigler,  
of St. George, Utah,  
Jan. 24, 1898

Adam C. Bigler,  
Farmington, Utah

Mr. and Mrs. Horace J. Bigler,  
Salt Lake City, 1914
Melissa Jane Bigler. Melissa also accompanied her brother Jacob G. Bigler to Far West, Missouri, in 1838. She married Alfred B. Lambson and eventually went to Salt Lake City. Two of her daughters, Julina and Edna, married Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of the Mormon Church.

Jacob Bigler and his son Henry William

Jacob Bigler, like his brother Mark, was also a farmer in Harrison Co., W. Va. One may gather an impression of his life from the Journal of his son Henry.

"My father and mother was married 24th of May 1814. My mothers maiden name was Elizabeth but usually they called her Betsy. She was the daughter of Basil and Polly Harvey. She was born 10th January 1794 in Montgomery County Maryland and the following are the names of father and mothers children:

Henry William born 28th August 1815.
Polly born 15th January 1818.
Hannah " 24th June 1820
Emeline " 21th of August 1821.
Bathsheba born at the close of 1820 or the forepart of 1821. My parents were poor but honest and religiously inclined they taught me my first letters and when old enough sent me to School one mile away taught by a methodist preacher by the name of David Masters. School in them days were poorly provided for there were no black boards used, no Seats with backs, the Seats were rough benches Supported upon great wooden legs inserted into 2 inch auger holes and 80 high that little childrens feet would not reach the floor."

"School houses were built of unhewed logs, the floor made of puncheons, the doors made of clapboards and hung on wooden hinges and to admit light into the School room an opening was made between two logs nearly the whole length of the School house and papered up, a large fire place between the jamb and in cold weather a huge fire made of logs in front of which could stand half a dozen or more children and warm at the Same time Spelling, reading, writing and to cipher as far as the Rule of three on proportion was a finished education. Grammar and geography was not taught in the Schools I went to.

"In the winter season farmers were up at an early hour, Stock fed and breakfast eaten by candlelight and the men off to work in their clearings and the children at an early hour off to School. Land was cleared by grubbing up the under brush, chopping down the trees, trimming up the brush and piling it in brush heaps and when it be cane dry it was burned mostly at night when there was but little wind and it was fine sport for children to them it was a fine sight to see the flames Shoot up So high as to lighten up the Surroundings almost light as day. the logs were rolled into heaps this was called Logrollings a day being appointed when men of the neighborhood came where we arrived about sun down and made welcome by all who appeared glad to see me and I was pleased to see them, not having seen my Father and family for over nine years..."
together and with their hand spikes rolled the logs into heap ready to be burned.

Rails made and the ground fenced in and made ready for the plow. The people made their own clothing and in almost every family was a loom, flax and tow linen for Shirts, linsey for women's dresses and men's clothing. Almost every head of a family was his own Shoemaker and I remember my father making what was called 'Shoepacks' made by sewing the upper and sole leather together and when finished they looked some what like a mocassin and in the Summertime, men, women and children went bare footed, this was said to be turning feet out to grass, and often on the Sabbath day the women carried their shoes and stockings in their handkerchiefs almost to where meeting was to be held for worship and then sit down on a log by the wayside and put them on. Household furniture was plain and simple. I never saw a Cooking stove before I was twenty years old. It was the Skillet, bake oven, iron pot and frying pan and in cold weather corn bread was baked on a board in front of the fire, this was called, 'Johnny cake' and the board called Johnny cake board and always kept handy to use for that purpose for baking Johnny cake.

The country where I lived was new and game plentiful and at proper season of the year my father's table was supplied with fat venison, wild turkey and honey taken from the bee trees found in the woods.

When acorns and nuts were plentiful it was called mast year and the farmers' hogs running at large in the woods fattened on them. I took delight to gather nuts of various kinds, chestnuts, hickory and walnuts and especially black walnuts and store them away in father's loft to crack and eat in the winter. The month of August and fore part of September was the time to diggin Sang and snake root, they were articles the merchants readily exchanged goods for. Sang was found in the woods in the rich heads of hollows or in the most fertile parts while Snake root was found on thiner Soil among the beech timber. Sang was easily discovered by its rich yellow leaves and red berries that grew on Stalks about a foot high. In the fall season when the leaves on the trees and bushes were practically all off, hunting for deer began ... Bears would climb chestnut trees to get the chestnuts this was called, 'Lopping time' for with their stong paws they would lop or bend in the limbs to get the nuts and become so fat that when shot and falling to the ground I have heard it said, that they would burst. Wild turkeys the same way. Turkeys were often caught in pens sometimes almost a whole flock at a time. My father was a great hunter for deer and for bee trees and being a chip of the old block I became fond of hunting and when about 17 years old my father made me the owner of a Rifle and like Daniel Boone the old Kentucky pioneer when young spent much of my time hunting. Here long account about hunting deer at a salt lick and bear.

The last of February and the first of March was the time for making sugar from the sugar trees and before the time come to open camp for making sugar troughs were made and placed at the sugar trees and spiles already made and when the time come for opening camp the trees were tapted
by boreing auger holes, and with a light mallet or hachet the piles were driven into the holes, the troughs holding from two to three gllons (sic) of sugar water, the kettles kep boiling day and night when there was a good run of Sugar water and every day sugar was made from 10, 20 and 30 pounds sugar made every day according to the supply of water from the Sugar trees, at such times every body who happened to be present children and all was made welcome to eat all the new sugar they wished. I was always delighted when Sugar making time come although it was hard work to gather Sugar water when there was a good run and to keep the kettles (3, 4 and 5) boiling which was done day and night."

Jacob's first wife, Elizabeth Harvey, died on Nov. 13, 1827, when their son Henry was 12 years old. Henry says in his Journal: "her funeral was preached by Levi Shinn a minister of the 'new light' as they were called, they believed in baptism by emersion. I do not remember that my mother belonged to any Church but from the fact that her funeral was preached by Mr. Shinn I am lead to think She believed in baptism in its true mode."

Jacob joined the Mormon Church (date not known) and Henry was baptized into that faith in July 1837. Then, Jacob his second wife and his entire family of nine children, including Henry, left Harrison Co. in April 1838 to join the Mormon Settlement at Far West, Missouri. The parents and children proceeded overland by wagon; Henry went by steamer from Marietta, down the Ohio River, up the Mississippi to the Missouri River and thence up that River almost to Far West which he reached in June, 1838. When mobs forced the Mormons to evacuate Far West, Jacob and his family moved with the Mormons to Quincy, Ill. in 1839.

Henry William Bigler, son of Jacob (photo Plate B). Soon after the move to Quincy in 1839, Henry received his first missionary assignment, working in St. Louis, Harrison Co., W. Virginia, and Indiana. Upon his return to Nauvoo, he was sent forth again with his cousin Jacob G. Bigler. Henry engaged in mission activity in Athens Co., Ohio, in Jackson Co., Va., and was in Virginia in July 1844 when all missionaries were recalled to Nauvoo following the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

When the Mormons evacuated Nauvoo in 1846, Jacob and his family joined the movement to Kanesville (Council Bluffs) Iowa. Jacob and family apparently joined the Daniel A. Miller Company and migrated to Utah in 1848 (he is described as a pioneer of Sept. 4, 1848 (1) and settled in Farmington, Utah, where he died Sept. 2, 1859.

Henry reached Kanesville June 22, 1846, where the Mormon Battalion (500 men under the eventual command of Col. Philip St. George Cook) was being recruited for service in the Mexican War. He enlisted and as stated

(1) Frank Essholm, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, 1913.
"In July 1846 the Battalion was made up and mustered into service. On the 21st at 12 o'clock we took up line of march for Fort Leavenworth, 200 miles distant, the men keeping time to the tune of 'The Girl I left Behind Me'. To me, as well as to the others, it was a solemn time ... leaving friends, near and dear relatives, not knowing for how long and perhaps to never see them again in this life. I bade my folks farewell and did not see them again for nine years."

Arriving at Fort Leavenworth, "the Battalion drew their clothing, money for the year, $122 most of which we sent back to our friends to help support them" and on Aug. 13th the Battalion set forth for Santa Fe, 700 miles distant. After incredible hardships, when supplies ran so low the men had to eat the sheep skins used under the pack saddles of their horses, the Battalion reached the Roman Catholic Mission of San Diego, California on Jan. 30, 1847—one of the longest cavalry marches on record in this country. (1)

Fighting in California had ended before the Mormon Battalion arrived there. The Battalion was discharged in 1847 and some members proceeded to Salt Lake City. Others sought employment in California. Among the latter were 9 Mormons from the Battalion, including Henry W. Bigler, employed by James W. Marshall to build a sawmill for Captain Sutter, 45 miles upstream from Capt. Sutter's fort, in the Coloma Valley. Here it was that Marshall discovered gold Jan. 24, 1848—the discovery that started the great California gold rush. The most accurate historical reference to the exact date of discovery is said to be that of Henry W. Bigler's Journal where he (a laborer at the sawmill) wrote:

"Monday 24th this day some kind of mettle was found in the tail race that looks like gold first discovered by James Marshall, the Boss of the Mill". (2)

"Sunday 30th Clear and has been all the last week our metal has been tride and prooves to be gold it is thought to be rich we have pict up more than a hundred dollars woth last week" (2)

"February 12, 1848. This afternoon I did not work. I borrowed Brown's gun, saying I would go hunting down the creek for ducks, but in reality to prospect for gold. Half a mile below the sawmill I noticed some bare rocks on the other side of the creek of the same kind as in the tail race, that seemed to say that gold was there. I picked up $1.50 worth lying on the bare rocks and in the seams." (3)

"Sunday February 20. Went up to my gold mine picked up about $17 worth." (3)

(1) Paul Bailey, Sam Brennan and the California Mormons, Los Angeles, 1953.
(2) As quoted in Elizabeth L. Egenhoff, The Elephant as They Saw it, Division of Mines, State of California, 1919, p. 31.
(3) As quoted in Leland H. Creer, Founding of an Empire, pp. 255 ff. Henry Bigler's spelling appears to have been "edited" in the Creer quotation.
Later in 1848, after the Sutter sawmill was completed, Henry Bigler went to Salt Lake City. The Church sent him back to California to mine in 1849 but after several months of mining there the Church assigned him to missionary work in the Hawaiian Islands where he arrived Dec. 12, 1850. Returning from Hawaiian mission work, he married Cynthia Jane Whipple in 1855 and settled in Farmington, Utah. After his third child was born in 1859, he was sent again to Hawaii. Returning from that mission he lived in Farmington until after his first wife died in 1874; and again he was assigned to missionary work in Hawaii where he served a total of 11 years.

Returning to Utah, he married Eleanor Emmett in 1878, at the age of 65, and was assigned to temple work at St. George, Washington Co., Utah where he lived quietly until he passed away Nov. 24, 1900. His only living child Eleanor Bigler Hepple, now 79, says of her father: "He was quiet, unassuming, did not preach or relate his experiences. If anyone wanted information about his life they would have to come to the house and just dig with questions to get him to talk."

Henry W. Bigler's obituary, as published in the Deseret Evening News, Nov. 26, 1900, follows:

"St. George, Utah, Nov. 24, 1900, 6 P.M. -- Henry W. Bigler died this morning at an early hour, of pneumonia.

The foregoing is a special dispatch to the Deseret News, received late on Saturday evening, announcing the death of one of the notable characters in the history of Western America, one who was a member of the famous Mormon Battalion, who was the first chronicler of the great gold discovery in California and was one of the discoverers, and who was a well known and highly respected pioneer worker in Utah.

Henry W. Bigler was past 85 years at the time of his death. He was born in what is now Harrison County, West Virginia, August 28, 1815. His parents were Jacob and Elizabeth Harvey Bigler.

Early in life, Henry W. Bigler cast his lot with the Latter-day Saints, and gathered with them to Nauvoo. When the call was made for the Mormon Battalion, he was one those exiled saints who enlisted for his country's cause in the war with Mexico, and on July 16, 1846, made the start westward on that unparalleled journey by an infantry force. He was a private in Company B, Mormon Battalion. With the others of that heroic band, he toiled and suffered, and finally triumphed in crossing the country and reaching California to aid in saving it to the great American Republic. Then, after being honorably discharged from service, he started for the Rocky Mountains there to rejoin the body of the Saints.

When this journey was began, word was received that those not provided with sufficient means for the trip should remain in California and earn some. This was the message from the Twelve Apostles, and Henry W. Bigler, being one of the number referred to, accepted the advice.
In the autumn of 1847, Henry W. Bigler received from Apostle George A. Smith the letter that announced to the Battalion members in the locality where he was the fact that on July 24th of that year, President Brigham Young and the Pioneers had arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

With Alexander Stevens, James S. Brown, James Barger, William Johnston, and Azariah Smith, also members of the Battalion, Bigler found employment at Sutter's mill race, on the American river. It was this company that discovered gold, and H. W. Bigler was the first to chronicle the event, the record being made in his diary on the day the precious metal was discovered. It was in January 24, 1848.

In a letter to the "News" written last September, Brother Bigler gave the following account of the gold discovery:

"I well remember all the particulars. By New Year's day, 1848, we had the dam in, and the tail race nearly completed. A man named James Werner had charge of some Indians who were at work, and James W. Marshall, our superintendent, had been in the habit of going down every afternoon to see how the Indians were progressing, for they had struck the bedrock, mostly of rotten granite, and the work was slow; but this time, when he went down, his eye caught the glittering of something that lay in the crevice on the base of the bedrock, a few inches under water. He sent a young Indian to Mr. Brown, who was at work in the mill yard whip-sawing, asking him to send him a tin plate. Brown was a top-sawer; he answered, "I wonder what Marshall wants with a tin plate," but he walked over to our shanty and gave one to the Indian. This was on Monday evening, in January, 1848. As we were quitting work for the day, Marshall came up from the tail race and said he believed he had found a gold mine. Someone remarked, "I guess there is no such luck." Nothing more was said then but just before going to bed, Marshall came into our shanty and said he believed he had found gold near the lower end of the race, that he had tried to melt some of the particles but could not do so; but before leaving us he said, "Brown, I want you and Bigler in the morning to shut down the headgate, throw in some saw-dust, rotten leaves and dirt, and make it all tight and I will see what there is." Next morning we did as directed, and while at work, we saw Marshall pass through the mill-yard and so on down the race. Brown and I went into breakfast, after which all hands went to work at the mill-yard.

'I was busy preparing to blow a blast of powder into the boulder that lay in the tail race near the flutter wheel, when Marshall came up carrying in his arms his old white hat, and with a wide grin, he said, "Boys, I believe I have found a gold mine." at the same time putting his hat on the work bench that stood in the mill-yard. In an instant all hands gathered round him, and sure enough in the top of his hat (the crown being knocked in a little), lay the pure metal. The pieces varied in size from small particles up to the size of a grain of wheat. The most, however, was in thin scales. The coarse pieces were in all shapes. Azariah Smith took from his pocket a $5 gold piece.

and we compared the two metals. We could plainly see the difference in their looks, which was due to the alloy in the coin. All were satisfied that it was pure gold, though not one in the crowd had ever seen gold before in its natural state. We were invited by Marshall to accompany him back to the spot where he had found it, and there were several other particles in the seams and crevices of the bedrock.

Mr. Marshall enjoined the mill hands not to say much about the discovery, until he had ascertained how extensive the mine was. Three or four days afterwards we began to be in want of provisions, and Marshall said he would go down to the fort and see why Sutter had not forwarded them. He would also take our gold and have it tested. He was gone a few days, and on his return he was asked what it was. His answer was, "Oh, boys, it is the pure stuff", and continuing, he said, "I and the old captain (meaning Sutter) locked ourselves up in a room and for half a day tried it, and the regulars down there wondered what was up and surmised we had found a quicksilver mine; for he said there was a quicksilver mine found by a woman down towards Monterey; but we let them sweat. We found our gold to agree with the encyclopedia, and we also applied aqua fortis. We then weighed it in water by balancing the dust against silver on a pair of scales held in the air. We let the scales down and when it came in contact with the water the gold went down, the silver up. So we were satisfied it was the pure stuff.'

Soon after the gold discovery, Mr. Bigler started for Utah, and settled in Salt Lake City. He was one of the original owners of lots in the Seventeenth ward.

In 1850, Elder Bigler was one of the missionaries sent to the Sandwich Islands, arriving there Dec. 12, 1850. A number of the missionaries became discouraged, but Elders H. W. Bigler, James Keeler, Wm. Farrer and James Hawkins remained with Elder George Q. Cannon and they successfully opened the Hawaiian mission. With the others, Elder Bigler returned to Utah in 1851.

The subsequent life of the deceased has been one of activity. As a pioneer in Utah, particularly in the southern part of the State, he has been an active, energetic man, well and favorably known. He goes down to the grave full of years and with an honorable record before all who have known him."}

Present Bigler descendants in Utah, New Mexico and Arizona

Mary Bigler descendants now living in Utah are members of the Bigler genealogical association. The President of that association is Mr. Louis Burtran Bigler, Jr. (8650 South 1300 West, West Jordan, Utah) and the Vice President Mr. Horace J. Bigler (2975 Melborne Street, Salt Lake City). Both have been generous of their time in furnishing information for this chapter on Jacob Bigler's family.

When the Society of California Pioneers held 50th Anniversary, they formed the Mormon Church. Some of the members were Henry W. Bigler, a new sect of people, and the Bishop, so he came up with 3 others who were at the discovery to a great meeting in San Francisco in 1898. This photo of Henry W. Bigler, Plate 18, following p. 28 will show what he attended that celebration.
Louis Burtran Bigler (photo Plate A) is a fifth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., West Virginia, through Jacob’s son Mark who died in Quincy, Illinois. Louis Burtran was born on his father’s farm at Fountain Green, Utah, January 17, 1899. In 1918, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, played in the military band and was a bugler at Fort Douglas, Utah. In 1919-21, he served as a Mormon missionary in Illinois. On December 20, 1922, he married Hazel Anderson, a grand niece of Azariah Smith who worked with Henry W. Bigler at Captain Sutter’s sawmill, Jan. 21, 1848. Mr. Louis Burtran Bigler managed a large department store in Spanish Fork, Utah, and later was wholesale manager for the Baldwin Piano Company in the western states until 1930. Since 1938, he has operated his own general agency in Salt Lake City of the General American Life Insurance Co. of St. Louis, Mo. He owns Biglerbrook Jersey Farms at West Jordan, a 40 acre farm with 125 head of registered Jersey cattle, that have won many blue and purple ribbons in the last 18 years. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler are active in the Mormon Church, and were members of the world famous Tabernacle Choir. Mr. Bigler was ordained Bishop of the Wandamere Ward of the Mormon Church in 1952. Mrs. Bigler has served as President of both the Relief Society and the Young Women’s Mutual Improvement Association of the West Jordan Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Burtran Bigler have five children. Darlene, born Oct. 19, 1923, married Wallace L. Williams and now lives in Salt Lake City. Both are professional musicians. Anna Gae, born April 28, 1925, married Robert E. Melroy and also lives in Salt Lake City. She worked as a passenger agent for the United Air Lines for ten years and he is a conductor on the Union Pacific Railroad. David Louis, born May 9, 1927, married Barbara Daynes. He enlisted in the Navy as a radio man 1944-46, received his BA in social science from the University of Utah in 1950, served as communications technician with the Navy during the Korean War 1950-51 and is now assistant manager of public relations of the Salt Lake City office of the United States Steel Company. Richard A., born March 27, 1930, married Arlene Fernley, served as missionary in New Zealand and the Cook Island for three years, graduated with honors in architectural design and city planning from the University of California and is now a member of the landscape architect firm of Charles Everson and Richard Bigler of Hayward, Cal. Louis Burtran, born April 3, 1935, married Elizabeth Hofer, studied at the University of Utah, served in the Naval Reserve for 5 years, was a missionary in the southern states for 2 years and is now a partner in the Biglerbrook Jersey Farms of West Jordan, Utah.

Mr. Horace J. Bigler (photo Plate B) is a fourth generation descendant of Jacob Bigler of Harrison Co., W. Va., through Jacob’s son Jacob who settled in Farmington, Utah. He is the grandson of Adam C. Bigler of Farmington (photo Plate B). Horace Bigler was born Oct. 18, 1901 on his father’s farm at Plymouth, Utah and married Marie Schow, April 23, 1927. He graduated from Utah State College and has taught school all his life, now being principal of a junior high school in Salt Lake City. They have a son Glade S. Bigler, recently graduated from law school, who is a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

One of Jacob G. Bigler’s sons, Charles Edwin Bigler (b. Dec. 7, 1858 at Nephi, Utah and d. Sept. 30, 1935) lived for many years at Fruitland, New Mexico and in Maricopa County, Arizona, where some of his children were born. It is probable that some of their descendants are still living in those areas.
Israel Bigler was born in 1747. We lack written confirmation on the place of his birth but since his father had bought various tracts of land in Frederick County, Maryland in 1743, 1750 and 1761, it seems probable that he was born and raised in Frederick County.

The first written evidence of his presence there comes from the quaint legal language of an old deed, dated April 11, 1785, where Israel Bigler of Frederick County bought for "sixteen pounds Current Gold and Silver Money ... the two following Lots of Ground in the Town of Liberty lying and being in Frederick County aforesaid on a draught of Linganore called piney Run, being part of a Tract of Land called Dukes Woods, the aforesaid Lots being N. 195 and 196 ... in the aforesaid Town of Liberty Together with all and Singular the Buildings and Improvements ...." Israel Bigler of Frederick County sold these two lots for "twenty five pounds current Gold and Silver", on April 17, 1789. And "At the same time came Catharine Bigler wife of the said Israel Bigler and being by us /The witnesses/ privately examined apart from and out of the Hearing of her said Husband declared that she acknowledged her right of the Lots within mentioned, and that she did the same freely and voluntarily without being induced thereto by fear or threats of ill Usage from her said Husband or for fear of his displeasure". (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 6:15 and WR 8:1486)

On Aug. 6, 1791, Israel Bigler and his neighbors, Thos. Durbin, Jacob Diedor, William Smith, Christopher Erb, John Hull and John Garber, made an agreement that: "whereas we have Lands adjoining each other and being desirous of settling the lines thereof Have agreed and set up stones at the following corners /here a description of where the stones are located/ And we further agree that the above lines shall be division lines between us and our Heirs and Assigns forever ...." (Frederick Co. Deeds WR 10:279). This agreement carried a note of finality—it was to run "forever".

Mark Bigler II sold to his brother Israel, on April 13, 1802, the lands he had inherited from his father. On April 7, 1801, Israel Beigler of Frederick Co. and "Catharine Beigler wife of the said Israel Beigler" resold these lands: under one deed to John Garber the tract called Marks Delight and a part of the tract called the Resurvey on Hulls Choice along the great Pipe Creek, containing 100 acres, for 300 pounds current money; and under another deed to George Mouse the tract called Beigers addition to Hulls Choice and a portion of the Resurvey on Hulls Choice, including Hickory Bottom, containing 169 acres, for 1150 pounds current money (Frederick Co. Deeds, WR 25:579, 597).

Amanda Bigler Drake's letter to her nephew Israel Bigler, in 1907 stated: "My grandfather Israel Bigler bought property in Maryland and married his wife there. Her name was Catherine Garber. All their children were born there. He had four sons who, when they grew up, wanted to go west so they all came to Pennsylvania. Grandfather bought the old home­stead in Washington County and lived there until his younger son /David
who later migrated to Darke Co., Ohio to came of age. Then he sold his home to his younger son and bought the place where Isaac Bigler now lives. Isaac, son of Benjamin, son of Michael, son of Israel - see photo of log house in Plate VIII where Isaac and Benjamin lived and where Israel probably lived in his old age. My father, son of Israel, your Grandfather, bought the land where you live from the Government, went to work and cleared a few acres and put up that log house. You can remember it I suppose. Then he went back to Maryland and married my mother, your Grandmother, whose name was Catherine Booher. They rode from Maryland to Pennsylvania on horseback and brought all their goods on horses. They moved into the little log house where all us children were born, and they lived there until Uncle David sold the place to Father. We moved upon it when I was 2½ years old. Now you can see you belong to the fourth generation that has lived on these farms. I do wish you could buy your place so it would still be in the family. Affectionately your Aunt Amanda Drake. (1)

Garber Family

Catherine Garber, wife of Israel Bigler, was a daughter of the immigrant Jacob Garber who arrived at Philadelphia on the Patience, Sept. 15, 1753, that sailed from Rotterdam. On this ship were Jacob Garber, age 21, his brother Simon, age 22, another brother Michael age 20, and a Jacob Bickler age 21. (2) Jacob's name appears on the ship passenger list in German script with the German spelling Gerber. The Garber brothers came supposedly from the Palatinate where, according to family tradition, their parents had fled to escape religious persecution in their original home, Basle, Switzerland. The name Garber is very common in the Canton of Berne where the Biglers originated.

There is no known record of Simon and Michael Garber after their arrival at Philadelphia in 1753. Jacob Garber settled eventually near Johnsville, Frederick Co., Maryland where he was a member of the Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren. There is no record of his burial place but many Garbers were interred in the cemetery beside the Beaver Dam Brethren Church. (3) The Garber family historian surmises that one of the unmarked graves in Beaver Dam Cemetery might be that of Jacob Garber. In view of the close relations between the Garber and Bigler families, one wonders whether Mark Bigler I might, also, have been a member of the Beaver Dam Church of the Brethren and whether he, too, might be buried there or in the Pipe Creek Brethren Cemetery.

From context of letter she was describing her grandfather Israel Bigler, although at times she had him confused with her great grandfather Mark Bigler I, the immigrant.

(2) Garber, Genealogical Record Vol. I No. 1, p. 13 ff.

Jacob Garber (name of wife unknown) had many children, including:

1. Catherine, b. May 10, 1758, probably at Johnsville, Md., m. Israel Bigler.
2. Rev. Jacob, b. near Johnsville, Md., May 11, 1767. Farmer and cobbler, like his father, m. Mary Magdalene Eller, Dec. 3, 1793 and moved to West Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn., sometime thereafter (possibly 1794) where he bought a farm near Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. He lived there until 1834 when, together with his family, he moved in a Conestoga wagon to Jefferson twp., Richland Co., Ohio where he died Jan. 19, 1852. Among his children were Samuel Bigler Garber (1818-1905) and Michael Garber (father of Daniel, father of Jacob S., father of Clark M. Garber, 87 N. Main St., Butler, Ohio, whose historical research furnished all of the information in this chapter on the Garber family and additional light on the early history of the Bigler family).
3. Barbara, b. 1771, d. 1851, m. Joseph Grable (b. 1778, d. 1811), and had 17 children.
4. Jonathan, b. near Johnsville, Md., Jan. 23, 1774. Farmer and cobbler, m. Elizabeth Hufford and moved to Washington Co., Penn. where he bought a farm near Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. He died July 28, 1850 and was buried on his farm near the Ten Mile Brethren Church.
5. Samuel, m. Anna Mock, d. 1811.

Move to Washington Co., Penn.

Israel Bigler appears to have moved from Frederick Co. to Washington Co., in western Pennsylvania in 1801, for beginning in that year we find recorded in the Washington County Court House various deeds—then called "indentures"—of his land transactions, as follows:

1801. Purchase by Israel Beaglear of 225½ acres in "two tracts or parcels of land situated on the waters of Ten Mile Creek" in Amwell twp. on July 11, for $1571.50.
1806. Purchase by Israel Bigler of a tract "containing 72 acres one rood and 16 perches of land strict measure ... situated on the waters and ten mile Creek called Black Oak flat" in W. Bethlehem twp. on Feb. 11, at $10 per acre — totalling slightly over $720; and of an adjacent one acre on Nov. 19, 1805 for $10.
1807. Sale by Israel and Catharine Bigler on May 29 of 11½ acres of their land in Amwell and W. Bethlehem twps. to their son Michael for $400; and of 90 3/4 acres to their son Jacob for $400. Both deeds were signed "Israel Bigler and Catharine Bigler.
1810. Purchase by Israel Bigler, on May 12, of 50 acres in W. Bethlehem twp. for $450.

From John Larson

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Jacob Garber's Will, dated June 17, 1843 (Washington Co., Penn. Will's Vol. 25, p. 218), refers to his "beloved Wife Barbara Garber" as deceased. It is signed by "Jno. Garber" and "Mary M. Garber, mark.

Historical and Genealogical Record Vol 1 (1931) p. 104, which states Barbara Garber Garber

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1819. Purchase on June 25 by Israel Bigler of a parcel on Ten Mile Creek in W. Bethlehem twp, adjacent to Abel McFarland's lands, of "1/2 acres and 26 perches" for $941.50.

1819. Sale on June 25 by Israel and Catharine Bigler to David Begler for $1900 of 101/4 acres in W. Bethlehem twp from tracts that Israel Bigler had bought July 11, 1804, Feb. 11, 1806, Nov. 19, 1806, and April 5, 1808. The 101/4 acres were described as being adjacent to the lands of Abel McFarland and also to the lands of Michael and Jacob Bigler. The deed was signed by "Israel Bigler and Catherine Bigler".

Israel Bigler's lands were located at the southern tip of West Bethlehem two on the east side of Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek, near Franklin Cemetery. This is picturesque mountain country, with clear water streams that once must have teemed with trout - a land of hilly uplands suitable only for pasture and wild life, and narrow river valleys where good crops flourish in the rich black soil.

Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington Co., 1876, printed by Otto Krebs, Pittsburg, in the public library of Washington, Penn., shows the Bigler farms as they existed in 1876, namely:

76 acres, owned by Henry Bigler (photo of his farm Plate VIII where Perry Bigler lived as a boy. The ridge on the right of the photo leads to the David Bigler farm on Highland Ridge road.)

66 acres, owned by Benjamin Bigler, on the east side of Highland Ridge road (photo of log house Plate VIII). This log house is where Benjamin and his son Isaac Bigler lived. Israel and Catherine Bigler, the grandparents of Benjamin Bigler, probably lived on this farm in their old age. Aug 6, 1944 Perry Bigler and Norman Brown made aerial survey in low (now 117 acres, owned by David Bigler, on the west side of Highland Ridge road;

18 acres, owned by Jacob Bigler. This and the other farms listed above were in West Bethlehem twp;

101/4 acres, owned by Israel Bigler, (1) on the west side of Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek in Amwell twp.

Henry, Benjamin and David were sons of Michael Bigler, the son of Israel and Catherine Bigler. Jacob and Israel were sons of either Jacob or Samuel Bigler, both of whom were also sons of Israel and Catherine Bigler.


Letter from Mrs. Thomas Bigler Box 27 Jefferson (Geneva Co.) Penn., daughter-in-law of Jesse F. Bigler, to Norman Brown Jan 29, 1942 to Jesse F. Bigler - CONTINUE.

(1) This Israel Bigler was listed in the Census of 1850 in Amwell twp, as follows:

Elizabeth Bigler, age 37. b. Penn.
Children: George, Jacob, Eunice, Nancy, Hannah, Agness and Mary - all born in Penn.

From Jesse F. Bigler, s. of Benjamin, s. of Michael and Catherine Bigler (son of Israel and Catherine Bigler). "The log house on Highland Ridge. I photo Plate VIII. I you asked about. Yes my father Benjamin got this house from his father Michael. Benjamin went to Hampshire in this house in 1854, all his children were born there. I do not know if Michael Bigler ever lived there, but he did buy it from his son. His deceased name was Israel or Catherine Bigler, see p. 42. From this I think it quite certain that Israel or Catherine Bigler lived in this log cabin in their old age."

...
Children of Israel and Catherine Bigler

Israel and Catherine Bigler had seven children, according to the records of the settlement of their estate that I examined in the Court House of Washington, Penn., in Nov. 1958. They were as follows:

1. Mary Magdalene. b. 1766 d. Oct. 15, 1829, age 63 years. Buried on a farm, exact locality unknown, in Washington County. m. George Smith. Washington C.H. records indicate they had at least four children: Israel; Catherine wife of Caleb Hall; David m. Elizabeth; Mary m. Samuel DeCarp.

2. Samuel b. 1776 d. Mar. 5, 1819, age 73 years. m. Susannah (1) who d. Aug. 18, 1819, age 68 years. Both buried in Zollarsville Cemetery, Washington Co., where four other Biglers (2) by birth or marriage are buried.

3. Jacob. b. 1778 d. June 21, 1849, age 71 yrs, h mos, and 8 days. m. Nancy Penn who d. Jan. 15, 1835 age 46 yrs. Both were buried in Franklin Cemetery.

4. Michael. b. Jan. 16, 1782. - in Maryland according to the Census of 1850. d. Mar. 3, 1855, age 73 yrs 1 mo, 18 days. m. Catherine Booher (or Booker) who d. April 5, 1814, age 58 yrs., 11 mos., 15 days. Both were buried in Franklin Cemetery. They had 12 children: David, Henry M., Benjamin, Ann, Amanda, Eleanor, Rebecca, Sarah, Mary, Susan, Simon and Catherine.

5. David b. 1787 d. Aug. 25, 1814, age 57 yrs., 3 mos and 22 days. m. Nancy Graybill who d. Dec. 11, 1858, age 65 yrs., 3 mos, and 22 days. They migrated from Washington Co., Penn. in the fall of 1830 to settle near Oakland Church in Darke Co., Ohio.


7. Susannah. No information, except reference to her as daughter of Israel Bigler in documents relating to settlement of his estate.

Information on Israel and Catherine Bigler’s children (except David, Catherine and Susannah) in this chapter came from unpublished Notes, compiled about 1937, by William S. Bigler (son of Henry M., son of Michael, son of Israel) with the assistance of his close friend Clark M. Garber. The

(1) William S. Bigler Notes. In view of the controversy over maiden name of David Bigler’s wife—whether Grable or Rarick—one wonders whether William S. Bigler—not knowing of the existence of David Bigler—may have assumed incorrectly that Nancy Grable was the wife of Samuel rather than David; or whether there might have been two Nancy Grables. It appears odd that the name immediately following Samuel Bigler’s name in the Church Book of Names of Ten Mile Church of the Brethren in 1842 is Susannah Bigler— for the custom was in the Church Book of Names to write the wife’s name immediately after the husband’s name.

(2) Michael H. Bigler b. 9/15/1868 and d. 1/20/1909; Alice Horn Bigler b. 7/7/1879 and d. 1/19/1909; Frances B. Bigler b. 1908 and d. 1928; Weaver Bigler b. 2/11/1910 and d. 2/23/1910.


Notes were loaned to me in November, 1958 by Perry Bigler, son of William S. Bigler, of RD 1, Marianna, Penn. The Bigler Notes mention only four children of Israel and Catherine Bigler - Samuel, Jacob, Michael and Mary Magdalene - as he was apparently unaware of the other three, namely David and Catherine who had migrated to Ohio and Susannah of whom virtually nothing is known. Perry Bigler told me that he, too, was unaware that some of the Israel Bigler's children had migrated to Ohio. Thus the curious coincidence that within a century and a quarter the generation of Biglers living in Washington County had lost the memory of their early kinsmen who had gone to Ohio and the generation of Ohio Biglers had lost the memory of their ancestors from Washington Co., Penn. The Ohio Biglers knew only that their ancestor David Bigler had come to Darke Co., Ohio from somewhere in Pennsylvania or Maryland but the names of his parents were forgotten.

The connection between the Ohio and Pennsylvania Biglers was rediscovered when I found a cryptic reference in one of Nicodemus Bigler's (son of David) letters that an "old Congrsman Nicodemus Macfarlan" had carried him in his arms when he was a baby in Pennsylvania. Following this clue, I found that the Census of 1820 listed in West Bethlehem twp., Washington Co., Penn. an Abel McFarland living near the Israel, Michael and David Bigler families. Meanwhile, Edythe Neff, of Syracuse, Indiana, recalled notes she had made from a notebook long since lost, belonging to her grandfather Andrew Bigler (son of David), stating that he had come from Washington County, Penn. I learned from Boyd Crumrine's History of Washington County, Philadelphia, 1882, that Israel and Catherine Bigler had been members of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren, of W. Bethlehem twp., Washington County, during the pastorate of Rev. Helft before 1838 (and after 1832). But I had no way of knowing whether this Israel Bigler was the ancestor of the Ohio and Indiana Biglers. With these leads, I visited Washington County, Penn. in Nov. 1958, found Mr. Perry Bigler who lives near the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren and learned from him the history of the Biglers in that county, and through the Washington Court House records of their direct connection with our ancestor David Bigler of Darke Co., Ohio.

Membership in Ten Mile Church of the Brethren

Israel and Catherine Bigler were members of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren in West Bethlehem twp. (Plate VIII). This congregation, which some say was established before the Revolutionary War (others say about 1800 when its membership numbered 75), did not have a regular church building until 1832 when the present one room brick structure was built on the mountain ridge overlooking the beautiful hills and valleys of West Bethlehem township. (1) The

(1) Rev. W. J. Hamilton, Two Centuries of the Church of the Brethren in Western Pennsylvania, 1771-1956, Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois, 1953. Rev. Hamilton, now serving as a pastor at Cumberland, Md., 105 N. Cedar Street, wrote me on Dec. 16, 1958 that he had studied both the Crumrine history and an old book in the Meadville, Pa, library and had come to the conclusion that the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren was "settled" prior to 1759 and that it was regarded then as being in the Colony of Virginia until 1767. Her father, John, was a "man of Bishop family" and his home was in Ten Mile. He was called the "Spohn meeting house." I found in the original minutes, dated 1850 the original building had windows on the north side where the two doors were now."""
THE BIGLER FARMS
From Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Penn., 1876
Henry Bigler farm, viewed from Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn., 1958

Ten Mile Church of Brethren, Washington Co., Penn., 1958

Benjamin Bigler log house near Franklin Cemetery, 1958
Ten Mile Church of Brethren, Washington Co., Penn., 1958

Church built 1832 on tract of land transferred to Church and Cemetery by Joseph Grabill, father of Henry Grabill who m. David Bigler and settled near Columbus, Ind. (in Adams Township, Delaware County, Ohio). Joseph Grabill’s wife was Barbara Grabill, sister to Rev. Jacob Grabill (humbled by Mary Magdalene Keller) and one pastor of Ten Mile Church of Brethren. Photo of Ten Mile Church by Norman Burns.

Henry Bigler farm, viewed from Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn., 1958

Letter from Mrs. Thomas Bigler, Deerfield, Franklin Co., Penn., re: deceased Henry’s father, F. Bigler, 9th Benjamine Bigler, son of Michael and Catherine Schmucker Bigler, son of Jacob and Catherine Bigler, addressed to Norman Burns on 23rd, 1954:

The log house on Hobbord Ridge. Ever photo below you ordered about my open Benjamin, and dear friend his father Michael, Benjamin went to heaven in this house in 1954.

all of his children went from there. I do not know if Michael Bigler was dead they listed below.

Benjamin Bigler log house near Franklin Cemetery, 1958

"In Memory of Cathrine, Consort of Israel Bigler who departed this life July 11th 1839 Aged 81 Years 5 Mo 21 Days." Franklin Cemetery.

David Bigler Died Aug. 25, 1844 Aged 57 Y 3 M. 22 D. (David Bigler farm near Oakland Church)

Nancy Bigler Died Dec 14, 1858 Aged 65 Y 3 M 22 D. (David Bigler farm near Oakland Church)
building today is said to be virtually the same as when originally constructed, except that the brick fireplace in the rear of the building, (used in connection with the Brethren's love feast), was torn down a year ago. The floor is of very wide boards, as was the custom in the old days. When I attended services there on Nov, 16, 1958, the congregation had perhaps 30 members from the rural area of the township, Members of the congregation had brought bags of potatoes and other farm produce, which were placed near the pulpit, for donation to the Brethren's old folks home. When I visited this church, I felt something of the serenity that always seems to be associated with Brethren rural places of worship.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles Ross (R.D. 1, Marianna, Penn.), daughter of Rev. Russell T. Idleman, who was pastor of this church from 1909 to 1938, I was able to examine the original Church Book of Names of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. The first page of this ledger is a longhand list of names in pencil under the caption "organized by Elder Heift" (which Crumrine says was before 1838 but after 1832) which includes the name "Israel Bigler" and immediately following it the name "Catharine Bigler". (1) The next page consists of names written in ink under the heading "members received prior to the year 1838" but there are no Biglers.

