

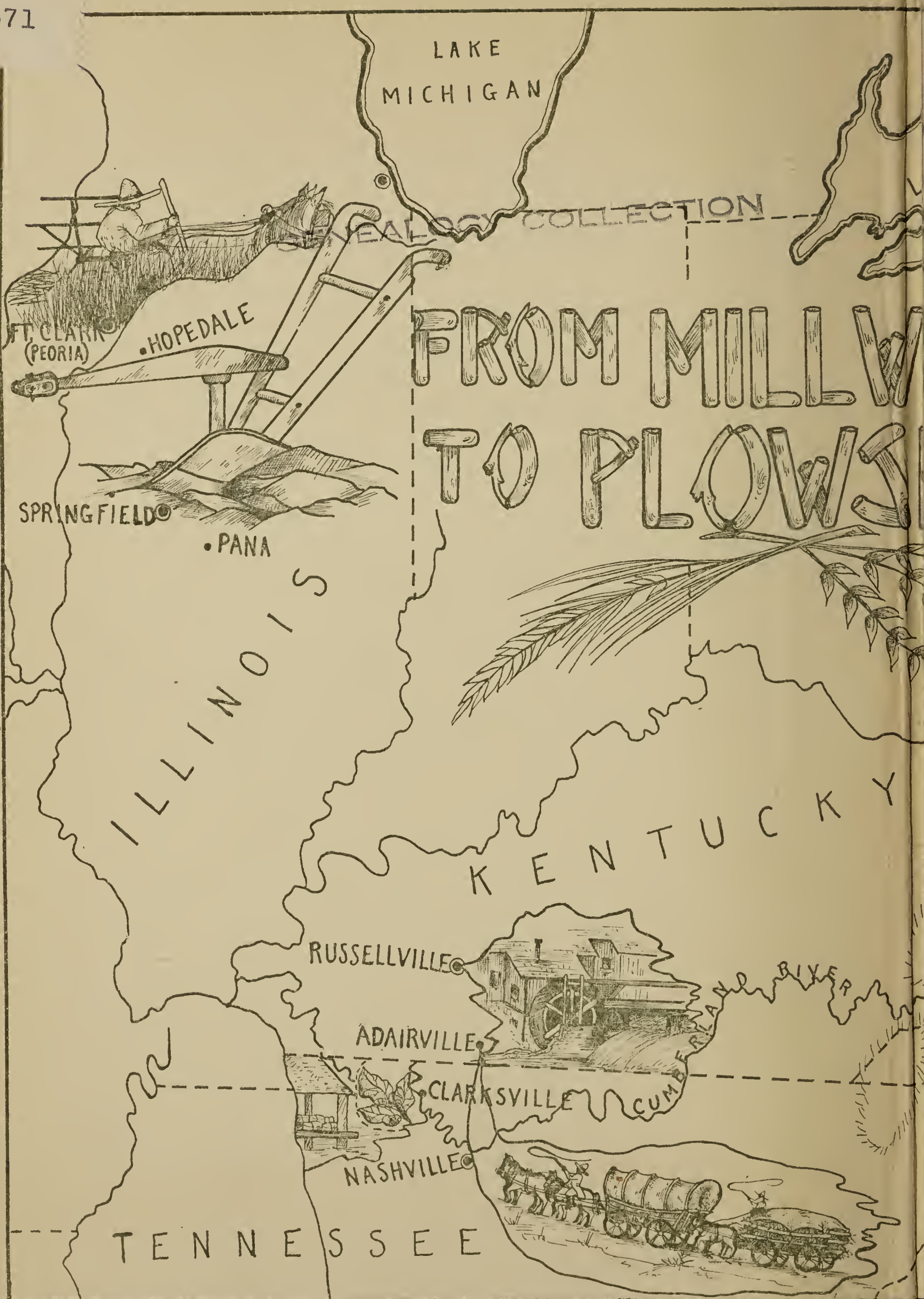
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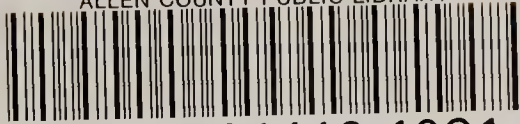