(1) First page, in pencil longhand - "Organized by Elder HEIFT"

| Jacob GABER minister               | John Miller Sr.               |
| Daniel Spohn                        | John Miller Jr.               |
| Sally Spohn                         | Abraham Miller               |
| Israel Bigler                       | John Miller                  |
| Catharine Bigler                    | Nancy Miller                 |
| Andrew Wise                         | John Lane                    |
| Samuel Thomas                       | Hannah Leaser                |
| Henry Tanner Minister               | Robert Cuthery               |
| Joseph Grable Sr.                   | Peter Swihart                |
| Barbara Grable                      | Joshua Swihart               |
| Jacob F. Spohn                      | Rebecca Swihart              |
| John Spohn                          | Ezekiel Swihart              |
| Anna Spohn                          | Elisabeth Swihart            |

See brief account of Ten Mile Church of Brethren, West Baldwin, Ten Mile, Washington Co., Penn in Clark Gables GABER HISTORICAL AND GENERATIONAL RECORD Vol I No 1, 1957 p. 94 - Vol I No 3, p. 234. A copy of the Church Book by Names of this church, kindly made available by Mrs. Charles Ross, has been placed in the Library of Manchester College, Manchester, Indiana.
in this list. (1) The only other Biglers listed in the early years (before 1857) are "Samuel Bigler" followed immediately thereafter by "Susannah Bigler", in 1842. There are many Grables, Grabills, and Garbers listed in the early years but no Raricks. According to the Garber family historian, many early members of the congregation, including the Biglers, Garbers, Grables, Grumrines, Koutzas, Ellers and Swiharts, had come from Frederick Co., Md. Rev. Jacob Garber, listed in the Church Book of Names as a pastor at Ten Mile Church of the Brethren, was the brother of Catharine Garber Bigler and Barbara Garber Grable of that congregation.

There are no Biglers in this congregation at present, nor in the nearby Highland Church of the Brethren (a split-off from the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren). Nor are there any Bigler markers in the cemeteries of either church. Perry Bigler, who lives between the two churches, told me he never knew any Biglers in Washington County had been members of the Brethren Church. His own family had been Baptist, attending North Ten Mile Baptist Church in Amwell twp., in the graveyard of which his grandparents Henry and Mary Fulton Bigler were buried. Twenty-one Biglers by birth or marriage were buried in that Baptist cemetery. Perry Bigler, now a member of the Christian denomination, said that most of the Biglers in Washington Co. were Baptists.

Many Biglers are still living in Washington County, Penn. Some are descendants of Israel's son, Michael; and others may be descendants of Israel's sons, Jacob and Samuel, both of whom lived and died in West Bethlehem twp. Among Michael's descendants are Perry Bigler and his sister Edith, R.D. 1, Marianna, Penn. Perry Bigler (photo Plate X), a retired dairy farmer and enthusiastic fox hunter, lives on his 127 acre farm near the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. As a boy, he lived for some time on his Grandfather Henry Bigler's farm (photo Plate VIII). Another descendant of Michael Bigler was Henry Bigler who died a few years ago, a former schoolteacher prominent in local Baptist activities, whose biography appears in Forrest's History of Washington County, 1926, as head of the Hazel-Atlas glass plant in the city of Washington, Penn. Many of his children are still living there.

(1) Second page, in ink longhand - "Members received prior to the year 1838"

- John Spohn, Sen. Elder
- Mary Spohn
- Margaret Weaver
- Barbary Grabill
- Barbary Grabill Pigeon Creek
- Jonathan Garber
- Elisabeth Garber
- Jacob Shidler
- Elisabeth Shidler
- Magdalena Eller
- Susanna Moore
- Peter Shidler
- David Wise Sen
- Elisabeth Staley
- George Wise Sen
- Margaret Wise
- Elisabeth Zimmerman
- Samuel Grabill

- Mary Grabill
- Daniel Grabill
- Abigail Grabill
- John Anthony
- Elisabeth Anthony
- Catharine Knight
- Nancy Boocher
- Matthias Tombaugh
- Rachel Tombaugh
- John Leatherman
- Eleanor Totten
- --Allens
- Rebecca Hartzook
- Elisabeth Arnold
- Daniel Gayman
- Mary Swihart
- Elisabeth Swihart
- Susannah D. Camp
Burial in Franklin Cemetery, Washington Co., Penn.

Israel and Catherine Bigler are buried in a little cemetery, overlooking the Little North Fork of Ten Mile Creek, in West Bethlehem twp. This is Franklin Cemetery, surrounded by a stone wall and overgrown with broom grass, which looks forth over the Bigler farms. Here 23 Biglers by birth or descent have found their last resting place. All of their markers were still standing when I visited this cemetery with Perry Bigler on November 16, 1958, except that of Michael which had fallen down but bore a still legible inscription.

Israel Bigler's stone marker bears this inscription: "In Memory of Israel Bigler who departed this life Dec. 15, 1838 Aged 91 Years". Beside his marker is that of his wife: "In Memory of Cathrine, Consort of Israel Bigler who departed this July 11th 1839 Aged 81 Years 5 Mo 21 Days" (see Plate IX). These were the graves of my great, great, great grandparents who were young when the American Revolution began. Here rested Israel Bigler who had made a boundary line with his neighbors in Frederick Co., Maryland that was to last "forever"—and Catherine who had agreed to the sale of their land in Frederick "voluntarily without being induced thereto by fear or threat of ill usage from her said Husband or for fear of his displeasure". Here they rested together, as they must have prayed together in the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren for the welfare of their son, David, and his family in the wilderness of western Ohio.

Israel and Catherine Bigler left no will. Their store of worldly goods was not large—a small hill farm of 4 1/2 acres, 2 chairs valued at $1.50, one pair of spectacles valued at 25 cents, one lamp valued at 12 1/2 cents, miscellaneous furniture, and "1 Family Bible & 1 Book" valued at 75 cents. Except for their Bible, neither Israel nor his brother Mark II seem to have cared much for books. David Bigler, then living in Darke Co., Ohio, empowered his son Daniel to act for him in respect of David's share of the "estate of my father, the said Israel deceased" and also for David's right acquired from "my brother Samuel Bigler, of in to and over both the real and personal estate of my said deceased father Israel Bigler, the said Samuel Bigler, with the assent of my said father, hereuntoforesaid, to wit on the 15th September 1818, having for a valuable consideration sold to me all his share of the real and personal estate of which my said father might die possessed and seized" (power of attorney signed by David Bigler before Clerk of Common Pleas Court of Darke Co., Ohio, Mar. 12, 1818 and filed at the Washington Co. Court House). This power of attorney from Quincy, Ohio has the signature of Daniel Bigler acting in his father David Bigler's name.

The estate was settled by an Administrator named David Evans, appointed Aug. 17, 1839. His Account, filed at Washington County Court House, records the assets of Israel and Catherine Bigler's estate at $1315.23 as follows:

"A True and perfect Inventory and appraisement of goods and Chattels rights & Credits which were of Israel Bigler late of West Bethlehem..."
Township, Washington County Deceased, September 2nd 1839.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Tin (?) plate Stove &amp; pipe</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chest</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Family Bible &amp; 1 Book</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Chairs</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair Spectacles &amp; Case</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pocket Book</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Small Box</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lamp</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promissory notes</td>
<td>68.63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim on Sam'l Bigler</td>
<td>$12.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash rec'd from sale of Real Estate</td>
<td>$1208.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deed recorded sale on Dec. 2, 1840 of tract "containing 47 acres and 26 perches" in West Bethlehem twp. to the highest bidder, Michael Bigler, for $1208.50. This according to the Deed was all the land possessed by Israel Bigler at the time of his death.

Amount of Interest received
Total assets of estate
Of which payments made by Administrator on debts & expenses
"Balance Remaining in hand of Administrator subject to distribution according to law":
Michael Bigler, Share in full $124.47
Jacob Bigler, Share in full $124.47
Susannah Beeler, Share in full $124.47
for David Bigler $248.94
Catherine Bigler Shidler, Share in full $124.47
According to power of attorney, dated Mar. 25, 1811 "I, John Shidler of the County of Holmes and State of Ohio and Katharine my wife late Katharine Bigler one of the daughters and heirs of the estate of Israel Bigler of Washington County ... Katharine Bigler is entitled to one seventh part of all property belonging to the said estate of Israel Bigler."

Four children, apparently of Israel's daughter Mary Magdalene Smith (she died Oct. 15, 1829) who married George Smith.

They were: Israel Smith, Catherine Smith, David Smith and Mary Smith DeCamp, each of whom received $31.11 3/4.

Washington Orphans Court 1812, Vol. E, p. 36 notes Court order to sell farm to Bigler $1208.50. Sale held on premises Dec. 23, 1839 and Michael Bigler was highest bidder at $32.50 per acre. That described as containing 50 acres more or less. Court order specified land to be sold as Israel's personal estate was not large enough to pay his debt.
David Bigler was born in 1787, probably in Frederick County, Md., and moved from there with his parents to Washington Co., Penn., in 1804. The first written evidence of his presence in Washington Co. is a land deed of June 25, 1819 noting that "Israel Bigler and Catharine his Wife of the township of West Bethlehem sold to David Begler of the same place ... in consideration of the sum of $1900 ... a piece of land lying and being on the waters of ten mile creek ... containing one hundred and four acres with the allowance of six per cent for roads". The deed was signed "Israel Bigler and Catharine Begler".

David's wife Nancy was born in 1793 but we do not have a record of the date of her marriage, as Washington Co. marriage records are not available before 1885. Some of her descendants in Ohio assumed that her maiden name was Harrick. A biographical reference to her daughter Rachel, written in her daughter's lifetime (see below under Rachel Bigler), says that Rachel Bigler's parents were David and Nancy Graybill Bigler. Charles H. Bigler, of Darke Co., Ohio, a grandson of David and Nancy Bigler, wrote me on Jan. 17, 1959: "David Bigler's wife was Grable and was born in Pa likely near Washington Pa. Wish I knew more about the family. I only know what my mother told me. I am not so sure of the spelling, whether it was spelled with an O or likely C. They attended the old lower Harris Creek church until the Oakland church was founded. I am quite sure Moses Bigler was one of the founders of Oakland Church".

Mary Hapner of 1129 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona (daughter of Isabel Maurer Halladay, daughter of Julia Ann Maurer, daughter of David and Nancy Bigler) wrote Julia Ann Cary, Jan. 26, 1959, that according to her memory "I am positive your great grandmother Bigler's name was Graybill. I have often heard mother speak about the fact that her grandmother was a Graybill. I know that she often wondered about a man that was quite prominent in the Brethren Church, by that name, whether he might be a relative. Mrs. Hapner wrote me on July 3, 1960 that she had found a notation in her mother's family history which stated "Nancy Grabill Bigler died Dec. 11th, age 65 yrs 3 mos., and 22 days." It seems certain, therefore, that David Bigler's wife was Nancy Graybill and in all probability a member of the Grable or Graybill family mentioned in the Church Book of Names of the Ten Mile Church of the Brethren. Greybill (Krehbiel) is a common family name in the Bernese country of Switzerland.

Most, and probably all, of David and Nancy's children were born in Washington Co., Penn. Those included: Andrew, the eldest born Feb. 25, 1816, Rachel, Moses, Daniel, Amos, Barbara, Julia Ann, Phoebe, Nancy, Lydia, Nicodemus born May 10, 1829, Delila born Aug. 21, 1830, Israel, Mary
and Samuel who died in infancy and whose birthdates are unknown, and possibly
an Elizabeth (birthdate unknown; married in 1850). Twelve persons were re­
ported in David Bigler’s family in West Bethlehem twp, Washington Co., in the
U. S. Census of 1830. (1)

The little we know of David Bigler’s life in Washington Co. comes from
fragments of writings of his sons, Andrew and Nicodemus. That he adhered to
the Brethren principles of peace and dreaded the barbarity of war may be
inferred from what Nicodemus wrote April 11, 1881: “I heard my Father say
who was drafted in the war of 1812 and paid his fine as draft money $92.99
that the snow in the winter before the war was after night sometimes as
red as blood”, from the red war cloud that appeared before every war (Nicodemus
my Father’s receipt releasing him from a draft in 1812 he paid $92.99 to pay
his fine I saved this receipt long after he was dead. He was a good man
and is Buried on our old farm near Oakland Church close to where you live
when we lived in Pennsylvania”. Another letter, dated Dec. 1, 1895, stated
“My father the people called him a good man”.

Long Journey to Ohio

In the letter of April 29, 1881, Nicodemus described what must have been
an exciting moment in the lives of David and Nancy Bigler when, with their
large family of children ranging from Andrew, age 11, to Delila, only a few
weeks old, they left their old home in West Bethlehem twp where they had lived
for many years—knowing they would probably never see their aged parents Israel
and Catherine Bigler again—to face the uncertainties of pioneer existence in
western Ohio. Nicodemus wrote:

“Our close neighbor Nicodemus Macfarlan a rich man and an old Con­
grasman he went down to Washington city yearly to help to enact laws...
I was named after Nicodemus Macfarlan when we moved to the far west
where our farm is I was then a Baby old Honorable Mr. Mcfarland
took me in his arms and followed the wagons and gave me a gift for
his namesake". (2)

One can well imagine the pangs of farewell as the wagons began their long
trek from the Bigler hill farm in Washington County, westward over the newly
opened National Pike - the stretch from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Columbus,
Ohio, was built between 1825 and 1833 - and thence by wilderness trail to
Adams township, Darke County, Ohio. The hills were long and steep, the roads
rough and the wagons jolty. Daniel, a husky lad of 11, carried his baby

(1) U. S. Census of 1850 for Adams twp., Darke Co. reported Nancy (wife of
David), Moses, Amos, Nicodemus and Delila, all as having been born in Penn.
(2) This was state congressman Abel McFarland—not U. S. Congressman as there
was none by that name from Washington Co.—whose farm adjoined Israel Bigler’s
farm. He was buried in Franklin Cemetery where his stone marker may be seen
today near those of Israel and Catherine Bigler.

See p.44: Notesb. of The Miller-Winger which contains notes at home of Edith Howard, in Ind.
5/18/1962 and this notation in Odes Howard’s: “David Bigler and family moved to Ohio when
Israel and Delila, A. I was six years old. The roads were rough and the big wagon jolty.
Daniel carried the baby most of the way to Ohio. In the long way, they would
lay the baby at night in a bucket drawer for a bed.”
sister Delila most of the way to Ohio. At night the baby, only a few weeks old, would be put to sleep in a bureau drawer.

The Biglers probably travelled along with wagons of other pioneer folk who like themselves were moving westward in a mighty stream over the new National Pike to seek new homes in the rich lands of western Ohio and Indiana. One wonders what they thought—what were their hopes and fears—as the wagons creaked slowly westward, sometimes through dense forest where wild animals still lurked, sometimes by rude settlements that had sprung up at the river ferries. It was early fall and the trees would have been aflame with color. What tales did they tell and what friends did they make as they sat around the campfire on frosty nights under the bright stars, after the wagons had bivouacked at the end of each day's long hard journey?

Most of these pioneers were humble folk who never thought of themselves as making history. Few wrote any account of their experiences. In truth, it hardly seems to have occurred to them that future generations might be interested in what they did. They were intent in doing whatever they were doing, without bothering to write about it. And these were the people who laid the foundation for the great states of the mid-west in the century ahead.

All we know of the Bigler journey are the few shreds of information mentioned above, and a terse note from Andrew Bigler's notebook long since destroyed by fire but from which his granddaughter had copied this notation: "I left Washington Co. Pen in 1830 Came to Dark Co Ohio, Oct. 11-1830 Left Ohio in 1846 and got to Indiana Aug 16-1846. Walked beside the wagon." (2)

Settlers in Darke County, Ohio

When David Bigler and family first arrived in Darke County, the county was sparsely settled. Darke County had a population of only 6,203 persons (as compared with 12,000 in 1950) and the entire State of Ohio contained only 930,000 people in 1830. Soon after arrival there, David Bigler bought a farm of 197.35 acres in Adams township, about one-fourth mile east of the present Oakland Church, along Harris Creek for $1,000 (see Map of 1875 farm marked Wm Evans). Here rich prairie land could be had for $5 an acre when the mountain land of Washington County, Pennsylvania was selling for $20 an acre. This was the lure that drew David Bigler, and countless pioneer farmers like him, to the virgin forests of the mid-west.

(1) Information sent me March 9, 1959 by Edythe Neff, from Edith Miller who obtained it from her sister, Ida Miller Winger from old records telling of the Ohio journey and the date of Delila's birth. Edith and Ida were the granddaughters of Phoebe Bigler, the daughter of David and Nancy Bigler.
David Bigler's deed of purchase from George Kimmel, dated April 26, 1831, was for the East side of fractional section No. 12 of twp. 10, that is Adams township. (1) Section 12, containing 393.59 acres in all, had been surveyed in 1800. The original survey notes of 1800 described it as "a township of good second rate land ... the Land is mostly dry and rich on Harris Creek on the northeastern part of the township. The Land is also of good quality the residue of the township is generally rolling white oak land or wet flats covered with Elm & Blk Oak--The 'Milk Sickness' or 'Sick Stomach' is said to prevail in the East side of the Township". (2) As the surveyor walked, in 1800, from the southeast corner of Section 12, proceeding northward, he noted: "Entered a willow swamp, across a branch runs S to E Entered woods, swamp continuing along the run". This swamp, long since drained, is known as "bottom land" where the best corn is raised on the David Bigler place today.

David Bigler's first home on his new farm is said to have been a log house, at the site of the present house, above a spring, on the ridge running along the south side of Harris Creek. The early settlers usually built on high ground to avoid swamp fevers. Foundations and beams of the original part of the present house (the higher part where there are no windows, see photo Plate II) are from the log house, according to my Uncle Jake Bigler who visited the place with my father and me in May, 1945. Epaminondas (Pam) Bigler says that when a small boy he "raided Grandpap Bigler's apple orchard" (David had been dead over 30 years by then) and remembers the main part of the house then as it is today; and he believes this part may have been built by his Grandpap Bigler. *5w p.51v

Pam remembers many legends of his Grandpap Bigler's family recounted by his mother and the early settlers. When David was clearing the land, "a few Indians were still running about the country", said Pam. One or two Indians came to David's place, saying they were hungry and asking for one of David's pigs running loose in the woods. When David refused, the Indians disappeared in the thick woods north of Harris Creek. That night they heard the dogs barking violently near the brick bake oven, where the dogs were accustomed to retreat when worsted by wolves. But when morning came, they found a pig's head cut off and lying near the bake oven, evidence that the Indians had returned to take a pig.

(1) Darke Co. Deeds DL-321, The entire Section 12 was purchased originally by David Bowman and George Kimmel through the Land Office in Cincinnati, with a deed of May 20, 1825 carrying signature of President John Quincy Adams. Subsequent transfer between Bowman and Kimmel resulted in a split of the section, with George Kimmel receiving the East side of Section 12, of 197.35 acres, in 1829 which he sold to David Bigler April 26, 1831. After David Bigler's death, Nancy sold the 197.35 acres to Michael Bashore on February 12, 1855, for $2600, signing the deed Nancy Bigler (Darke Co. Deeds YY-314). Thereafter, the farm passed through many hands, including: William Evans in 1863; Dr. C. L. Crane in 1875; it was cut to 95 acres and sold to John W. Rhoades in 1905 who transferred it to Alma Bozeman in 1908; to Oscar Martin, a great grandson of David Bigler in 1917; and to his widow Jennie Martin who owns it today as a 95 acre farm. +


+ Oscar Martin, Sr., Mary J. Bigler & David K. Martin, and his wife Jennie Martin, bought the David Bigler homestead from John W. & Alma O. Rhoades, 95 acres for $10,000, Feb 28, 1917; see Quinlin Deeds 1881, 18914. Oscar Martin committed suicide Dec. 10, 1934. +
Once when Nancy had been sickly for a long time, she went to an herb doctor who said she was bewitched. The person who bewitched you, he counseled, is the first person who brings back something they borrowed from you; don’t receive it. Shortly thereafter, an "old pioneer mother", Mrs. Sword, who lived nearby in a log house came to the Bigler house to return a skein of borrowed yarn. Nancy, crying "Take your flax and never set foot in this house again. Get out, your witchery and all", threw the yarn in her face. Mrs. Sword left weeping, denying that she was a witch; and thereafter Nancy regained her health. One room in the Bigler house is haunted to this very day, according to my Uncle Jacob Bigler, but he did not know the origin of the haunt. When visiting thrashers, unaware of the haunt, were given this room to sleep in one night, all left by morning to sleep in the barn. "They wouldn’t sleep in that room", said Uncle Jake, "Something happened there. That room is haunted".

Pam’s mother knew an old man at Bradford who was a fiddler and a drunkard. When he died after midnight, people said they saw the black shadow of the Devil, cast against the wall by the lamplight, grabbing for his soul as it left the body of the dying fiddler.

Nancy Bigler, according to Pam who had it from an old settler David Hetzler, used to smoke a pipe. She and a friend "Old Soph Miller", who lived north of Harris Creek on what was the Jacob Miller farm, would "walk down the road talking and puffing away on their clay pipes like Indians", said Pam.

David Bigler died Aug. 25, 1844, aged 57 years 3 months and 22 days. (1) Pam’s mother attended the funeral services at a Brethren church—probably Harris Creek as Oakland Church was not built until 1866. As Pam remembers it from his mother, David was "an enormous big man" whose walnut coffin was so large that it had to be carried sideways through the church gate or door.

After David’s death, Nancy sold the home farm, in 1845, but seems to have purchased another farm nearby where she lived until her death Dec. 14, 1858, aged 65 years 3 months and 22 days. Her last will, witnessed by her son Amos and son-in-law Abraham R. Deeter, filed before the Probate Judge at the Greenville Court House, Dec. 24, 1858, reads as follows:

"In the name of the benevolent Father of all I Nancy Bigler of the County of Darke and State of Ohio do make and publish this my last will and Testament (to wit)"

0138158

(1) There is no record of any will by David Bigler. When he died, his widow was declared executor by the Darke Co. Probate Court, under $600 bond. Probate Court records of Darke Co., Sept. 9, 1844 page 130. No. of estate case 159 Docket p. 133.
1st It is my Will that my Funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid.

2nd It is my Will that the place on which I now live containing eighty acres of land more or less lying and being in the County of Darke and State of Ohio that after my death said land be sold and the proceeds be equally divided among my children Eleven in number—

3rd It is my Will that Sarah Martin my daughter Barbara's child receive one half as much as one of the other children as aforesaid, said Sarah Martin to receive said sum when she arrives at the age of Eighteen years. The Names of my children are as follows (to wit)

Andrew Bigler
Moses Bigler
Daniel Bigler
Amos Bigler
Nicodemus Bigler
Rachel Miller
Julian Maurer
Nancy Deeter
Phoebe Miller
Lydia Fahnestock, and
Delilah Bigler

are each to have an Equal share when the place is sold and said Susan Martin is to receive one half as much as each one of the others as aforesaid when she arrives at Eighteen years as aforesaid.

4th After my death said place shall be sold to the best advantage.

5th My Bedding & clothing shall be divided among my Daughters as above mentioned and the balance of my property shall be sold at public sale and proceeds thereof shall be equally divided among my children.

David Wenrick and ) Executors
Joseph Wolf )
Signed Nancy x Bigler mark

David and Nancy Bigler were buried in an apple orchard of their farm a short distance west of the southwest corner of the present house. Pam, who visited the cemetery when a small boy, remembers walnut markers in a north-south row, one for David, one for Nancy, and one or two others. Charles H. Bigler wrote me Jan. 3, 1959: "I very well remember when a bare footed boy I liked to wander there. When I used to visit that burial place, there was a neat board fence enclosing it. There were wild flowers such as the white and purple anemones in early spring; in the autumn there were golden colored leaves of the sassafras and other young trees." When the walnut markers became weatherbeaten with age, my grandfather Cyrus Bigler replaced them with a single stone marker at the site of the original graves, the legend from the walnut marker over David's grave being transferred to one side, and that from p. 51, May 20, Martin's then at Hudson Home, Greenville, Ohio, Nov. 13, 1904.
the walnut marker over Nancy's grave being transferred to the other side, of the stone marker. But in the course of time, an inconsiderate farmer, John W. Rhoades, who owned the place 1905-8, wishing to plow over the little cemetery for farming purposes, removed the stone marker from the original site and placed it in a nearby fence row where it stands today (photo of Jan. 1959 in Plate IX). Some years ago, Pam Bigler, trying to locate the wooden coffins of his grandparents that he might remove them to a more fitting place, was unable to find their exact location. And that is the story of the lost Bigler graveyard. David and Nancy sleep there, in the fields their hearts must have loved, in a place known only to God.

Children of David and Nancy Bigler

David and Nancy Bigler had many children who, in turn, reared large families in Ohio and Indiana. It was as though they were guided by the Lord's injunction to Noah: "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth". (Genesis 9:9)

Moses, Julia Ann, Nancy, Lydia, and Barbara remained in Darke Co. or vicinity. Andrew was the first to move to Elkhart Co., Indiana in 1846; followed sometime after 1850 by Amos, Rachel and Delila; by Nicodemus in 1871; and by Daniel (date not known). Phoebe lived near North Manchester, Indiana, and in Ohio. Those children Moses, Rachel and Phoebe married respectively Mary Miller, Catharine Miller and Michael Miller, the children of Jacob Miller who lived along Harris Creek about half way between the Oakland and Harris Creek Brethren Churches (see Map of 1875, farm later owned by J. Katherman). Amos and Julia Ann married respectively Catharine and Henry Maurer, the children of Daniel and Sarah Anders Maurer of Darke Co. The children lived most or all of their lives on farms—usually on prosperous farms, for the Biglers were builders by nature. Few were soldiers or politicians. Mostly they were members of the Brethren Church, Andrew himself being a Brethren minister. Many of the grandchildren were farmers, remaining active in the Brethren church; and many of their descendants became teachers or entered business.

Andrew. He married Lydia Rarick in 1837, farmed for some time in Darke Co., and moved to Elkhart Co. in 1846. Nicodemus, with his capacity for vivid description and with magnificent disregard for the complexities of punctuation, described his own first visit to Goshen when Andrew first settled there:

"Goshen [about 1846] was a small town with rickety frame buildings and little Groceries and dry goods Stores the Indians would come in to town on their little ponies to barter I walked west ten miles from Goshen to where Brother Andy had bought 160 acres he had a small field or two fenced in there were but a few commencements made between him and Goshen the wolves would howl around the house after night As I walked down last Saturday [1887] I thought of how different it looks now to what it was then nearly all the land cleared and fenced into fields with
magnificent Brick houses the yards adorned with evergreens and wind pumps rolling their wheels with large orchards of good fruit trees and splendid painted Barns with glittering lightening rods extending aloof and many towns and magnificent cities with their hum and noise of many different machineries and the Electric light illuminating far and wide around after night*. (letter May 19, 1885)

Andrew was a man of varied interests, some of which are recalled by his granddaughter Edythe Neff, in her recent letters to me:

"Andrew was Elder and Minister of the West Goshen Church. The Elder presides over the church as to the welfare of the church members, physically and spiritually, holds communions, baptisms, anoint the sick, looks after the poor. The church took care of their poor in their churches. The Elder shepherds the flock. Andrew was preacher and Elder. He was followed by Rev. Levi Hoke, his son-in-law" (Dec. 13, 1958). "He was also learned in the medicinal properties of roots, barks, berries, and knew how to combine them into healing liquids. From an old notebook I copied one of his receipts for curing dropsy or Brights disease. Here are the herbs to use: 1 oz parsley root and seed, 1 oz. squill, 1 oz juniper berries, 1 oz mustard seed, 1 oz salt peter, 1 gal sweet cider, keep hot two days. Take four times a day, half a cup each time. This combination of herbs is recorded by Goshen druggists" (Nov. 6, 1958). "There was another herb medicine of Andrew's for heart disease: 1 oz of Rhubarb, 1 oz of Eastern chamomile flowers, 1 oz of columbo root, ½ oz of cinnamon drops, 1 qt of best Holland gin. Take a tablespoon full three times a day" (Nov. 17, 1958). "Andrew Bigler also could water witch. Was called on many times to locate ground water, springs for the settlers who wanted to dig wells of fresh water for their homes on prairie or woods" (Nov. 6, 1958).

Another granddaughter, Bertha Hoke, writing to Edythe Neff, Oct. 14, 1958, recalled her grandparents in these terms: "You asked me about Grandmother Bigler's maiden name. It was Lydia Rarick. I don't remember her face too well but I can just see her going about the house and into her garden. There was a little armless black rocking chair side of the cuboard where she usually sat. Grandfather's big broad armed rocking chair was back of the stove and we kids Lon, Ora, Grace and I used to almost fight to get on his wide armed chair to have him tell us stories. Grandmother died very suddenly one day after baking some pies. They called it neuralgia of the heart."

Nicodemus evidently held his older brother in high esteem. When Nicodemus' daughter, Jane, was about to visit Goshen, he wrote her: "They nearly all know Andy Biglers in Goshen one mile west from Goshen a big road from Goshen runs past their house ..., at Andy Biglers you are welcome to stay as long as you want" (Aug. 5, 1887). Nicodemus had no doubts in his mind about Andy's hospitality. He visited his brother often. Of one visit, he wrote (Aug. 17, 1879): "I walked to Goshen the next day and took dinner with Andy Biggers staid with them until the next day I had splendid feasting .... Andy was down on the river fishing He did not come home until towards Eavening He took his spear along he said that he had speared a large pike nearly one yard long He
tried to hold him Andy Jumped into the river to hold him fast But he got loose and swim under some drift the fish come out of the Lakes into Elk-hart river. Andy is not well the doctors say. He cannot live long" The doctors seem to have underestimated Andrew's vitality, for he lived nearly 13 years longer, no doubt an active fisherman to the end.

When Andrew's wife passed away, Nicodemus wrote: "I went to Andys some three weeks after she was buried the house was empty. I took a chair he soon came in sat down and cried and would not talk then he spoke a few words and I left ... they all said that Lydia was such a good woman" (letter Sept. 13, 1889).

Andrew died Jan. 18, 1892. As told by Nicodemus: "Levi Hoke anointed him about a half hour before he died he wanted to see his children and lit­tle grandchildren in his dying hour to give them the last farewell. I went to the house in the morning and then to the church. The funeral services preached here and then we took a sleigh and took him west to Levi Miller's [married Andrew's sister Delila] it was awful cold we were shivering with cold at the grave [Yellow Creek Brethren Cemetery on Levi Miller's farm] and then went in to Levi Miller's where their rooms were nicely carpeted and warmed and two long tables with the most splendid good seasoned eatables and we all took a good meal men and women. David Miller [married Rachel Bigler, Andrew's sister]. Henrys Brother came here early in a sleigh Levi Miller and Deliah [Andrew's sister] and Daniel Bigler. He now layed last night again beside Lida his wife where they are glad to see each other again" (Jan. 21, 1892).

Andrew and Lydia Bigler had eight children: Mary, Nancy, Joel, David, Amos, Aaron, Elizabeth and Isaac - most of whom lived on farms in the Elkhart area. Aaron who lived the longest of Andrew's children - the "last leaf" as Edythe Neff said - died in 1953 at the age of 88. The photo (Plate VII) taken Aug. 1914 at the Bigler reunion at Goshen dam when he was 86 years old is that of a venerable patriarch. Isaac's daughter, Edythe Neff, a former schoolteacher, is the historian of the Bigler family in Indiana whose generous assistance made possible this account of the Biglers in Indiana (photo Plate VI and VII). She says that in the Goshen area everyone knows that "as Bigler's word is as good as his bond". Her husband, Lloyd Neff, owns Nefflands, Syracuse, Indiana, where registered Aberdeen Angus cattle are grown for breeding purposes, the calves going mostly for 4-H Club projects in many countries. Amos' son, Ora, who died Dec. 1958, at the age of 75, was vice president of the Goshen Cushion and Body Co., and a city councilman of Goshen.

Rachel Bigler. She married Daniel C. Miller "who for over forty years, has been a prominent resident of this county [Elkhart]. During his long term of years here his good name has remained untarnished, and he has well and faithfully performed every duty, both public and private, that has fallen to his lot. He is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Montgomery county, near Dayton, June 8, 1817 and was a son of Jacob and Polly Michel Miller [actually Mary Michael Miller]. Our subject was reared on a farm and secured a fair education in the district schools. In 1838, he married Miss Rachel Bigler, a native of Washington County, Pennsylvania,
born May 1, 1817, the daughter of David and Nancy Graybill Bigler. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler came from Washington county, Penn. to Stark [Darke] county, Ohio, and died there when aged people .... Both [David and Rachel Miller] are members of the Dunkard Church and Mr. Miller votes with the Democratic party". (1) Photos of Rachel Bigler Miller and her husband, of her five sisters and of Nicodemus Bigler are shown on the accompanying Plate.

Daniel Bigler. Daniel was a large man over 6 feet tall (photo Plate VII) who, in his adventurous youth liked to drink whiskey and fight with the Irish laborers then building the railroad through Gettysburg, Ohio, according to Pam Bigler. Many a Saturday night of fighting ended with Doc Campbell of Gettysburg being called to patch broken heads. Daniel moved to Elkhart Co. where he farmed for many years, was married twice, and had 11 children. He lived for a time, 1897-98, in Kentucky but returned for Brethren church privileges at Goshen where he died in 1900. One of his daughters, Delila, a school teacher, married Sam Miller and lived in Stockton, Cal.; and her daughter Maude Ellen Miller became a schoolteacher in Detroit. A son, Andrew, was a railroader in Kansas City, Missouri, whose son, Earle S. Bigler, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Retired, was Manager of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport 1947-60. He now lives at 7102 Seward Park Ave., Seattle, Washington. Daniel's son, David, lived in Stockton, Cal. and another, Levi, in Centralia, Washington. The fifth generation of Biglers in America had reached the Pacific Ocean.

Amos Bigler. Amos married Catharine Maurer in 1843, farmed in Ohio near his parents' farm until sometime after 1850 and then moved to near Nappanee, Indiana, where he lived in a "rich neighborhood of splendid farms" (Nicodemus letter of Dec. 24, 1881) until his death sometime about 1900-02. The photo of Amos and Catharine Bigler (top of Plate VI) was taken about 1898 or 1900 by Edythe Neff's father, Isaac, when "Uncle Amos and Aunt Kathy were old and frail but able to be around". Edythe Neff identified the persons in the photo as follows:

*Front row, left to right in photo:*
- Pierre Bigler - s. of Isaac and grandson of Andrew.
- Viola - with kitten, d. of Leander Bigler.
- Amos Bigler - with white beard, s. of David and Nancy Bigler.
- Catharine Bigler - wife of Amos.
- Edythe Bigler Neff - with white blouse, d. of Isaac and granddaughter of Andrew Bigler.
- Harry Bigler - small boy beside his father Leander Bigler.
- Leander Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.

*Back row, left to right in photo:*
- William Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.
- Lydia Bigler Stuckman - d. of Daniel and granddaughter of Amos Bigler.

(1) Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs Elkhart and St. Josephs Counties, Indiana, Goodspeed Brothers Publishers, Chicago, 1893, p. 598. Biodata on Rachel Bigler Miller, in my history, came largely from this source.
Charles Stuckman - Lydia's husband.

David Bigler - s. of Daniel and grandson of Amos Bigler.

Daniel Bigler - with beard, s. of Amos and Catharine Bigler.

Christine - w. of Daniel Bigler.

Elizabeth Bigler - sister of Isaac and d. of Andrew Bigler.

Anna Bigler - w. of Isaac Bigler, mother of Edythe and Pierre Bigler.

Charlotte - wife of Leander Bigler.

Julia Ann, her granddaughter, Julia Ann, wife of Frank Cary who has large farms near Amlin, Ohio, furnished the following information: "She and her husband Henry Maurer were members of the Oak­land Church, as was I, until 1898 when I came to Plain City to live and joined the Presbyterian Church. They lived east of Oakland on the Oak­land-Harris Creek road /see map/. They and a number of their children are buried in the Harris Creek cemetery about a half mile south of the church towards Bradford. My own mother Rachel is buried in the old Harris Creek cemetery west of the church, back off the road on the north side. Grandmother was 73 when she died; had been almost totally deaf as long as I can remember. She was a very kind Christian woman. In the upstairs of the old house were her large spinning wheel; a small wheel used to wrap yarn into skeins; her hackle, used to straighten wool and flax and to remove foreign matter, getting it ready to spin. There were other smaller tools she told me she used when she made yarn for knitting for the family" (letter Dec. 9, 1958). Julia Ann Maurer had 16 children (See appendix IV for biodata furnished by Julia Ann Cary).

The photo of Julia Ann Cary (Plate X) was taken on Feb. 11, 1959 to celebrate her 78th birthday. The jar behind her, in the photo, was used by Nancy Bigler for keeping coffee beans. It was given by Nancy to Julia Ann when she married Henry Maurer in 1812, who gave it to their youngest daughter Isabelle who later gave it to Julia Ann Cary.

Phoebe. She was the second wife of Michael Miller, brother of Mary Miller Bigler. (1) They appear to have lived in northern Indiana for some time, as Nicodemus Bigler, then living at South West, Ind., wrote on June 28, 1885: "I was some 40 miles south two weeks ago I staid with Michael Millers i had not saw them for 28 years She did not know me any more they own 80 acres well built on the side of a lake from their porch their is a fine view over the lake to a town Laketon Mike and his Boy were on the lake on a boat fishing they made supper and ran the bell and they came home Mike is a preacher Michael then took me the next day in his buggy to the Railroad station ..." Edythe Neff wrote me Jan. 7, 1959 that Michael and Phoebe Miller lived later in Ohio where they had a good farm and where both died. They had 15 children, one of whom was Amos who lived at North...

* This Michael Miller was son of the Michael Miller who was brother of Joseph Miller (see Tim owner of Webster, Ohio - first mill) who was father of Mary Miller Bigler (mother of Cyrus Bigler).

(1) I always understood this Michael Miller was the same Michael Miller who was the brother of Mary Miller Bigler. However some of Nicodemus Bigler's letters (June 11, 1875 and Aug. 5, 1887) state he was a brother of John C. Miller who, so far as I knew, was not a brother of Mary Miller Bigler.

†† Ralph Miller, grandson of Philadelphia Miller, born Aug. 2, 1841; Michael died in 1894; of his son Abraham, and his son Michael L. Plummer are buried at West Manchester Cem. Edith Miller, grand-daughter of Philadelphia Miller, and Catherine, his parents, are buried in Pleasant Hill Cem. at Manchester, Ind. Ralph Miller lived in this town and his wife, Catherine, was buried in Pleasant Hill Cem.
Manchester, Ind. Amos' daughter Edith furnished Edythe Neff much information on Phoebe Miller's family. Amos' daughter Ida married Otha Winger President of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., from 1911 to his death in 1941.

Nancy. Nancy, wife of Abraham Deeter, lived on the south side of Harris Creek in 1875 (see Map of 1875). Nicodemus wrote, Feb. 23, 1878, that he heard Abraham Deeter had "broke up". Pam Bigler told me, Jan. 3, 1959, that Abraham Deeter had lived across the road from Pam's present house and died there; that he was a tremendous talker and horse trader who traded himself out of all his property; and that he understood Oakland Church helped support Nancy after her husband died. As Pam remembers her, she had white hair, a big face with a red complexion, wore a clean white cap and white bleached dress, was a good cook, and of cheerful disposition. When his mother was discouraged, she would say: "Get old Nancy Deeter here to cheer us up". Biodata information on her children was furnished by Pam Bigler.

Nicodemus. Nicodemus, a thin tall man of over six feet, with blue eyes and a long black beard, was the dreamer of the Bigler family. Once when Nicodemus visited Cyrus Bigler's home, Cyrus took his then small son, Jake, aside and said (as remembered by my Uncle Jake Bigler): "You see that fellow. He is not like other people around here. He is not interested in cutting down trees and planting crops, as we are. He looks over the fields and enjoys them. There is nothing wrong with that. But a neighborhood like ours that has to cut down woods and raise crops doesn't know what to do with such a person".

Nicodemus was a man of many interests. Interesting glimpses into his life are given in his letter to his daughter Jane (see excerpts Appendix VI). Once he traveled with a theater troupe working as a stage hand; and he often spoke of plays as they came to town. He read books, wrote poetry, and taught school for ten years. One of his schools was south of Stillwater River, southwest of the present Stillwater beach, where he received $25 per month for teaching. He wanted his children to become schoolteachers. He was a good carpenter, building the house where his family lived and where his son, Epaminondas, lives now. He was brought before the elders of the Oakland Church and "heckled" for not supporting his family properly. After his sixth child was born, he and his wife were legally separated—but without full divorce. His wife and family (see Plate V) remained on the farm and he went to the Elkhart area in 1871 where he spent the remainder of his lonely life, working chiefly as a shoe cobbler. He wrote many interesting letters to his daughter Jane, in beautiful longhand script, vividly describing local life in Elkhart. (See Appendix VI) He liked small children; and they were fascinated by him and his shoe shop. When Edythe and Pierre Bigler (Isaac's children) visited him, he wrote: "Little Edith and Enos Bigler were here. Edith drew a picture of a hen she can beat me drawing. I told them to tend School and become Schoolteachers". Edith—that is Edythe Neff—wrote me about 65 years later, on Nov. 17, 1958: "If we were at Uncle Demus' home an hour or more he would offer us a slice of bread and how we loved it, 'fresh bakery bread'. If he wasn't busy he would have a slice himself, sit in his big armed chair and hum sometimes and rock ... The family in Indiana loved him and were doing all they
could, that he would accept, to make him happy or at least comfortable. He wanted to live very simply and quietly. Isaac Bigler's family cared for him in his final illness, pneumonia, and he passed away Jan. 5, 1900.