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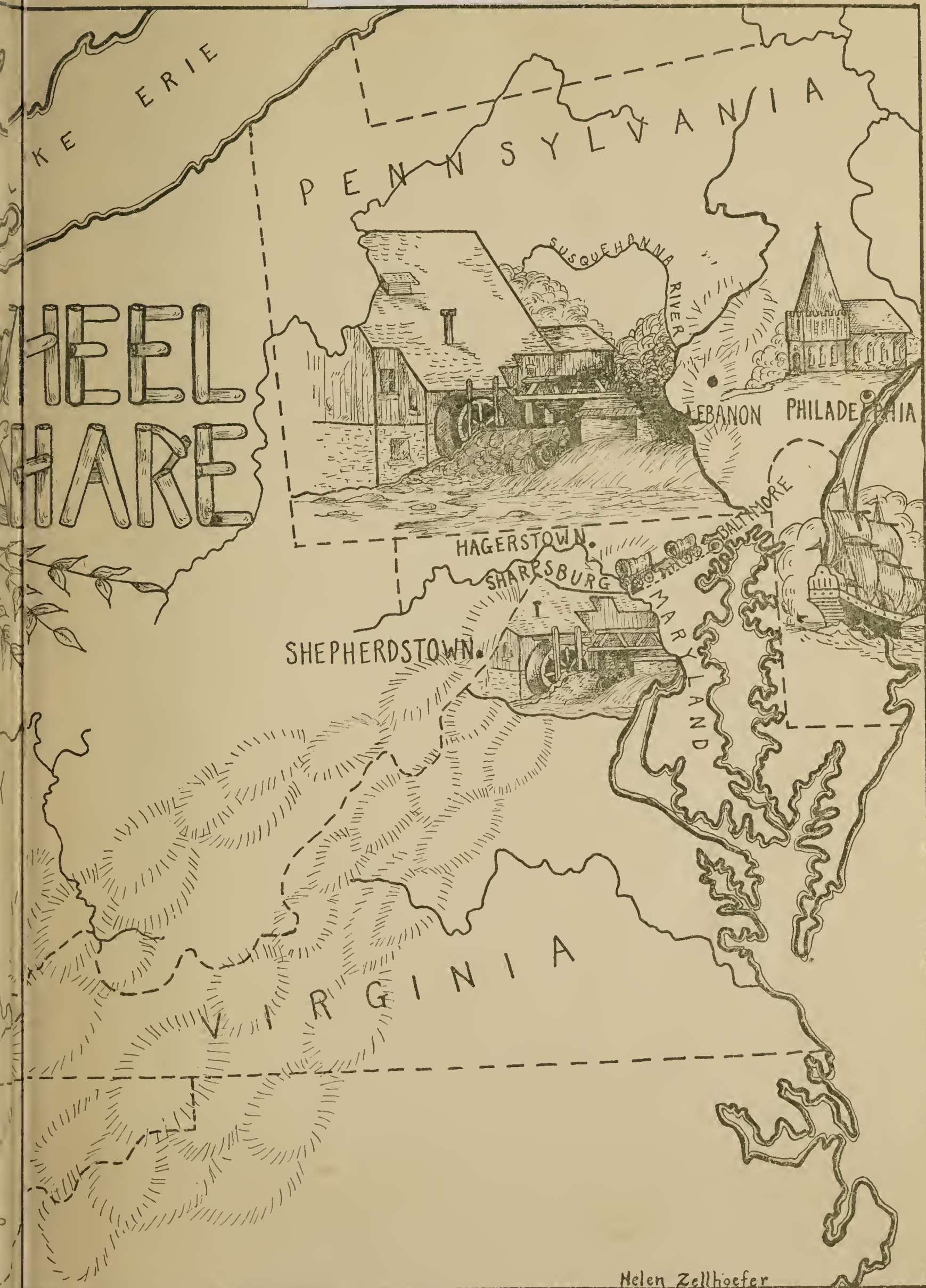
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THE LAST ORNDORFF MILLS ON THE ANTIETAM

TORCH PRESS, CEDAR RAPIDS,



CAPTAIN JAMES RIDGELY ORNDORFF

Engineer Reserve Corps, U. S. Army

From Mill Wheel to Plowshare

The Story of the Contribution of the Christian
Orndorff Family to the Social and Indus-
trial History of the United States

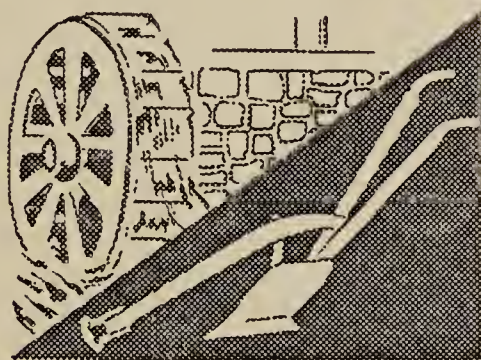
BY

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To

GRACE ELIZABETH DRAKE
An Enthusiastic Co-scribe



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PREFACE

Christian Orndorff and his family are virile representatives of that great group of High German immigrants who came to our shores before the American Revolution, and, cooperating with the English and Scotch-Irish freemen, made possible the democratic government which we now possess.

A striking characteristic of these High Germans, in contrast with the leading families of Virginia like the Lees and Randolphs, was the equality of inheritance which they emphasized in their land transactions and their wills. Studying different generations of the Orndorff family, one frequently finds such statements as this: "What money is left is to be divided equally among all *all* my children." If exceptions were made they were in favor of the daughters.

Turner, in the *Rise of the New West*, emphasized the special significance of the blending of the Germans and Scotch-Irish in the Mississippi Valley. In the present study hundreds of old land records, diaries, old county histories, and extensive manuscript material reveal many varied milling and agricultural experiences that develop and greatly extend the philosophy of Turner.

Several leading families of Maryland and Tennessee that intermarried with the Orndorffs are brought into the narrative. After the American Revolution the McDowell and Paisleys migrated from Guilford County, North Carolina, to Robertson County, Tennes-

see. The new associations of the German Calvinists with the Scotch Calvinists were indeed pleasant.

Aaron Orendorff, a grandson of Christian, married Martha McDowell in September, 1813, and after several years of active milling on the Tennessee-Kentucky border the family migrated to the wide prairies of Illinois "in a wooden spindle, linch pin wagon," drawn by a yoke of oxen. The Orendorff brothers became early promoters of scientific agriculture on this new frontier.

Thus the present volume tells the narrative of the early Christian Orndorffs and of a part of their descendants. A later volume will present the names and dates of all the known members of the family.

We sincerely appreciate the ready assistance and co-operation of the individuals, the libraries, and the historical societies that contributed to the accumulation of manuscript material and of a multitude of apparently isolated facts, without which the story here presented could never have been reconstructed.

Mrs. H. M. Wood generously loaned valuable old letters and diaries of Captain John Orndorff. Mrs. H. P. Anderson sent rare documents which reveal the activities of the McDowell family on the Tennessee frontier. Photostat copies were made of both collections at the University of Texas.

Much new material has been available through the contribution of the College Diary of Rev. James L. McDowell, loaned by Mr. S. W. McDowell, and the careful search of early newspapers by Helen Margaret Stover.

CHAPTER I

PENNSYLVANIA THE GATEWAY

While the thirteen colonies were in the making and sailing vessels were plying a profitable trade in immigration, Christian Orndorff, accompanied by a fifteen-year-old son ¹ of the same name, and a daughter of thirteen, Anna Barbara, entered the port of Philadelphia.

In deciding to make the dangerous and uncomfortable ocean journey, Christian Orndorff no doubt had been influenced by the terrific persecution of Protestants that had followed the thirty years military devastations of the Palatinate. In contrast, William Penn's welcome to his New World colony offered land and religious freedom to the families able to use them.