One of Nicodemus Bigler's sons, Charles H. (photo Plate V) studied at the Gettysburg Academy and taught school for 33 years in Darke Co., at Stelvideo 1887-89, at Buzzards Glory, at Versailles 1900-05 and elsewhere. His mother, who attended Buzzards Glory school when he taught there, remembers him as a very good teacher. He was well known in the county both as a school teacher and as a breeder of fine saddle horses at his Wayside Farm north of Gettysburg. He was keenly interested in my work on the Bigler family history, and supplied me with much useful information in 1958-59 on his parents and grandparents and on my grandfather Cyrus who was one of his close friends. I saw him for the last time in late April 1959 at the Greenville Public Library where he used to spend the afternoons reading local histories and current magazines. He came to what he called the "golden sunset" on July 2, 1959 at the age of 91. His three children are also teachers, namely Marguerite (Mrs. Mac Stoltz, RD 2, Greenville) who teaches in the Greenville public schools, Robert who is now teaching chemistry in the high school of Cumberland, Maryland, and Grace. Marguerite Bigler Stoltz, RFD 2, Greenville, Ohio 45331.

Pam Bigler, now 90 years old, is the last surviving member of Nicodemus' family (photo Plate V and X). He taught school for several years, including a term at Bunkum School in Richland Twp. in 1893, where he received $15 per month for a 6-months' term. In 1889-90 he studied law under Dean Cox, later Governor of Ohio, at the University of Cincinnati Law School (where he remembers having bought at a little restaurant a 21-meal ticket for $2). He practiced law for a few years, later enlisted in the Spanish-American War but did not reach Cuba. About 1903, or so thereafter, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. In 1904 or 5, he was in command of Midway Island, with a detachment of 20 marines, where he had the Army bring 100 sacks of soil from Hawaii that vegetables might be grown on Midway. He had Bermuda grass brought from Florida to stop shifting sands on Midway, the Bermuda grass eventually spreading over the whole island, an example of what might be called today a good Point L project. In 1910, he was sent via Moscow and the Trans-Siberian RR to Peking, arriving there July 11, 1910, to help guard the American Legation, where he remained for several years. During WW I he served as a Major in command of two battalions of Marines in France. Retired from the Marines as a Major in 1921, he has lived since then on the old family farm, in the house where he was born, near Gettysburg with his son John, a soldier in France during WW II. Pam is an interesting and stormy character, as is befitting a good Marine.

Delila. Delila was the youngest member of David and Nancy Bigler's family, the six-weeks old baby who made the long journey from Washington Co., Penn. to Darke Co. in 1830. She and her brother Nicodemus were living with their mother in Adams Twp., Darke Co., Ohio in 1850 (U.S. Census records). Sometime after 1850 she and her husband, Levi Miller (photo Plate VI), went to live in Elkhart Co., west of Goshen. Nicodemus wrote, Aug. 2, 1877: "Levi Millers comes to see me tolerably often and nearly every time they bring me a basket full of sabbies they have done that every..."
Since I live here pies butter applebutter meat cakes etc I do their shoe mending for them then they want to pay me besides for my work. I do not think there are better people in the country than they were they had everything plenty 160 acres of land a large orchard. It is evident from her few letters that have been preserved that she was a gentle person. One of her letters, sent by Nicodemus to his daughter Jan. 22, 1896, reads: "Dear Demus. Here I will send you a little something to eat please accept of it. I do not work much spend most of my time reading the Bible The Gospel Messenger, the Christian Herald and a good many other books I am reading the Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln." She and her husband are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery east of their farm at Yellow Creek Brethren Church, Elkhart Co.

Other children. A separate chapter is devoted to the life of Moses Bigler and his wife Mary Miller Bigler (my great grandparents). Of the other children of David and Nancy Bigler, very little information is available.

DAVID BIGLER FARM EAST OF OAKLAND CHURCH

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/20/1835</td>
<td>President of 1825 to David Bowman and George Kimmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/1828</td>
<td>David Bowman to George Kimmel E/2/4 Salem 1797.35A</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/26/1831</td>
<td>George Kimmel to David Bigler</td>
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<td>1844</td>
<td>David Bigler to his wife Nancy Bigler</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20/1845</td>
<td>Nancy Bigler to Michael Boshart</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/26/1857</td>
<td>Michael Boshart to Eli D. Leecher</td>
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<td>8/31/1864</td>
<td>Eli D. Leecher to Levi Schultz</td>
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<td>9/18/1866</td>
<td>Levi Schultz to R.P. Hutchison</td>
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<td>11/1/1869</td>
<td>R.P. Hutchison to William Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11/1875</td>
<td>William Evans to C.L. Crane</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16/1885</td>
<td>C.L. Crane by Administration to George W. Hutiglel</td>
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<tr>
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<td>George W. Hutiglel (95 a. S. pmt.) to John W. Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10/1913</td>
<td>John W. Rhodes to 1/3 interest in 95 a to</td>
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<td>Almon H. Rhodes</td>
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<td>2/10/1917</td>
<td>John W. Rhodes to Almon H. Rhodes to Oscar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Martin &amp; Jennie Martin -95 a. in $10,000</td>
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<td>4/13/1935</td>
<td>Oscar Martin to 3/4 to wife Jennie Martin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and 1/4 to his mother Mary J. Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/17/1935</td>
<td>Mary J. Martin to her 1/4 to Jennie Martin</td>
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DOCUMENT LOANED BY MARY HAPNER ADEPT &. OF ISABEL MAURER HALLADAY (2nd. of Julia Ann)

"Grandfather & Grandmother Bigler. David Bigler died Aug 25 th Age 77 yrs 3 days.

Mary Bigler "

Delilah Bigler married Levi Miller. Lydia Bigler Emj Joseph Falmadelo."
Daughters of David and Nancy
Bigler (l. to r.)
F. row: Phoebe, Julia Ann, Nancy
B. row: Lydia, Joe Fahnestock,
and Delila
Copy furnished through courtesy of Edythe Neff from original photo now owned by Edith Miller, granddaughter of Phoebe Bigler Miller. Sisters identified by Julia V. Cary who had seen photo in home of her grandmother Julia Ann Maurer.

Rachel Bigler and husband David C. Miller (Photos furnished through courtesy of Edythe Neff).

Nicodemus Bigler. Copy furnished through courtesy of Marguerite Bigler Stoltz from original photo owned by Epaminondas Bigler.
NICODEMUS BIGLER FAMILY, July 1915 (l. to r.)

F. row, seated: Lewis, David, Epaminondas, Charles, Jane, and Hannah Hershey Bigler.
B. row, standing: Sara Stover, w. of Lewis; Elizabeth Ganby, w. of David; Edward Stambaugh, h. of Jane; Martha Wineland, w. of Charles; Grace, d. of Charles.
F. row, ground: Robert, s. of Charles; James, s. of Epaminondas; Marguerite, d. of Charles; Hannah d. of Epaminondas; Elsie Louridge, w. of Epaminondas.
Amos and Catharine Bigler Family,
Elkhart Co., Ind., about 1899.

Levi and Delila Miller, Elkhart Co., Ind. (l. to r.)
F. row: Jennie w. of Amos Miller; Amanda, d. of Levi Miller
E. row: Amos Miller, s. of Levi; Levi Miller and his wife Delila Bigler Miller.
Daniel Bigler, and wife Elizabeth Roush, about 1877, Elkhart Co., Ind.

Aaron Bigler, Son of Andrew Bigler, Goshen Dam, 1940

Edythe Neff, Granddaughter of Andrew Bigler, Syracuse, Ind., 1950
Perry Bigler
Washington Co., Penn., 1958

Julia V. Cary
Granddaughter of Julia Ann Bigler Maurer
Amlin, Ohio, 1959

Epaminondas Bigler
US Marines, 1916-17

Cyrus Bigler
The old family Bible of Moses and Mary Miller Bigler, now in possession of their grandson Ray Bigler, bears the following notation:

"Moses Bigler he was born the 29 day of May in the year 1818
Mary Bigler she was born the 12 of March in the year 1825
Moses Bigler and Mary Bigler were married July 1843 and united with the Brethren Church in the year 1850.
we had a son Born the 13 August in the year 1844 we Call his name Cyrus Bigler
We had a son Born the 28 July in the year 1846 we Call his name Jacob Bigler
We had a daughter Born The 2 July in the year 1851 We Call her Nancy Bigler
Mary Bigler was born October the 11th 1857
Sarah Bigler was born the 7th day of June in the year 1854, she died Sept. 26, 1856 and was buried in the Jacob Miller Cem. along Harris Creek
Lydia Bigler was born the 22nd day of November in the year 1863
Moses Bigler died the 27 day of April 1874"

Miller Family

Mary Miller Bigler's parents Jacob and Mary Michael Miller lived on the north side of the Harris Creek road, east of Oakland Church. They were among the earliest settlers of Adams Twp --- the Census of 1820 reporting Jacob Miller, with a family of five, then living in that township.(1)

Uncle Jake Bigler showed my father and me, in May 1943, the original Miller farm (owned by J. Katherman, according to Map of 1875) and the present stone house that replaced the earlier log house there. The original Miller home was a rude log cabin, open on one side, with a large bear skin serving as the door on the open side. Wolves roamed the woods then, Uncle Jake said that "Old Granny Miller" (Jacob Miller's second wife) remembered when the wolves left this country. "They howled all night and then went away. They never came back", he said. "Where did they go, Uncle Jake?", I asked. "Nobody knows", replied Uncle Jake with awe in his voice. Mary Miller Bigler (my mother's grandmother) told my mother than when she was a small girl returning about nightfall from visiting neighbors, she lost a string of beads that she prized highly. She

(1) Jacob and Mary Michael Miller had at least 10 children: David C. born in Montgomery Co., O., June 8, 1817, m. Rachel Bigler; Michael m. Phoebe Bigler; Mary m. Moses Bigler; Sallie m. Jacob Bashore and lived on a large farm at the edge of Webster; Hetty m. David Warner; John Jacob settled in Kansas; Emmanuel; Henry who operated his father's flour mill at Webster; Susan; and Martin.

A Michael was a cousin, not a brother of David C. Miller. See also p 53-57.
was afraid to retrace her steps to search for the beads, as wolves would attack people after dark.

Jacob Miller is said to have been a popular man who accumulated considerable property and who was liberal in his contributions to all worthy enterprises. Nicodemus Bigler wrote of him (Sept. 1, 1877): "I made the blinds in the old mill [at Webster] for Henry Miller's dady when old Jacob owned the mill. He wanted me to help to tend the mill." In another letter (July 22, 1892) he mentioned "old Jacob Miller Henry's father I always liked old Jacob and worked a great deal for him." Jacob was born near Louisville, Kentucky, Feb. 17, 1796. His parents were David and Abigail (Morgan) Miller who left Kentucky, on account of their opposition to slavery, when Jacob was about 10 years old. David, a member of the Brethren Church, settled in Montgomery Co., where he died in 1815. (1)

Jacob Miller's first wife, Mary Michael—the mother of Mary Miller wife of Moses Bigler—was the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Mayer) Michael. She was born in Pennsylvania and came with her parents to Ohio when she was seven years old. (2)

Jacob and Mary Michael Miller are buried in a small cemetery on their farm, known as the old Miller cemetery, about 50 feet square, surrounded by a wire fence on a knoll about 100 feet north of the Harris Creek road (see Map). Uncle Jake said the deed to this cemetery, and a five foot right of


The original Miller immigrant was Phillip Miller, born in Ruthpatz, Germany, sometime prior to 1725. He came with his parents from Germany (because of their opposition to military conscription) and settled in Maryland. Phillip had 3 sons born in Maryland—David, Daniel and Abraham—all members of the Brethren Church, all of whom moved to Kentucky and eventually to Montgomery Co., Ohio. David and Abigail Morgan Miller had at least 8 children: Jacob (our ancestor); Michael; Lydia; Esther; Catherine; Elizabeth; Nancy; and Susan. Their descendants lived in Montgomery and Darke Counties.

(2) Pictorial and Biographical Memoirs, 1893, as cited above. This account is not entirely consistent with Miller Family History which says that Jacob Miller returned from Louisville, Kentucky to Pennsylvania when a young man, that he married Mary Michael in Pennsylvania and that they came from Penn. to Darke Co. in a covered Conestoga wagon—the original wagon bed of which is still at the Isaac R. Miller homestead. Miller descendants say that it has always been an oral tradition in their family that their ancestors came from Pennsylvania to Ohio in this wagon. Apparently the question is whether Jacob and Mary Michael Miller came directly from Penn. to Ohio in this covered wagon; or whether Jacob's parents David and Abigail Morgan used this wagon to go from Maryland to near Louisville, Kentucky and thence to Montgomery Co. Ohio in the wagon.
way to the road, was registered in the Greenville Court House, so that farmers could not plow over the burial place. He and Cyrus Bigler were caretakers for this cemetery for many years, under an arrangement whereby Cyrus' mother gave him and his heirs a sum of $200, the income of which was to provide for upkeep of the cemetery. There are two stone markers in this cemetery, each about 4 feet long and 2 feet wide, now lying side by side in the overgrown grass, which bear these inscriptions: (1)

Jacob Miller
Died
Oct. 8, 1861
aged
65 yrs 7 mos 21 ds

Mary
Wife of
Jacob Miller
died
Mar 27, 1842
aged 42 yrs 11 mos
9 das

When I visited the Miller cemetery in 1956, to photograph these markers, I found an iron star marker by Jacob Miller's grave, bearing the notation "War of 1812", which I had not seen there before. Who put it there, or when, I do not know. It would seem that Jacob Miller served, probably in militia, during the War of 1812. (2)

Moses and Mary Bigler

I do not know exactly where Moses and Mary Bigler were living in Adams twp when their eldest son, Cyrus, was born. According to family legend, Moses obtained his first tract of 18 acres (the nucleus of their home farm in Adams twp) in trade for a shotgun. The earliest official records show that Moses Bigler purchased 21 acres from Daniel Lime in Adams twp for $120 on Nov. 28, 1846; and an adjacent tract of 65 acres from John Bixler for $355 on Sept. 7, 1849. (3) These two contiguous

(1) There is beside Jacob Miller's marker a third stone marker for Jacob Miller's second wife, also named Mary, who died Aug. 20, 1888, aged 75 years. My Uncle Jake remembered her well, grinning as he remarked: "Granny Miller was a spry old lady. She had no children but liked to visit her stepchildren, driving about in a high buggy when she was too old to get in or out without a footstool."


(3) The 21 acre tract is the N.W. corner of the S.W. quarter of section 1 of twp 10. The 65 acre tract is the balance of a tract of 90 acres not deeded to Jacob Stahl out of the northern part of the SE quarter of Sec. 2 in twp 10"—See Darke Co. Deeds 11:433 and 34. The Census of 1850 reports Moses Bigler of Adams twp with real estate valued at $1200; the Census of 1860 with real estate valued at $5000; and the Census of 1870 with real estate valued at $6225.

* Greenville (Ohio) Library, Record of War Veterans Graves "Jacob Miller
D. Oct 8, 1861 interred Miller Cem. No 111 2 mi S of Webster and 1 mi E"
tracts—shown incorrectly on the Map of 1875 as "Mary Bixler 65 and 25" acres respectively—constituted the Moses Bigler home place where they lived the rest of their lives. Upon Mary Bigler’s death in 1908, the two tracts were sold to David K. and Mary J. Martin for $630. (1) Moses and Mary Bigler had various other land transactions in Adams and Wayne twps described elsewhere in this history. (2)

Mary Miller Bigler (photo Plate I), known in the family in her later days as "Old Grandma", was a stern, headstrong woman who is said to have ruled her husband with a hand of iron. She told my mother that her stepmother (Jacob Miller’s second wife) opposed her marriage to Moses Bigler. Once when Moses was courting Old Grandma, the stepmother, not knowing Moses was nearby, asked: "What is that lazy Mose Bigler hanging around here for?" But Old Grandma went ahead to marry him, implying she was glad she had done so. My mother interpreted this as a hint from Old Grandma that she herself should make up her own mind concerning her future husband—when her own parents were hinting that she should marry someone more prosperous and less inclined to roam than a Burns.

Old Grandma was extremely frugal—"close as bark on a beech tree" according to the local expression. The story is told that she did not want her family to eat butter, as it could be sold for money. So she would place the butter at the far end of the table and her husband would eat his meal without any butter rather than ask her for it. Grandpa told my brother Chalmer, when he and Chalmer were hoeing corn in 1926 or 1927, that Old Grandma became quite furious when Grandpa, as a young man, bought his favorite girl a dollar bottle of perfume. Old Grandma regarded this as an extravagant waste of money.

She disliked living in a log cabin and wanted a brick house. Moses finally built a brick house, but against his will, and always referred to it as the "mud house". The bricks were burned at the same time bricks were burned for the John Jacob Miller house, from clay obtained on John Jacob Miller’s farm, when Ike Miller was a small boy (i.e. about 1860) according to my Uncle Jake. Moses’ mud house, a sizeable two story structure with fireplaces and interior walnut woodwork, has been unoccupied for many years. It is located at the house site on the farm marked incorrectly on the Map of 1875 as the "Mary Bixler" farm. My mother, my brothers and I visited it in December, 1959, when the photo was made that appears here on Plate II. It is said that when the house was being built, Moses would sometimes slip away to fish all day in Stillwater River, near Springhill (photo Plate III). When he worked, he worked hard. But he did not like to work all the time. Sometimes he liked to fish and enjoy solitude, according to his nephew Charles H. Bigler. My mother recalls that Grandfather Cyrus Bigler liked his father very much. (3) Old Grandma, the mother, (2) Cyrus Bigler, was born Dec 13, 1832 in the Moses Bigler Life House—the first Bigler to be born in that house. The house still stands (1976) in a Decrepit, fallen down condition.

(1) Sold April 8, 1903—Darke Co. Deeds 148:341.
(2) Purchase of 10 acres from Jacob Wineland, N.W. corner N.W. 1/4 Sec. 1 twp 10, May 12, 1871 DC deeds 57:488. Various tracts purchased in Sections 35 and 36 of Wayne twp, were eventually sold to their sons Cyrus and Jacob Bigler. A boy who lived in a small house north of Moses Bigler brick house told Mathews Namon Byrnes, in May 1862 at Springhill (where the boy was fishing) that there had been a murder, a man had been murdered in the Moses Bigler house with his wife and daughter. This boy had no knowledge of the Moses Bigler or of the family tradition concerning date, hour, etc. Owners of house near this murder place is a souvenir collector according to this boy.
Moses Bigler died April 27, 1874 in his fifty-fifth year from heart strain incurred in building a chimney for the new house of his son Cyrus. His wife remained for some time thereafter on the home farm until the youngest daughter Lydia married. Then she lived with Lydia and her husband Charles H. Jackson, but visited for long periods with her other children, with her brother John Jacob Miller in Kansas and with her relatives in Elkhart Co., Indiana. Her son Cyrus farmed some of her land (which he eventually bought). She would try to dominate him, would order which crops to plant, and would watch him with an eagle eye to see that she got her full share of the crop. He would listen to her quietly, would not argue with her, but would do what he thought best. It annoyed her very much that she could not get an argument out of him but she respected him, too, for she knew he was fair and could not be bullied.

Old Grandma could not write—her will was signed Mary x Bigler—mark and when she read it was not silently but in a loud whisper. But she could do accounts and calculate interest in her head with lightning speed. One of her sons, Jacob, became involved in financial difficulties and was always trying to borrow money from his mother. Although she gave him money, she always told my mother (who wrote the letters she dictated to her son Jacob) to add at the end of each letter "Tell Jake I don't have any more money for him". My mother would omit this injunction when Jake had not asked for money, but Old Grandma did not know this as she never asked to have her letters read back to her. Old Grandma dated events in her early married life with reference to whether they occurred "before Jake was born" or "the year Jake was born", or "after Jake was born". Although exacting in collecting every cent owed her, she gave away her money to her children. When Cyrus' second wife, Ida Seifert, suggested that she spend some of her money on herself, Old Grandma replied "All right, you decide what to buy for me".

Old Grandma once visited my parents when we lived near Arcanum and I was a baby. She rocked me and sang to me. I have a vague impression of an old woman, dressed in black, who bent over my bed, and I was frightened. My mother says that she rarely talked at meals, not being given to light conversation. She could not quite understand why my father talked and laughed through dinner but she liked him and enjoyed his jokes. When she left, she gave my mother a dollar to buy sugar.

Old Grandma died Feb. 11, 1908. She and her husband were both buried in Oakland cemetery. The old marker for Moses' grave is crumbling but beside it is a newer marker, erected by Cyrus, for both his parents. These markers read as follows:

Moses Bigler
Died
Apr. 27, 1874
aged
55 yrs. 10 mo.
& 7 ds

Moses Bigler
1818-1874
A. 55 y 10 m 7 D
Mary Bigler
1825-1908
A. 82 y 11 M 2 D
Mary Miller Bigler's will of May 21, 1897, as finally amended Aug. 10, 1905, provided that upon her decease her estate should be divided equally among her five children, except that the fifth normally going to her son, Jacob (less $575 that he owed her) should go to Jacob's wife and children. A codicil in her will, dated Aug. 10, 1905, stipulated that any heir attempting to set aside the will would be debarred from any distribution of her estate. (Darke Co. Record of Wills, p. 505.) Cyrus Bigler and her son-in-law John Long filed an executor's account on Nov. 25, 1908, showing a balance of $9,984.85, available for distribution to the heirs, as follows (Darke Co. Estates Records):

- Cash for sale of land, 65 acres in Sec. 2 and 21 acres in Sec. 1, of twp 10 to David K. and Mary J. Martin, on May 29, 1908: $6,350.00
- Cash from checks: $371.61
- Sale of wheat: $645.50
- Sale of corn, July 2, 1908: $162.30

Notes:
- Charles H. Jackson, 1907: $1,683.43
- Cyrus Bigler, note for $2,000 of 7/17/1906: $2,058.00
- Cora Bigler: $645.50
- Account against Lewis Lime: $60.00

Total: $10,811.00
Payments and expenses: $829.55
Balance for distribution to heirs: $9,981.45

Children

The heirs of Moses and Mary Bigler, as indicated in the estate record, were Cyrus Bigler of Wayne twp., Mary J. Martin and Nancy Long of Adams twp, Lydia Jackson of Covington, O., and the family of Jacob Bigler of Rothbury, Michigan.

Jacob Bigler, who resembled his brother Cyrus in physical appearance, once owned three farms in Miami Co. near Covington, and later lived north of Horatio (see Map of 1875, on a farm later owned by my Uncle Earl Bigler) but eventually he went bankrupt. When his creditors attempted to attach his horse and wagon, he continued on the highway--where they could not be seized legally--until he reached Michigan beyond their jurisdiction. He settled at Rothbury, Michigan where he remained the rest of his life. He returned briefly to Darke Co. when his mother's estate was being settled. His wife was Emma Yount and their children were: Clark O. (he was a schoolteacher), Ethel, Hermon C., Cyrus, Olive, Mary, and Pearl. They, and one of these children, live now in the Dittoek, Michigan.

Nancy married John Long, May 13, 1872, and they lived on a farm in Adams township (see Map of 1875, farm then owned by Moses Bigler). Old Grandma, who stayed with them sometimes in her later years, used to say: "John Long is..."
such a good man; that is why he gets such good crops. John Long died Oct. 14, 1918; Nancy died Oct. 3, 1928; and both are buried in the Harris Creek Brethren cemetery. They had 8 children, of whom four went to the Mt. Morris Academy - College in Illinois and four to the Manchester Academy - College in Indiana, both Brethren schools. Their children were: (1)

1. William. b. April 30, 1873. He studied at Mt. Morris for 2 years. For many years he managed large farms at Mt. Carroll, Ill. He is still living.

2. Jacob. b. June 19, 1875. He was superintendent of grade schools at Greenville, Ohio. He died at the age of 83.

3. Jesse. b. Aug. 24, 1877 and d. 1948 Rolla, N. Dakota. He was a farmer and a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

4. Andrew. b. April 11, 1880. He attended Mt. Morris Academy, taught school and became cashier of a bank in Beaverton, Michigan, where he died in 1935.

5. Harvey. b. July 31, 1882. He received a B.A. from Mt. Morris College in 1918; taught school for many years and became treasurer of the Kable Brothers Printing Co., Mt. Morris, Ill. Retired, he is now living at 110 N. Seminary Drive, Mt. Morris but travels in the Near East and Europe.

6. Samuel. b. Feb. 25, 1886. He attended Mt. Morris Academy, was a mail carrier in California, and now lives on the home place in Adams twp.

7. Cyrus. b. Aug. 7, 1890. He was a corporal in WW I, serving in Archangel, Russia. After the war he worked as a draftsman in automobile companies in Detroit, and later with the Douglas Aircraft Co. in California.

8. Mary Susan. b. Aug. 13, 1893. m. Simon Irick who was principal of schools in various towns in Indiana.

Mary J. Bigler, wife of David K. Martin, lived on an 80 acre farm north of the David Bigler farm. I remember him well, a large man with a bushy beard and twinkling eyes, who liked to listen and laugh as he played such records on the old fashioned Victrola as "Uncle Josh goes Coon Hunting" and "Train Time at Pumpkin Center". He died Oct. 11, 1929, and his wife May 30, 1938 and both are buried at the Harris Creek cemetery. David
Martin was once a schoolteacher, and Mary also taught school for a short time. Their children were: Lawrence, who taught grade school in various Darke Co. schools for many years; Bertha, who taught grade school for 29 years, chiefly at Gettysburg; Lydia, the wife of Ora Miller; Oscar Martin, a farmer who bought the old David Bigler farm in 1917; and Henny, who lived near Union City.

Lydia Bigler married Charles H. Jackson of Adams twp in 1886 who later owned the Jackson Stone Co. of Covington, O. and for 23 years the Jackson Farm Implement Co. of Troy. He was a Commissioner of Miami Co. 1911-1919. They were members of the Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill. Both died in 1946 and were buried in the Covington Cemetery. Their children are: Mrs. Mabel Wackler, Mrs. Bertha Thompson, Andrew and Wilford, all living in the vicinity of Covington; Mrs. Vivian (Martha) Faulker of Troy; and William who lived in California.

"Mary Bigler was born in Adams township, Darke County, Ohio, March 12, 1825, and departed this life at the home of her son, Cyrus Bigler, February 14, 1908, aged 82 years, 11 months and 2 days. In July 1843 she was married to Moses Bigler, with whom she lived thirty-two years, when he was summoned to his long home in 1875. His long home going date of death, Apr. 21, 1874, which date also appears in Moses Bigler family Bible. She remained on the farm for about 15 years, after which she broke up housekeeping and for the past 20 years she made her home with her children. In 1850 she united with the Brethren church in which she lived a devoted and faithful member until death. She was the mother of six children, two boys and six girls, one daughter having died in infancy. She is the eighth out of a family of ten children to cross the stream of death. She leaves to mourn her departing five children, twenty-seven grand and twenty-two great-grandchildren, one brother and one sister and a large circle of relatives and friends. Services at Oakland Church Sunday, by Revs. H.H. Christian and H.Z. Smith. Interment in Oakland cemetery by J.B. Miller."
Farms in 1875
Wayne and Adams Twp.
Adapted from
Lake and Griffing Atlas
of Darke County, Ohio

Wayne Twp.
Adams Twp.

Harris Creek

Wayne River

Stilwell River

Buggards

LA

AC

E. T.

Levi Huddle

J. M.

Levi Huddle

Jacob

Fred

Seibt

30

40

60

20

100
Cyrus M. Bigler, my grandfather, was of the fifth generation of Biglers in America.

The first four generations had been pioneers, always moving westward from the place where they were born to settle in a new land. Mark had emigrated from the Rhineland, at the age of 28, to settle eventually in Frederick County, Maryland. His son Israel, having spent most of his mature years in Frederick County, migrated from there at the age of 57 to western Pennsylvania. Israel's son, David, moved from western Pennsylvania at the age of 73 to establish himself in Darke County, Ohio. David's children moved with him from western Pennsylvania to settle either in Darke County (as did Moses Bigler) or to continue westward to Elkhart County, Indiana. Some of the Elkhart Biglers continued the pioneer movement to the Pacific Coast.

Cyrus Bigler was a settler, spending all of his life within a mile of where he was born on his parents' farm in Adams township, August 13, 1840. He inherited and carried on a family pattern of life that reflected the traditions of his forefathers. Their pattern of life was based upon agriculture, for the Biglers had been farmers for many, many generations. They had a great reverence for land. Their goal was to acquire land, to develop the land into fertile farms, with good houses and barns, and to pass on these farms to their children. They were modest people, not seeking great wealth, or national fame, and not much interested in national political affairs. Few sought political positions, and fewer still military careers, for almost all opposed military life. They wanted to be prosperous farmers. What they did they tried to do well. They were builders and organizers by nature—a characteristic that runs through many generations of Biglers. Few indeed resorted to slick methods and short cuts to make their fortunes. They depended upon honest toil to achieve what they wanted of worldly goods.

Their family pattern was patriarchal. They wanted many sons and daughters, for it was part and parcel of their way of life to pass on their material possessions to their children. The tradition of "carrying on"
was strong among these people. If there were no sons and daughters, some of their raison d'être ceased to be; and the pattern was broken. If they were not much interested in national horizons, they were, by way of compensation, strongly interested in the material and spiritual welfare of their families and their communities. They were people of religious faith, at peace with themselves. Through successive generations of Biglers, many were active in the churches of whatever religious denomination they chose to belong; and many had long careers as teachers in their respective communities. For the most part they were serious people, honest, kindly, not much given to frivolity or to the light arts, but keenly interested in life and generally ready to lend their efforts to help build a good community.

This was the family pattern that Cyrus Bigler inherited. He had little direct personal contact with the outside world beyond his immediate farming community. But he had qualities—natural wisdom, a shrewd understanding of human nature, a kindly outlook upon the world, and a zest for work and life—that evoked the respect of those who knew him.

He represented a generation, midway between the original frontiersman and the mechanized farmers of today, that converted the Ohio forest land into farms. He represented a phase of American country life, with a set of values that I hope will not be lost. I am writing this account of my Grandfather Bigler, as I remember him over 30 years ago, because he lived a full, interesting and useful life, because I was fond of my grandfather, and because I wish to pass on to others my recollections of his qualities that made him the person he was.

The story I write here is of country life in Darke County, Ohio as I knew it in my boyhood and as told to me by my grandfather and others of the family.

Boyhood and Early Youth

When Cyrus Bigler was a small boy, most of the country in Adams and Wayne townships was heavily wooded. The woods were so thick that he would cut the bark from one side of the tree — hacking three trees in a straight row and then another three trees in a straight row — to avoid losing the way when he ventured far from home. Cows roamed wild in the woods, as did the hogs that fed on beech-nuts and acorns. Stillwater River was filled with fish that one could net by the bucket full. And wild game abounded everywhere. Grandpa was greatly concerned in his later years that the streams were being fished out and the game becoming more and more scarce.

As a small boy, he worried about the world drying up. This worry never quite left him, as he always feared "dry spells" in the years I knew him. Once there was an old man wandering about the countryside who had an almanac that he used to predict the exact day the world would end. Grandpa, as a small boy, listened to the old man's predictions of impending doom and was nearly scared to death. One evening, when running down a path to get the cows, he happened to glance up where it seemed the stars were darting about in the sky. This was
it, thought Grandpa - the end of the world! So he ran faster and faster, until he discovered that the shaking stars were the result of his own running. When he told me this story in his seventies, he still seemed annoyed at the old man and his almanac.

Once, he overheard his parents complaining about a neighbor's chickens that were eating and scratching in the Bigler cornfield. "Someone ought to kill those chickens", they said. He pondered over the problem, and, without divulging his intentions to anyone, loaded the muzzle loading rifle, waited in the cornfield until he saw two chickens lined up in a row, and then killed both with one shot. When his parents discovered the dead chickens in a hollow stump, they traced the deed to him and were about to punish him. But, protested he, "you said someone should kill those chickens". Turning to me with a chuckle, he concluded "I had them on that".

In his youth he attended school at Webster, later at Greenville, and then for two terms at Whitewater College, Centerville (near Richmond), Indiana. This was a small academy or junior college run by the Methodists from 1853 to 1870. He spoke often of this college, giving the impression that he had enjoyed it very much. I do not know why he went there, but Uncle Charley told me in 1957 that it was because Grandpa, hoping to become a teacher, wanted higher education than could be obtained in the local schools. A friend of Grandpa's from near Bradford, who attended Whitewater at the same time, became very homesick but his father, a Methodist minister, refused him permission to return home as his tuition had already been paid. Finally, the boy, in desperation, wrote his father that he had met a Catholic girl and was going to join the Catholic church so he could marry her. This, he thought, would galvanize his Methodist father into granting him permission to come home. But, to his chagrin, the father replied: Go ahead. It is better to be a good Catholic than a bad Methodist.

Grandpa's biography states that he taught school from the age of 17 (1861) until he was married in 1868. (See photo taken when he was a young school teacher, Plate III). His obituary noted that he was a teacher for many years in the schools of Adams and Wayne townships and that he had started many youth "on their way to an education and to an upright and useful life". He spoke often of his teaching experience, especially the debating societies. I understood that he was a leader of the Webster debating society. He regarded debating as good intellectual exercise that enabled one to keep "posted" (the local expression for keeping abreast of current affairs). He taught school at Webster, Horatio and also at Erisman school about two miles north of Bear's Mill on the road to Stelvideo. The latter school building is now used as a private home. Across the fields to the south is the Erisman's old brick farm house where he boarded while teaching there. When Grandpa became a teacher, one of the first things he did was to buy a gold watch. He was quite proud of this watch and wore it all his life. He passed it on to Uncle Charley who requested that it be given to me (as was done in 1957). I shall pass it on to a Bigler descendant who will undertake to keep it as a family souvenir.
His first post as a school teacher paid $75 for a 7 month term and he had to "buck his own wood", according to Uncle Charley. This was a log school, one mile north of Bradford (and one-half mile from the east end of Harris Creek road, about 20 rods north of the road, at a spot now marked by a cedar tree). He also taught at a school on the Piqua road, on the right bank of Trotter Creek. When Christmas came, the big boys, obstreperous fellows who were older and larger than he, asked whether he would treat them at Christmas with candy and popcorn as was the custom in country schools. They threatened and eventually threw him into the creek in the dead of winter, because he refused to disclose his intentions. Then, when Christmas came, he gave them "treats". He said he had refused to tell because a surprise was a surprise. The big boys apologized and never gave him any more trouble. This, he said, turned out to be the best school he ever had.


Cyrus Bigler married Lydia Ann Lowe, October 1, 1868. She was born in Palestine, German twp., Darke Co., May 9, 1851, the daughter of George Lowe who later abandoned his family and went to live in Canada. Her mother (we do not know her name) died in Horatio. (1) The Lowe children, it is said, had to support themselves. Lydia had a sister, Belle, who married James Kester of Arcanum and another sister Ella who married a McClanahan or Hanahan + (if my mother remembers the name correctly) who lived in Kansas. She had two brothers, Jacob and John Lowe, the latter who lived in Kansas resembled my Uncle Clyde in physical appearance. + Married according to Bureau Bigler Pillar in 1868.

Lydia Lowe worked as a hired girl for Joe Warner who lived east of Horatio (see Map of 1875) in the same house that is still standing there beside a tall pine tree. Cyrus boarded at the Warners when he was teaching school in Horatio. He told Pam Bigler that he was very much interested in girls during the year he taught at Horatio. Pam's mother—a twin sister of Joe Warner's wife—said that Lydia was a very good girl and well liked by the Warners. It is reported that she was quite good looking and that the Warners favored Cyrus' courtship. Lydia was a Methodist and remained so all her life.

When Cyrus and Lydia were first married, they lived with Cyrus' parents. Lydia's sister, Belle, told my mother that Cyrus' mother (Old Grandma) did not

(1) Lydia Lowe's place of birth as given in Cyrus Bigler's biography—see appendix. Date of birth from family Bible now in possession of my Uncle Ray Bigler. The only known photograph of Lydia Lowe is an enlargement now owned by my mother made many years ago from an original small photo that has been lost. Belle Kester said the enlargement is not a natural likeness of Lydia Lowe. Belle Kester and Mrs. Ira Petersime told my mother Lydia was a beautiful girl. My Uncle Jake Bigler told me some of the Lowes are buried in a small church cemetery on the Greenville-Gettysburg Pike about 2 miles west of Bear's Mill but I could not find any markers there. I was unable to locate George Lowe in the Census records for 1850 and 1860 in the townships Adams, Wayne, German or Greenville.
treat Lydia well, that she made her work very hard, and that when Lydia sewed herself a new hat, Old Grandma laughed at it. At first, Lydia could not cook well but was eager to learn. She asked everyone for recipes and eventually became a very good cook. Belle (whom my mother resembles in physical appearance and in her dignified manner) disliked Old Grandma to the end of her days because of her treatment of Lydia.

Cyrus bought an 80 acre farm east of the present "new road" to Buzzards' Glory School in Wayne twp., for $3,000 on September 10, 1868, shortly before he got married. Cyrus and Lydia soon moved to their new farm where their first two children, Lulu and Charles, were born in the little log house, formerly a school house, that stood in the southeast corner of their farm. It is not quite certain whether Earl was born in the log house or the new white frame house. All the other children were born in the white frame house that Cyrus built there about 1874 (photo Plate III). Here Cyrus and Lydia lived the rest of their lives. Cyrus and Lydia Bigler had four sons and four daughters, as follows (see photo Plate I): (1) Lulu May, b. April 9, 1870; m. Noah Grove May 9, 1889. Lived at Sturgis, Michigan, most of her life. d. Oct., 1955 and buried at Versailles, Ohio. Their children were: Mary, who taught school at Ohio City and married Bart Wise of that town where they now live; Stella; also a former schoolteacher, who m. Ross Michael; Mildred, who m. Nelson Holt; Carl of Flint, Michigan; Roger, an athletic coach in Sturgis, Michigan; Don of New York City. (2) Charles Orville, b. April 9, 1872; m. Mary Wade (1st) and Lillie (2nd) Monroe Selby; d. 1957. Buried in Harris Creek Cem. He worked for the Pennsylvania RR most of his life, lived in Bradford, and was a member of the Bradford Church of Brethren. His only child, Ivan, a lieutenant in the Marines during WW I, was a baseball player and coach in a boys school in Worcester, Mass., for many years. (3) Harvey Earl, b. Feb. 26, 1874; m. Olive Brewer Feb. 6, 1898. Lived on farm north of Horatio 1905-28 and in Gettysburg, Ohio until his death Sept. 2, 1938 (buried at Gettysburg). Member of Oakland Church of Brethren. Their only child, Bernice, was a schoolteacher before she married Ray Petersime Oct. 21, 1920. They live at Gettysburg where he owns the Petersime Incubator Co. He has been a trustee of Manchester College (Brethren), N. Manchester Ind. for 30 years. Their children are: Marvin b. Aug. 10, 1921 m. Marjorie Metzger and they have one son Alan; Ruth Carol b. Sept. 29, 1925 m. Norman Miller and they have four sons, Leland, Gary, Steve and Philip; Nora Ray b. Dec. 13, 1927, and four daughters, Marjorie Petersime and Phyllis Bigler b. Feb. 26, 1929 m. Frederick K. Stanganelli 1959, and 3 others. (4) Belle, b. 1876 and died 1957.

(1) Birth, marriage and death dates obtained chiefly from Cyrus Bigler family Bible now in possession of his son Ray Bigler; supplemented in some cases by obituary records furnished me by my mother.

April 19, 1932 and d. March 1, 1935; Mary Anna, b. Dec. 25, 1934 now teaching in a mission school at Lassa, Nigeria; and Esther Fern b. March 27, 1936 now doing voluntary church work in Castaner, Puerto Rico.

4. Jacob L. b. April 15, 1876, d. Mar. 10, 1957, buried Versailles Cem.; lived on farm in Adams twp, across the road from his father's farm, most of his life; m. Ida Farmer Sept. 10, 1899. Member of Oakland Church of Brethren. Their only child Lucille m. Emery Brandt, a County Commissioner of Darke Co., and lives in Webster, O. Lucille b. Nov. 5, 1900 in white house (now a barn) at 5 W. Grove St. She lived with her parents until 14 yrs of age.