The Orndorffs * were such a family. According to tradition they came from the Palatinate in southern Germany, where for centuries the people had been famous for their ability to wrest from the land the evidences of prosperity — capacious barns, fine herds of cattle, comfortable houses, money stored away. Immediately after the Thirty Years War, during which all property seemed destroyed except the soil itself, strong morale and farming skill produced the most remarkable healing effects.² When the descendants of these people came to America they earned a reputation for poise and fearlessness on the open sea. An English

* The spelling of the family name is not consistent. In the *Archives of Maryland* the name is spelled Ohrendorff, Orendorff, Orendorf, Orandorff, and Orndorff. Christian signed his Will, December 28, 1795, "Orndorff" and this spelling has been adopted by almost all branches of the family with the exception of Christian II's grandsons who went to Illinois. Their descendants have retained the "e", spelling the name "Orendorff."

author tells of a storm which seemed suddenly to have swallowed the ship in the midst of a religious service, and he says of the Germans on board that they "calmly sang on."³ Christian Orndorff and his children were to prove themselves worthy members of this remarkable group.

After 1727 the men and youth above sixteen who entered the spacious harbor of Philadelphia found an odd requirement placed upon them — a requirement caused by British ignorance of the German mind and heart — namely, that all non-British immigrants must go to the court house and there sign an oath of fidelity to the British Crown, and one of abjuration against the Catholic "Pretender," James. Today the lists⁴ of these signers reveal the identity of many of the pioneers in the Blue Ridge foothills.

THE ORNDORFF FAMILY

The Orndorff family were members of the Reformed Church. It has been told from generation to generation that the father had served in the Prussian army as a high military officer, and that the mother, Elizabeth von Mueller, was a countess, a duchess, or a princess.⁵ One Herman Orndorff⁶ and his wife* had come to Pennsylvania in 1737, and settled in Lancaster County on the frontier of the Blue Ridge. Perhaps this Herman was an older son of the army officer and his high-born wife.

Certainly, when the ship, *St. Mark*, from Rotterdam, weighed anchor in the Philadelphia harbor in September of 1741, four years after Herman's arrival, it bore

* An Ann Margretta Orendorff is listed on the same boat with Herman. On April 22, 1739, the baptismal register of the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, Pa., states: "Bap. Maria Marg. Arendorff, dau. Herman and Ann Marg."⁷

several members of this family. A Christian Ohrndorff, or Ohrndorf, signed the oaths required of non-British immigrants, and also was named by the Captain in the official list. A Johann Christian Orendorff signed both lists for the oaths, but was somehow overlooked by the Captain.⁸ Possibly he was convinced that the lad was under sixteen, the required age for signing, but the British agents were going to take no risk on stalwart youthful immigrants.

The elder Christian, we know from later records, was a man of forty-nine, his son a boy of nearly fifteen. Although a few of the Captains made lists of the women and children passengers, others did not, and no such list was given by the Captain of the *St. Mark*. But a deed drawn several years later names the husband of an Anna Barbara Kohr as the son-in-law of a Christian Orndorff. In the records of a Moravian Church in central Pennsylvania is suggested the possibility of another daughter two years younger than Anna Barbara. No record has been found that could refer to the gentle mother who might have died in the Old Country or during the hazardous journey.

One may imagine an erect man with military bearing entering the great harbor on the slow-moving ship, with his son and namesake beside him, a daughter of thirteen, and, possibly, a little girl of eleven. Yet probably they did not stand quietly watching the land coming toward them and around them, for there were indentured servants, livestock, and much equipment, as well as ordinary baggage to manage.⁹

EARLY LIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA

At first Christian Orndorff settled in or near Philadelphia, that lovely city of simple brick buildings and