5. Clyde Elmer, b. March 9, 1878, d. Feb. 1, 1939, buried Versailles Cem.; worked for Penn. RR 1901-1938, during most of the time as a conductor; member of Bradford Methodist Church, m. Carrie Lee Robinson of Webster, March 8, 1900 and lived in Bradford most of his life. Their children were: Ruby who married Harold Wagaman and lives at Troy, Ohio; Thelma who married Richard Gaywood and now teaches grade school in Bradford; and Robert who married Maude Griffiths and now resides at 89 Spring Ridge Drive, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Robert, who was a captain in the Merchant Marines for many years, is now manager of Operations of the Atlantic Division of the California Shipping Company. Robert retired in Cal. where he died in April 1975.

6. Estella Maud, b. Feb. 4, 1880 m. Charles Schellert Feb. 5, 1923, d. Oct. 21, 1945 and buried at Versailles Cem. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Versailles. During most of her life she lived on the home farm and took care of her father in his later years. I remember her as an extraordinarily kind and understanding person greatly beloved by her nephews and nieces.

7. Mabel Grace, b. Oct. 4, 1882, m. Harley A. Burns Jan. 1, 1905 (b. Aug. 16, 1880 on farm formerly owned by his grandfather Joseph Mendenhall McDonald - see map of 1875 - one-fourth mile n.e. of Webster, Ohio; d. Feb. 11, 1955 and buried at Versailles, Ohio). She and her husband and children are members of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Versailles. They lived on a 8-acre farm near Arcanum, Ohio, 1905-20; and on an 80-acre farm in Richland twp, Darke Co., since 1920. Their children are: Norman b. Nov. 14, 1905 on the Petersime farm across the road from the McDonald Farm, m. Constance Albrech of Rochester, N.Y., graduate of Wittenberg University and Yale University, now Director of the U.S. Operations Mission, Amman, Jordan; Chalmers Eugene, b. Dec. 20, 1910 near Arcanum, now an inspector in the Delco plant of General Motors Co., Dayton, formerly married to Wilma Stocker of Ansonia, Ohio, and has two children Robert m. Anne Agaston, and Rebecca Sue; Harold Bigler, b. Nov. 6, 1918 near Arcanum who served as a sergeant in armor in the 20th U.S. Air Force, 15th Pursuit Squadron, in Guam during World War II and now operates the family farm in Richmond twp (photo Plate IV) which he bought from his mother Oct. 30, 1959. Since Thanksgiving Day 1959 she has been living at Webster (RFD, Bradford, Ohio).

8. Bessie Blanche, b. Dec. 21, 1884, d. Nov. 25, 1951 and buried at the Stelvideo Cem. Member of Stelvideo Congregational Christian Church. m. Edward Brewer June 10, 1906 and resided for many years on the Brewer home.
CYRUS BIGLER FAMILY, about 1898

F. row: Bessie, Cyrus, Ray, Ida, Earl, Lulu
B. row: Clyde, Mabel, Charles, Stella, Jacob

Cyrus Bigler, Mother Mary Miller Bigler, 
Daughter Lulu and Granddaughter Mary
Moses Bigler House, 1958

Oakland Church of The Brethren, 1958

David Bigler House, 1958

Moses Bigler House, 1958
Stillwater River at Springhill, 1958

Cyrus Bigler Home, 1942

Cyrus Bigler
Buzzard's Glory School, 1958

Mabel Bigler Burns
at Buzzard's Glory School,
Jan. 1959

Marley and Mabel Bigler Burns Home, 1956
David Bigler's signature on power of attorney authorizing his son Daniel to represent him in the settlement of the estate of his father Israel Bigler. Document dated March 12, 1840, before Common Pleas Court, Greenville, Ohio, filed No 11 B.1840 Washington, Penn.

Signature of Moses Bigler and mark of Mary Bigler on deed for sale of 80 acres to their son Cyrus Bigler, Sept 10, 1868. Original deed now in possession of Ray Bigler.

Signatures of Cyrus M. Bigler and Lydia A. Bigler on document mortgaging their 80 acre farm to Mary Bigler for $627. Original document dated Nov 22, 1883 now in possession of Ray Bigler.

Cyrus Bigler's signature on Christmas Card to his grandson Norman Burns, postmarked Dec 20, 1927.
farm near Stelvideo. Their children: Helen who m. Charles Williams, both of whom are graduates of Ohio Northern University and have been teachers in the high schools of Versailles, Bradford and Gettysburg for many years; Ralph who is a farmer near Stelvideo; Ray, a county road inspector at Greenville; and Edith, wife of Carl Wagner, a farmer living near Bradford.

All of Cyrus Bigler's children, including Ray the son of his second marriage, attended school at Buzzards' Glory, north of Springhill (see Plate IV). Grandpa never taught there (although he served as a member of the school board), but his cousin Charles H. Bigler taught at that school when my mother and some of her sisters attended there. My mother remembers that he was very much liked as a teacher. Charles H. Bigler told me that when he first wanted to teach at Buzzards' Glory, he consulted Grandpa who told him "there were cranks on the school board but he would see what he could do". When Charles H. called upon one of the board members, Bill Wolfe, Wolfe said he knew Charles H. was a cousin of Cyrus Bigler but Cyrus couldn't help him on this matter. But Wolfe said he would cast a favorable vote, if Charles H. gave him a ten dollar bill. That is how Charles H. obtained the teaching post at Buzzards' Glory.

Most of Cyrus' children did not attend more advanced schools after they completed Buzzards' Glory, except Ray who graduated from Versailles High School in 1913, Lulu who took a summer "normal" course at Webster, and Jake who studied for a short time at Angola, Indiana. Since Grandpa had been a school teacher and (according to my impression) favored education, I do not know why his children, unlike his sister Nancy Long's children, did not continue in more advanced schools. When I queried my mother on this subject, she replied that if the children had wanted more advanced education, her father would have agreed and helped them but that if they did not he would not have tried to persuade them to do so. She says his philosophy was that they should decide such things for themselves. Remembering as I do his keen interest in history and debating, I think it is curious that he did not give more positive encouragement to his children to continue their higher education.

According to family tradition, Cyrus and Lydia had hard times in the early years of their marriage. Cyrus was heavily in debt for his farm and new house. The family was large. His health was not good; for as a young man he had suffered from lung trouble (possibly T.B.) which he cured by spending much time in the open air in the woods. He thought that his wife would outlive him and that if he died young he would leave a wife and a large family in want. So, as he explained to my mother, they "had to do without", that is they bought very little. After Lydia died, he expressed regrets that he had not given her more things in the years that she had lived. They could not afford rocking chairs in the house. Sometimes, he said, they had only 25 cents worth of sugar for the whole summer. At the same time, his brother, Jacob, had married a girl from the well-to-do Yount family, and they had many things in their home that Cyrus and Lydia could not afford. Then, as Cyrus was beginning to "get on his feet" financially (according to the local expression), he lost virtually everything.
through failure of the Kusnick Bank in Versailles. He was able to retain his own farm only by heavily mortgaging it to his mother and to a Philadelphia loan company in 1883 and 1884.

Despite their financial difficulties, one gathers the impression from little episodes remembered by their children that Cyrus and Lydia were happy. One story I recall, passed on to my mother by her Aunt Belle, was that Cyrus, serious and sober as he usually was, used to act "silly" around his wife and kiss her in front of other people and that she would say in embarrassment "Hush Cy, don't do that."

In the midst of this, Lydia suffered injuries in a run-away horse and buggy accident, when she was thrown from the buggy against the gate post as they turned into the Bigler lane, from which she succumbed June 17, 1887. My mother, who was then only 4 years old, remembers a vague and disturbed feeling that something was wrong, she did not know quite what. Her mother would moan in pain and call for her baby, Bess. My mother remembers how she and Bess gathered a bouquet of old fashioned June pink roses and took them into the bedroom where their mother smelled the roses and continued to moan from pain. She asked that Cyrus spare no expense to save her, for the sake of her children. And when she passed away, Grandpa "broke down and cried so much", according to my Aunt Lulu. My mother still remembers how very lonesome it was after their mother had gone. She remembers, too, how Grandpa Bigler, driving in the surrey with his family to Oakland Church, would study his Sunday School lesson until he reached a place in the road where the Oakland cemetery came into view. Then he would glance up from the Sunday School lesson, and with a sad expression lock across the fields to the Brethren cemetery where Lydia rested. Her grave is near that of Moses and Mary Bigler. It bears the inscription "Lydia A., wife of Cyrus Bigler died June 17, 1887 aged 36 y. 1 m. & 8 d." Carved on the reverse side, so faintly I could hardly read it, is: "LOVE As a wife devoted, as a mother affectionate, As a friend (undecipherable) and true."

Not much information is available concerning Lydia's father, George Lowe, except that my mother and Uncle Jake regarded him as a "black sheep" who deserted his family. Uncle Jake was a prolific source of legends about George Lowe which my mother reluctantly admits having heard when she was still living at home. Lowe was a carpenter who lived on the Greenville-Gettysburg pike near New Harrison. At one time, he lived in Horatio diagonally opposite Sam Sheet's store. Uncle Jake says George Lowe came to the United States from England. He always subscribed to an English paper, which my mother and Uncle Jake understood to be a paper of the English aristocracy; and he would curse the English aristocracy. They believed he was of the English aristocracy but had had to flee the country because of misdeeds there.

"Lowe was a tricky one", said Uncle Jake. During the Civil War, he attempted to escape military service, was captured and brought handcuffed in a wagon to Greenville. As the wagon crossed the Greenville Creek bridge, he jumped his guards, escaped and disappeared somewhere in Indiana where he got a blacksmith friend to cut off the handcuffs. Another time he was seen breaking into a grocery store at New Harrison at night, apparently, to steal groceries.
People surrounded the store to capture him but he slipped through their cordon and was never caught. Uncle Jake thought he came originally from Maryland, or had relatives there. George Lowe abandoned his children in Darke County and disappeared to Canada. Uncle Jake did not know what happened to his wife. After he died, a woman in Canada wrote to the family in Darke County to inquire whether he had any property there. He did not - and that was the last anyone heard of George Lowe.

After Lydia passed away, Old Grandma lived with Cyrus' family for long intervals but would not stay there permanently because she said that at her age she could not stand all the work involved with such a large family. When she managed his household affairs during these intervals, she used the egg money to pay for groceries but, no matter how great the need, she usually contrived to set aside a dollar from the egg sales for Cyrus' savings fund.

On Oct. 23, 1890 Grandpa married Ida Maria Christine Seifert of Webster, a Lutheran, the daughter of Hermann and Clara Seifert who had emigrated to this country from Saxony, Germany. By this marriage there was one son, Ray, born Dec. 21, 1893, who now owns and operates the home farm. She was a fine woman, moderately well educated in the Webster school where she had studied under my great grandfather Joseph McDonald. She, too, had been a grade teacher in Webster. She was greatly beloved by her stepchildren whom she raised, and by all of her grandchildren who always knew that Grandma liked little boys and girls to ask her for ginger cookies. When I was older, she gave me a subscription to the Youth's Companion which interested me so much that I could hardly wait from one issue to the other. I remember especially how she used to play old German tunes on her accordion.

She understood how to deal with Grandpa and Old Grandma when they became too tight with money. Ida Seifert, it seems, followed the German custom of having a light snack of coffee and coffee cake in the middle of the morning, between breakfast and lunch. Old Grandma would complain and scold that this was a waste of time and money. Ida would keep quiet until the coffee and cake were on the table, then she would say, "Come, Grandma, have a bite to eat." Old Grandma would always join at the table, scolding slightly as she enjoyed the cake and coffee. When Old Grandma wished to discuss something the children should not know, she talked with Grandpa and Ida Seifert in Pennsylvania Dutch and Ida replied in High German.

Grandpa wanted his daughters to dress well but, frugal by nature, he hated to spend money. When Ida asked him for money for their clothes, he would often say "Haven't any." Once, after he had said this, a neighbor came to him to borrow money. Grandpa went to his bookcase where he kept his money and gave the neighbor the sum requested. Ida, who happened to see this transaction, went to Grandpa afterwards, locked him square in the eye, and said "Now, Pal!" Grandpa smiled in a "sheepish way", according to my mother, and the next day gave Ida the money needed for the children's clothes.

When my mother was a young woman, she desperately wanted patent leather slippers that were beginning to come into vogue then, but her parents insisted upon high top button shoes. My father, then courting her, gave her Ray Fowler, V. H. S. Good 1913 found all his life in Dr. Fowler Farm learn where he lived alone for many years after Stilley Baker died. In Jan. 1914, he suffered a severe stroke in Canton Hospital Greenville with assistance of Howard Brown of Ralph Brown, where he died Feb. 6, 1915. He was buried in Dr. Stilley's Greenlawn Cem. Herman of Clara (Dobbs) Seifert lived on 100 acres on Rte. 12, Webster when Harry Sr. living, Mrs. (1915) still lived in Dr. Stilley's Greenlawn Cem. Herman of Clara (Dobbs) Seifert lived on 100 acres on Rte. 12, Webster when Harry Sr. living, Mrs. (1915) still lived in Dr. Stilley's Greenlawn Cem.
a pair of patent leather slippers (which my mother told me last year was "the
nicest pair of slippers I ever had"). But when Grandpa heard of this, he
snapped at her "I can buy your own shoes" and turning to his other daughter
Bess, who had received a present from her fiance, informed her "That goes
for you, too, Bess".

Webster in the days when my mother was a girl was an important social
and commercial center, with its post office, grocery store, flour mill, saloon,
blacksmith shop, school and church. There were no rural mail carriers, so the
farmers drove buggies to Webster to pick up their mail, chat with their friends,
and buy groceries. Stamps were then 2½ for a letter. Grandpa Bigler collected
at the Webster P.O. various papers to which he subscribed, including the Ver-
sailles Policy, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Saturday Evening Post. The
principal groceries bought by farmers were sugar, salt, rice and coffee - one
pound paper sacks of "Lion" coffee then costing 15¢. When my mother was small,
there were no oranges or lemons in the Webster grocery store but later, while
she was still at home, oranges and lemons became common, especially lemons
which were quite popular with the farmers for lemonade. The first huckster my
mother remembers was a certain Pug Long from Stelvideo, who travelled from farm
to farm with a grocery wagon drawn by a team of horses. The farmers' wives
usually sold chickens and eggs to the huckster to pay for their groceries. When
my mother was small, the grocery store and post office of Webster were operated
by George Wissinger, the blacksmith shop by Mr. Shimp and the saloon by "old
Charley Seifert". Whisky drinking was all too common in those days. The Metho-
dist Church was the only church in Webster then. Grandpa Bigler used to drive
there with my mother and her sisters to attend Sunday school, then held on Sunday
afternoons, and thereafter they would have Sunday dinner with his Aunt Sally
Bashore who lived on the west edge of Webster. There was no mill in Webster in
my mother's day. But in earlier times, a grist mill was owned and operated by
Jacob Miller (Mary Miller Bigler's father) and his son Henry. According to my
father, a miller at Webster, who used to grind flour for the farmers on a percent-
age basis, had a dog that would eat flour as it poured from the exit spigot by
the grinding stone. That was how the miller "fed" his dog. One day, as a farmer
watched the miller's dog eating his flour, the miller asked: "How long will that
damned dog eat that flour?" The farmer, annoyed by the slowness of the grinding
and by the dog eating his flour, replied "Probably until he starves to death".

One gathers an impression from various episodes that occurred as the family
grew up that Grandpa, unselfish as he was in most things, expected the family to
adjust themselves to his convenience as head of the family. He seems to have
taken this for granted, in accord with the patriarchal tradition of his back-
ground. It may be that his mother, who regarded him as the apple of her eye,
and his wife Lydia who was very fond of him contributed towards this tendency.
Grandpa always sat at the head of the table, he was served first at meals, and
it is said that "the family waited on him hand and foot".

Farmer

Cyrus Bigler, like so many Biglers before and after him, wanted to accu-
mulate land. His first purchase was the 80-acre tract in Section 36 of Wayne
twp., on Sept. 10, 1868. This tract had been sold by the State of Ohio to
Henry Stahl in 1833 for $100 - see photostat of original sale document, signed
by Governor Robert Lucas of Ohio, that is now in possession of Cyrus Bigler's
descendants.
ROBERT LUCAS,
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME--GREETING:

KNOW YE, That in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars, and __________ Cents, paid by Henry Nahl, of Clark County, Ohio, to Joseph A. Young, Receiver of Miami Canal Lands, at Piqua, Ohio, for the purchase of the tract of land herein described, lying and being in the county of Clark, and granted by an act of Congress, entitled "An act to aid the State of Ohio in extending the Miami Canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, and to grant a quantity of land to said State, to aid in the construction of the Canals authorized by law; and for making donations of land to certain persons in Arkansas Territory," which said tract of land has been fully paid for, agreeably to the returns of the Register and Receiver of said District, made to this office. Therefore, in pursuance of "An act to provide for the sale of certain lands granted by Congress to the State of Ohio," there is granted by the State of Ohio, unto the said Henry Nahl, and to his heirs and assigns, forever, the West Half of the South West Quarter of Section number Thirty-six, in Township number Eleven, of Range number Three (East) of Lands selected for the extension of the Miami Canal, containing Eighty Acres of land, more or less, in the Cincinnati land district.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, The said Henry Nahl, for his heirs and assigns, forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said Robert Lucas, Governor of the State of Ohio, hath caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed, and signed, the same with his hand, at Columbus, this Twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

BY THE GOVERNOR,

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE.
son Ray. This 80-acre tract had been sold by the Stahl heirs to Moses Bigler on Dec. 17, 1853 for $850 who had sold it to his son Cyrus on Sept. 10, 1868 for $3,000. (1) This was Cyrus Bigler's "home farm" where all of his children, including my mother, were born.

On Dec. 10, 1881 Cyrus Bigler bought from his brother Jacob 80 acres west of the "new road" in Section 35 of Wayne Twp for $4,000. (2) Later he was forced to sell this 80-acre tract as a result of financial losses incurred from failure of the Kusnick Bank of Versailles - one half being sold to his mother for $2,100 and the other half to his youngest sister Lydia for $2,100, on Jan. 22, 1884. (3) Eventually, through an involved chain of transfers, he repurchased the last of the 80 acres from his mother in 1906. (4) The Plat Book of Darke County, published in 1910

(1) Darke Co. Deed Books: 90-567; L2-62; 92-525. The deed of sale on Sept. 10, 1868 described the tract as the "West half of the South West quarter of Section Thirty Six in Township 11 of Range Three East Containing Eighty Acres More or Less in Darke County". The deed was signed "Moses Bigler and Mary x Bigler".

The original survey of Sections 36 and 35 in Wayne Twp was made by Daniel C. Cooper, July 1801. His survey notes show that he walked from the S.E. Corner of Section 36 westward, along what was later the south side of Cyrus Bigler's farm, to the S.W. Corner of Section 36 which he described as "2 mile good 2nd rate soil Timber Ash Oak, Hickory etc." From the S.W. Corner of Sec. 36 he proceeded northward, over what is now the "new road" and past the spring at Spring Hill bridge to "a sugar tree on the banks of Still Water, across the river into a bottom, ascending a bank on an Oak flat" to the present site of Buzzards' Glory School. Note of Survey in National Archives, Washington.

(2) Jacob Bigler had obtained this 80-acre tract from his father Moses Bigler who had bought it in 2 parcels: one on March 19, 1861 from Frampston and Amanda Oliver described as the E half of E half of SEQ. of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, for $650; and the second on Jan. 7, 1862 from Frampston Oliver described as the W. half of E half of the SEQ of Sec. 35 containing 40 acres, for $600. Darke Co. Deed Books: U2-185; and R2-153.

(3) E half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, to his mother Mary Bigler; and the W. half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35, containing 40 acres, to his sister Lydia Bigler. Darke Co. Deed Books: 90-118; 89-293.

(4) Lydia Bigler (who married Charles H. Jackson) resold her 40 acres to Cyrus Bigler and his mother Mary Bigler for $2,100 on Aug. 1, 1891 - i.e. the tract described as the W. half of the E. half of the SEQ of Sec. 35. Mary Bigler then sold her share of this 40-acre tract - viz. W. half of the W. half of the E. half of SEQ of Sec. 35, containing 20 acres, to Cyrus Bigler for $1, on Sept. 2, 1897. At the same time, Sept. 2, 1897 Cyrus Bigler sold his share of this 40-acre tract - viz. E half of W half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35 - containing 20 acres to his mother Mary Bigler, for $1. Mary Bigler then resold the same 20 acre tract to Cyrus Bigler for $1200 on March 19, 1901. Darke Co. Deeds: 190-37; 198-372; 198-376; 198-377. The 40-acre tract purchased by Mary Bigler from Cyrus Bigler on Jan. 22, 1894 - viz. E half of E half of SEQ of Sec. 35 - was resold by Mary Bigler to Cyrus Bigler on July 17, 1906 for $3,000, Darke Co. Deeds: l40-561.
by the Northwest Publishing Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, shows "Maplewood Farm" of 160 acres owned by Cyrus Bigler. (1)

When Grandpa first went to live on his home farm, it was almost entirely woods. As stated in his obituary, "He located on the farm home when a young man and with his own hand cleared most of it, and in doing this cultivated not only the land but a love and knowledge of nature that made him an able horticulturist and authority on agriculture in its finer phases. He saw beauties in nature that only its lovers see and his trees were above money value to him".

Clearing of land was an arduous task. Grandpa worked at it all his life. He was still clearing a few acres in the east 80, south of the woods, when I remember him. To clear land the large trees were girdled and then eventually sawn or chopped down. Limbs and brush were generally burned. Stumps were blown out with dynamite, a dangerous chore that cost many a farmer loss of life or limb. After clearing, the black, loamy "new ground", rich in humus, yielded wonderful crops.

Grandpa loved the land and woods. He made good use of his woods and, at the same time, developed a fine stand of timber that Uncle Ray was maintained to this day. He seemed to have inherited something of the old German reverence for trees. As my mother told me in July 1958, "One thing stands out that I remember - his love for trees. I can see him put his hand on a tree trunk and look up and say what a magnificent tree. The trees were so tall in his woods; he almost worshiped a beautiful tree". He knew the names of all the species. During the winter and early spring months, he spent much time in the woods cutting down over-age trees for lumber and firewood. The Germans, he said, took good care of their woods. They used even the little twigs and roots which in this country would be wasted. He gave me the impression that the Germans were a methodical and economical people.

Grandpa was handy with the axe. His wood shed was usually well stacked with cut wood drying for use in the kitchen stove. A hopper stood near the woodshed where wood ashes were accumulated throughout the year. These ashes were used, in conjunction with waste fats from the kitchen, to make laundry soap. All of the family laundry soap was made in this way. For toilet use, they bought "Grandpa's Tar Soap".

In early spring, when sap began to flow, Grandpa tapped the many maple trees in his woods for sugar water. This was done by drilling a hole on the south side of a maple tree, into which was inserted an iron or wooden spigot about six inches long. A tin bucket was placed below the spigot to catch the

(1) That is 80 acres east of the "new road" in Sec. 36 and 80 acres west of the "new road" in Sec. 35. An earlier Atlas of Darke County, published by Griffing and Stevenson at Philadelphia, in 1875, shows Cyrus Bigler with 80 acres east of the "new road" in Sec. 36 - the white frame house as well as the original log house being shown on this map.
dripping sap. The sugar water was hauled by sled to a central place in the woods, known as the "sugar camp", where it was poured into a huge kettle boiling over a big wood fire. Here the sugar water was boiled into a thin maple syrup which was then taken to the house for further boiling over the kitchen stove (milk being added to the boiling syrup to clarify it) to make maple syrup for table use or maple sugar candy. Sometimes the fire at the sugar camp would burn all night. Wood was piled high to form a shelter for those who slept there to watch the fire. When I walk in these woods today, I remember how my mother, upon her arrival "home" used to ask her stepmother "Where's Pa?" and she would reply "He's been in the woods all day". It seems to me as though something of his spirit still lives in these woods and along Stillwater.

The major farm crops were wheat, corn, oats and hay. The crops were well cared for, and he waged never ending war against weeds.

The big event on the farm was threshing, as Grandpa raised 40 acres or more of wheat every year. Wheat and oats were threshed by a machine on wheels that was operated and moved from farm to farm by a coal powered engine. Each farmer would exchange help with other farmers, as a sizable crew was needed to run the entire operation. When the threshing machine arrived at a farm, all the farmers who owed that farmer labor would gather to help him thresh. Some men in the field pitched sheaves of wheat from the wheat shocks to horse drawn wagons. Others piled the sheaves high on the wagons and drove the wagon to the threshing machine where the sheaves would be thrown into the machine to separate the grain from the straw. A tornado of straw was blown from one end of the machine, and a river of clean fresh wheat flowed from the side of the machine into sacks. The sacks were hauled by wagon to the barn where the wheat was stored in bins to await the highest price for sale.

When loading sheaves on the wagon, the men would taunt boys about doing only a half-a-man's work. The boys, invariably falling into the trap, would half kill themselves trying to keep up with the men. The test of a man was whether he could keep up with, or ahead of, the other men - and woe betide the one who fell behind. Water boys would bring jugs of lemonade or water to the men in the field and at the threshing machine. This I know from my own experience - nothing ever tasted quite so good this side of heaven as a tin full of lemonade during a hot dusty threshing day!

As the threshing progressed, farmers would try to estimate their probable yield of grain. This was a tense moment. Reports would come back to the women in the kitchen that "Pa thinks it will run better than 30 bushels to the acre" (a good yield) or "Pa thinks it won't make 20 bushels to the acre". If the yield appeared high, everyone tried to hide the smug look on their faces. This meant money in the bank for next year, new dresses for the women, new farm tools for the men, and maybe a bicycle for the boy. If low, the family was cast into gloom - another year of "skimp and save". Farmers in our neighborhood made it a point not to brag openly about their yields. They would pretend indifference until a neighbor farmer, unable to restrain his curiosity any longer, would ask casually what
they thought "crop would make". The reply, announcing a very high yield would be "Oh, we only got 35 bushels to the acre. Rust knocked us out this year", but later he would say to his wife or son, "You should have seen old Bill's face when he heard I got 35 bushels to the acre".

Threshing was hard work but the huge country dinners more than compensated for the work. If a farmer's wife was known as a good cook who provided good "threshing dinners", everyone wanted to exchange help with that farmer. Both the farmer and his wife would be proud of their reputation for "setting a good threshing dinner". If the wife was a poor cook, we would try to avoid exchanging help with that farmer, unless there were strong reasons for helping him. The Biglers always had a good threshing dinner for the women were good cooks and Grandpa always said of the threshers: "They work hard. Give them the best". The threshing hands used to come from the field, wash themselves lustily in tubs of cold water, then "set down" to the table. Then the farm wives would hurry back and forth to the kitchen to place more food on the table. The men would hardly talk at all, as they devoured fried chicken and dressing, boiled or fried beef, fried ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, "store cheese", red beet eggs, pickles and enormous slices of berry or lemon pie or chocolate cake. No one can understand how much a hungry harvest hand can eat, nor how quickly he can eat it, unless he sees such a miracle with his own eyes.

Grandpa used to recall that in his youth, he had cut wheat with a cradle and separated grain from the straw with a flail. He knew how to swing the cradle in easy sweeps that could be sustained all day long. Less experienced hands, who lacked the knack of the swing, would "play out from backache" in a few hours. Recalling the early days, Grandpa always seemed amazed at the speed and ease of harvesting wheat with a binder and threshing by machine.

Uncle Charley, who had once run away from home to join a circus passing through Versailles, had his own use for the wheat bin. When a young man, he buried a bottle of whiskey deep in the grain of the wheat bin, thinking that his father, who disapproved strongly of liquor for religious reasons, would never find it there. But Grandpa, exploring the granary to ascertain whether the grain was overheating, happened to find the bottle. "Is this yours?" he asked Uncle Charley. "Well, said Uncle Charley, who saw no graceful way out of his predicament, "If it isn't yours, I guess it must be mine".

Grandpa's favorite crop was corn. He liked to have his corn cribs filled with big golden ears. He used to say that if a man had a good crop of corn, he could get along well on a farm. If not, there was something wrong with him. During the delirium of his last sickness, he imagined that someone was breaking into his cribs to steal his corn. In his early days, he planted corn with a hand planter. When horse-drawn corn planters became available, he was among the first to take advantage of this labor-saving device. Once Grandpa hired a stranger to help him shuck corn on the stalk. The stranger, a big middle aged fellow, said to Grandpa who was then in his seventies, that he would work at a moderate pace so Grandpa could keep up with him. Grandpa said nothing but continued to work at his normal speed. At the end of the day, said Grandpa with a twinkle in his blue eyes, the hired man was a long way behind him and almost too tired to walk home.
He raised some tobacco but did not like the crop very much. He had one of the first mechanical tobacco planters in that part of the country. New types of farm machinery that would cut down on farm labor always appealed to him.

Like other farms in this locality, Grandpa had dairy cattle, hogs and chickens. Chickens were the responsibility of the women of the family who used "egg money" to buy groceries. The men always pretended that they did not want to be bothered with chickens (except, of course, fried chicken dinners). While Grandpa did well financially with his cows and hogs, I never had the impression they interested him very much.

The farm had an acre orchard of apple, peach, cherry and plum trees, and a half acre or more of blackberries, raspberries, strawberries and grapes. The garden, of half an acre, produced currants, gooseberries, asparagus, melons and the usual vegetables. Apple butter making was an important event in the fall. I can still see the giant copper kettle near the wood pile with cider boiling furiously into which peeled apple quarters and sugar were added at the proper time to make apple butter.

When Grandpa’s children started families of their own, it was their custom to "go home" when the berries and fruit were ripe to pick as much as they could for their own use. A holiday atmosphere prevailed then, when my parents, uncles and aunts were busy picking berries for themselves. The small fry, Cousin Helen, her brothers, Chalmer and I, would sense that the grown-ups were in an unusually good mood. We would help pick berries, eating almost as many as we picked, until we could escape the vigilance of our elders to pursue our own devices.

When Cousin Helen and I were quite small we went into the beverage business. We used Grandpa’s sausage grinder (without his knowledge) to squeeze green apples for cider. This operation attracted swarms of flies but yielded a brew that we regarded with great pride. The operation was discontinued at the "request" of our grandparents who must have had serious doubts about this unorthodox use of their sausage grinder.

Grandpa kept 20 to 25 hives of bees on the south side of his house where the hives would have both sun and shade during the summer days. He knew well how to handle bees. The bees were always swarming from their hives to the orchard, reminding me of small boys swarming away from their homes. Honey was for home use and for sale. In combs it would sell for 15 to 20 cents per pound. Hollyhocks, purple and white hyacinths, roses and other flowers grew in profusion around the bee hives and the "bee house" where Grandpa stored his honey.

The farm water system intrigued me as a boy. There was a deep dug well that always yielded a good flow of cool water. The water was conducted through a wooden trough into the so-called "spring house" where it flowed into cement vats. Crocks of cream, butter and berries were placed in the vats to keep cool, a scene that always reminds me of the lines by James Whitcomb Riley about the old spring house "where the swinging shelves
and the crocks were kept, where the cream in a golden languor slept, while the waters gurgled and laughed and wept - Out to old Aunt Mary's." A wind-pump raised water from the well into a wooden tower reservoir which provided gravity pressure to supply water for a water trough in the cow yard and for a hydrant to sprinkle the lawn. Beside this water tower there are orange tiger lilies growing to this day that were planted there by Lydia Bigler.

Farmers of today, accustomed to cash purchases at chain grocery stores, would be astonished to know how much of the Bigler family's food and farm requirements were produced on the farm itself. All of the meat, vegetables, fruit, berries, maple syrup, honey and sorghum cane molasses were home produced. Butter was made in hand operated wooden churns. Wheat flour was obtained from the Hager and Landman mill at Versailles under an arrangement where Cyrus Bigler deposited a certain quantity of grain at the mill and received a "flour paper" on which was checked off his periodic withdrawals of flour. All bread was baked at home in the oven of the kitchen stove fired with wood. As a small boy I used to like especially a big slice of bread from the loaves when they were still hot from the oven, the slices spread with rich country butter and brown sugar. Even the yeast was home made. This they obtained by growing a few hops on poles in the garden; the hop pods were brewed into tea which was mixed with corn meal; and when the mixture achieved a proper consistency, it was dried for later use as yeast in baking bread. Hominy was made by boiling the kernels of ordinary field corn in water (to which was added a small amount of Red Seal lye) in a copper kettle until the heart separated easily from the remainder of the kernel. The kernels, without the hearts, were washed carefully in cold water and stored in jars which, covered with plates, were placed in the spring house until needed. Apples and sweet corn were dried in a dryer, above a slow wood fire, and then put in muslin pokes to be hung in a dry airy place for winter use. Sage was grown in the garden for sage tea, a general tonic and remedy for colds. Sassafras roots were dug from the woods in the spring to make sassafras tea, a tonic that was thought to "thin" the blood after a long winter of sluggishness. Seed wheat, seed corn, lettuce seed, radish seed and onion sets were all obtained from the farm itself.

In Grandpa Bigler's day, they did no home spinning of cloth, but home made mattresses were stuffed with feathers or straw, and pillows were feather stuffed. In Old Grandma's time, she used a spinning wheel to make coarse woolen cloth for sheets, pillow cases, towels and covers for feather bed mattresses. Until Cyrus Bigler bought a hard coal burner, a great luxury in those days, all stoves burned wood. Not until later years did anyone buy commercial fertilizer for their crops. With virgin soil, and the manure from the horses and cows about the farm, high crop yields were obtained without any commercial fertilizer. Animal feed was also grown on the farm, commercial mixes then being unknown. Cash purchases were confined chiefly to farm implements and tools, horse drawn carriages and wagons, stoves, kitchen utensils and table ware, cloth, clothes, shoes, coffee, sugar, salt and toilet soap (laundry soap being made at home). Some farmers even made a substitute "coffee" by roasting wheat bran but Grandpa Biglers always used "boughten" coffee in our day.
Thanks to all these operations, there was an atmosphere of plenty about the Bigler farm. The corn cribs were filled with corn, the bank barn bulged with hay, the smokehouse was filled with hickory smoke-cured hams and sausage, the bee house was fragrant with the smell of smoke and amber combs of honey, and the cellar shelves were loaded with crocks of apple butter and canned berries. Grandpa had none of the miser's love to acquire material goods merely for the sake of hoarding. Rather he derived satisfaction from seeing himself surrounded by the produce of his own toil, products available for the use of himself, his family, and neighbors in need. The labor required to operate such an establishment was enormous in comparison with present day mechanized farms. But he enjoyed hard work. In comparison with present day farming, integrated as it is into the national economy like other forms of business, his farm was largely a self-sufficient economic unit and farming less a business than a way of life.

Other Activities

Grandpa Bigler was a man of many interests. It is difficult to classify his activities as "work" and "recreation". He worked as hard at "recreation" as he did at regular work. And he enjoyed his "work" as much as he did his recreation. According to his daughter Mabel Bigler Burns, he used to say, "I'm going to wear out, not wear out.

Most important of all was his participation in the Oakland Brethren Church, the church which his parents had attended from the very beginning when the Oakland church was built in 1866 as a split off from the Harris Creek Brethren Church (see Plate II for photo of Oakland Church). He attended that church regularly all his life, serving as a Sunday School teacher for many years.

The story is told by Epaminondas Bigler that when the Oakland Church was being built, his grandfather Joe Hershey and John Martin, both excellent ax men, were chopping down trees when they fell into a heated argument as to the best way to chop down a particular tree. Brother Hershey struck his axe into the tree in a certain way. Brother Martin threatened to cut off Hershey's axe handle; whereupon Brother Hershey shouted, "If you cut off my axe handle, I'll cut off your head". Before Oakland Church was built, Moses and Mary Bigler as well as David and Nancy Bigler must have attended the Harris Creek Brethren Church. Nicodemus Bigler mentioned in one of his letters that he attended Harris Creek Church at one time.

The Oakland Cemetery was first begun when Jacob Martin's small son, Daniel, was buried at that place in August, 1862. Jacob Martin then deeded the Church in 1861 a plot 40 ft by 100 ft, including the place where his son was buried - that was the formal beginning of the Cemetery. Additions to the Cemetery were made in 1866, 1870 and 1938. The best source of historical information on Oakland Church and Cemetery today is Mr. Rudy Etter, RFD, Bradford, Ohio.

(1) Oakland Church was built in a 2.62 acre tract deeded by Jacob Martin to the Church Feb. 11, 1866. The deed stipulated a price of $5 but Mr. Rudy Etter says it was probably really a gift, the $5 being named merely for legal reasons. The deed was held by John C. Miller, later by Cyrus M. Bigler and eventually by my Uncle Jake Bigler.

The best source of historical information on Oakland Church and Cemetery today is Mr. Rudy Etter, RFD, Bradford, Ohio.
Brethren minister, and son of Isaac Miller) wrote me Oct. 30, 1958: "I knew Pyrus M. Bigler very well having lived as neighbor and went to Oakland Church together. I would have to say that he was a very intelligent, industrious Christian citizen. Somewhat of a quiet disposition. One of the Oakland churches best adult Sunday School teachers and counselors". Grandpa's account book for 1923-27 shows that he made quite a few $100 contributions to Oakland Church and to the Brethren College of Manchester, Indiana.

Grandpa did not always conform with the conservative Brethren discipline. In the early days, Oakland opposed Sunday Schools, so Grandpa attended the Methodist Sunday School at Webster until Oakland began its own Sunday School. Then he became one of its regular teachers. Grandpa liked to wear a black tie when he went to church or town. Senior members of the congregation, worried about this unorthodoxy, went to his home as a group to reason with him. He listened quietly as they explained how ties were sinful vanity. He said nothing until they had finished and then, in a quiet, matter-of-fact manner, told them that he liked ties and would continue to wear them. The Elders drove away. According to their creed, they could have struck him from the church rolls. But he continued to teach Sunday School and the tie problem was never mentioned again.

Grandpa's particular friends at Oakland Church were I. B. Miller, the undertaker at Gettysburg, Ohio, and Dr. John Ballinger, who had begun his medical practice at Webster but later moved to Versailles. After religious services on Sunday, these three would linger on the church steps, the last to leave the church; and Grandpa's second wife, Ida, called them the "Three Wise Men". Another close friend was John Long, husband of his sister Nancy, who attended Oakland; and D. G. Wenrick, a farmer associated with the German Baptist Mutual Insurance Association whom Grandpa admired very much.

Pam Bigler, who seemed to be at odds with the Oakland Brethren on some occasions, told me last year that Cyrus Bigler was "king of the Oakland Dunkards". I asked him what he meant. "Well", said he, "When Cyrus wanted a thing done at Oakland, he would tell them his views. Then he would go away before they had a chance to argue with him and the people would then do what he had asked."

The Oakland Brethren Church maintained a strict moral discipline and "heckled" its members when they strayed from the straight and narrow path. Once they heckled my Uncle Charley on account of my mother. When my mother was about 18 she and her sisters, Stella and Bess, went to a grange festival where one of the attractions was a voting contest in which the girl obtaining the highest number of votes received a ring as the prize. My mother's step-mother had warned the girls not to allow their names to be entered on the voting board, as the boys who voted for them would try to drive them home after the festival. But when my mother arrived there, she and a friend Laura Zimmerman, allowed their names to be placed on the board. Uncle Clyde lobbied for votes for his girl. Uncle Charley did not like this, so he quietly corralled votes for my mother which he held out of the contest until the last minute when he suddenly threw his bloc of votes into the count to win the contest and the ring for my mother. Uncle Charley was then "heckled" by the church for what they regarded
as gambling. And my mother received a severe scolding by her stepmother. But my mother did not seem to be very penitent either about her own transgression or Uncle Charley's sinning for her sake for, as she told me this story last year, she concluded: "It was a pretty band ring. I can see it yet, such a pretty band ring that I wore until it was thin'.

Grandpa Bigler was a stockholder in the Kusnick Bank of Versailles. This bank, established by Francis Kusnick who had come to Versailles in 1861 from Switzerland, paid farmers much higher interest rates on deposits (12% according to Charles H. Bigler, or up to 20% according to Pam Bigler) than they could obtain elsewhere. So Kusnick attracted many deposits from farmers. Then suddenly he went crazy, departed to Cincinnati for a cure and never returned to Versailles. Examination of the bank books revealed that the assets, too, had departed. When the bank failed in 1883 or 84, the farmers were in a panic. Some threatened to "get" Kusnick. Others who had lost heavily "hit the jug and brooded by the fireplace all day long", according to Pam. Grandpa lost heavily in this venture, apparently as a result of his stockholder or partnership status which made him liable for the bank's debts. On Dec. 8, 1881, he was forced to mortgage his east 60 acres (Sec. 35) to the Provident Life and Trust Co. of Philadelphia for $2000 (interest 7% payable semi-annually) in addition to a mortgage of $627 on the same tract to his mother on Nov. 23, 1883. (1) At the same time he had to resell his west 80 acres (Sec. 35 west of the "new road"), one half to his mother for $2000 and one half to his youngest sister Lydia for $2000, on Jan. 22, 1884 (Darke Co. Deeds 89:293 and 90:118). When the Bank failed, Grandpa was appointed to settle its accounts, apparently because the farmers trusted his honesty. For about a year he would walk from his farm to Versailles (about three miles each way), work all day at the Bank, and walk home to the farm in the evening to do his farm work. Charles H. Bigler, recalling Cyrus' walks to Versailles, said that he wore high leather boots, looked like General Grant, and never said much. Grandpa told Pam Bigler he interviewed farmers, help determine their share of the bank's assets - they received so many cents on the dollar - and that he found this "interesting work" the pay from which helped to offset his own financial losses. It was during this work that Grandpa bought his first fountain pen which Pam says he carried with great pride.

For many years he was a Director of the German Baptist Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Covington, Ohio. The company, known after World War I as the Buckeye State Mutual Insurance Association, now has assets of over one million dollars. In the winter, he would travel over the countryside in a horse-drawn closed buggy to sell fire insurance and collect premiums from farmers. I never heard him discuss the financial profit derived from this side-line of business but he talked a great deal about the value of fire insurance to farmers. In those days farmers suffered much from fires that started from defective flues, over-turned kerosene lamps, or spontaneous

(1) The $2000 mortgage was repaid and the mortgage lifted Dec. 8, 1889. Information on these mortgages from official papers in possession of my Uncle Ray Bigler.
combustion in hay mows. Fire engines rarely reached a fire until after it had consumed the entire house or barn, and a farmer would find his life's work wiped out in an hour. For these reasons, Grandpa was a strong believer in fire insurance and sometimes made speeches on the subject before insurance groups.

He used to serve on the Grand Jury at the Greenville Court House. Sometimes when participating in the Grand Jury, he would take the electric trolley at Greenville to visit us near Arcanum where we lived until I was 11 years old. My parents and I were always impressed by his work at the Court House. "Grand Jury" seemed to me more important than "Petit Jury". On those occasions, I recall Grandpa as looking very dignified. He would wear a dark suit, a starched white shirt, the black tie, and a black hat with a wide brim. His white beard, which would grow bushy almost in Santa Claus fashion when he was working on the farm, would be trimmed to almost a point. His blue eyes twinkled. I was always hoping that the other pupils at the No. 9 grade school, across the road from our house, would see me then with my grandfather who was serving on the Grand Jury.

Grandpa Bigler was a Democrat but not active in politics. His biography states that at times he held local office, such as township assessor. Pam Bigler told me that once, when he (Pam) was planning to run for Congressman in the House of Representatives at Columbus, he and many teachers were eating at a long table in a restaurant in Greenville where teachers were wont to gather (meals cost 20 cents there said Pam). Someone asked Cyrus Bigler, who was down the table below Pam, whether he too was running for Congressman. Cyrus replied with what Pam said was a bark in the back of his throat: "I've never got that low yet. Never fell that low". Pam, overheard him and became furious. He said Cyrus was angry because he regarded politics as crooked business and didn't like to see people mixed up in it.

Fishing, I suppose, was his favorite recreation, as it was for so many of the Bigler clan. But he did not relax at it, content to sit by a hole until a fish decided to bite. If they did not bite fairly soon he would hurry (almost run) to another hole, until he had caught some fish or decided they were not in a biting mood. Fishing with Grandpa was a strenuous affair for a boy of my age, as I had to run along beside him through willows, briars and ravines when he strode, with mighty enthusiasm, from one hole to another. He knew all the good fishing holes along Stillwater River for several miles in either direction from Springhill (photo Plate III) where on a hot summer afternoon he and I used to drink the cool spring water. This spring is still my favorite shrine. Grandpa caught many kinds of fish along Springhill including white bass, catfish, sunfish, gogeli, suckers and carp. He knew that when the wind blew from the north or east the fish would not bite. He liked to fish after early supper, as the twilight hour along the river was almost like a magic time, when big fish would splash out of the water and occasionally muskrats would swim by on their hurried chores. This was the best time of all to get a "big bite".

Grandpa had a fish net, concealed in a corn crib, that he used at night. He, his sons or my father would hold the net across the river while others would
beat the water to drive fish into the net. Grandpa never gave up use of the net, despite its illegality, because he seemed to feel that the fish were here before the law was enacted and so the law was artificial. The illegality never bothered him at all. In fact, I think he derived quite a lot of satisfaction from getting around this artificial law. Grandpa Bigler was, in fact, an expert on fish nets. He had three types of nets that he kept concealed in his corn cribs: a seine net that was dragged along the bottom of the river like a minnow seine; a trammel net that would be set across the river, the fish being "herded" down stream to en-mesh themselves in pockets in the net; and a dip net that was dropped to the bottom of the river and pulled out of the water when enough fish had gathered over it to make the haul worthwhile.

When fishing, Grandpa liked to have his grandchildren accompany him, if they could keep up with his fast stride. It annoyed him when they lagged behind. Then he would tell many interesting things about how the streams were full of fish when he was a boy, the names of different trees and plants, and old Indian stories. One of these stories, that he had heard as a boy, concerned an Indian who, long after the Indians had left this country, returned to Stillwater to wander up and down the river searching some said for silver buried there by the Indians or others said for the graves of his ancestors. Many a time Grandpa used to say he himself would like to come back and walk along Stillwater a hundred years from now, to see what changes had occurred.

Grandpa told me an Indian was buried on the Job Shaffer farm, on the bluff along the left bank of Stillwater immediately after the river turns southward below the old Shaffer house, in Richland township. A huge rock marked the spot which Lloyd David and I once started to dig up until stopped by his father who told us in no uncertain terms that he "didn't want no Indians dug up around this place". Lloyd and I always suspected that his father was half afraid of being haunted by a dug-up Indian. This rock has since been rolled down the bluff into the river. Grandpa used to find many arrowheads, some of which he gave me for my collection of arrowheads.

In his younger days, Grandpa used to hunt squirrels with a muzzle loading rifle. My mother remembers his rifle and powder horn and Uncle Ray remembers that he was a "crackshot" in squirrel hunting.

Grandpa traveled frequently throughout the country-side, to the county seat at Greenville, to the Celina Reservoir to fish, and occasionally to the Ohio State Fair at Columbus, but the only long trip he made, to my knowledge, was an excursion with some other farmers to Niagara Falls. He spoke of this trip as though it had been to a far country. It seems that somehow along the way the group got lost. They fall to arguing among themselves about what to do. Finally several farmers said "Let's wait to see what old Cy Bigler does and then we'll follow him". Grandpa explained to me how he "kept his eyes open and got where he wanted to go".

Machinery and mechanical gadgets intrigued him. But unlike his son, Uncle Ray, who had great natural aptitude for technical matters, he had
no more than an average mechanical skill. He was fascinated with machinery, almost as a boy is fascinated with their novelty. He was always among the first in the neighborhood to buy new labor saving farm machinery. He and Uncle Earl bought their first automobiles in 1913, large chromium plated, 4 cylinder self-starter "Davis" automobiles costing $1550 each. Another early purchase was a hand cranked Victrola which played his favorite records, Red Wing, Whistler and His Dog, Harry Lauder's Breakfast in Bed on Sunday Morning, and various Caruso selections. When country telephones were installed, his was among the first. From incidental remarks of my mother, it seems that she and her sisters talked so much over the telephone with their friends on the county line, that Grandpa and the rest of the family were hard put to it to find a time when the telephone was free. This, of course, is mere hearsay. In one corner of the large living room by the hard coal burner (where I used to like to watch through the bulging isinglass front the glowing coals on a cold winter night), he had a revolving office chair and a large roll top desk with many pigeon holes and glass front top shelves filled with books. The drawers were filled with fountain pens (which fascinated Grandpa all his life), a microscope, a telescope and miscellaneous gadgets.

Grandpa did not find it easy to make mechanical things work properly; and he depended upon Ray for such matters. My mother remembers that he used to get utterly furious in putting stove pipe from the stove to the flue as he would not get the joints to fit properly. Her step-mother would number the pieces of stove pipe to make it easier for him but he would get mixed up just the same as if the joints were not numbered.

**Philosophy**

Grandpa Bigler would not have used the word "philosophy" to describe his outlook upon life. What we call philosophy he referred to as his "views". He did not talk much about his views. What he did was to live his daily life according to principles in which he believed. One had to deduce his views from what he did.

His was a benevolent outlook upon life. He liked people and was sometimes amused by what they did. His attitude was kindly, but not unmixed with a shrewd understanding of human nature that made it difficult for anyone to "do him in". He was modest, but firm and dignified, in his relations with others. He gave people a feeling that he was interested in what they were doing. Although firm in his own convictions, he showed human charity towards the weaknesses of others. I think he measured men more by what they tried to do than by their actual accomplishments. I know that he was little impressed by my great grandfather Captain Thomas A. Burns whom he regarded as a vain man but he respected my other great grandfather Joseph McDonald who was a modest person. There was something in his character - moral strength, vitality and human sympathy - that gave encouragement to others. Many a time I have heard my father say, when he was struggling with the heavy debt on his farm, that he never talked with Grandpa but that he felt encouraged in what he was doing.

Grandpa was deeply religious in a quiet way but he never sought to impose his convictions on others. I think he was interested more in the essence than in the form of religion. His influence, as aptly expressed in his obituary, was extended for the things that made the place where he lived a better community.
He helped his neighbors when they needed help but he did not talk about it. He loaned his farm tools to neighbors when they were in need and, in one instance, when he tried to get back the loaned tool the neighbor had kept so long that he thought of it as his own. He did not interfere in other people's business, unless they asked his opinion. Neighbors used to consult him often because they knew they could rely upon his judgment and fairness. It was a common practice with many of them, before making a decision to "see what Cy Bigler thought about it". As Charles C. Miller put it: "I know my father had a great deal of confidence in Mr. Bigler for at various times when some trying problem would come up, he would say 'I would like to get Cyrus' advice on what to do'". (Letter to Norman Burns Oct. 30, 1958). He used to say he always believed a man was "straight" until he had proven himself to be "crooked". I have heard him say, too, "If you can't say anything good about a man, don't say anything at all".

Only once do I remember Grandpa giving me advice. He took me aside, when I was in high school, and in a half-serious, half-quizzical tone said "Norman, I'm going to give you some advice: you can't get something for nothing; and you can't beat a man at his own game". I listened gravely for, like all his grandchildren, I had great trust in Grandpa. But, in retrospect, I wonder why he thought I needed such counsel. However that may be, it was not bad advice for either men or boys.

Like so many of the early settlers, he felt that America was the land of opportunity. There was so much room that anyone could make a good living, and educate his children, if willing to work. Equality of opportunity, and democracy, were assumed as implicitly as the air we breathe. If a man did not make a good living, there must be something wrong with the man himself. Grandpa Bigler, tolerant though he was in most things, disapproved of ne'er-do-wells, unless the fault was not their own. He worried that "this country is filling up with people". (1) The old country was already so crowded that

(1) Actually the county was "filled up" rapidly over the last 100 years. Of the 387,200 acres of land area in the county, only 102,977 acres were "improved" farm land in 1850 whereas 2h6,830 acres of cropland were "harvested" and 32,742 acres of cropland pastured in 1954. "Unimproved land and woods" shrunk from 281,223 acres in 1850 to 26,621 acres in 1954. Production of the three major cereal crops was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1954</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>132,594</td>
<td>1,025,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>590,077</td>
<td>6,537,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>115,095</td>
<td>1,853,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population of Darke County increased rapidly from 1820 to 1880 but has remained relatively constant since then, as shown in the Census reports below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>3,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>6,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>13,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>20,276</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>26,009</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>32,783</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>40,196</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>47,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>54,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>62,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>70,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>80,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>88,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>97,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>105,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>113,141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
common people could hardly make a living there. Someday America would become like the old country, and this greatly disturbed him. When my father was trying to decide whether to buy the 80 acre farm in Richland township, in 1919 when land values were sky high, he consulted Grandpa who advised him to buy the farm. "The country is filling up", he said "People will always have to eat. Land will never go down". Grandpa, together with Aunt Stella and Uncle Ray, loaned my father quite a few thousand dollars to buy that farm where we moved in March, 1920. Within two years, land values had collapsed to a point where my father's farm was worth only one-half of what he had paid for it. Although Grandpa had lived through many depressions - "hard times", as they were then called - he never really understood economic cycles. He felt that in the long run land would become more valuable hence, buy more land.

Grandpa was a strong believer in the virtue of hard work. But he did not believe, as did so many ambitious farmers in those days, in work to the exclusion of all else. Many farmers used to drive themselves and their children almost to death to make money and accumulate property. Grandpa believed in thrift, as did all of the Brethren. He wanted his children to be industrious, he hated laziness, but he used to say "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". When giving talks at the country schools, one of his favorite remarks was "There is hope for a mischievous boy but none for a lazy boy". He understood how boys working together would dally at their chores and he would say then, with an amused grin: "A boy is a boy. Two boys are half a boy. And three boys are no boys at all".

He himself was a fast worker, with great endurance. But when the dinner bell rang at noon, he left the field promptly for the house to have his dinner, and a rest afterwards, either on the cot or in a hammock hung in one corner of the summer porch. There he would sleep, or read his favorite magazine The Saturday Evening Post and various farm papers. Itinerant book agents found him an easy mark for their sales talks according to his son Ray. He was a strong believer in keeping up with current events in the field of his interest. The family used to say "Pa is well posted. He knows what he's talking about".

The Bigler family had early supper, perhaps before sundown. After supper, Grandpa would rest, read, or go fishing. Other ambitious farmers used to hurry through their dinner, and have their supper long after dark, in order to get more work done. This type of fanatical, monotonous work had little appeal for Grandpa.

Later Years

My recollections of Grandpa Bigler stem from the time when he was 65 until he passed away at the age of 83 - a period that might be called Indian summer in the life of a farmer. I was then under 22. My regret is that I was not older, so that I might have learned more about his early life and the times in which he lived.

In this period, he was relatively prosperous. His 160 acres of good farm land, together with its fine white house and the big bank barn, were paid for and he was free of debt. The farm was well equipped with stock and tools. He
was surrounded by a family of children and grandchildren who liked to visit the old home place.

Almost every Sunday, some of his children, with their families, would "go home" sometimes to pick fruit and berries for their own use and sometimes simply to visit. The custom was to have an enormous Sunday dinner. While the women were cooking in the kitchen, the men would walk about the farm discussing crop prospects and prices. In fact they hardly talked about anything else but crops and prices. They would exchange bits of news that each had picked up from his neighbors or from trips to the grain elevator, i.e., how Ike Miller got so much per bushel for his wheat, how the price of hogs was going down according to the man at the stockyard, how it might be better to sell hogs now before the price fell lower, or maybe how it might be better to "hold hogs" until prices went up. Most of the farmers operated on a basis of hunch and rumor, without much knowledge of general market conditions throughout the country. Grandpa tried to learn as much as he could about the general market by reading the farm magazines regularly. They had long discussions about the best time to plant corn, some arguing for early planting despite the possible rotting of the seed from wet weather and others arguing for late planting despite the possibly dry spells that would dry up or delay the sprouting kernels. There were usually tales about some farmer who was always lagged behind in planting, harvesting and everything else; and the consensus would be "I don't see how old Lew gets along". Inspection of crops was a favorite pastime. Many a time I have seen my grandfather, or my father, after having worked in the fields all week, walk to the field on Sunday afternoon to see how the crops were getting along.

While the women were cooking dinner and the men talking about crops, Chalmer and I and our cousins would play, but every once-in-a-while we would peer into the kitchen to see how the cooking was progressing. We would become almost frantic from the smell of fried chicken wafted through the doors, and would beg our mothers to hurry up with the dinner, or at least to give us a chicken liver to tide us over the crisis. Aunt Stella, always with a kind heart, would take pity on us and give us something to eat. Uncle Ray would teach me how to ride his bicycle, and eventually he gave me his bicycle which made me one of the proudest boys in the neighborhood.

Grandpa always sat at the head of the table, a patriarch surrounded by his sons, daughters and grandchildren. A tall coffee cup would be beside him, this being a special cup adapted to his beard. I can see him sitting there, small of stature but wiry and alert, with his keen blue eyes - all the Biglers I ever knew had blue eyes - and a white beard, dressed in overalls if on a week day or his Sunday suit if on Sunday, usually engaged in interesting discussion. I cannot ever remember hearing him tell a joke but he used to tell many interesting stories. After Sunday dinner, he would clear away the dishes in front of him and talk about history. His children were not much interested in history, but they struggled to listen attentively because they did not like to appear disrespectful. I myself enjoyed his talks very much. One favorite topic on such occasions was Napoleon's campaigns, particularly a tale about the time when Napoleon
was caught between two enemy armies, Austrian I believe, that were sure they had trapped him. Napoleon moved with blitzkrieg speed against one army, crushed it and then turned in reverse against the other to wipe it out. This strategy appealed to him.

Grandma Ida Seifert contracted tuberculosis in 1917. A few hours before she died, knowing the end was near, she called Grandpa to her bedside, clasped her hands around his neck and whispered: "Let me take one more look at the face I love". It was a time of grief for all of us when she passed away Nov. 2, 1917. The funeral services, which I attended with my parents, were at Oakland Church and she was buried on the Bigler lot at the Versailles Cemetery.

Grandpa continued to live on the farm with Aunt Stella and Uncle Ray. They often visited us and his other children. He continued to work hard, and to keep up his interest in things, until his final illness. When I was in Wittenberg College, he would inquire of my mother from time to time about my studies. I last saw him in September, 1927 before I left for Yale. Later that year my mother wrote me "I was telling Grandpa about when you passed in international law and he seemed so pleased". On December 20, 1927 he sent me his last Christmas card at Yale, with no message but signed in his shaky handwriting "Grandpa Bigler".

On Christmas Day of 1927 he became ill (I do not know the nature of his illness) and soon after partially delirious. My mother wrote me then "I asked him last Friday if there was anything we could do for him. He said not one thing; after a while he asked if we had asked for sacrament for him and for prayers and that seemed to be the last he has known ... I've cried so much I don't think there are any more tears left and the others feel as badly as I do". After he passed away, she wrote me again: "You can't imagine the vacant place Grandpa's going has made there. Sometimes I think it can't be possible his life is ended. He enjoyed life so thoroughly until he got sick. He wanted to get out of bed and go home, he said, and when he left us he just went to sleep and went away".

And so, Cyrus Bigler was gathered unto his fathers on January 23, 1928, aged 83 years, 5 mos. and 10 days.

The funeral services were held at Oakland Church where his five sons, Charley, Earl, Jake, Clyde and Ray, and my brother Chalmer, served as pallbearers. His resting place is the Bigler lot at Versailles cemetery. (See Appendix for obituary and records on settlement of his estate)

The pattern of country life that Cyrus Bigler knew, and that was familiar to many generations of Biglers before him, is no more. That pattern was transformed, within my lifetime, by the automobile, tractor, radio, movie and television. We are living now in a new age where science has changed not only the material basis of our existence, but also our social life, and perhaps our spiritual outlook as well. Rocket satellites are now darting through the wide blue yonder where once we thought God and the angels dwelt.
Farming now is a mechanized business, no longer a way of life. For social and intellectual diversion we depend not upon the country school debating society, spelling bees, church "protracted meetings", and fishing at Stillwater but upon television, quiz contests and high speed automobiles.

Our intellectual horizons may be broader today - certainly we have access to more news through newspapers, radios and television; we have better health conditions. We move faster; we accomplish more with less work.

But whether or not ours is a more satisfying life, I do not know. Tensions are greater. Simple faith has given way to perplexing doubt. One wonders whether man's scientific genius has given the human race the means to exterminate itself and if so, where does this fit in with the idea of an eternally just God? There is lost, too, the intimate neighborhood life and the close human relationships associated with rural life in the days of my grandfather. Having become so dependent upon mechanization, we seem to have lost something of the capacity to draw upon our internal spiritual resources to give meaning to life.

One might ask then "Against this background of contemporary mechanized civilization, what was the significance of the life of Cyrus Bigler and of the Bigler traditions that he represented?" My reply would be: "During his full span of 83 years, he sensed something of the inner meaning of his life, something of a power beyond himself, that was reflected through his day to day relation with his family and neighbors. He tried to fulfill these deeper responsibilities as he understood them. He had faith in his fellowmen, abiding faith in life. Without these spiritual values, mankind is lost".
Part 2 -- APPENDICES

THE BIGLER FAMILY

Descendants of Mark Bigler who immigrated to America in 1733

By Norman Burns

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1960

Revisions of 1976
If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts, if with wish as a guest to dwell in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place, do not perchance by his lavishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds, he shall be received, for as long a time as he desires. If, indeed, he find fault with anything, or expose it, reasonably, and with the humility of charity, the Abbot shall discuss it prudently, lest perchance God had sent him for this very thing. But, if he have been found gossipy and contumacious in the time of his sojourn as guest, not only ought he not to be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him.

Saint Benedict.
Appendix I

CHILDREN OF MARK (AND CATHERINE) BIGLER II
Botetourt Co., Va.
(Mary, Jacob, Mark III, Catharine, Elizabeth, Susannah)

A 1. MARY
b. March 11, 1780, m. John Sessler, Jan. 28, 1806 (name sometimes spelled Sesler or Cisler). She d. March 2, 1865, age 69. Her descendants were Methodists and some still live in the vicinity of Botetourt Co. Note in Penn. Historical Society, Vol. 26, 1902, p. 288 by Mary Hoss, 2106 West End Ave., Nashville, Tenn. stated Mark Bigler II was born in 1747 and died April 11, 1826; that he married Catharine Lease b. 1763 and d. Jan. 1, 1832; that their daughter Mary was b. March 11, 1780, m. John Sessler who was b. 1781 and d. Dec. 6, 1850; that she d. March 2, 1865; and that the family had moved from Penn. to Va.

Mr. Lawrence Mark Broadhead, Nephi, Utah (descendant of Jacob Bigler of W, Va.) saw some documents at Penn. Historical Society (exact source not identified) some years ago which stated that Mark was born in Maryland in 1747, that he married Catherine Lease, daughter of Jacob Lease or Leonard of Penn.; and that they had the following children:

Jacob b. about 1778 [this date not correct]
Mary b. 1780 d. March 2, 1865 m. John Sessler; Catharine m. Moomaw; Elizabeth m. Jesse Lavender June 14, 1810; Mark III; Susannah, single.

B 1. John B. Sessler buried Feb. 1, 1891. m. Elizabeth John


C 2. Susan. m. Slusser. They lived in Fincastle. Their two daughters were Carrie and Mary.

C 3. Mattie. m. James B. Watkins. They lived on the home farm of Mark Bigler II in a large brick house which they built and which is now owned by Mr. H. E. Freeman who also owns the log house of Fork Bigler II. Their children:

D 1. Zenella. m. C. Anderson Firebaugh. Both deceased. Their children:

E 1. Mary Martha. m. Sovers. No children.

E 2. Ralph W. m. Ruth Brogan and have several children. He is a farmer living on RED 2, Troutville, Va.

E 3. Calvin. m. Bowman. One child.


E 5. Mont. m. Hortense Manges and has several children.

E 6. Evelyn. m. and lives in Buffalo, N. Y.

D 2. Pearl. m. L. W. Firebaugh, a brother of C. Anderson Firebaugh. Both deceased. No living children.
D 3. Leon, m. Carlie Rhodes. Both deceased. Their children: Malcolm and Lillian, both married and living in Roanoke, Va. Lillian married Lewis Amos and it is she who has 2½ bushels of old papers of the Beagler family, now stored in trunks in the house in the county where her parents lived.


D 6. Ocelia. m. and lives in California.

D 7. Ruth. m. Charles Cross, and lives in Penn. Has one daughter.

C 4. Emma. m. Fred Pratt and lives in New York

C 5. Mark. m. Mollie Manges. Their children Kenneth and Otis now living in Florida and Frank who succumbed to the flu epidemic in World War I.

A 2. JACOB

b. Jan. 1, 1781; d. March 27, 1869, age 65 (according to notations in a Bible bought by Jacob Bigler of Fincastle on March 31, 1823 which is now in possession of the Sessler descendants). His will, dated March 25, 1849, left all his property to his sister Susannah, as he never married. He is probably buried in Haymakertown Cemetery near his father's farm where his parents and sister Susannah are buried.

A 3. MARK III

b. 1786 Haymakertown, Botetourt Co., Va.; d. Dec. 12 (or 21) 1840. m. Mary Peters (b. Oct. 1, 1808 Botetourt Co., to Abraham and Anna Christian Peters and d. Aug. 16, 1898), July 21, 1827, according to Botetourt Co. records. Both buried Mt. Union Presbyterian Cemetery across the road from their farm. Their children, all born on home farm at Haymakertown:


B 2. Eliza Ann, b. about 1830* m. Gray. No children

B 3. Charlotte, b. about 1831* m. Haden Moor Dec. 8, 1853 in Fincastle, Va. (Botetourt Co. records). Later moved to Auburn, Sagamon Co., Illinois and later Nebraska. They had 4 children; Frederick, Henry, Cecilia and Mary.

B 4. George, b. Nov. 22, 1832* m. Virginia E. Wineman April 21, 1857 of Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill., who d. Feb. 9, 1899. Emma Bigler Merrey says "George went to Illinois before the Civil War". Children of George and Virginia Wineman, all born Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill.:  

C 1. Edward Allie, b. about 1866* m. Evelyn Workman (b. about 1868) Feb. 5, 1895. Most of information on Edward Allie and Cirus Wineman Bigler came from unnamed newspaper clipping, probably from a paper in Auburn, Ill., about Feb. 5, 1915, describing golden wedding of the two brothers who married two sisters. Children of Edward and Evelyn Bigler, born at Auburn, Sagamon Co., Ill.:  

** Mary Peters (wife of Mark III) was 2. of Jacob Peters and A McDonald after both died. Edward and Ann (Cong) McDonald. Ann's 2nd husband was a CRITZ and her first husband A McDonald; not able to secure name maiden name. This information from Ruth and Paul Bigler of ApB 2.409 Longview Ave S.W. Roanoke, Va. 1.4714,
D 1. Hayward Landon. Living in Cortez, Colorado in 1945, where he had built up large wholesale gas and oil business in southwest Colorado and northwest New Mexico, known as Mexirado Distributing Co. He and his wife Eloise had (in 1945) daughter Dorothy Ann age 12, son Edward age 10 and Roger Allen 7.


C 4. Son. d. in infancy.

C 5. Son. d. in infancy.

B 5. Catherine. b. March 5, 1836 in Botetourt Co. m. J. B. Bradshaw of Florida. Had one son Wilbur. They lived for some time in Tenn. (with Mrs. Elsie Patterson, Surgionville, Tenn.) where Catherine died March 5, 1916. Was invalid for 10 years.

B 6. Susan. b. about 1837 in Botetourt Co. m. Mark Vandegrift of Botetourt Co., June 25, 1874 and lived in Auburn, Ill. She died May 1887 and was buried Mt. Union Cemetery, Botetourt Co. Their children:

C 1. Alice. m. John Fraley and had a son Marcus who lives in Washington State and a married daughter Alda who lives in Virden, Ill.


B 7. Mark IV. b. May 18, 1841 Botetourt Co. on his father's farm in the house where he died April 6, 1905. Served 3½ years with Confederate Army during Civil War. m. Ann Eliza Smith (b. June 10, 1847 d. Jan. 16, 1928) June 25, 1874. Their children, all born on home farm of Mark IV and III in Botetourt Co.:

C 1. Lelia Nora. b. April 19, 1875. m. Samuel K. Dodds and lived in Auburn, Ill. until his death. They had one son, Samuel K. Dodds, Jr., who is an accountant specializing in income tax work and is Justice of Peace. He and his mother now (Aug. 1959) live at 7 South West 8th Ave., Milton, Freewater, Oregon.


D 1. Harman Paul, b. Sept. 8, 1916. Mt. Union, Troutville. B.S. degree in Civil Engineering, June 1939 at Virginia Military Institute (third from top in class of 150). m. Roberta Adaline Kinzie, Oct. 7, 1953 and they have 2 daughters, Elizabeth Anne and Barbara Jean. Served with U.S. Army May 1941 to Jan. 1946; as Lieutenant and later Captain 99th and 604th Field Artillery Battalion; as Artillery Advisor to 53rd Chinese Army; as Intelligence Officer 114th Air Force and spent 6 months behind Japanese lines near Hankow, China, 1944-45. Again served in Korea Aug. 1952-Aug. ’53, with rank of Major, as Battalion Executive Officer 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Since 1953, with Architectural and Engineering firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern of Roanoke, Va., where he is now employed as chief structural engineer. Present home address, 2740 Wilshire Ave., S.W., Roanoke, Va. 3p 0 2. 34Mar 4Mar 1915

D 2. Margaret Ruth, m. and divorced Samuel Merritt Kephart. Has two children, Samuel Newton and Carolyn Jo. Graduate in library science of William and Mary College. Her artistic works and exhibits are described in The Roanoke Times, Sept. 10, 1959 which says her “eye for painting goes beyond the hobby stage. Her work was part of a one-man exhibit last fall at the Art Center and each Wednesday finds her attending a sketching class along with other aspiring artists.”

C 5. Emma E., b. April 16, 1886. Attended normal school and business college, taught grade school and worked for 8 years with Continental Can Co. m. George E. Merritt July 16, 1921, a plant manager of that company who operated company plants in Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla., and at Roanoke and Bedford, Va. After retirement in 1948, they left their home in Florida to retire on the farm of her father (Mark IV) where they are living today. No children.

C 6. Ruth, b. Nov. 24, 1887. Registered nurse now living at 803 Graydon Ave., Norfolk, Va. Not married. She says she worked with Dr. Fitchett almost 36 years and never missed a day from illness, except when she fractured her hip in 1950 and was off duty for 6 months. She spends 65 days per week in Dr. Fitchett’s office. Many years ago she nursed Mr. Oscar B. Ryder and wife Nanine and Nanine’s sisters. Ruth says she will “never forget what nice patients they were.”
C 7. Irene, b. July 27, 1889. Not married. She lived most of her life on the home place where she was born and was still living there in March 1960.

A 1. CATHARINE m. Philip Moonaw, Dec. 11, 1805 (Botetourt Co. records). Moonaw b. 10/17/1781. Living in 1800. m. Mary Catharine Bigler 1800 who d. 7-3-1781. They

A 5. ELIZABETH m. Jesse Lavender, June 12, 1810 (Botetourt Co. records). She and Catharina induced her husband "went west and were never heard from" by the Virginia Biglers.

A 6. SUSANNAH Not married. According to a notation in Jacob's Bible, a Susan Bigler died July 25, 1871. It is assumed this referred to his sister Susan. The Carrie Rhodes Watkins letter of 1948 to Irene Bigler noted that Susan Bigler bought a $300 bond on May 15, 1863 during the Civil War.

Source: Letters from Emma Bigler Merrey, Troutville, Va., to Norman Burns, dated April 28, Aug. 17, Sept. 16, 1959 and March 8, 1960; referring to family records of the descendants of Mark Bigler II (including his son Jacob's Bible now in possession of the Sessler family) and Court House records of Fincastle, Va. Some dates, where indicated with star, were obtained from the Bigler Family Record, compiled by Utah descendants of Jacob Bigler of W. Va., referred to in Chapter III.
Appendix II

CHILDREN OF JACOB AND HANNAH BOOKER (BOOHER OR BOOTHER) BIGLER
Harrison Co., W. Va. (1)

(Sarah, Hannah, Mark, Ruth, Nancy Ann, Jacob, Henry, Bathsheba, Maria, Rebecca)

A 1. SARAH
m. (1st) John Righter of Harrison Co., April 26, 1795. He was b. about 1773. Their children:
B 1. Mariah. b. April 1, 1796 in Harrison Co. and d. 1827. m. Jonathan Whitehead (child of Henry Whitehead)
B 2. Jacob. b. about 1798.
B 5. Peter. b. Aug. 21, 1804 and d. Dec. 18, 1809. m. Elizabeth Bigler of Ross, of Harrison Co., Oct. 20, 1822. Not known whether there were any children of this marriage.

A 2. HANNAH
m. James McCauley (or McCally or McCowly) April 18, 1799. He was b. about 1771. Their children:
B 2. Rebecca. b. about 1811. m. Benjamin Dickey.

A 3. MARK
b. May 19, 1785, near Shinston in Harrison Co., W. Va. m. Susannah Ogden, Nov. 5, 1805. She was b. Oct. 11, 1785 near Port Tobacco, Charles Co., Md. and d. of consumption Mar. 11, 1847 (according to Brough p. 3) in Winter Quarters (now Omaha) Nebraska Territory where her grave is marked today. Mark was baptised in the Mormon Church, Sept. 23, 1834, in Harrison Co., the first Bigler to join that faith. He died at Quincy, Ill., Sept. 23, 1839. Mark and Susannah Ogden Bigler had 6 children:


(1) Biodata almost entirely from The Bigler Family Record (unpublished) arranged and compiled by: Louis B. and Hazel A. Bigler of 8550 South 13th West, West Jordan, Utah; Horace J. Bigler of 2975 Melbourne St., Salt Lake City; Franklin Keith Brough of 4333 Mars Way, Salt Lake City; Virginia Grover Carlson of 5421 Herbert Ave., Salt Lake City. This record was begun in 1876.

Names and birthdates of 10 children of Jacob and Hannah Bigler came from Henry W. Bigler Journal now in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Bigler. Birthdates differ slightly from those given by Walter M. Elliott (great grandson of Bathsheba Bigler) of 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va. in his account of Sept. 1, 1933 that was loaned to me by Perry Bigler, PDI, Marianna, Penn. in Nov. 1958.

C 2. Mary Jane, b. about 1827.
C 3-11. Simon B.; Annestasia; Helen Marr; Harrison; Edgar; John L., Jr.; Melissa; Isabel; Isadore.


B 3. Nancy, b. Aug. 6, 1810 near Shinston and d. July 5, 1886. m. Josiah Walcott Fleming, June 5, 1828. Their children:

C 1. Sarah Ann.
C 2. Thadeus Ellis
C 3. Mary Ellen

B 4. Jacob G. b. April 11, 1813, Harrison Co., W. Va. Baptized in Mormon faith, June 10, 1838, Far West, Mo. Arrived in Nephi, Utah, Oct. 18, 1852 and d. there Feb. 23, 1907. m. (1st) Mary Ann Boggess of Harrison Co., April 19, 1834 (she was baptized a Mormon in 1836. She died of "fever", Oct. 29, 1842 at Nauvoo, Ill.). Their children:

C 1. Alonzo Harrison, b. April 11, 1842 at Nauvoo and d. same day.

m. (2nd) Amy Lorette Chase, June 18, 1844, Nauvoo (b. Nov. 7, 1822, Lincoln, Va., daughter of Quaker family, Abner Chase and Amy Scott. d. June 8, 1907, Nephi). Their children:


D 2. David George, b. Mar. 10, 1871, Nephi. m. Anna Ottensen Dec. 28, 1892.


E 1. Louis Burtran Jr., b. Jan. 17, 1899. m. Hazel Anderson (b. July 17, 1900 at Manti, Utah, grand niece of Azariah Smith who was with Henry W. Bigler when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848). Dec. 20, 1922 at Manti Temple, Utah. Their children:


F 2. David Louis, b. May 9, 1927. m. Barbara Daynes.
Richard A. b. March 27, 1930, m. Arlene Fernley.


Oril David b. June 18, 1902. Master mechanic at Salt Lake City. m. Eliza Harvey Aug. 11, 1936.

Vardus James b. April 10, 1905. Electrical engineer at Hill Air Force base, Ogden, Utah.

Oril David b. March 26, 1908. Owns large motel, Ogden, Utah. Past president and v. president of National Motel Association. m. Norma Anderson (1st) and Frieda Braithwaite (2nd).

Mort Lynn b. Feb. 17, 1911. Lives on farm 50 mi. w. of West Jordan. m. Juliette Nuttal.


George Albert b. Aug. 26, 1878, Nephi. m. Harriet Emily Elmer.

Clarence Mendel b. June 3, 1881, Nephi. m. Edith Wilate Porter June 5, 1907.


 Mildred b. April 19, 1888, Central, Arizona. m. Elmer Elon Whitmer, Aug. 29, 1910.

Mary Ann b. July 24, 1850, Kanesville, Iowa and d. May 31, 1913. m. Ebenezer Tanner, Sept. 19, 1868. Their children:

Ebenzor b. Aug. 8, 1869.

Jacob Thomas b. May 6, 1871.


Mary Ann b. May 11, 1875. d. Feb. 9, 1877.


David Alma b. Nov. 6, 1880.


Abner b. May 11, 1886.

C 4. Amy Lorette. b. July 17, 1852 on Platte R. in Nebraska Territory when family was moving from Kanesville, Iowa to Nephi, Utah. d. Nov. 29, 1891. m. James Harvey Mangum, Feb. 21, 1870. Their children:
D 1. Harvey. b. about 1866, Nephi.
D 2. Lester. b. Nov. 27, 1870. m. Jennie Knight.
D 4. Ernest. infant
D 5. Erwin. infant.
D 6. Effie Maud. b. May 19, 1881. m. Alvin Jones Jackson.
D 8. Clark Chase. b. Nov. 16, 1887. m. Mary Kerr.

C 5. Abner Chase. b. Aug. 6, 1854, Nephi, and d. April 23, 1930, Nephi. m. Elizabeth Anderson Tranter, Jan. 10, 1876. Their children:
D 3. Goldie Itha. b. June 20, 1881, Nephi. m. Thomas Henry Parkes, June 20, 1907.
D 11. Blanche LaPreal. b. March 17, 1901, Nephi. m. Franklin H. Brough. Their son Franklin Keith Brough, born in 1923, was the author of Freely I Gave, The Life of Jacob G. Bigler.
D 12. Clarissa Leila. b. July 13, 1903. m. Glen Sykes Nov. 9, 1921.

C 6. Mark. b. Nov. 15, 1856, Nephi and d. April 8, 1945 at Mapleton, Utah. m. Madeline Pyper, Dec. 18, 1879. Their children, all born at Nephi, Utah:


D 6. Mark Lisle, b. May 19, 1893. m. Artimisha Nielsen Aug. 4, 1919. Lived at Nephi and St. George, Utah. Their children: Roene, Carolyn and Ruth. Mark Lisle and his daughter Roene are said to be fine singers.


C 8. Susannah, b. Nov. 22, 1860, Nephi. m. John Robert Goldsborough May 21, 1883. Their children:


D 4. Foncet, b. June 8, 1894, Nephi.

D 5. Elmo Floyd, b. April 20, 1899, Nephi.

D 6. Vilnah Avone, b. April 18, 1901, Nephi.


C 9. James, b. March 24, 1866, Nephi. m. Maud Ermina Witbeck or Whitleck Oct. 27, 1887. d. Sept. 1, 1947, Salt Lake City. Their children:

# Samuel May Byler, b. Aug. 25, 1904, Payson, Utah, died in Paris, France 1954. His children:


He called in Norma Bright, then President of the American University of Beirut, who called in I. M. B. Hospital, Jan. 1, 1954 and May 28, 1958 respectively.

- Phoebe, b. Paris, France 1908, d. Paris 1958

D 2. Edna Maude, b. April 20, 1890, Nephi. m. Alma Nils Johnson.


D 5. Chase, b. Milford, Utah, d. infancy.


D 7. Alice Loretta, b. Sept. 11, 1899, Nephi. m. Frank Carlyle Lyman.

D 8. Alma John, b. April 1, 1903, Nephi. m. Beth Haddishan.


C 1. Don Mangum, b. Jan. 16, 1854, Nephi and d. Feb. 26, 1905 at American Forks, Utah. m. Henrietta Henriod, Jan. 16, 1880. Elder of Mormon Church, ward teacher at Nephi, farmer and miner. Their children:


C 3. Amy Armelia, b. July 17, 1857, Middle Creek, Utah and d. May 2, 1934 at Tremonton, Utah. m. Napoleon Grover Oct. 14, 1877. Their children:


D 2. Eugene, b. Sept. 25, 1882, Nephi. m. Kate Riggs.


D 4. Claude Raymond, b. Sept. 9, 1886, Nephi. m. Refuge Low.