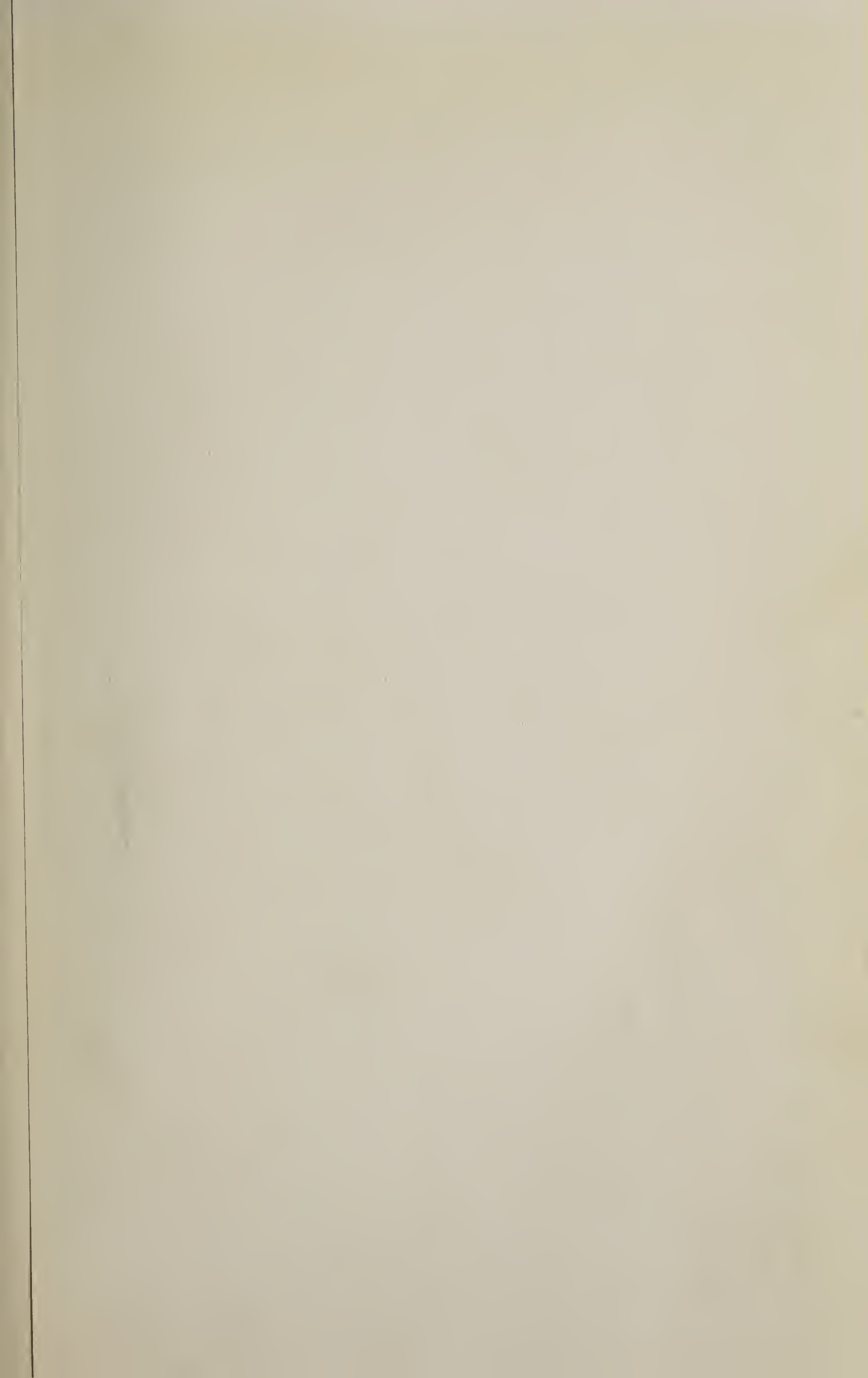
well planned streets. It was a busy city with a large market for inland trade and an excellent harbor for world commerce. The German Reformed Church of Philadelphia, in a list of its membership from 1735-1755, includes his name.¹⁰

But the stay in the city was brief, no longer than four years. Soon a journey was begun to the Lebanon Valley * in Lancaster County, then the frontier county in the state. There, among other German settlers, in the Blue Ridge foothills, Herman Orndorff was already located. These hardy pioneers had chosen tree-covered, limestone land, not the easiest to reach or to clear, but the best for the growing of crops.¹¹ Some had pushed up into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and were building mills along the falling streams.

Shortly after the organization of Lancaster County, the settlers had asked for a "foot road" which they could use in taking their produce to Philadelphia. The road was not widened into a wagon road for many years, but it then became the highway for the great Conestoga freighters, which carried quantities of grain to market, and often was referred to as the "Conestoga Road."¹²

Hostelries sprang up along the Lancaster Road as if by magic, but they were much more numerous than comfortable. An old resident whose grandfather had traveled on this road stated that taverns were located in this section of Pennsylvania from two to four miles apart, according to the state of the roads over which the lumbering stagecoaches and horseback riders must go. The deep mud and extensive ruts made travel in-