D 9. Lloyd Freeman, b. June 7, 1897, Farmington. m. Eva Cederlund.

m. Jedediah Grover, Jan. 10, 1884. Their children:
m. (2nd) Nancy Ann Keller, Nov. 25, 1855 at Nephi (b. Nov. 9, 1836, Nauvoo, daughter of Alva Keller and Roxey Lucina Elliott. d. Nov. 9, 1900, Brigham City, Box Elder Co., Utah). Their children:
C 1. Roxey Lucina, b. Nov. 9, 1856, Nephi, d. Feb. 12, 1899. m. Henry Blackburn, June 8, 1874. Their children:
D 2. Thomas Henry, b. Aug. 8, 1877, Brigham City, d. May 11, 1921, m. Harriet Eliza Richins, June 6, 1900.

m. (1st) Caleb Washington Lyons, (b. Sept. 21, 1818 at Grif­
fin Run, Harrison Co. and d. Aug. 12, 1848) Jan. 16, 1840 at
Nauvoo, Ill. Their children:
C 1. Oscar Fitzgallen. b. Dec. 25, 1840 at Nauvoo, Ill. m.
Maria Louisa Marchant.
1898. m. Sarah Minerva Rice Oct. 12, 1869.
m. (2nd) Thomas E. Taylor, (b. South Wales, UK) Feb. 1, 1852.
Their children:
C 1. Thomas Bigler. b. Mar. 23, 1853 at Salt Lake City.
d. 1885.
C 2. Benjamin Albert. b. Mar. 4, 1854 (?) at Salt Lake City.
m. Grace Reid Meredith. d. March 11, 1928.
B 8. Bathsheba Wilson (Wilson was an adopted name in honor of her
girl friend.) b. May 3, 1822 near Shinston, Harrison Co., W.
a. and d. at Salt Lake City Sept. 10, 1910. Accompanied bro­
ther Jacob G. to Far West, Mo., in 1838. m. George Albert Smith
by Elder Don Carlos Smith, brother of Prophets Joseph Smith.
George A. Smith became member of Quorum of Twelve Apostles and
later counselor of Brigham Young. Left Winter Quarters (Omaha)
for Salt Lake City, June 1849. Their children:
Indians near Salt Lake City sometime after 1857.
C 2. Bathsheba. b. Aug. 14, 1844. m. Clarence Merrill Jan. 3,
1861. They had 11 children including:
m. George Henry Horne. She died Oct. 7, 1918 at
Salt Lake City. She served 2 terms Utah House of
Representatives; also established over 30 public
school art collections in Utah and organized Utah
Art Colony in 1920.
D 2. Irene, b. 1875, m. Stephen L. Richards. Nov. (1959)
resides at 105 South Temple Street, Salt Lake City.
26, 1899. Accompanied brother Jacob G. to Far West, Mo. in
1838. m. Alfred B. Lamson Nov. 25, 1845. Their children:
C 1. Melissa Jane. m. Albert W. Davis
1905 or 1936. m. Joseph F. Smith, Sixth President of
Mormon Church.
Smith, Sixth President of Mormon Church.
C 4. Alfred B.
A 5. NANCY (ANN)
b. Nov. 29, 1790, Harrison Co. and d. 1842. m. Henry Whiteman,
Sept. 1, 1808. Their children:

A 6. JACOB
b. June 9 or 7, 1793, Harrison Co. April 1838, Jacob and family, in­
cluding son Henry, left Harrison Co. to join the Mormon settlement at
Far West, Mo. From Far West they moved to Quincy, Ill., 1839. Jacob
and family (not including Henry) went from Kanesville, Iowa in the
David A. Miller Company, in Sept. 1846, to Utah where Jacob settled
at Farmington. He died in Farmington, Utah, Sept. 2, 1859.
m. (1st) Elizabeth Harvey, Harrison Co., May 24, 1811 (b. Jan. 10,
1794, Montgomery Co., Mo., daughter of Basil and Polly Harvey. She
died of consumption, Nov. 13, 1827, Harrison Co.) Their children:
Church July 1837, arrived at Far West, Mo., June, 1838; first
arrived at Kanesville, July 1846 where he joined Mormon Bat­
talion July 1846. Was one of laborers at Capt. Sutter's sawmill
in California when gold was first discovered, Jan. 24, 1848.
Engaged in missionary work in Hawaiian Islands for 11 years.
Settled in St. George, Utah about 1878 where he died Nov. 24,
1900.
m. (2nd) Cynthia Jane Whipple, Nov. 18, 1855 (b. June 11, 1835,
Jamestown, N. Y., d. Nov. 9, 1871). Their children:
C 1. Elizabeth Jane. b. Oct. 4, 1856, Farmington. m. Henry
L. Wickel.
C 5. Emeline Elvira. b. April 23, 1869, Farmington and d.
Aug. 5, 1869.
m. (2nd) Eleanor Farthena Errett, March 6, 1878.
C 2. Eleanor. b. Sept. 21, 1880, St. George. m. John Edmunds
Heppler. She lives at 852 East 8th South, Salt Lake City.
C 3. Edna. b. Nov. 9, 1882, St. George, Utah.
C 4. Adelbert. b. Mar. 13, 1887. He has 2 sons still living:
Walter, PO 2, Box 568, Provo, Utah; and Adelbert, 450 e
1st so (address not clear).
C 5. Ivy. b. Mar. 13, 1887, St. George, Utah. m. Jesse Branson.

in Farmington, Utah. m. Daniel Arnold Miller, near Carthage, Ill.,
Dec. 29, 1844, who conducted company to Salt Lake City, Sept. 1,
1840 that included Hannah's father, Jacob Bigler. Daniel A. Miller
was Bishop of Kanesville, 1846-47, treasurer of Davis Co., Utah,
and moved to southern Utah May 2, 1858. Their children:
C 1. Isabel Clarinda. b. Jan. 21, 1846 at Quincy, Ill. d. Jan. 1,
1904. m. Adam C. Bigler.
Aug. 8, 1915. m. Lydia Steep.


B 5. Bathsheba. b. Aug. 24, 1827. d. Oct. 8, 1827. m. (2nd) Sarah Cunningham, in early 1828 in Harrison Co. (b. 1810, daughter of Adam and Millia Cunningham of Harrison Co.) Their children:


C 3. Marion F. b. Oct. 22, 1859. m. John W. Hess
C 4. John A. b. Sept. 11, 1862. m. Lydia Beveridge

DELS C. HESS at 1524 1/2 Goldring Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 wrote N. B. that he is a great-grandson of Emeline Bigler Hess of Farmington, Utah. She sent me a photo of Del Hess and a copy of his journal.
C 7. Robert B. b. Dec. 25, 1866. m. Fannie M. Reed. m (2nd) Isabelle Clarinda Miller, (daughter of David Arnold Miller and Hannah Bigler). Their children:  
C 1. James Thaddeus. b. Jan. 22, 1868, Farmington, Utah. Moved with his parents to Plymouth, Utah where he spent most of his life as a successful farmer. Was farm superintendent of Utah State Prison until age 85. Former Bishop in Mormon Church at Riverside, Utah. Now retired and living at Garland, Utah. m. Louisa M. Stevenson Dec. 20, 1897. Their children:  
D 1. Horace J. Bigler. b. Oct. 18, 1901, Plymouth, Utah. m. Marie S. Schow Apr. 23, 1927. Educated at Utah State College. School teacher most of his life, now Principal of Junior High School of Salt Lake City. His address 2975 Melbourne St., Salt Lake City 6. His son Glade S. is law school graduate and a lieutenant in U. S. Naval Reserve.  
D 2. Vesta. m. Jesse Davis.  
C 6. Adam. b. April 2, 1876. m. Annie Howell.  
B 3. Mark. b. July 27, 1832, Harrison Co. and d. Oct. 10, 1889. m. Harriet Galloway and Mary Barnard - no info. on children. m. A. Patton and their children:  
C 1. Mark. m. Mary Alice  
C 2. Jacob. m. Agnes Standing  
C 3. Charles L.  
C 4. Jule E. m. Timothy Covert  
C 5. Edward. m. Nora  
C 7. George.  
C 8. Vance. m. Rebecca Smith.  
B 4. Andrew. b. Mar. 21, 1834, Harrison Co., d. 1893. m. Lottie Smith. Their children:  
C 1. Jesse Edward. m. Rachel Donaldson.  
C 2. Jacob Henry. m. Harriet Ann Lemon.  
C 3. Alice.  
C 4. Andrew Jeremiah. m. Harriet Elizabeth Smith.  
C 5. Helen.  
A 7. HENRY  
b. April 24, 1796, Harrison Co. and d. Sept. 8, 1859. m. Hannah Dickerson Oct. 3, 1822 (b. Nov. 1, 1803 Bucks Co., Penn. and d. July 6, 1875.) Their children:

A 8. BATHSHEBA

b. June 29, 1798, Harrison Co. d. Nov. 17, 1826, or 1829 and buried in Smith Cem., on lower Simpson Creek, Harrison Co. m. William Smith, Sept. 30, 1821. Her great grandson Walter M. Elliott, 527 Preston St., Clarksburg, W. Va., wrote a short account of Jacob and Hannah Bigler and their children, Sept. 1, 1933, which I saw in the home of Perry Bigler, RD 1, Marianna, Penn. A nearly similar account was published in the Boston Evening Transcript, Nov. 3, 1933, signed E.S.S., which may have been written by one of Bathsheba Bigler Smith's descendants. Children of Bathsheba and William Smith (we have name of only one child but there may have been more):

C 2. Boy b. 1847 and d. in infancy.

A 9. MARIA


A10. REBECCA
d. in infancy.
Appendix III

CHILDREN OF MICHAEL AND CATHERINE BUOCHER (OR BOOHER) BIGLER
Washington Co., Penn. (1)

(Michael Bigler was the son of Israel Bigler, who was the son of Mark Bigler I)

A 1. CATHERINE
d. July 21, 1840, age 29 yrs. 3 mos. 29 days; buried Franklin Cemetery.

A 2. DAVID
b. May 15, 1812 and d. April 6, 1881, m. Mahala Smith who d. Aug. 22, 1887 age 69 yrs. In 1876 they lived on a 117-acre farm on the road north of Franklin Cemetery on the west side of the road, according to the Caldwell's Centennial Atlas of Washington County. Both buried in Franklin Cem. W. Bethlehem twp. Their children:

B 2. Henry, who "married a girl along the river and went to Colo or Cal."
B 3. John, m. Emma Cayman.
B 4. Milton, m. Jane Dunn. Milton was a Baptist preacher.
B 5. Lavina, m. T. A. Marsh.
B 6. Catherine, m. William Engle
B 7. Emma, m. Franklin Garrett.
B 8. Simon, d. Aug. 30, 1838 age 6 mos. 1 day; b. Franklin Cem.
B 9. Michael, d. April 17, 1865 age 20. He ran away to enlist in the Army, enlisted with Co. G, 110th Penn. Vol. Inf., was killed 8 days later, and his marker reads "Died at Harrisburg". Buried Franklin Cem.

A 3. SIMON
d. June 1, 1825 age 11 yrs 9 mos 24 days; b. Franklin Cem.

A 4. HENRY M.
b. Jan. 4, 1818 and d. Aug. 9, 1880; m. Mary Fulton who was b. Mar. 15, 1826 and d. Aug. 6, 1906. Both buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. of Amwell twp. Caldwell's Centennial Atlas shows them living on a 76-acre farm a short distance northwest of Franklin Cem. in 1876. Their children:

B 1. William Simpson Bigler, b. April 29, 1857, d. Feb. 19th, n. Eliza Martin first wife (she is buried in Franklin Cem.) and Lydia Baker second wife. Children of second wife were:
C 1. Edith, b. Dec. 11, 1891. Her mother died when she was 4 years old and she was raised by Ida Wherry Frazee, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Wherry. Unmarried, now living four miles from her brother; address, Havianna, Penn.


Census of 1850 lists Michael Bigler's children then living at home: Susannah, Susan, Rebecca, Amanda, Benjamin.
C 2. Orris Perry. b. June 5, 1896. Lived with his Uncle and Aunt John and Elizabeth Wherry who left their farm to him when they died. m. Helen Shrontz and was dairy farmer on his 127-acre farm until 1951 when he retired but still lives on his farm, RD1, Marianna, Penn. Interested in fox hunting. He loaned me a copy of his father's notes from which came most of my information on the Biglers of Washington Co.

Their children:
D 1. Lydia, b. June 17, 1917, m. Walter Wansettler.

B 2. Elizabeth, b. June 5, 1815 and d. Mar. 3, 1913, m. John Wherry, 1813-1908, d. May 8, 1883, m. Sarah Margaret Vorhees. They had a son Henry (b. at Ten Mile July 18, 1879 and d. about 1956, formerly a school teacher in Amwell twp. who m. Lydia Duvall whose biography appears in Forrest's History of Washington County, 1926, as head of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. of Washington, Penn. This biography says that his grandfather Henry M. had two brothers, Benjamin and David, the three of whom had adjacent farms. Henry and Lydia had a number of children (John Dawson, Fred S., Mary Virginia, Sarah M., Dorothy M., Henry Jr.) some of whom are still living in Washington Co., Penn.

B 4. Simon, b. 1850, d. 1900 and b. in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. m. Temperance Riggle.
B 6. Michael Dawson, b. Aug. 3, 1854, d. Sept. 6, 1915 and buried North Ten Mile Baptist Cem. m. Sarah Margaret Vorhees. They had a son Henry (b. at Ten Mile July 18, 1879 and d. about 1956, formerly a school teacher in Amwell twp. who m. Lydia Duvall whose biography appears in Forrest's History of Washington County, 1926, as head of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. of Washington, Penn. This biography says that his grandfather Henry M. had two brothers, Benjamin and David, the three of whom had adjacent farms. Henry and Lydia had a number of children (John Dawson, Fred S., Mary Virginia, Sarah M., Dorothy M., Henry Jr.) some of whom are still living in Washington Co., Penn.

B 10. Walter Scott, b. June 20, 1867, d. April 12, 1927, m. Clara Donahoo.

A 5. BENJAMIN
of which I took in 1958. They and their son William (b. Feb. 10, 1875 and d. June 10, 1899) are buried in Franklin Cem. They had 8 children: Isaac Gayman m. Emma Riggle; Alice Caroline m. Sanford Martin; George Gayman m. Mary Baker; Sanford m. Mollie Bigler, both buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem.; Jesse F. m. Betty Weaver; William H., single; Amanda m. Jacob Martin; Michael H. m. Alice Caroline Horn, both buried Zolliarsville Cem., Washington Co. Perry Bigler remembers when he was a small boy that Isaac Bigler lived and died in the log house shown in Plate VIII, where his father Benjamin lived. 

A 6. ANN (Fitzgerald) and Jacob Garrett and had 4 children: Simon m. Susan Smith; Henry m. Margaret Braden; Catherine m. John Horn; Deborah m. Henderson McCaslin and later Silas Horne.

A 7. AMANDA b. June 29, 1829 d. Nov. 3, 1907. Jacob Garrett b. June 29, 1829 m. John Robert Drake and had 7 children: Mary V., m. George McCoy; Everett E. living in the west; John M., Ella J.; Edwin Marion and Sarah; and William E. - no record. m. William, Iowa

A 8. ELEANOR m. Elmer Graber and had 6 children: Margaret, single; John W. m. Eliza Jane Shidler; James B. single; Sarah Jane and Barbara Ann, twin sisters, single; Rebecca m. Andrew Voorhees


A 10. SARAH m. Robert Hook and had 4 children: William, Austin and Bera, single; Eliza m. Washington Tomlinson.

A 11. MARY m. Phillip Friend and had 2 children: Michael, single; Mary m. George Honnall

A 12. SUSAN single.

CHILDREN OF STEPHEN FULTON BIGLER AND ROSIELLA J. SHIBE (unpublished). [Note: Buried in Franklin Cem: Israel Bigler II, 1811-1884 (I do not know which son of Israel Bigler I was his father); Elizabeth, his wife, 1812-1883; Peter S., their son; Martha Jane, d. of Henry or Jacob Bigler, d. 1860 infant. Buried in North Ten Mile Baptist Cem., Amwell twp. Following Biglers (I do not know their relationship): Allie, 1821-1935; Jacob, 1836-1932; Eliza S., 1841-1910; Ella M., 1870-1889; Mary I., 1831-1889; Myrtle C., 1836-1891; George W., 1835-1910; Sarah A., 1837-1882; Hannah, 1813-1922; Olive B. 1891-1895; Baby Bigler.]


Appendix IV

CHILDREN OF DAVID AND MARY GRAYBILL BIGLER
Darke Co., Ohio (1)

(Andrew, Rachel, Moses, Daniel, Amos, Barbara, Julia Ann, Phoebe, Nancy, Lydia, Nicodemus, Delila, Isreal, Samuel, and possibly Elizabeth. Most and probably all of these children were born in Washington Co., Penn.)

A 1. ANDREW
B. Feb. 25, 1816. d. Jan. 18, 1892. Lived Elkhart Co., Ind. m.
Lydia Rarick in 1837, who d. Aug. 1889. Was farmer west of Goshen, Ind.; Elder and Preacher West Goshen German Baptist Church, organized in 1830. Both buried Yellow Creek Brethren Cem., near Goshen, but no stone markers there. Their children:
B 1. Mary. m. Wise. Their daughter Lydia m. Bucher, then Van Netta, and had one child, Bertha Bucher.
B 2. Nancy. m. Rev. Levi Hoke who followed Andrew Bigler as Elder of West Goshen German Baptist Church. Children: Alvin; Richard; Millie; Franklin, who was Elder of Brethren Church in Roanoke, La.; Grace; Bertha, now living 306 E. Altgeld, South Bend, Ind.; Oliver. Nancy d. 1896 and b. West Goshen Cemetery.

A 2. Joel. d. when young man.

A 3. David. m. Eliza Shidler. Children: Blanche; Roy; Lula; Ray.

A 4. Amos. m. Lavive Boyd. They lived next door to father Andrew's big house. Children: Lawrence; Myrtle; Ora d. Dec. 1958, age 75, was vice president of Goshen Cushion & Body Co.; Goshen city councilman and active member of Goshen Brethren Church; m. Grace Greenwalt and had two sons, Richard and Dr. F. W. Bigler, both now living in Goshen.

A 5. Aaron. m. Martha Chapman. Children: Laura; Delia; Vermont; Grace; and John. Aaron lived to be 88 years old and died in 1943.

A 6. Elisabeth. Never married. Edythe Neff wrote that she was a small, quiet woman who "spoke to me when I was a child" more of her soul that anyone else ever did. She would say, 'Edythe, are you proud? Pride was an awful sin. I was convicted of my sins when young long before we were baptized into the Church.'

A 7. Richard. m. Anna Flory who taught school for 15 yrs. He was a farmer and carpenter, living west of Goshen on Plymouth road. Nicodemus Bigler's house of June 1891 was built at edge of their orchard. d. Jan. 17, 1925. Children:

B 7a. Grace and Anna are buried in cemetery at Waterbird, near Goshen, Ind.

(1) Bicentennial: Edythe Neff, Syracuse, Indiana, chiefly for the Indiana Biglers; Charles and Epaminondas Bigler for most of the Ohio Biglers; Julia Ann Cary of Amlin, Ohio for Julia Ann Bigler Maurer; and a copy of the family tree prepared by and in the handwriting of Isabel Maurer Halladay, daughter of Julia Ann Bigler Maurer, daughter of Nancy Grabill Bigler, that was furnished to me by Mary Hapner, daughter of Isabel Maurer Halladay, of 1129 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona.

* Aaron Bigler - see photo on page 60. He was b. May 18, 1852. Born Hiram Wiltzer Roberts, who lived in Goshen, Ind. and March 29, 1871. He d. Lauren Wiltzer Roberts, who lived in Goshen, Ind. Nov. 5, 1893. m. Ruth Mac Everett March 23, 1911. and died in 1961 of RFD 2, Goshen Ind. 1886. "Newly, 1886. Aaron was buried in cemetery (cold part) of Wiltzer Church, Goshen, Ind."
A 1.

Edythe. b. Mar. 18, 1885, m. Lloyd Neff Mar. 28, 1910.

They own Neffland, Syracuse, Ind. where registered
Aberdeen Angus cattle are grown for breeding purposes.
the calves going to 4-H Clubs for many foreign countries.
He taught grade school for 23 years, of which 18 years
were in the Elkhart City school system. She taught grade
school for 12 years, of which 10 were in the Elkhart City
school system.

Pierre. b. Nov. 5, 1887, m. Celeste Johnson and lives
in Goshen at site of his father's old apple orchard. Their
children are: Pierre Jr.; James, who was in the U. S.
Army in Germany; Frederick; Philip Daniel who served in U.
S. Army for 3 yrs. in Korea; and Max Leroy who served in
U.S. Occupation Army in Germany for 2 yrs.

A 2.

RACHEL

b. May 1, 1817. d. after 1893. Lived Elkhart Co., Ind. m. David C.
Miller in 1838 (he was b. June 8, 1817 in Montgomery Co., Ohio and d.
after 1893) the brother of Mary Miller Bigler. Children:
B 1. Nancy. Was living with her son David, in Kosciusco Co., Ind. in
1893.
Wrote his father's obituary in Bigler Reunion ledger. His son
William W. Miller of Gary, Ind. was an "able and much liked man",
according to Edythe Neff.
B 3. Mary. b. Sept. 13, 1813. m. in 1862 Rev. Daniel Wysong who was
Brethren minister for 50 years. They had a 17/-acre farm in Union
twp., Elkhart Co., two miles from Nappanee, Ind.
B 4. Hannah. b. June 21, 1845 in Ohio. m. Adam Miller, Union twp.,
Elkhart Co.
B 6. Sarah. m. Charles Stuart.
B 7. Lavina. b. Union twp., Elkhart Co. 1857. m. in 1875 Rev. Henry
Wysong of Brethren Church, and lived on farm near Turkey Creek
Church. Nicodemus Bigler wrote June 3, 1876: "David Miller's
three girls married three Brothers Wysongs all have good farms
one a drunkard preacher the other a School teacher he went to school
at Terryhut ...."
B 8. Rachel. m. Joseph Geyer of Union twp., Elkhart Co. Many of their
grandchildren live around Nappanee, Ind.
B 10. Malinda. m. Solomon Pepple. Their children: Merve and Mary.

A 3.

MOSES

m. Mary Miller, daughter of Jacob and Mary Michael Miller of Adams twp.
Detailed information on their family appears in chapter on Moses Bigler.

A 4.

DANIEL

at Rock Run Brethren Cemetery (also known as the Berkey Cem.) about 9 or
* Their grandson, John Wysong, 23-0 Westland, Plymouth Ind. d. 1865.
+ His wife Alonzo was teaching in Plymouth when he was 18.
** John moved from Ohio to Elkhart Co. Ind. in 1850 where he d. June 25, 1922.
He m. Sarah Breinholt & their children were: David who lived at Quaker
in St Joe Co., Ind.; Daniel lived in Moshawawa, Ind.; William lived in Quay Co.
Charles C. lived in South Bend, Ind.; Jacob the youngest lived in Kosciusco
Co., Ind.
10 mi. southeast of Goshen. His grave is near the east side about half way back, according to his grandson Carl Bigler’s letter to Edythe Neff of Mar. 31, 1959.

m. (lst) Catharine Mikesis, July 13, 1851 who d. Jan. 7, 1875. Their children:


B 2. Lydia. b. June 7, 1856. d. about 1952; m. Sam Cripe. She had 12 children and lived to be 95. One daughter, Dora, gave Edythe Neff much information on Daniel’s family in summer of 1956.

B 3. David. b. Sept. 22, 1857. Nicodemus Bigler wrote May 5, 1895 that David was working as a millwright in Sacramento, Calif, making $4 per day and that he had married a girl there. Edythe Neff has photo of David in 1931, age 74, when he was living in Stockton, Calif. d. 1933.

B 4. Andrew. b. May 14, 1860. d. about 1945. Lived in Kansas City, Mo. Engaged in railroad work. Had 7 children, one of whom is Earle S. Bigler of 7102 Seward Park Ave., Seattle, Washington, who was born July 5, 1895 at Kansas City, Mo. He served as a sergeant with the 22nd (Rainbow Division) in World War I, and as Commanding Officer of Air Transport Command, Air Base Unit Boeing Field, Seattle in World War II, and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Retired. He was Manager of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for Seattle, 1947-1960. His son Robert B. Bigler, is Seattle manager of Gray Line Tours and his daughter is the wife of John S. Mangini, Manager of Mayflower Hotel, Seattle.


B 6. Delila. b. Jan. 30, 1865. Studied at Mount Morris College 2 yrs., taught school, then went in 1889 or 90 to California where her brother was; m. Sam Miller. She died at Stockton, Cal. Apr. 16, 1896. Her daughter Maude Ellen Miller became a teacher in Detroit, Mich.

B 7. Joseph. b. Nov. 22, 1867. m. Elizabeth Overholtzer Roush (a widow), 1877. Their children;

B 7. a. Samuel. m. Ella Van Scut. Their children: Uria m. Herman Zipser; Carl m. Rose Smith and taught grade school for 38 years at Elkhart (present address, 3401 Pleasant Plain, Elkhart, Ind.); Mabel m. Rev. Van Horn; Claude m. Helena Miller; Dora; Melvin; Lulu. Edythe Neff says Samuel raised Guernsey cattle at Valley Set Farm near Elkhart.

B 2. Aaron m. Elva Butterbaugh. No children. They lived near Goshen. After his wife died, he killed himself from grief.

m. (2nd) Elizabeth Overholtzer Roush (a widow), 1877. Their children:

B 1. Samuel. m. Ella Van Scut. Their children: Uria m. Herman Zipser; Carl m. Rose Smith and taught grade school for 38 years at Elkhart (present address, 3401 Pleasant Plain, Elkhart, Ind.); Mabel m. Rev. Van Horn; Claude m. Helena Miller; Dora; Melvin; Lulu. Edythe Neff says Samuel raised Guernsey cattle at Valley Set Farm near Elkhart.


A 5. AMOS

in Union Creek Brethren Cem., near Goshen. Their children:

**B 1. Daniel m. Christine (tene)** Their children were:
- Leander, a banker in Nappanee who m. Charlotte Anglemeyer --
- children Viola, Harry and John; David a mail clerk at Elkhart;
- William, a mail clerk at Goshen; Charles; Lydia; Frank who lived
  in Los Angeles, Cal. and d. there sometime after 1915, no family.

**B 2. Henry.** His children were Elmer, Clara, Aaron.

**B 3. John. m. Ida B. Kern.**

**B 4. Malinda. m. Delother.** Their children: Ida; Charles;
- Roy; Mrs. Harry Fuller; Mrs. Oscar Smith.

**B 5. Fannie. m. Eiffert.**

**B 6. Sarah. m. Mock.**

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**A 6. BARBARA**

m. John Martin Dec. 31, 1841 in Darke Co., O. No other information available. She probably died relatively young, as her mother Nancy's will of 1858 bequeathed a half share of her estate to Barbara's daughter Sarah. John Martin lived north of the Jacob Miller farm (see Map of 1875). Barbara Bigler was his first wife. After she died, he married again. His son David Martin, by his second wife, married Mary Bigler, daughter of Moses and Mary Bigler.

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**A 7. JULIA ANN**

- m. Henry Maurer (brother of Catherine Maurer who m. Amos Bigler) Jan. 1, 1842 in Darke Co. Henry Maurer, 1818-1893, son of Daniel and Sarah Anders Maurer. Henry and Julia Ann Maurer are buried in new Harris Creek Cem., about half mile south of the church. Their children:

**B 1. Nancy.** 1843-1931. m. Emanuel Miller, lived in Ind.


**B 3. Sarah.** 1846-1915. m. Ephriam Miller and later Moses Bridenstine.

**B 4. Joseph.** 1847-1906. m. Leah Kiesly, Bradford, O.

**B 5. Amos.** 1849-1915. m. Fannie Walden, grocer in Greenville, O.

**B 6. Lydia.** 1851-1852.

**B 7. Mary.** 1853-1913. m. Benjamin Coat. Lived at Celina, then Bradford.

**B 8. Fannie.** 1854-1879. m. Lee Dickey.

**B 9. Jacob.** 1855-1915. m. Ida Ganhy. Lived at Bradford, O.


**B 11. Rachel.** b. Aug. 10, 1859. d. Sept. 18, 1882 and buried in the old Harris Creek Cem. west of the present church. m. William N. Vandalburg July 18, 1880. Among their children was:

**C 1. Julia Ann.** b. Feb. 11, 1881 in Adams twp., Darke Co. on Henry Maurer farm (see map of 1875) m. Frank P. Cary (born April 26, 1879 near Plain City, Ohio). They live now on a large farm near Amlin, Ohio. Their children, all born near Amlin:

**D 1. Andrew William b. Dec. 15, 1905.** m. Cathryne Atkinson, June 28, 1930. BA Denison University 1927; now President of the Farmers National Bank of Plain City, Ohio. Their only child Andrew William Jr. b. Aug. 21, 1933 was valedictorian of class at Boys Academy, Columbus, and was killed in an automobile accident June, 1951.
D 2. Opal Flora. b. March 15, 1908. Graduate of Ohio State University in home economics; taught school 3 years; m. William A. Moler, Dec. 26, 1933, who teaches mechanical drawing in South High School, Columbus, Ohio. Their address is 141 West Beaumont Road, Columbus. Their two children are William Cary Moler born March 2, 1937 and now attending Ohio State University; and Caryl Ann Moler, b. March 27, 1947 now in high school.


B13. Catherine. 1862-1914. m. Isaac R. Miller April 15, 1883 and d. Oct. 22, 1914. Isaac R. Miller's father, John Jacob Miller, was a brother to Mary Miller Bigler. Isaac R. Miller lived at the farm shown in Map of 1875 designated J. J. Miller.
B15. Isabel. 1866-1971. m. Samuel S. Halladay. She prepared a family tree of David and Nancy Grabill Bigler's family (furnished me by her daughter Mary Hapner, 929 East Portland St., Phoenix, Arizona) that was used in this biodata sheet.
B16. Henry. 1869-1912. m. Triggie Cable.

PHOEBE


Their children:
B 1. David. d. in infancy. 12d. Sept. 9, 1845 a. 0.24, 1845
B 2. Levi. d. in infancy. 16d. Dec. 29, 1846 & March 1, 1847

Lived at N. Manchester, Ind. Their children: Bertha, licensed to Brethren ministry and served pastorate of N. Union Ch. of Brethren, and author of children's book Six Giants; m. Levi Neher; Ida m. Otho Winger, President of Manchester College, Indiana; and their son Professor Paul M. Winger of Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich., is said to have files on the Bigler family history; Edith of North Manchester, Ind.; LeRoy m. Alice Deardorf.

B 5. Rachel. b. Aug. 21, 1850. m. Isaac Miller, Their d. Maud Miller
B 7. Andrew. d. 1897 in California, of consumption
B 8-11. Nancy, John, Eli, Lydia - all d. young.


A 9. NANCY m. Abraham Deeter, Mar. 19, 1845, in Darke Co., O., lived in Darke Co., place of burial not known. Their children:

B 1. Will, who was 6 feet 3 inches tall.
B 2 and B 3. Lee and Isaac.
B 4. Mrs. Mcdarry, who married a "rebel from the south", according to Pam Bigler. She was well-to-do. Had a son who was a musician.
B 5. Mrs. McDowell, who married another "rebel from the south". Very poor.

B 6. Mrs. Longanecker.

A 10. LYDIA m. Joseph Fahnestock. Nicodemus Bigler mentions them in his letters of July 15, 1878, March 6, 1890 and Sept. 30, 1886, where he says Joseph and Lydya visited him and that one of their sons was a doctor in Piqua. Apparently they lived in Darke Co. or vicinity.

A 11. NICDEMUS B. May 10, 1829. d. Jan. 5, 1900. m. Hannah Hershey, May 5, 1853, in Darke Co., but in 1871 they were legally separated—without full divorce—after which she continued to live with the children on the family farm and he went to live in Elkhart Co. where he spent the remainder of his life, chiefly at Goshen where he worked as a shoe cobbler. He returned to visit his family in Gettysburg for a short time when Epaminondas was 12 years old. He is buried at Yellow Creek Brethren Cemetery, near Goshen, where Andrew and Lydia Bigler are buried, but there are no stones to mark the graves. Their children (birthdates from Nicodemus' Bible, in his handwriting, now in possession of Epaminondas Bigler):

B 4. Lewis. b. Apr. 18, 1862. d. July 1931 and buried Harris Creek Cem. m. Sarah Stover. Studied medicine Keokuk Medical College and Ohio State University, began medical practice at Gettysburg in 1900. Biography in Fraser Wilson, History of Darke Co., 1913, which cites family legend of three Bigler brothers coming together to America from old country; family history in this biography not correct.

C 1. Grace, b. Apr. 19, 1892, a teacher who m. Dr. A. W. Anderson now teaching at the University of Illinois.


C 3. Robert Lee, b. Nov. 10, 1903, graduate of Ohio State University; teaches chemistry at high school in Cumberland, Maryland.


Epanimonidas, b. June 15, 1870. Last living son (Aug. 1960) of Nicodemus Bigler. m. Elsie Louridge. Major in U.S. Marines, now living on farm, formerly owned by his parents, near Gettysburg, Ohio, address RFD 1, Bradford, Ohio. Their children:


C 2. John Lewis, b. 1916; served in U.S. Army in France during WW II; now operates father's farm near Gettysburg, Ohio.

C 3. Elsie Hannah, m. H. Nash Williams, lives at McSuccess, Va. Address: ...

Epaminondas b. June 15, 1870. Last living son (Aug. 1960) of Nicodemus Bigler. m. Elsie Louridge. Major in U.S. Marines, now living on farm, formerly owned by his parents, near Gettysburg, Ohio, address RFD 1, Bradford, Ohio. Their children:


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C 2. John Lewis, b. 1916; served in U.S. Army in France during WW II; now operates father's farm near Gettysburg, Ohio.
This well known and representative citizen of Darke County, Ohio, - Cyrus Bigler, whose home and farm are on section 36, Wayne Twp - is a native of the county and dates his birth in Adams township, August 13, 1844.

Mr. Bigler traces his ancestry along the agnostic side for a hundred years back to Denmark. Three brothers of the name Bigler came together to America and here they soon separated, one settling in N. Y., one in Pa. and one in Va. and from these have sprung all the Biglers in this country. Moses Bigler, the father of Cyrus, was a native of Maryland, born in 1818, and his father, David Bigler, was also born in that state. The former came to Ohio at an early day, about 1828, and was one of the first settlers of Darke county. Through his mother Mr. Bigler is related to the Millers, one of the largest and a much respected family of Darke county, they having removed here from Kentucky about the time it was admitted as a slave state. Mrs. Bigler, the mother of our subject, was formerly Miss Mary Miller. She was born in Adams township, this county, a daughter of Jacob Miller, and is still living, at the age of seventy-four. To Moses and Mary Bigler were born five children, two sons and three daughters, Cyrus being the eldest. The others are as follows: Jacob, who is married and living on a farm in Michigan; Nancy, wife of John Long, of Adams township, Darke county; Mary, wife of David Martin, also of Adams township; and Lydia, wife of Charles Jackson, of Pleasant Hill, O.

In his youth, Mr. Bigler had good educational advantages, attending school in his native township, later being a student in the Greenville schools, and still later entering what was known as Whitewater College, at Centerville, Ind. At the age of 17 years, Mr. Bigler began teaching school, which occupation he followed in his native county during the winter season for several years, or up to the time of his marriage, after which he located on the farm where he now resides, and where he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. His home place comprises one hundred acres and he has 70 acres in another tract, all of which he operates.

Mr. Bigler married Miss Lydia A. Howe, a native of Palestine, German township, Darke Co., Ohio, who died in 1887. For his second wife Mr. Bigler married Miss Ida Seifert and by her has one son, Herman.

Politically Mr. Bigler has always given his support to the Democratic party, and has at times filled local office. In 1880 he was assessor. At this writing he is a director in the German Baptist Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Covington, Miami county, Ohio. He is a member of the German Baptist Church.
Obituary of Cyrus M. Bigler, Versailles Policy, Jan. 1928

Cyrus M. Bigler, son of Moses and Mary Miller Bigler was born in Adams Township, Darke County, Ohio on Aug. 13th, 1844, and died on January 23, 1928, aged 83 years, 5 mos. and 10 days.

His whole life was spent in this neighborhood. He located on the farm home when a young man, and with his own hand cleared most of it, and in doing this cultivated not only the land but a love and knowledge of nature that made him an able horticulturist and authority on agriculture in its finer phases. He saw beauties in nature that only its lovers see and his trees were above money value to him.

He was always interested in the civic and religious welfare of the community and held many positions of honor and trust. He was brought up in the faith of the Church of the Brethren and to the faith he remained true unto death. He was a charter member of Oakland church and was always active in its service.

On Oct. 1, 1868 he was married to Lydia A. Lowe, who died in 1887.

On Oct. 23, 1890 he was again married to Ida Seifert who died in 1917. He is survived by nine children, Charles, Earl, Jacob, Clyde and Ray Bigler, Mrs. Lulu Grove, Mrs. Stella Schellert, Mrs. Mabel Burns, and Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He leaves also three sisters, Mrs. Mary Martin of Adams Township and Mrs. Lydia Jackson of Troy, 0., 19 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and many other more distant relatives and friends.

The Children

Cyrus M. Bigler Estate (Darke Co. Probate Court, filed Mar. 8, 1928)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn on hand</td>
<td>$ 270.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat on hand</td>
<td>95.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank deposits</td>
<td>228.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promissory notes and deposits</td>
<td>6,156.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Personal Property</td>
<td>6,749.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate, appraised value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 1 - 80 acres, Sec. 36 home place with house &amp; barn</td>
<td>$10,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 2 - 80 acres, Sec. 35 no buildings</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Real Estate</td>
<td>16,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total appraisement of all assets</td>
<td>23,449.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funeral expenses and doctors bill</td>
<td>816.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court costs</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>1,066.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Journal entry Mar. 29, 1928 for inheritance tax:

Gross value estate                          |     23,449.89 |
Net actual market value                     |     22,383.89 |
which amount passes to his 9 children       |     |
one-ninth each as inheritance               |     |

Appraisers: Charles Dickey, Earl Miller, Samuel Long
Appendix VI

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS OF NICODEMUS C. BIGLER

(Excerpts from about 200 letters written by Nicodemus C. Bigler to his daughter, Jane, of Gettysburg, Ohio, after he separated from his wife and family in 1871 and went to Elkhart County, Indiana where he worked as a shoe cobbler until his death in 1900. His wife Hannah Hershey Bigler continued to live on the family farm south of Oakland Church in the house built by Nicodemus where his son Epaminondas was still living in 1960. The letters are now in the possession of Mrs. Mac Stoltz (Marguerite Bigler), RFD 2, Greenville, Ohio, granddaughter of Nicodemus C. Bigler. The letters are interesting not only for the information they contain concerning the children of David and Nancy Bigler in Darke County, Ohio and Elkhart County, Indiana but also for their occasional glimpses into mid-west country life in the late nineteenth century. Excerpts were made by Norman Burns who read the letters in January, 1959.

1875

June 14. "I often think of Pary [his son Epaminondas] when I last saw him he could not walk or talk he was a fat Big boy but now he can run and play and would not know me any more when he was a baby I held him almost day and night when he had a sore head .... I would like to know what Henry Miller [brother of Mary Miller Bigler] sold their mill [at Webster] at and what they paid for their land I am afraid they will end like Michael Miller John C. Millers Brother He moved and traded until he has nothing any more He lives South from here on one of his Brothers farms."

1876

June 3. "David Millers [his wife Rachel was N's sister] three girls married three Brothers Wisons all have good farms one a dunkard preacher the other a School teacher he went to school at Terryhut in the South western part of this state one of Andy Biglers girls is married to Levi Hoka he is a School teacher and has 15 acres in one garden to supply the Goshen market with vegetables he lives in sight of Goshen."

1877

June 5. "Dave [Miller] my Brotherinlaw owns 160 acres well improved large house and Barn and a Large orchard and plenty of money on Interest he lives six miles from here Levi Killers [who married N's sister Delila] lives 2 miles from here they own 80 acres of the old farm the old folks are both dead they have a large house and Barn and the old orchard Hydraulic works to force the water out of a spring up the hill into the milk trough that is the place where his dady lived many years they sold their land and bought a part of the old farm."
July 1. "Daniel Bigler (N's brother) was in my shop a Saturday he lives six miles east of Goshen he wanted me to help him to cut his harvest he went two miles west of Wakarusa to Overholser's where he took a young woman south to the Brick Dunkard church and married her. Berkholder a Dunkard preacher married them. She is a widow-woman."

Aug. 2. South West. "They have a singing every Sunday night they pay their singing teacher $3.00 a night then take in more money than they want to pay their teacher they keep close door and all but the Scholars. have to pay ten cents they run in for miles in every direction on Buggies and wagons they can not all get in the house and then they carouse outside the roads are chucked up on all sides with Buggies .... Levi Killers comes to see me tolerably often and nearly every time they Bring me a Basket full of eatables they have done that every since I live here pies Butter apple-butter meat cakes etc I do their shoe mending for them then they want to pay me besides for my work I do not think there are Better people in the country than they were they had everything plenty 160 acres of land a large orchard."

Sept. h. "I would like to know how Jacob and Cyrus Bigler are getting along i have not read a letter from Cyrus for several years old Huddle, i guess, owns the Webster Flour mill. I used to be in Webster and many a day i helped to build that Barn of Jacob Bashore (Mary Miller Bigler's brother-in-law) i made the blinds in the old mill for Henry Miller's dady when old Jacob (father of Henry Miller and Mary Miller Bigler) owned the mill he wanted me to help to tend the mill old Jacob is dead and gone. If Henry's would a staid on old Jacob Miller's farm they might be independent now."

Nov. 10. Wakarusa. "Just lighted my candle to write this letter I heard a wonderful babbling i listened and run out of Doors then I knewed what it was it was a large Flock of wild Geese high up in the air I could not see them although the Moon is a shining and the sky clear they are from the northern lakes as it gets too cold for them north they fly up in large Flocks and fly South where it is warm ...."

May 1 (year illegible) South West. "Yesterday they buried Rarick a Brother to old Jacob Rarick in Ohio he lived east of Goshen they brought him up to Levi Millers to bury him where old Jacob Miller and his wife are buried he was a brother in law to Andy Bigler he was a brother to Levi Miller's Mother .... I pittied little Epaminondas with his little pet dog he was a little Baby when i left he must keep his little pet dog until i come to see him."

1878

Feb. 23. "Andy Bigler Sold the Mennonites the ground where their church stands on when he owned a farm on Yellow Creek and Bought a farm one mile west of Goshen and paid one hundred dollars an acre Andy Bought another piece of land in sight of Goshen about a year ago .... I heard that Abraham Deeter (who married N's sister Nancy) was broke up."
Mar. 13. South West. "Wheat is $1.10 a bushel corn 35 cents a bushel, Cake 25 cents a bushel, Butter 18 cents a pound, Eggs 8 cents a dozen, Maple molasses $1.00 a gallon, Pork 8 and 10 cents a pound."

July 15. Wakarusa. "I talked with Joseph Fahnestock and Lydia [N's sister] after the yearling meeting was over; they came out north on a visit. Mary Bigler [probably Moses Bigler's wife] was in to see me. She said that she would go to see you after she got home."

1879

Jan. 21. "Christians in Wakarusa had a protracted meeting for several weeks day and night. A sled load of men and women living some six miles east passed nearly every night, singing as they passed about dark and then going home about 9 o'clock, after night singing as merry as the Birds. I like to hear them sing as they passed by the door. A big wagon box on the sled with straw quilts and Buffalo robes the very coldest nights snow or blow they went. I was at the Dunkard meeting last Sunday a week ago Andy Bigler preached."

June 3. Bremen. N wrote that after his return from a visit to Oakland Church and family, he bought 2 acres of land from Pete Miller, land running to the lake at Bremen. It is called Big Lake and is 4 miles long and 2 miles wide.

Aug. 17. Bremen. "I rode with Jake Nyres out to Dave Miller's. Staid all night with them (that is Henry Miller's brother) and walked to Goshen the next day and took dinner with Andy Biglers staid with them until the next day. I had splendid feasting. The boys were cutting oats with the Reaper. They were loaded with fruits. The garden was bending with ripe goose kernels and others. The many cherry trees had been red full and a good many late ones left the people picked them on shares. Andy was down on the river fishing. He did not come home until towards evening. He took his spear along, so that he had speared a large pike nearly one yard long. He tried to hold him Andy Jumped into the river to hold him fast. But he got loose and swam under some drift. The fish come out of the Lakes into Elkhart river. Andy is not well. The doctors say he cannot live long. I often think of Abraham Deeters. You ask Nancy Deeter [N's sister] whether she has the family record that is what our mother gave to her. I think my doff Shine is the Dutch name for it. I had forgot to ask her when I was in Ohio."

1880

Feb. 5. "Three Germans crossed the Ocean for America and them were my Grandfathers two Boys became orphans and rafted on the river the one was Governor of California the other Governor of Pennsylvania and United States Senator and plenipotentiary and foreign minister to South America. When I run through Pennsylvania on the Railroad some old Gentlemen told me he knew the Bigler farms well that was my cousin Governor Biglers. There is one of Marks Biglers Boys in Goshen he told Andy that he lived in New York city."

April 26. Bremen. "I have an outline 120 feet long in the lake with some 27 hooks to it and bought me a net 60 feet long to catch fish and paid $5"
for it And a splendid pole and line to fish I intend to have fish enough to eat this summer the ducks are here by the hundreds the muskets are booming they shoot them to eat i cooked one it was too fat i could not eat it i do not like ducks cooked and fried the people are spearing fish on the lake this spring some nights i counted eight lights on the lake it is a wonder that there are any fish in the lake yet for the people are continually fishing but this lake covers more than 5000 acres and is deeper in the middle than a high tree.

July 11, Bremen. "I worked 6½ days in harvest some days it went tolerable hard i raked and bound after a cradle for 75 a day .... The markets here are about as follows Wheat is 1.00 a bushel Corn 55 a bushel Oats 25 cents a bushel Butter 9 cents a pound Eggs 10 cents a dozen Harvesting was here 20 a day for binding Haying 1.25 a day."

Dec. 7, Bremen. "West of this lake is a large dunkard settlement and a rich settlement in St. Jo county Amos Bigler lives in that neighborhood .... The ice is about one foot thick they sawed it in Blocks ½ inches long and 1½ inches wide i hauled 22 Blocks on a load we drove into the lake about 18 rods the water is about 4 feet deep where they sawed there were some 18 teams hauling to fill the ice houses in Bremen i hauled for Walters he keeps a Hotel in town we hauled about one hundred tons to fill his ice house we had a jolly time hauling ice they carried whisky freely the Land lord wanted to treat me i told him that i am a temperance man."
July 21. "Andy Bigler is going to visit the old neighbors in there [near Oakland Church] that are alive yet and the old homestead in the next month August .... When I was at the stupendous Niagra Falls four years ago I was under the falls in the largest Museum in North America .... In 1812 my Father was drafted to serve in the army then stationed at niagra falls he paid his draft money and remained at home."

Sept. 6. South West. "I was in Goshen day before yesterday and at Andys and took dinner with them Andy was at the river a fishing Daniel Bigler lives some 30 miles east on doctor Wickhams farm but he rented a farm close here again and is amoving here again."

April 14. "I heard my Father say who was drafted in the war of 1812 and paid his fine as draft money $92 that the snow in the winter before the war was after night sometimes as red as blood". A later letter of Jan. 20, 1885 mentions again the snow in the winter of 1812 which he says was red as blood, according to his Father.

April 29. Goshen. "I paid my two dollars fine a day to be Exempt from military duty and never voted for 4 years in the time of the rebellion Lew must get clear of that [military service].... I burned my Father's receipt releasing him from a draft in 1812 he paid $92 to pay his fine I saved his receipt long after he was dead He was a good man and is Buried on our old farm close to where you live when we lived in Pennsylvania.

Our close neighbor Nicodemus Macfarlan a rich man and an old Congrasman he went down to Washington city yearly to help to enact laws in 1812 he had one of his Boys appointed as an officer in the army then Stationed at Black rock niagra falls they had an engagement and a bullet went through him he got off his horse and gave him to his aidecamp and sat down and leaned against an oak tree and wrote a letter to his Father The Blood dropped on the paper he was writing on and when he was done writing he fell dead When his Father received the letter in the Evening he did not say a word that happened to none but he walked the room all night the next morning he told his wife after that he left his Boys out of the army I was named after Nicodemus Macfarlan when we moved to the far west to where our old farm is I was then a Baby old Honorable Mr. McFarland took me in his arms and followed the wagons and gave me a gift for his namesake," [This was state congressman Abel McFarland who is buried in Franklin cemetery, Washington County near the graves of Israel and Catherine Bigler.]

July 18. South West. "Deliah [N's sister] has bought me a basket full of eatables nearly every week since I live here and Rachel Miller [N's sister] Bitter meat Applebutter and maple molasses they brought here and Bread and pies so that i did not buy much they brought me bed clothes and knitted me woolen socks Amanda Miller made a nice quilt knitted a pair of woolen socks
and made a shirt and a handkerchief and brought them here for me all for nothing. Deliah Miller gave me three nice quilts. I have lost nearly all my things through Pete Miller's laziness. I lost my house and two acres of land at Lake Bremen. I had planted a lot of trees on it.... Speaking of his children he said, "the children made me much trouble. They are grown so that I would hardly know them again and I could not do anything for them here but to be ashamed of myself."

Sept. 30. South West. "Joseph Fahnestock and Lydia [his sister] were here last week. Joseph one of his boys is a doctor in Piqua. Made in one month $375 for young boys and girls are receiving their $2 a per day for teaching common schools. I do not see what my boys are doing. I taught school when I was 19 years old and they ought to study day and night or learn a trade."

1885

Feb. 8. "For more than three weeks the dunkards held their meeting for 15 nights in succession. Baptized under ice three girls and one boy in all. The meeting house was filled with people some nights that they had no seats for some."

May 19. "I was in Waterford and Goshen last Saturday nearly 40 years I was through here. It was very different to what it is now. Goshen was a small town with rickety frame buildings and little groceries and dry goods stores. The Indians would come in to town on their little ponies to barter. I walked west [nearly 40 years ago] ten miles from Goshen to where Brother Andy had bought 160 acres. He had a small field or two fenced in there. But few commencements made between him and Goshen. The wolves would howl around the house after night. As I walked down to Waterford last Saturday I thought of how different it looks and is now to what it was then. Nearly all the land cleared and fenced into fields with magnificent brick houses. The yards adorned with evergreens and wind pumps rolling their wheels. Large orchards of good fruit trees and splendid painted barns with glittering lightning rods extending aloft and many towns and magnificent cities with their hum and noise of their many different machineries and the electric lights illuminating far and wide around after night."

June 28. South West. "I was some 40 miles south two weeks ago. I staid with Michael Miller's [married his sister Phoebe] I had not saw them for 28 years. She did not know me any more. They own 80 acres well built on the side of a lake. From their porch there is a fine view over the lake to a town Laketon. Mike and his boy were on the lake on a boat fishing. They made supper and rung the bell and they came home. Mike is a preacher. Michael then took me the next day in his buggy to the Railroad station.... My sister is married to John Hershey's brother." (An Elizabeth Bigler married Joseph H. Hershey Jan. 5, 1850, according to the Darke Co. records).

1886

Mar. 1. South West. "Andrew had 160 acres about 2 miles west. He commenced in the thick woods [when W. first passed through here nearly 40 yrs. ago] now it looks different."
Dec. 14. "I was in Goshen about a week past a tall well dressed man passed me and spake some good words as he passed. It was one of Jacob Bigler's boys from New York city he keeps the fur and hat store in Goshen second cousin Henry Bigler's two boys were governors the one of Pennsylvania the other of California /Jacob and Susan Bigler's two sons William and John were governors of Pennsylvania and California respectively/"

1887

Aug. 5. Comments to his daughter Jane who was planning to visit the Goshen area. "They nearly all know Andy Biglers in Goshen one mile west from Goshen a big road from Goshen runs past their house /Edythe Neff wrote me Nov. 6, 1958 that this was the "Plymouth road" and that her father's house was on the same road, the first house after leaving Goshen and crossing that mill road/ Some of Andys are in the city nearly every day and any body can tell you where they live there at Andy Biglers you are welcome to stay as long as you want to they have several nice top buggies and they will take you where you want to go. Levi Hokes lives one mile west of Andies Levi is married to one of Andie's girls they are doing well and one of Andies Boys lives 20 miles north two miles from the city of Bristol they bought 80 acres there he is married to one of Chapmans girls the one that has the knife factory at Goshen Some of your knives in the Oakland church he made Dan Bigler's oldest girl is about Goshen with her friends she is single and belongs to the dunkards Dan Bigler lives some 25 miles east from Goshen he has rented a large farm on the road from Marion to Goshen at North Manchester on the railroad lives Michael Millers a brother to John C. Miller close to you he is married to one of my sisters /Phoebe Bigler/ they have a large family one of the Boys is a Schoolteacher and a printer and then you go /3 miles west of Andies/ to Levi Millers /Levi's wife Delila was N's sister/ there you stay as long as you want to they have the old farm and are well fixed with buildings and have things plenty. She would be glad to see you and they will take you to David Millers Henry Millers Brother he is married to one of my Sisters /Rachel/ they have a large farm and good Buildings and things in abundance Amos Biglers they have things plenty" (Aug. 5, 1887. N. wrote Jane Nov. 24, 1887 after her visit to Goshen so I assume date of this letter is Aug. 5, 1887 instead of 1881 the year being illegible).

Miscellaneous. N. wrote he had taught school for 10 years (Sept. 5, 1887). He asked about "our old farm where Bill Evans used to live (Aug. 9, 1883). He signed his name Charles Bigler (May 15, 1886). He was living 8 miles from Goshen (April 18, 1889). He wrote "I have been a good Hoosier for 17 years" (Mar. 4, 1888).

1889

Feb. 22. "I am trying to live justly and peaceably and cleanly and charitable if but poor nearly all the tramps are coming in to see me I work for them for nothing there is an old tramp comes in regular I gave him money to buy cloth for a blue bundle two pairs of shoes suspenders mittens socks He
came in crying had his feet frozen his socks in shoes tore i gave him
woolen socks and something to eat he is a poor old duchman it is full
of tramps through this part of the country."

May 3. "One of Daniel Biglers 2nd wife's boys come in this week he was
in the north of Michigan two years among the Indians. He told me that
they fight the whites are generally in the fault many of the white boys
married Indian girls they make the best of women the Indian girls are
soon half crazy after the white Boys they have parties and dances some
Indians are good fiddlers and waltzers when i was among them a year ago
at Peru the Indian women were not near so bad and mean as the whites."

July 15. "Andrew Bigler and David Miller were in old Virginia." On Aug.
28, 1875, N. wrote that "Andy talks of going to the State of Virginia to
visit". One wonders whether he was homesick to revisit the scenes of his
youth in Washington County, Penn.

Sept. 13. "Lydia Bigler Andrew Biglers wife is dead and buried close
here at Levi Millers [N]'s brother-in-law i was at their house about two
weeks before she died she was well and laughing when i came into the house
she went out and called Andy in he was out in the field the next i heard
she was dead They lived 52 years together peacable she was a very good
woman always i went to Andy's house three weeks after she was buried the house
was empty i took a chair he soon came in sat down and cried and would not
talk then he spake a few words and i left since that i have not seen him
52 years ago i went with him to move his things from old Wises to where
Mary Bigler now lives he had 40 acres there and then sold to Mose Bigler
they all said that Lydia was such a good woman."

1890

Mar. 6. "I received a letter from Joseph Fahnestock yesterday they had
been very bad Lydia [N]'s sister/ was not expected to get well but is now
safe .... Dan [N]'s brother/ heard from his girl Deliah she use to come
here she was in Mount Morris College under Royer two years then taught
School and kept house in Goshen at two dollars per week last fall she came
here and shook hands called me out she had hired a horse and Buggy in Goshen
and then soon left for Kansas City Missouri and now she is in California
with her Brothers two of her Brothers are in a large city in Missouri.

1891

Mar. 21. "Cyrus Bigler made a fool of himself tended Centerville college
taught school and then married poor Lydia Low and a large family and a 2nd
If he would have left his woman away he would be honorable and Somebody ....
I done shoe-mending for a stout German man just 6 years from Frankfort
Germany He paid $27.00 from Bremerhaven to New York City there were 1150
emigrants on the Steamship."
belongs to me to sell or move I built a story and nearly a half out of new clean Michigan pine and Pennsylvania Hemlock planed out of the Goshen lumber yard I have the most pleasant and delightful situation around the city There is no house closer than Isaac Bigler /Andrew's son and Edythe Neff's father/ and that is some 20 rods off I cannot see his house on the top of the hill I am getting work on the shoe Bench some of my old customers are passing to the city and giving me work I bought 8 cords of good shugar stove wood for next winter I can have my bread fresh out of the bakery every morning. Andy Bigler comes in or walks down to see me very often to talk he was here yesterday He is tolerable stout again. I had a magic lantern show here one night They said it was very good." Edythe Neff wrote me Jan. 26, 1959 that her father's house was on the Plymouth road and that their orchard extended to the west door step of Nicodemus' house that was built at the foot of the hill. After he died, the house looked awfully empty, she said, and someone bought it and moved it away. "I can still see the horse drawn wagon going down the road, creaking along, taking the house west on Plymouth road", she wrote.

Aug. 9. "Phoebe Miller /N's sister/ was here yesterday from North Manchester she said that John C. Miller was buried she came in with Nancy Deeter /N's sister/ and one of the Maurers."

Nov. 29. Goshen. "Rabbits are plenty here Isaac Bigler shot 22 in one day big and fat ones around the house and in the orchard hedge and woods along the river towards the mill dam. Amos Bigler and Henry his son and his wife stoped here last week they were here visiting they live some 35 miles South west."

1892

Jan. 21. "Yesterday we buried Andrew Bigler he died Monday /Jan. 18/ in the forenoon at 10 o'clock he took a speall the last days he wanted to be anointed they sent for Neff in Goshen and Levi Hoke anointed him about a half hour before he died he wanted to see his children and little grandchildren in his dicing hour to give them the last farewell I went to the house in the morning and then to the church funeral services preached here and then we took sleds and took him west to Levi Millers it was awful cold we were shivering with cold at the grave and then went in to Levi Millers where their rooms /were/ nicely carpeted and warmed and two long tables with the most splendid good seasoned eatables and we all took a good meal men and women David Miller Henry's Brother came here early in a sleigh Levi Miller and Deliah /N's sister/ and Daniel Bigler He now layed last night again beside Leidia his wife where they are glad to see each other again."

Feb. 11. When a stranger told N. of the red sky that evening "I told him that it was the regular war cloud when the great rebellion commenced the same cloud was seen I heard my Father say in the war of 1812 the same red cloud was seen our neighbor said that in the winter the snow on the ground shone as red as blood I have the recorded history in the revolution the same cloud appeared."
April 29. Amos Bigler played the fiddle and his boy the organ at Amos house when N. showed his magic lantern.

July 22. N. says he talked with a neighbor "about old Jacob Miller Henry's father I always liked old Jacob [Mary Miller Bigler's father] and worked a great deal for him."

1893

June 9. N. included with his letter a list of marriages of Elkhart Co. in 1878, published in the Goshen Daily Times, which reported three marriages performed by Rev. Andrew Bigler. /Charles C. Chapman, History of Elkhart County, Indiana, 1881, p. 88/ mentions that Andrew Bigler was a preacher in the German Baptist Church of Goshen.

July 9. "Levi Bigler one of Dans Boys showed me his sisters Leida picture her man Cripe and their four children all on one picture they own a good farm of 160 acres at Rochester Indiana and 160 acres west Levi first came from North Manchester He staid with Michael Millers one night one of their girls left for California to Los Angelles close to the ocean one of her sisters married and lives there Deliah Bigler married and lives in California about 100 miles from her sister.

Oct. 24. "Ike [Isaac Bigler] works at carpentering work and farming keeps three good horses he settled up Andy Biglers estate the farm they sold for eight thousand dollars."

Nov. 5. "Isaac Bigler [Andrew's son] returned from the tumultuous City of Chicago with his family they were seven days and nights in the City of Chicago three days in the world's fair and Buffalo Bills great circus show and theatrical performances and the museum."

1894

Sept. 11. "My dear Jane and Hannah and all the other Boys I received your letter today and was glad for it. I have not heard from you ones since last spring I wrote several Letters To you and received none from you until today and was glad to hear I thought that you had forgotten me or was angry i looked all summer in my letter Box for a letter from you and got none." N. said he had nothing against Joseph Hershey. N. mentions how he came here 23 years ago.

Sept. 30. "Deliah Miller [N's sister] was here yesterday she passed here in a buggy to town and brought me a crock full of good applebutter and eggs i never pay them for what they bring to me they have it plenty they have fixed their house and things the grandest in the township."

Nov. 25. "Malinda one of Amos Bigler's girls she came to school to me at the head of Syracuse Lake i boarded with them in the Eavening i taught Malinda and Fany arithmetic."
Dec. 21. "Isaac's children came in this morning and said that I worked nearly all night they are the nicest and smartest children that can be found Enos [Pierre Bigley] is about 5 years old and Edith [Mrs. Edythe Neff] is about 9 years. Anna Isaacs wife used to teach School she is a dress maker now and is busy day and night working for the city women. She makes more money than I can at my trade." N. mentions that the Goshen grocery store has oranges, lemons and bananas from Chicago.

Dec. 29. Goshen. "Nancy Bigler one of Andrews girls married to Levi Hoke lives about one mile east in the south end of town has been in bed for sixteen weeks with the typhoid fever two doctors in town tended to her and gave her up as incurable. Liz her sister and her own grown girl tends to her. Levi Hoke is a Dunkard preacher. I carried my old feather bed down stairs and I slept under it. It is the old feather bed that I and Hannah slept under last year. I washed it and cleaned it. It is good yet and the blue coverlet Hannah had when we first moved. I have it on the bed every night. I patched it and washed it so often it is about in shreds. I often think of Hannah and am very sorry if I done wrong to her. If I had to live the life again I would be very good to her and her father and mother. I am sorry for all."

1895

Feb. 26. "John Bigler in Goshen sold his large splendid farm at Cleavland Ohio and is buying machinery. He is one of Jacob Biglers sons from New York City our relations." N. said he had a large farm 5 miles west of Goshen.

Undated newspaper clipping in N's letter. Jacob G. Bashore b. Jan. 25, 1827 Rockingham Co. Va., migrated to Berks Co. Pa., 1830, d. age 68 yrs., 2 mos. 28 days. Funeral Harris Creek church, April 23, 1895. In 1834, he migrated to Miami Co., settled near Covington, and later he settled one mile north of Bradford. Married Sallie Miller [sister of Mary Miller Bigler] July 15, 1847, and had 9 children. His wife and 5 children survived him. For 43 years he lived on their farm at Webster. He was an active member of the church, was elected deacon 1869. N. wrote "I helped to build their Barn. I was 19 years old and Jacob Bashore 2 years older when he came to School to me when I taught my 1st term."

May 5. "I also read a letter this week from David Bigler, one of Dan Biglers Boys from Sacramento Calafornia. He works at millwrighting. He was paid $5.00 a day. He said that they treated him as a good guest. He married a girl out there and has several children. Deliah his sister lives in Stockton Calafornia. 40 miles from the ocean. Phube Millers girls my sisters has a daughter that married and lives in Calafornia."

May 29. "Isaac Bigler's [wife] does more work than any woman here. She is always busy last week. She worked until after midnight making a fine dress for a lady in town. Does all her own housework clean and nice. She makes more money than I can. She taught school when she was a girl. She has a smart girl about 9 years old [Mrs. Edythe Neff] and a boy five years old Isaac caught
three young crows down in the river bottom and has one jet black one more than half grown the children brought it down to me yesterday in a big box he is a nice tame pet Isaac is farming Major Cobbs farm just across the road running from the river they have all they want they bring me good milk sometimes."

"I clerked 13 elections at Gettysburg".  (June 7)  "I lived in Greenville and went to high school in Greenville."  (Oct. 15)  "The town is very much against the Dunkards here."  (Nov. 2)  "My father the people called him a good man."  (Dec, 1)

Dec. 15.  "I just received a Letter from Deliah Bigler Miller from Stockton Calafornia she was at your house she used to teach School and lived in Goshen a long time she likes it well in Calafornia last July she and her little girla and her husband took a Steamboat ride on the San Joachin river to San Francisko City her letter was wrote Dec. 6, 1895".

1896

N. enclosed a letter from Delilah Bigler Miller:  "Brother Dennis. Here I will send you a little something to eat please accept of it I do not work much spend most of my time reading I read the Bible The Gospel Messenger, the Christian Herald and a good many other books I am reading the Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln now which Jermie brought home from the school library."

April 26, Goshen.  "I walked to the Lower end of Goshen where Levi Hokes live. I shuck hands with the children then Elizabeth Bigler Andrew Biglers girl she has her home there since her sister Nancy is dead i shuck hands with her and talked she told me that Deliah Bigler is dead one of Daniel Biglers girls she was at your house she married a Miller and moved to Stockton Calafornia where she died about 3 weeks ago she used to come to see me often she taught School when she was single."

July 4.  "Little Edith and Enos /Pierre was his actual name/ Bigler were here little Edith drew a picture of a hen she can beat me drawing. I told them to tend School and become School teachers."

1897

Mar. 10, Goshen.  "I read a letter from Daniel Bigler this morning dated March the 1st he left here they had their sale here about 3 weeks ago and all moved to Kentucky 60 miles east of Louisville they did not change cars until they arrived at Louisville it cost them $55 100 for their family and goods Dan Biglers have plenty money yet some of his 2nd wifes children moved there and some of Dan Biglers first wifes live there Levi Bigler was down in Kentucky and married a girl in Kentucky and they came here this winter to visit Lydia Bigler Dans girl sister to Deliah that died in Calafornia."

July 5.  "Dave Miller and his 2nd wife Henry Millers and Marys Brother came in to see me one of Michael Millers girls from North Manchester came
in to see me Amanda Miller Deliahs girl was east to Frederick Maryland to the Dunkard annual meeting."

Nov. 15. "The Dunkards had their love feast in west Goshen last Friday Eavening I do not tend any meeting .... Sometimes from 50 to 75 tramps are in Elkhart City 10 miles west the people have fights with them they steal along the railroad from Chicago to Toledo Ohio. it is full of tramps and thieves robbing the freight trains stealing rides .... Of Mose Biglers children I have not heard for years what they are doing and their mother Mary Bigler."


1898

March 2, Goshen. Delila Bigler Miller, Box 283, wrote to Nicodemus as follows: "Dear Brother: My health is pretty good this winter if I stay right at home by the stove and take good care of myself. I do not go away any place only to meeting when I am well. We had a good protracted meeting in February .... Mary Bigler brother Moses wife was out here to see us the first of February she would have liked to go to see you but the weather was so cold and stormy that she could not get around much. Charley Bigler Cyrus Bigler's oldest boy lives on Marys farm. Mary lives with her daughter Lydia Jackson down below Covington .... We often hear from Mike Millers Phebe and Mike are both poorly I suppose you heard that Andy Miller (Mikes boy) died last November he had consumption he was brought back and buried at North Manchester. Mary Bigler said I should tell you she had liked very much to visit you for she expected this would be her last visit to Ind. her health was not very good and she is seventy three years old .... Demus if you are in need of anything please let me know I can not come to see you as often as I used too and as often as I would like I want you to write me if you are in need of anything direct your letter to Delila Miller, Goshen Box 283 do not direct to South West they always send it back to Goshen. Do you hear from brother Dan Bigler? The last letter I had was in the fall he said he could not work anything any more but hunt rabbits and was near his journey's end."

1899

June 27. "I am very glad that Epaminondas is at home again out of the army". Last letter in packet.
APPENDIX VII (see p. 12 Bigler History)

CATHARINE BIGLER, WIFE OF HENRY MILLER (by Herman Burns, 1964)

August 1964

Mark Bigler I, in his last will and testament of March 19, 1787, bequeathed unto "my Daughter Catharine Wife of Henry Miller the sum of five Shillings if demanded."

According to the Miller family historians, Catharine Bigler was born about 1743 and Henry Miller was born in Frederick Co., Maryland, in 1736. They lived on a farm in Harbaugh Valley near Sabillasville, Frederick County. The Miller tradition is that they were members of the Brethren Church, possibly of a congregation two miles away across the state line in Pennsylvania (possibly the Black Rock Church of the Brethren at Brodbecks, Pennsylvania, which is the lineal descendant of the Little Conewago Church of the Brethren of Hanover Twp., York Co.).

Records from the old German Bible of Henry and Catharine Bigler Miller show the following children born of this union:

- Phoebe Miller: b. April 11, 1762
- David Miller: b. May 19, 1763
- Joseph Miller: b. December 27, 1764
- David Miller II: b. August 24, 1766
- John Miller: b. October 7, 1768
- Catharine Miller: b. October 22, 1770, m. John Leatherman
- Michael Miller: b. April 29, 1772
- Jonathan Miller: b. February 10, 1774, m. Susannah Tombs
- Solomon Miller: b. August 14, 1776
- Jacob Miller: b. December 17, 1781

Henry Miller's will, signed March 11, 1793, is recorded at Frederick, Maryland (Liber G. M. No. 2 Folio 470). In it are mentioned "my beloved wife Catharine" and "my daughters", the sons Joseph, David, John and Jacob, and among the witnesses, a Joseph Letterman. A curious stipulation was that if his wife Catharine should die before his son Jacob reached the age of 18 "then said son Jacob shall be put out to a trade by my Executors named as executors were his sons Joseph and David, so as he should like and if he should refuse to obey his said Master and not continue with him until he arrives at the age of twenty one", then fifty pounds would be deducted from his share of the estate. This will was signed: Henry Miller. A copy of the will follows:

Letters in 1961 from Lora D. Brown, 905 H. Ave., Grundy Center, Iowa to Norman Burns. She is a descendant of Catharine Bigler Miller's son Jonathan. She wrote that during a Miller family reunion in 1929, near Morgantown, W. Va., a Mrs. Warren Miller of Hagerstown, Md., who "had the Miller Bible... and lived near where all this Miller history took place in the adjoining Frederick Co" was assigned the writing of the Miller history. She accumulated much data, including tombstone inscriptions, which were passed on after her death to her daughter, Miss Isabel Miller of Hagerstown. This material has not been published.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD, I Henry Miller being weak in Body, but in sound mind and memory calling to mind the uncertainty of this Life, do make this my last Will and Testament, directing my Body to be Buried at my decease in a Christian like manner—ITEM it is my will that all my Just Debts be discharged by my Executors---

I GIVE and bequeath unto my beloved wife Catharine all my Real and personal Estate whatsoever during her natural life, and that she shall have full power and lawfull authority to sell and dispose of the same or any part thereof at private sale to the best advantage if she should think proper, and she shall not be accountable for any part thereof whatsoever, but at her decease whatever shall be remaining thereof shall be equally divided between all my Sons and daughters, share and share alike, and if no Sale of my Estate Real or personal should take place before my wife Catharine's decease, then my Two Sons Joseph and David Miller shall have full power and lawfull authority to dispose of the same or any part thereof which shall remain at private sale to the best advantage and the money so arising to be equally divided between all my Sons and daughters share and share alike.

My Son Joseph having received one Hundred and seventy six pounds in part of his share of my real and personal Estate, My Son David having received the sum of one Hundred and twenty one pounds in part of his share of my Real and personal Estate, My Son John having received the sum of Three Hundred pounds in part of his share of my Real personal Estate, and if the said sum of three Hundred pounds should exceed his part of my and personal Estate, when a final settlement of the whole shall take place, he shall have six years time to pay the Ballance without interest. It is my Will that if my wife should depart this life and a sale and Division of my Real and personal Estate should take place before my Son Jacob should arrive to the age of Eighteen years, then said son Jacob shall be put out to a trade by my Executors, to such as he shall like, and if he should refuse to obey his said Master and not continue with him untill he arrives to the age of twenty one, my said Executors shall have full power and lawfull authority to deduct off from his share of my Estate the just and full sum of fifty pounds lawful money which said sum shall be equally divided among the residue of my sons and Daughters, share and share alike and the Ballance of his share shall be put out on Interest untill he shall arrive to the full age of Twenty one—AND LASTLY I do hereby nominate and appoint my two sons Joseph and David Miller my whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament revoking all other Wills by me formerly made, and that this shall have full Power and lawful authority to convey by a good and sufficient Deed of bargain and sale for all or any tract of my Real Estate when ever a sale of the same shall or may take place and that they shall be allowed all reasonable expences whatsoever for settling of my Estate which shall be adjusted by any two reasonable Men. Signed, sealed and pronounced to be my last Will and Testament this Eleventh Day of March in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred Ninety-three. / This copy of will from Lora Miller Drake Brown, 505 H. Ave., Grundy Center, Iowa, Sept. 1961/
BE it remembered that on the date above written we the subscribers, In the presence of the Testator and at his request and in the presence of each other did subscribe our names as Witnesses and that he did acknowledge the same to be his last Will and Testament

Henry EM Miller (SEAL)

Wm Ferguson,  
Joseph Letterman  
Jeremiah Gilbert  
Daniel Arnold

Descendants of Jonathan Miller who married Susannah Tombs.

Jonathan, son of Catharine Bigler Miller, was born on February 10, 1774. He married Susannah Tombs August 8, 1799 in Maryland (d. of William and Barbara Tombs, b. January 7, 1773, and d. August 23, 1852). One of their descendants (Miss Georgina Smith, 236 Wagner Road, Morgantown, W. Va. in a letter to Norman Burns, September 27, 1961) wrote:

"Jonathan and his wife came over the mountain from Frederick Co., Md., to Greene County, Pennsylvania, took a tract of land of between 400 and 500 acres. They built a big brick house, burning the brick in the meadow. This house was finished in 1822 as is shown by a stone in one of the gables. Jonathan's mother came over the mountains with him and after he built the big house, she lived in the little log house in which they had been living. I remember it, it was our 'shop' but was torn down for a road built through the place. We lived on the old farm until I was ready for high school, back in 1912, and then my mother, who was a widow, came from Penna to Morgantown to put my sister and me in high school and she started teaching. She taught for twenty-two years here in town. By that time my sister had married, had one son; and I had finished the University of W. Va., and have taught mathematics ever since in high schools of this state. Three years ago I sold the old Miller farm and it is now entirely out of our hands."

The children of Jonathan and Susannah Tombs Miller were as follows:

1. Jacob Miller.
   b. May 30, 1800, Maryland; d. March 26, 1885, W. Va.; m. Mary Cans (or Johns, originally Schantz) about 1823, who was b. Feb. 9, 1818 and d. June 29, 1881, W. Va.

2. Elizabeth Miller.
were Dunkards as were most of their children, but since
then their descendants are represented in other denomina-
tions. They lived in Dunkard township near Gerards Fort,
and were farmers."

3. Catherine Miller (twin).
   b. April 18, 1805, Greene Co., Pa.; d. March 15, 1887,
   Fairchance, Pa.; m. about 1825 to Justice Gerard Fordyce
   who was b. Sept. 5, 1801 in Greene Co., Pa. and d. near
   San Francisco.

4. Barbara Miller (twin).
   b. April 19 (?), 1805, Greene Co., Pa.; d. April 25, 1892;
   m. (1) about 1825 to Peter Pickenbaugh who was b. Jan. 19,
   1802 and d. March 20, 1834, (2) Charles K. Burgess.

5. Dr. Henry Franklin Miller.
   b. March 31, 1807, Greene Co., Pa.; d. in Chicago.
   m. (1) Jane Waldon; (2) Elizabeth T. Currier Winslow who
   was b. Jan. 22, 1815 and d. May 11, 1865; (3) Martha Bryan.
   (Lora D. Brown wrote me July 12, 1961 that Henry Miller
   is buried in Princeton, Ill., that he had 13 children grow-
ing to adulthood, that one daughter Celeste went around
   the world 32 times and wrote many books, and that another
dughter had a son, Jule F. Brower or Brauer, who had a
Presidential appointment to Guatemala and that she [Lora Brown]
lived on his farm the first 13 years of her life.)

   b. July 3, 1810, Greene Co., Pa.; d. June 30, 1887. m. (1)
   about 1836 Rebecca Garrison, b. 1808, d. 1837; (2) Edith
   Snyder. (Georgina Smith states that Daniel—not indicated
whether by his first or second marriage—had a son George
who fought with the North in the Civil War, and whose
daughter Estella Miller Smith had a daughter Georgina
Smith, who now resides at 236 Wagner Road, Morgantown,
W. Va. Lora D. Brown of Grundy City, Iowa, says Warren
Miller branch is descendant from this Daniel Miller.)

7. Asa Miller.
   b. May 24, 1812; d. Aug. 8, 1899; m. Sept. 21, 1837 to
   Mary Johns who was b. Nov. 8, 1813 and d. Sept. 29, 1889.

8. Lewis Miller.
   b. March 30, 1814; d. Feb. 1888; m. Caroline Johns. Their
   children:
   (A1) Daniel Newton Miller, m. Harriett Lyons. Their child:
   (B1) Etta Miller, m. Douglas Stephen Drake. Their child:
   (C1) Lora Miller Drake, b. Feb. 22, 1895, Washing
   Twp., Grundy Co., Iowa; m. Harold B. Brown and
   lives at 505 H Ave., Grundy Center, Iowa.
Descendants of Catharine Miller who married John Leatherman.

Catharine Miller, daughter of Catharine Bigler Miller, was born October 22, 1770. Miller family historians assume she was the same Catharine Miller who, according to a notation in the D.A.R. Magazine, Vol. 85, 1951, p. 237, married John Leatherman. The Leatherman family historians— in Rev. I. John Letherman and Emma Leatherman Candler, All Leatherman Kin History, E. V. Publishing House, Nappanee, Indiana, 1940—state that John Leatherman, son of the Elder Daniel Leatherman, was born near Kyersville, Frederick Co., Md, in 1776 and that he married Catharine “Caty” Miller (her parents’ name not given) in Frederick Co., Md., Nov. 20, 1798. John and Catharine Miller Leatherman moved to Tuscarawas Co., Ohio where he was ordained as a Dunkard preacher. There they lived for 30 years. Court House records at New Philadelphia, Ohio indicate that he bought a lot in New Philadelphia on February 17, 1812; and a 151 acre farm in One Leg Twp., Tuscarawas Co. on April 20, 1812 for $453 which they sold April 7, 1836 for $2,300. In the fall of 1836, John Leatherman and a neighbor followed Jacob Brumbaugh to Jefferson Twp., Kosciusko Co., Indiana, where he settled on sections 1 and 2 about four miles west of Milford. In 1837, settlers there organized a Brethren congregation to which Rev. Leatherman gave a tract from his farm for a church and school. This congregation, of which Rev. Leatherman was an Elder, became known as the Turkey Creek Church of the Brethren. He died in Kosciusko Co., February 21, 1867, aged 90 years, 6 months and 21 days and his wife “Caty” died September 16, 1850, aged 73 years, 2 months, 20 days (according to tombstone records). Both are buried in the Brumbaugh Cemetery near Gravelton, Kosciusko Co., Indiana. Their children were Daniel, Sally, Catharine, Nancy, John, Elizabeth, Joseph, Isaac, Polly and Hannah.

The ties between the Leatherman and Bigler families, which began long before the marriage of Rev. John Leatherman and Caty Miller, are strongly suggestive of a Brethren affiliation of the early Biglers. It will be recalled that the Elder Daniel Leatherman Sr. (father of Rev. John Leatherman) had organized the Little Conewago Church of the Brethren in York Co., Pennsylvania in 1738, which included a Bigler family amongst its earliest members. When Michael Bigler (brother of Mark Bigler I) purchased a 210 acre farm in Frederick Co., Md. on Nov. 29, 1760, the deed was sealed in the presence of a Daniel Leatherman. Michael Bigler’s will of September 21, 1763 was witnessed by a Daniel Leatherman. Later, Michael Bigler’s widow, Rosannah, designated as executor of her will of September 9, 1785, her daughter Catherine’s husband, Daniel Leatherman (this Catherine was Rosannah’s daughter by her first husband, Boyer). In all probability, the Daniel Leatherman referred to here was the Elder Daniel Leatherman Sr. This seems likely for we know that the Elder Daniel Leatherman Sr. had three children after he was seventy; and that his will, signed November 4, 1797, mentions “my Dearly beloved wife Cathrine”. Moreover, his son, Daniel Leatherman Jr., had migrated
to West Bethlehem Twp., Washington Co., Pennsylvania about 1780 when he was still a young man; and Daniel Jr's will dated May 8, 1799 and filed in Washington, Pennsylvania, refers to his wife as Elizabeth.

It is interesting to reflect that when Israel Bigler moved from Frederick Co., Md. to West Bethlehem Twp., Washington Co., Pennsylvania in 1804, he was following the trail of a family (the Leathermans) with which Biglers had been associated in America for three-quarters of a century. And when Israel's son David migrated from West Bethlehem Twp. to Darke Co., Ohio in 1830, he must have visited en route his cousin Catharine Miller Leatherman at New Philadelphia, Ohio.
ELIZABETH /BIGLER/ WIFE OF HENRY ELLER

The last will of Mark Bigler I referred to "my daughter Elizabeth Wife of Henry Eller". Little information is available concerning this daughter of Mark Bigler I, other than that presented in the book by James W. Hook, George Michael Eller and His Descendants of His in America, 80 Temple St, New Haven, Conn, 1957.

This book referred to an article by Mary Hoss Headman of Knoxville, Tenn, in the Maryland Historical Magazine, 1945, p. 250, which stated that Henry Eller Sr (or Etter) married Elizabeth Bigler (Beigler), daughter of Mark and Catharine (sometimes written Marie Catherine) Bigler.

Henry Eller Sr, brother of George Michael Eller (a Dunkard), owned 90 acres in Hammond Strife, which he purchased June 6, 1767 (Frederick Co, Md. Deeds, Book K p. 1284). Henry and Elizabeth Eller sold this land June 14, 1771. On June 13, 1772 they bought 110 acres nearby along Beaver Dam Branch, a draught of Little Pipe Creek, which they sold May 16, 1785. This would have been in that part of Frederick Co than now falls in Carroll Co, Maryland.

Henry Eller Sr died in 1783, according to administrative accounts of Washington Co, Md. These accounts, and deeds recorded in Washington County Deed Books H p. 657 and 860, J p. 396 and M p. 462, indicate that he left the following children:

1. Joseph Eller. He appears in the 1800 Census age over 45 and wife over 45, 3 daughters age 16-26, 2 daughters age 10-16, 3 sons age under 10, in Washington, Co, Md.

2. Elizabeth Eller, wife of Christian Herter or Hester.


4. Henry Eller Jr. who married Pronica --- . He and his wife moved to Montgomery Co, Ohio, where he died 1832, leaving wife and children:
   (2) Mary b. Jan 27, 1788 d. Aug 14, 1876 m. Jacob Albaugh.
   (3) Abraham probably.
   (4) Joseph probably.


6. Esther Eller, probably the Esther who m. George Bachtel March 18, 1794.

7. Daniel Eller and wife Hannah.

8. Sarah Eller

9. Mary Eller who m. Jacob Gerber. This may have been the Mary Magdalene Eller and her husband, Rev. Jacob Gerber Pastor of the Ten Mile Church
of Brethren, of Washington Co, Penn (who sold the 1.6 acre tract to the Ten Mile Church of Brethren congregation, where their church is located now) as noted in Clark Garber’s Garber Historical and Genealogical Record Vol 1, No 1 p. 52 and Vol 1 No 3 p. 234.

10. Maria Eller, (probably the Maria who married Christian Schaub, Aug 31, 1803.)?


12. Peter Eller, a minor not of age in 1795, who signed heirship release April 5, 1800.

According to Hook, the Eller family apparently came from the German Palatinate. A Henry Eller came on the Neptune and took oath of allegiance Oct. 25, 1746. Pipe Creek Church of Brethren organized in 1785 near Union Bridge in the present Carroll Co was 2 miles northeast of the Eller farm. The Beaver Dam Brethren Church organized about 1762 was also near the Eller farm.

Hook noted that a Henry Eller, who was "most certainly a son of Henry and Fronica Eller, and a grandson of Henry and Elizabeth Bigler Eller of Frederick Co, Md," married Holly Rench, Nov 19, 1816, near Dayton, Ohio. The CH records for Miami County, Ohio (at Troy) show estate files for 2 Henry Ellers (Estate file No. 290 of Dec. 23, 1821 and No. 661 of Oct 28, 1833). Marriage records at that Courthouse contain marriage dates of Henry Eller to Molly Rench Nov 19, 1816 and a Henry Eller to Sally Jeffries Dec 23, 1821.
Appendix IX

D 1. Emma b 23 Apr 1856, Muscat Co IA m 1 May 1875 Wella Vella WA by (1) Lila May d 6 May 1895 Wella Vella WA n 4 Oct 1878 Muscat Co IA, m 23 Dec 1879 Muscat Co IA, d 15 Aug 1915 Muscat Co IA. Their children:
E 1. Lillie b 23 Jun 1887 Muscat Co IA d 17 Jan 1961 Muscat Co IA, m 22 Apr 1911 Muscat Co IA. Her children:
F 1. Ethel
F 2. Edna
F 3. John

C 1. Allen Clay b 23 Jun 1856 Siquoaway, Muscat Co IA d 10 May 1882 Lincoln, Linn Co IA, buried LaGrange KS.

D 2. Caroline b 7 Jun 1859 nr Siquoaway, Muscat Co IA d 30 Oct 1926 Suitland, Suitland Co IA m 2 Apr 1877 LaGrange, Rush Co KS by Charles ALEXANDER, b 19 Jun 1844 LaGrange, Rush Co KS.

E 1. Caroline b 21 Jun 1872 LaGrange, Rush Co KS d 27 Sep 1953 Lawrence, Kansas City KS, by (1) Celia Newcomb b 15 Jun 1848 Fort Scott, Kansas City KS, m 12 Nov 1863 Lawrence, Kansas City KS. Her children:
F 1. Robert Allen b 22 Dec 1868
F 2. Mike Allen b 10 Sep 1870


E 3. Harold Rance b 22 Sep 1901 LaGrange, Rush Co KS, m 18 Sep 1926 LaGrange, Rush Co KS.


E 4. Dorothy b 30 Apr 1940 Rosecrans, LaGrange, Rush Co KS, m 10 Dec 1962 LaGrange, Rush Co KS.


m 14 Nov 1957 Leona Easter Cox (b 21 Jan 1930, Texas,

Tama Co), d 24 Jan 1980 El Paso, Texas. Leona was born Texas. Children:


m 31 Jan 1971, L. Darrel, born in GA Fred Earl Wiegler, son of


m 19 Dec 1999, Hollywood, Los Angeles Co, CA, Jerald

1. Hugo Daniel b 1 Apr 1962 China, San Bernardino

Co, CA.


3. William Maurice b 3 May 1945 Leakey, Pueblo Co, TX. "

m 10 May 1966 San Antonio, Texas Co, TX, Lorsa STAFFORD

of

Vichita KS, b 35 Feb 1921 CO, Div.

4. Richard b 23 Apr 1947 Vichita, Kansas City, KS.


m 17 May 1935 Hutchinson, Reno Co, KS, Mildred RICHARDS

of

Timothy R. and Robert ( CO WY ) ELLIS of LaGrange, KS, b 6 Mar 1917 Leakey, Rush Co, KS. Their children:

1. Michael Arlen b 13 Mar 1949 Pueblo, Pueblo Co, KS.

m 6 Apr 1978, Marion Lynne b 1 Apr 1956 Leakers, Rush Co, KS.


3. Raylene Lynne b 1 Apr 1956.

G 2. Frank Byron b 19 Jul 1942 Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO.

m 17 Jul 1966 Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO, Carol W. "

m 30 Nov 1979, Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO. Their children:

1. Lori Sue b 9 Feb 1955 Pueblo, Pueblo Co.

2. Timothy Stephen b 2 Feb 1957.


4. Darlene b 2 Feb 1944 Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO.

m 3 Jan 1961, Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO, Robert S. PORTER

H 1. Randy Sue b 20 Aug 1961, Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO.

H 2. Robert

H 3. Steve

G 5. Ronet b 18 Nov 1953 Pueblo, Pueblo Co, CO.

m 27 Nov 1978 Pueblo, Patrick CONNER. Think 3 children.

F 1. Robert Frank b 11 Jul 1931 Leakers, Rush Co, KS.

m 22 Jun 1964 Leakers, Reno Co, KS, Linda ROBERTS, dau


G 2. Tammy Lorraine b 13 Jan 1956 Leakers, Rush Co, KS.
G 1. Preston Coyne b 25 Nov 1847, Ellis Co KS
m 1867 TX Lucy Jane CARR
m 1871 OK Della COLE
G 2. Linda Sue b 11 Mar 1856, Ellis Co KS
m 9 Apr 1877 Labor MATILDA
m 1891 Christopher b FL
G 3. Tony Jones b 12 Jan 1893 Grant Bend, Barton Co KS
m 9 Oct 1898 Nebraska, Maine Co ME Blanche DANIEL
G 4. Mark William b 14 Jun 1899 Grant Bend, Barton Co KS
m 12 Sep 1928 Nebraska, Maine Co ME Blanche DANIEL
G 5. Sammy Harvey b 10 Feb 1902 LaCrosse, Rush Co KS
E 1. Elvin Daniel (no middle name) b 26 Jul 1901 LaCrosse, Rush Co KS
d 7 Aug 1933 nr Palmer Lake, El Paso Co CO bur Scott City KS
m 18 Jun 1918 Scott City, Scott Co KS Blanche danIEL b 2 Apr 1907 Salt Lake City, UT bur Scott City KS
F 1. Ruthette b 3 Apr 1920 Scott City, Scott Co KS d 22 Mar 19
m 10 Am 1530 Ulysses, Grant Co KS bur Ulysses, Grant Co KS
m 1940 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Co OK bur 2)ct 1555 L Croce
F 2. Jason A b 15 Apr 1920 Rush Center, Rush Co KS
F 3. Donna Jean b 7 Sep 1925 Scott City, Scott Co KS
G 1. Barbara b 20 Jun 1941 CA
m 20 Jun 1961 CA bur 2)ct 1555 L Croce
G 2. Terry b 3 Apr 1949
G 3. Beverly b 1 Oct 1946 CA
m (2) CA Del RAIN b 19 Nov 1916 Divorced New York
G 4. Terry b 3 Apr 1949
G 5. Duane b 20 Jun 1952
G 6. Larry b 20 Jun 1952
G 7. Thomas b 3 Apr 1952
m (3) Jim LOCKWOOD Rush City, Rush Co KS
G 8. Mary Ann b 4 Apr 1952 CA
F 2. twins, data unknown, bur Scott City KS
m 22 Jul 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS bur Scott City KS
b 5 Aug 1935 Charter (3) Co KS
m 25 May 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m (2) 22 Jul 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m 25 May 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m (1) 22 Jul 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m 25 May 1935 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m 10 Aug 1950 Ulysses, Grant Co KS Billie Mae CURRIE
b 7 Aug 1950
G 1. Phyllis Don Jr. b Denver, Denver Co CO
G 2. Tammy Dawn b 1 Nov 1963
F 3. Donna Jean b 25 May 1931 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m 25 Jun 1950 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m (2) 25 Jun 1950 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m (3) 25 Jun 1950 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m (4) 25 Jun 1950 Scott City, Scott Co KS
m 17 Aug 1950 Ulysses, Grant Co KS Billie Mae CURRIE
b 7 Aug 1950
G 1. Philip Don Jr. b Denver, Denver Co CO
G 2. Tammy Dawn b 1 Nov 1963
F 4. Phyllis Don Jr. b 30 May 1939 LaCrosse, Rush Co KS
m 30 May 1939 Phoenix, Maricopa Co AZ
m (2) Denver, Denver Co CO
m 8 Jun 1939 Phoenix, Maricopa Co AZ Divorced, no children
F 5. James Johnson b 20 Jun 1939 Green Bay, WI
m 21 Apr 1939 Green Bay, WI bur Green Bay, WI
m 10 Oct 1939 Grants Pass, Oregon Co OR
m 21 Apr 1939 Green Bay, WI bur Green Bay, WI
F 1. Lela June b 15 Apr 1925 LaCrosse, Rush Co KS
m (1) CA Charles MARKER
G 1. Barbara b 29 Jul 1945
m (2) VA Paul MARKER Divorced
G 2. James Johnson b 21 Feb 1948 Green Bay, WI
m 15 Dec 1948 Green Bay, WI
m 21 Feb 1948 Green Bay, WI
G 3. June Pauline b 21 Apr 1950
m (2) WA Lora CURTIS
G 4. Lyle and Center b 3 Nov 1950
m (2) LA
G 5. Louis
m (3) Baltimore, Baltimore Co MD Albert STOFFEL
C 6. Hugh A (no middle name) b 11 Mar 1952 LaCrosse, Rush Co KS
d 23 Sep 1956 Baltimore, Baltimore Co MD bur 2 Oct 1959 L Croce
m 11 Mar 1952 Thomas 21 Mar 23 Apr 1912 son Georgia and Flora (7)
la 155, Divorced 155
F 1. Ralph b 3 Oct 1932 Denver, Denver Co CO
m(1) Leo 31 Aug 1957 Denver Co CO
b 23 Apr 1930 Colo
D 1. Raymond 10 Aug 20 Mar 1957 Denver, Denver Co CO
F 2. Ron b 11 Jun 1941 Denver, Denver Co CO
b 23 Oct 1937 Denver Co CO
b 21 Jan 1962 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 25 Jan 1962 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
26 Jul 1971 Fairfield
F 2. Carol b 7 Apr 1953 Harrison Co IA
m 30 Mar 1955 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
W 1. William 4 Jan 1931 Hazelville, Perry Co IL d 14 Jul 1913 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
b 14 Jul 1913 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 30 Oct 1968 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
b 10 Jul 1910 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 15 Sep 1959 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
m 21 Nov 1934 Harrison Co IA d 25 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
21 Oct 1929 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
C 1. Caroline b 7 Apr 1933 Harrison Co IA
m 25 Mar 1955 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
W 2. Evelyn 1 Mar 1934 Harrison Co IA d 22 Mar 1955 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
22 Mar 1955 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 29 Sep 1951 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
21 Oct 1929 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 15 Sep 1959 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA
d 3. Oliver b 11 Apr 1935 Harrison Co IA d 19 Sep 1956 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
25 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
D 2. Luella b 4 May 1933 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 26 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
b 21 Dec 1929 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 15 Sep 1959 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
C 1. Arthur b 11 Aug 1933 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 21 Dec 1929 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
b 25 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
b 20 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d 25 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
b 25 Jul 1961 Sigourney, Keokuk Co IA d
D 1. Virginia Frances b 21 Jul 1843 Shinnton, Harrison Co (I) VA d 29 Oct 1893 Colony WA
   m 5 Jan 1871 Joseph K. COLPEN d 19 May 1882
   (1) n 16 Aug 1878 Frances BLANCHFIELD
   (2) n
   - Catalina

D 2. Charlie Henry b 1 Sep 1851 d 26 Feb 1931
   (1) n 10 Aug 1877 Frances BLANCHFIELD

D 3. Mary Elizabeth b 7 Apr 1855 Shinnton, Harrison Co (I) VA d 7 Dec 1940 Ft. Thomas, Campbell Co KY bur Cincinnati, Hamilton Co OH
   m (1) 17 Sep 1874 Eliza Lee, Harrison Co (I) VA Richard E. HOFFERT
   (2) n

D 4. Martha Cathelina b 25 Nov 1855
   m (1) 1 Jan 1873 Harrison Co (I) VA Harrison H. DAVIS, Sullivan
   m (2) Edward W. WATTS

D 5. John Milton Jr. b 1849 d 1 Dec 1893 Harrison Co (I) VA

D 6. Thomas Saffron b 4 Jul 1853 d 27 Jan 1897 livConnell Co VA bur
   Shinnton, Harrison Co (I) VA

D 7. George Floyd b 19 Sep 1851 d 20 Dec 1897
   m 19 Apr 1878 Lilla COLEFIELD

D 8. Sarah Isabella b 14 Apr 1853 d 14 Dec 1891
   m 29 Feb 1877 William H. DUNKLE

D 9. Luther Garland b 29 Mar 1853 d 1893
   m 3 Feb 1878 Marion Co O VA George W. DAVIS b 1855 d 1859 dau
   of James Emenee and Ellen (SHERWOOD) L. ITH
   (1) Catherine Lucinda b 6 Jul 1884 Harrison Co KY
      m 9 Oct 1815 Harrison Co Edmond City ELLIS b 12 Mar 1833
      d 20 Dec 1883 son of
      F 1. Elizabeth Ellen b 22 Jan 1922
         m 16 Feb 1847 Lattie BUSH

   E 2. Luther Smith b 14 Aug 1876 d 23 Aug 1923 bur Shinnton, Harrison
      Co KY
      m 21 Apr 1901 Harrison Co KY Effie Lou SAMPER b 7 Aug 1887
d 21 Jul 1973
      F 1. Luther Smith Jr. b 15 Jun 1883 Flash, Lewis Co KY
         m 21 Jun 1907 Thora Heggelat SMITH b 2 Feb 1883 Elyria
         , Ohio Co KY
         (1) William Smith b 25 Aug 1942 Clarksburg, Harrison Co (I) VA
            m 18 Jul 1977 Betty Ann Beck FOELL
            F 2. Lou Eliza b 32 Oct 1943 Clarksburg, Harrison Co (I) VA
               E 3. Slot James b 17 Jun 1946 Elyria, Ohio Co KY

D 10. Edith Ethel b 14 Mar 1907 d 27 Jan 1956 b Shinnton, Harrison Co
      (I) VA d 24 May 1997 Cincinnati, Hamilton Co OH June Ella LUTHNER b 15 Apr
      1887 Todd KY d 22 Feb 1949 Shinnton, Harrison Co (I) VA d 27 Jan 1949
      d 27 Jul 1977
      m 21 Feb 1930 Elyria, Ohio Co KY
      (1) John T. D. b 17 Mar 1931 d 17 Jul 1959
      E 21. Mary Elizabeth b 27 Mar 1931 d 27 Feb 1984 Elyria, Ohio Co KY
      m 10 May 1953 Cincinnati, Hamilton Co OH
      F 22. John Thomas b 6 Aug 1932 Elyria, Ohio Co KY
      F 23. Earl Orin b 27 Nov 1933 Elyria, Ohio Co KY
      F 24. Dorothy Ethel b 19 Apr 1936 Elyria, Ohio Co KY
C 2. Eliza

C 3. Jacob
m 1 Jan 1852 Harrison Co (U) VA Lucy Catherine MARTIN b 26 Jan 1835
D 1. Mary Columbia b 9 Aug 1854 Harrison Co (U) VA
m 1 Jan 1871 Harrison Co NV Harlow P. WILKINSON

D 2. Sidney Jane b 5 Sep 1855
m Henry 1875 Harrison Co NV Charles P. WILKINSON

D 3. Ida b 4 Nov 1857

D 4. Benjamin Leo b 7 Jul 1855

C 4. Sarah
m Eliza unmarried

C 5. Abraham
m 10 Apr 1853 Harrison Co (U) VA Sylvania VINCENT

C 6. Maria d infancy
m 7

C 7. Hannah
m George BROWN

C 8. Robert Leo
m 21 Jan 1877 Harrison Co NV Ida R. JARVIS dau of William and Caroline (JARVIS)
D 1. Mary A. b 17 May 1878
m Edgar W. ROSS

D 2. Annie b 28 Jul 1879
m Orval BARKS

D 3. Millie M. b 10 Mar 1883
m Edward J. JAMES

C 9. Elizabeth
m Sarah unmarried

C 10. Susan
m Hugh NEEPER

C 11. Thomas

D 5. Peter O. b 23 Aug 1804 Shinnston, Harrison Co NV VA d 18 Dec 1895 buried
Selkirk, Harrison Co NV, HARRISON CEMETARY
m 1 (1) 23 May 1826 Harrison Co (U) VA Mary FRAKER b 18 Mar 1807-6 d 10 Mar 1890 bur Rightor Co. dau of Richard F. and Mary Elizabeth (7) FRAKER
C 1. John b 6 Mar 1829 Harrison Co (U) VA d 11 Dec 1911 Harrison Co NV bur Eldora NV dau of John D. and Selia (STUMP) MARLEY
D 1. Mary Jane b 25 Apr 1851
m Orpheus DAVID

D 2. Sarah Ellen b 1 Aug 1853
m Joseph PAY

C 2. George J.
m 3

C 3. Sarah
m William Harrison MARLEY

C 4. Charles
m 5

C 5. Samantha
m Harriet E.
m George MARLEY

C 6. Margaret
m John TAYLOR

C 7. Lydia
m 7

(Continued on next page)
1. Elizabeth
   m Peter L. RIGHTER Harrison Co (U) VA 23 Nov 1822 - 1823 R 7 Nov 1863 d 18 Jan 1916
   son of Peter and Catherine (Keeler) RIGHTER. This Peter was not younger brother
   of John RIGHTER who m Sarah MILLER. Peter L. is listed later with wife Rebecca,
   unknown to me when Elizabeth died.

2. Hannah
   m John SWIGER, Jr. Harrison Co (U) VA 1 Jun 1832

3. Bertha b 20 Nov 1861 Harrison Co (U) VA
   m Joseph Butler JILES 10 Jan 1852 Harrison Co (U) VA

4. Mary
   m John P. MILLER Harrison Co (U) VA 9 Nov 1834

5. Sarah
   m Elijah WATKINS 25 Aug 1836

6. Isaac b 7 May 1819 d 2 Sep 1893
   m Peggy Ann MILLER 17 Nov 1836

7. Rachel
   m Henry SWIGER 20 Aug 1839 (1st wife)

8. Nancy

9. Ezekiel b infant

10. Edmund E. (Mar record shows Edward)
    m (1) Mary Matilda SWIGER 17 Aug 1842 b 23 Jan 1823 d 8 Mar 1895 dau of Thomas and
        Mary(RIGHTER) SWIGER

   C 1. Abel b 1846 Harrison Co (U) VA
       m Jane MAY

C 2. Thomas P. b 27 Dec 1842 Harrison Co (U) VA d 7 Nov 1861 Harrison Co WV bur
       Brown WV
       m 2 Apr 1863 Harrison Co Silvina Antoinette MARSH b 27 Aug 1845 Harrison Co
       d 6 Feb 1898 Harrison Co dau of Jesse and Edith Ann (SMITH) MARSH

D 1. Edith Jane b 5 Dec 1863 Harrison Co WV
    m 1884 Harrison Co Samuel T. FLAMING

D 2. Mary Rosella b 14 Sep 1866 Harrison Co WV
    m 1888 Harrison Co William R. FLAMING

D 3. Lafayette Sylvanus b 7 Jul 1870 Harrison Co WV
    m Bertha GAMM

D 4. Lovina Jasantha b 13 Aug 1871 Harrison Co WV
    m Clark JONES

C 3. John b 25 Jan 1847 Harrison Co (U) VA
    m 13 Feb 1868 Harrison Co Virginia Ann DYE

C 4. Jacob b 24 Feb 1849 Harrison Co (U) VA
    m Laura SMITH

C 5. Nancy Catherine b 18 May 1852 Harrison Co (U) VA d 1857
    m Richard Carlin HALL 1857

C 6. Jesse b 17 Jan 1834 Harrison Co (U) VA d 1934
    m 2 Jan 1861 Harrison Co Elizabeth J. MILLER b 17 Aug 1841 Harrison Co;
    Harrison Co (O) VA d 1930 dau of John and Amalia (HANSDEN) MILLER

D 1. Russell Edson b 10 Dec 1861
    m (1) 26 Jan 1889 Clarkesburg, Harrison Co WV Amanda J. HANSON
    m (2) 1889 (no info)

D 2. Amalia Ann b 5 Jan 1865
    m 25 Sep 1889 James D. HANSBERRY

D 3. Eliza b 25 Dec 1867
    m 17 Mar 1892 Harrison Co WV James William HANSON

C 8. Mary E. b 9 Jan 1868 Harrison Co (U) VA
    m 1899 Harrison Co Matthias S. CANON

C 9. Sarah Ann b Harrison Co (U) VA
Jacob Bigler b 14 Feb 1825 Harrison Co (O) VA d 11 Apr 1914 & Helen d Admavilla Harrison Co

3 Apr 1845 Shinnston, Harrison Co Elizabeth SHORT b 1 Jan 1831 Fairmont, Fayette Co PA d 13 Dec 1908 Admavilla, Harrison Co LV dau of Samuel and Elizabeth (EVANS) SHORT

John Samuel b 3 May 1850 Harrison Co (O) VA d 27 Oct 1915

10 Apr 1873 Eldora, Harrison Co LV Sarah Catherine SMITH b 26 Apr 1897 dau of Templeton and Sarah (?) SMITH d 24 May 1922 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

George Martiner b 25 Jan 1874 Harrison Co LV

29 Sep 1876 near Wallace, Harrison Co Dora Belle ROBINSON b 3 Jul 1878 Brown, Harrison Co LV dau of Frederick and Artie M. (CUMMINGS) ROBINSON.

1. Orval(Urvillo) b 6 Apr 1899 Harrison Co LV

Maude HARDMAN dau of Floyd HARDMAN

F 1. David Lee b 23 Nov 1904
F 2. Robert Lynn b 1 Dec 1927
F 3. Marion Keith b 6 Dec 1929

2. Eddie b 28 Mar 1903

Ira Earnest b 26 Nov 1877 Harrison Co LV

22 Nov 1902 Mt. Clare, Harrison Co LV Leo LOLFE b 9 Aug 1851 Quiet Dell LV d 9 May 1916 Fairmont, Marion Co LV dau of Daniel D. and Sarah (LOVE) LOLFE

1. Bernard Stanley b 16 Oct 1904 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

2. Helen Horace b 12 Feb 1910 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

3. Raymond Landrum b 16 Feb 1915 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

3. Elmer Vernon b 6 Dec 1879 Harrison Co LV

17 Mar 1891 Gilbert KINSEY

4. Jesse Bigler b 3 Mar 1881 Harrison Co LV

12 Feb 1902 Oaksville, Marion Co LV Mary E. MURRAY b 22 Apr 1880 Houndsville, Marshall Co LV dau of James F. and Lucinda (WIGGINS) MURRAY

1. Lucy Kathryn b 14 Dec 1915 Bridgeport, Harrison Co LV

2. Roy E. b 29 Mar 1903 Admavilla, Harrison Co LV

3. Walter E. b 8 Sep 1904 Admavilla, Harrison Co LV

4. Harlay R. b 26 Aug 1906 Admavilla, Harrison Co LV

5. Paul M. b 4 Jul 1909 Admavilla, Harrison Co LV

5. Odessa May b 1 Jul 1903 Harrison Co LV

3 Jul 1924 Harrison Co John JONES or Byron JONES

6. Edna Ethel b 21 May 1906 Harrison Co LV

20 May 1907 Harrison Co George MILLER

7. Allen Glover b 2 Nov 1908 Harrison Co LV

15 Jan 1911 Haywood, Harrison Co LV Lizzie J. SHRIVER b 23 May 1891

Rudy Place, dau of Lindsey Lee and Bertha Florence (RUSHER) SHRIVER

1. Gladys Elta b 30 Dec 1911

2. John Shriver b 29 Mar 1917

3. Dorothy Genevieve b 28 Oct 1918

8. Cecil Roy b 12 Feb 1913 Harrison Co LV

29 May 1913 Lena Gladys SHRIVER at Oakland, Garrett Co OH. She b 9 Jan 1905 Valley Falls, Taylor Co LV dau of Lindsey Lee and Bertha Florence (RUSHER) SHRIVER

1. William D b 1 Feb 1916 Athens, Athens Co OH d same

2. Virginia E b 9 Feb 1917 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

3. Frank Lee b 30 Aug 1918 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

4. Robert Guy b 13 Jan 1920 Shinnston, Harrison Co LV

9. Elmer Lawrence b 23 Jul 1913 Harrison Co LV

27 Apr 1913 Edna J. ROBERTS


2. Hannah Elizabeth b 11 Feb 1929 Harrison Co (O) VA d 18 Feb 1929 Harrison Co

3. Evelyn Dilock b 2 Nov 1934 Oakville, Harrison Co (O) VA
May 10, 1872 Shinnston, Harrison Co WV dau of Hepeleon and Eliza (Booher) Bigler

D 1. Byrd Olive b 1 Jun 1951 Harrison Co WV
m 2 Mar 1934 John Elivington F. LAMPO
m (2) 11 Feb 1930 Shinnston, Harrison Co WV Columbus Goodwyn SMITH
b 2 Jun 1952 Gibson Creek WV dau of Francis Martin and Elizabeth Ann (RICHEN) SMITH

C 4. Sarah Elizabeth b 6 Apr 1868 Harrison Co WV
m 1883 Harrison Co Thomas S. SMITH, Jr.

C 5. Harrison Ross(b) b 13 Feb 1861 Harrison Co WV
m Dell SHAVER 9 Sep 1885 Minnora, Calhoun Co WV. She b 3 Aug 1865 Colfax, Harrison Co WV dau of Samuel and Elizabeth (LITTLE) SHAVER

D 1. Charles Leslie b 27 Jan 1865
m 15 Jan 1888 Jessie KLEPFEL(KLEPFEL) b 17 May 1862 Valley Falls, Taylor Co WV dau of John and Anna (BARTLETT) KLEPFEL(KLEPFEL)

D 2. Cecil Clyde b 23 Apr 1867
m 12 Apr 1913 Grace PAIGE

D 3. Elma Lenora b 22 Aug 1868
m 24 Feb 1910 J. Lynn LITTLE

D 4. Samuel Bigler b 12 Sep 1869 d 1951
m 10 Mar 1917 Anna Jane NAPPINE

D 5. Harold Rayna b 31 Oct 1892
m Grace KELLY

D 6. Harry Deming b 31 May 1895
m 18 Nov 1920 Leta Robinson HARDER

D 7. Ruth Elizabeth b 1 Sep 1897
m Thomas MITTAIN

D 8. Lester Jack b 24 Apr 1903
m Ruth SMITH

C 6. Ida May b 19 Dec 1854 Harrison Co WV d 29 Dec 1879 Harrison Co

D 1. Nancy Ann b 21 Nov 1879 Harrison Co WV page 10 Bigler History
m 1 Sep 1893 Harrison Co WV Nancy WHITMAN son of Edward and Elizabeth (HARRIS) WHITMAN

Jonathan who married Rachel RICHTER was not his son, but his brother. Their dau

Mary Catherine (Crowley) Clubb is the wife of Charles Calder Clubb, who is the son
of Calder J. Clubb (Appendix 10-30) who was the son of William and Rebecca Whitman
Clubb (Appendix 10-23) who was daughter of Jonathan and Anna Mariah (Richter)
Whitman (Appendix 10-21) who was daughter of John Richter and Sarah Bigler Richter
(Appendix 10-22) who was daughter of Jacob Bigler and Hannah (Booher) Bigler
(Appendix II).
My father Jacob Bigler.

My father was born in Darke County, Ohio in 1848. I don't know too much about his middle-age days as I was the youngest of the nine children. Only what I could get him to tell me on winter nights as we hugged around the woodstove in the Homely Parlour.

Dad did lots of reading, and I agreed with Mother, that if he had had College training would have made a brilliant man.

Mother says Dad was handsome, healthy and strong. When they lived in Ohio he was a member of the Dunkard Church.

Besides farming, he made two business ventures. One was a Granite Mine, here, tomb-stones were made. Though no fault of his own, the business failed. Then with another associate they started Horse raising business. This associate run off with all the cash the company had and left Dad holding the sack so to speak. Since these two business's had failed him, discouraged and troubled he and his family moved to Michigan.

I was with my Dad whenever he was in the house, and knew what a fine Christian man he was. He was very kind and tenderheart, compassionate, and many things brought tears to his eyes. He never liked to reprimand any of his children.

He was the Superintendent of our Sunday School (M.E.) at Rothbury. He was a great believer in the Power of God. I remember when I was a little girl and we had a prayer meeting at our house. The prayer of my father inspired and impressed me very much and stayed with me all my life. He began this prayer with "Almighty God". Throughout my life I have learned, in many ways about the Love and Might of our Creator. Dad was a hard worker, both Mother and he scarcely had an idle moment.

He was a good farmer. We lived on a 160 acre farm, near a village called Rothbury (Michigan.) This farm required much work, plowing, fertilizing and cultivation was very laborious, as this state, or part of the state of Michigan was not the fertile soil of their native state (Ohio).

But after a time the farm produced abundantly. We had forty acres of peaches alone, apples, strawberries, grapes and currants.

Winters, father used to buy navy beans and hand pick them, (we all joined in to help him) then sell them to the warehouses.

We bought potatoes, eggs, etc. wholesale and sold them. Other winters, I remember he went to Baldwin and Kalkaska and worked on the railroad. Once he sent Father and I railway passes, and we went to...
Baldwin and stayed a few days with him in the hotel.

Dad was also a good fisherman. He used to walk miles around the Carlton Creek (Mich.) to trout fish. He was always successful too, and was proud of the beautiful colored trout.

Often times we used to take our packed fancy fruit to Whitehall, Montegue and Muskegon and sell it house to house. Sometimes we would ride a tug-like boat with the fruit to Sylvan Beach or Michalindee a resort along Lake Michigan. There, many times, with my Dad we would sell it house to house. We always had good luck, and never had to take any fruit home. When the peach season was at its heaviest, we would pack them in fancy baskets and ship them to Chicago. Here they brought fine prices.

After we all left home, I'm sure, father and mother were lonely. Once, afterwards Dad told me he fell asleep in his favorite chair, in the afternoon and dreamed we were all little children playing all around him, when he awoke, he said it was so very quiet, and that he had to go out to the field and started hoeing to fill in the loneliness and quietness. This was at Rothbury.

Father was only sixty nine when he passed on. I had only been married nine months, so he never did see our children. Before he left this plane of existence, he, like Mother talked so much of God and his great goodness and Power.

He read the motto many times that hung on the wall as I sat beside him in the Living room, "Be still and know that I am God".

My memories of Father and Mother are very precious.

The Bigler family all became students of Christian Science and attended that church. rearing their families in that faith.

My Mother Emily Esther Yount Bigler.

My mother was born in 1852. Near Dayton Ohio. From what I have heard my Dad say she was very beautiful. She had very fine features. Her hair, was a brown-red (auburn) and very thick; her complexion very fair. She went with her parents sisters and brother to the Quaker church. In later years they all joined the Dunkard Church.

My mother's brother Oliver, was an ordained minister at the age of twenty seven; also a school-teacher. One day, when Mother attended the Quaker Church she noticed a young, handsome German man. He had black curly hair and rosy cheeks. His eyes fell on this beautiful auburn haired girl, my mother.

From what I have learned they were a handsome pair. Needless to say my Dad was a steady weekend visitor at the Yount home at Dayton. I don't know how long they dated, but one fall day in October they were wed.
My father took his young bride to his home, for a short time. Then, they lived at various places in Southern Ohio.

My brothers Clark, Ollie, Mary, Coral, Queen, Cyrus and Frankie were born there. When Ollie was five years old he passed on. Then, the folks moved to Grand Rapids Michigan. Bessie was born here. After that they moved on a farm near this city, where I was born. Their next move was to Shelby, a small town. They lived there only a short time. They said I was around one year when they took me to Rothbury, on the one hundred sixty acre farm. Mother and Dad had a thousand acres of birch maple in the maple forest in Michigan Peninsula, which they held for investment.

We had about an half acre of excellent vegetable garden, which Mother tended and garnered. We had fresh vegetables all summer long, besides that Mother gave to all the neighbors too. Almost every morning, in the summer, Mother would hoe in her garden, and when Bess and I were the only girls at home, we would do the housework. After the noon, dinner Mother would get her fishing gear together and walk down to Chase's lake, part of which bordered on our farm. There she would sit and fish all afternoon, until dark. Then she would come home with a pail full of fish.

Mother was an immaculate housekeeper. Everything was always in its right place.

In the winter, we girls helped her sew rag rugs to make carpet. These carpets covered every room in the house.

I will never forget what a wonderful dressmaker my mother was. She sewed for all of us five girls. We always had the best of dresses. She had made her wedding dress, and both her sisters wedding dresses. She always cut her own patterns.

In the village of Rothbury, we had many social affairs held in the town-hall, and afterwards in the Methodist Church. Also we had three or four big picnics during the summer. All farmers and people from nearby cities came from mile around. At all of these affairs, we girls always had a new dress. Something, always new and beautiful, for mother would sit up for hours, in the night, finishing these dresses. Often-times at the last moment, she, herself had worked to the last moment to get us ready and didn't have time to get herself ready, so couldn't attended these meetings.

My brother Frankie passed on at Rothbury, at the age of twelve. This brought sadness to all of us, especially Mother and Dad.

During the Peach harvesting, Mother helped to pick and pack the huge crop.

We all attended the Rothbury Village Methodist Church. Mother taught a class in the Sunday School.

Usually we kept three or four cows, Mother always milked them. We churned our own butter.
We always had plenty of canned fruit in our basement. Almost, always two hundred quarts of peaches besides other fruits, pickles, etc. It took a great amount of food to feed a big family.

The folks lived on this farm at Rothbury, for about nineteen years, then after Grandfather Yount passed on, he had made a will that Mother was to use her share of her estate to buy a home for herself and Dad. The home was not to be sold, but would be divided among (his grand-children) us children. So mother bought a forty acre farm near Dearborn Michigan. This was near the property of Henry Ford, and was sold for sixty thousand dollars after Mother's passing.

Mother could sing any song by notes, perfectly and play the piano and organ with the right hand, which she liked to do.

We always had a piano, organ or melodian and all of us were given music lessons or elocution lessons.

Mother lived a pure Christian life, and we were all taught to pray silently before meals, and then our prayers in the evening. We never missed Sunday School and church. Christmas and children's Day at the church, it was always mother who was appointed to train the children for the cantatas. These Younts, which was mothers family were very religious, and were relatives of the Hoovers. My (Clive) great, great Aunt Rebecca Hoover was the late President Hoovers Great Grandmother.

After we were all married Mother spent some time with me and Coral too in Chicago.

After Elwyn and I and our family moved to California in 1926 (Oct) Mother passed on in April 3rd 1927. Before she passed away she spoke about the great light. Then she said, "This is way, walk you in it.", and many other things. She passed away very peacefully. She was a devoted wife and mother, always guiding and caring for her children.
Jacob Bigler was born in Adams Twp, Darke Co, Ohio, July 23, 1848. He died Dec 24, 1917 at Wayne, Michigan, where he was buried. He married Emily Yount, who was born June 4, 1852 at Frederickburg, Ohio, the daughter of Clark and Mary Yount, an early member of the Quaker settlement in the area of West Milton, Ohio. She died at Des Plaines, Ill, and was buried at Wayne, Mich. They had nine children, as shown below:

1. Clark O. Bigler
   Born March 13, 1874 or 75, at West Milton, Ohio. Died Nov. 20, 1959 at Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles Co, Cal and was buried in Woodlawn Cem, Santa Monica, Cal. He married Annie Louella Longnecker, June 30, 1895, who was born Oct 13, 1876 at Blissfield, Palmyra, Mich. She died Feb 28, 1946 at Pacific Palisades and was buried in Woodlawn Cem. Clark's interesting book Country Schoolmaster, Dorrance, Phila, 1953 137 pp, describes his life as a school teacher in Michigan, South Dakota and Wisconsin for nearly half a century. Their children were:
   (1) Earl Albert Bigler
       Born Jan 6, 1896 at Rothbury, Mich. Never married. Retired from Army as Lieutenant and lived in 1965 at 400 S. Fonda St, La Habra, Cal.
   (2) Pearl Emma Bigler
       Born Apr 17, 1897 at Rothbury, Mich, married Roland Doty and died Feb 9, 1949.
   (3) Oliver Jack Bigler
       Born Jan 21, 1899 at Rothbury, married (1st) Almyra Scott and (2nd) Florence McGinnis. He was a building inspector.
   (4) Carl Orison Bigler
       Born Dec 9, 1905 at Rothbury, married Claressa DeKock Feb 14, 1929. He is a retired school teacher.
   (5) Lynn Everett Bigler

2. Oliver Franklin Bigler
   Born June 14, 1875 at West Milton, Ohio. Died April 28, 1881.

3. Mary Etta Bigler
   Born May 17, 1876, West Milton, married Hubert Forbes, died May 14, 1963.

4. Coral May Bigler

5. Queen Victoria Bigler

6. Cyrus W. Bigler
7. Francis Frederick Bigler  
Born Feb 26, 1887 at West Milton, Ohio. Died Feb 23, 1898.

8. Bessie Viola Bigler  
Born March 4, 1889 at Grand Rapids, Mich; married Crosby Lee Fentress  
June 17, 1914. Her address in 1961 was Box 268, Culver City, Cal.

9. Olive Catherine Bigler  
Born Sept 1, 1891, Grand Rapids, Mich; married Elwyn R. Cromwell April  
7, 1917. He was born Sept 19, 1894 at Grand Rapids, Mich. Their children:

   (1) Dorothy Frances Cromwell  

   (2) Elwyn Edward Sheldon Cromwell  
       Born Jan 12, 1924, Chicago; married Bernice Strainer March 31, 1950.

   (3) Ray Cromwell  
       Born Jan 12, 1924 (twin) and died same day.

   (4) Colleen Catherine Cromwell  
       Born Dec 21, 1925, Chicago; married Joe Lane July 13, 1944.

   (5) Herbert Hoover Cromwell  
       Stillborn Oct 4, 1929 at San Bernardino, Cal.