* H. M. Shenk writes: "The Lebanon Valley has no fixed boundaries. It lies between the Blue Mountains on the north and the South Mountain or Cornwall hills on the south. It includes parts of the counties of Dauphin and Berks and the entire county of Lebanon."¹³



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SECTION OF SCULL'S MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1759

deed slow. But at the end of the day's journey one always found one of these inns, around which was developing a village of small traders and mechanics.¹⁴

The Orndorffs doubtless followed this road on their journey to the fertile valleys of the Blue Ridge. It rose gradually to the first row of gently rounded hills, from which the picturesque Chester Valley might be seen. There a foot road or bridle path continued in the same general direction — slightly north of west; but the wagon road turned toward the southwest. The former route would take the pioneers more directly to their destination, but by a more hilly and less traveled trail. If they took the southern route the party would come to the city of Lancaster, from which point it would be necessary to go north, toward those settlements already famous as a garden spot because of the industry and skill of the German settlers.¹⁵

IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Christian Orndorff settled in the valley of Tulpehocken Creek, in Lebanon Valley, and the first record of him in this locality that has come down to modern times names him as a sponsor for a Donntheuer infant, named "John Christian" on March 16, 1746.¹⁶ The christening was conducted at "Tulpehocken" church by the Rev. Casper Stoeber, a Lutheran minister, who traveled an extensive circuit. Some think that this was the Host Reformed Church in present Berks County. This designation was also given to a German Reformed * church built in this region in 1723. On the

* The Trinity Tulpehocken Reformed Church, three miles east of Myers-town on the William and Penn Highway, is said to be the oldest Reformed church in the Lebanon Valley. It was built by a group of twenty-three families that had come floating down the Susquehanna and worked their way up the Swatara to Schafferstown. These New York Germans were

Pennsylvania frontier a church building was often shared by devout members of both the Lutheran and the Reformed denominations.

The year 1749 must have seemed to this family one of great significance. In April the younger man was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ann Hoffman; in November the father became a charter member of the Hebron Moravian Church, to be followed a few weeks later by his daughter, Anna Barbara Kohr, and her young husband; and in December the elder Christian Orndorff bought a tract of land that became an important mill site.

Count Zinzendorf, the great Moravian scholar who reached America the same year as Christian Orndorff, had an important influence in the establishment of churches in the Lebanon Valley. Originally made a bishop by Frederick William of Prussia, he won his greatest renown in the founding of the celebrated colony of Bethlehem. He also pushed into the frontier of Pennsylvania, establishing other Moravian churches. Christian Orndorff and his daughter were among those who caught the fire of this great spiritual revival. Hebron was built near the present city of Lebanon, about ten miles west of the Tulpehocken Reformed church. An historian thus refers to it:

The first Moravian Communion was administered at Hebron, 1750. At the Synod held at Warwick November, 1749, the following became communicants of the church: Anna Magdalena, wife of Adam Kettering, from the Lu-

aided by Casper Weiser, the Buttonmaker of Germantown, who gave them a grant of 100 acres on which to erect a church and a school. All he asked in return was an annual rental of one red rose in June. While the Indians looked on, these German pioneers chopped down the logs for their first church. The pastor served sixteen congregations and managed a farm and a mill. In the old cemetery were buried an Indian chief and seven of his tribe.¹⁷

theran Communion; Ulrich Stephen and his wife Anna Maria, Reformed; Peter Fetter and his wife Eva Catherine, Lutherans; Philip Miess and his wife Louise, both Reformed; Magdalena, wife of Jacob German, a Lutheran; Daniel Heckendorn, Reformed and *Christian Ohrendorf*, also Reformed.

These settlers formed the charter membership of the Hebron Congregation . . . Among the heads of families who became Moravians at the administration of the first sacrament were: Casper Kohr and his wife Anna Barbara.¹⁸

THE MILL

I hear it
Playing on the roof
In April
With a soft, sweet sound.

I hear it
Jumping down the rocks
Like silver
With a long glad bound

.
Rearing
In a high blue ridge,
White-capped,
And beating on the shore.

The brook,
So wise and so silly,
So musical,
Like cold crystal — at home.

Tired water
Enslaved by man to work
In mills,
Struggling for freedom, cannot roam.

Tired Water — ANNE PAPPENHEIMER ¹⁹

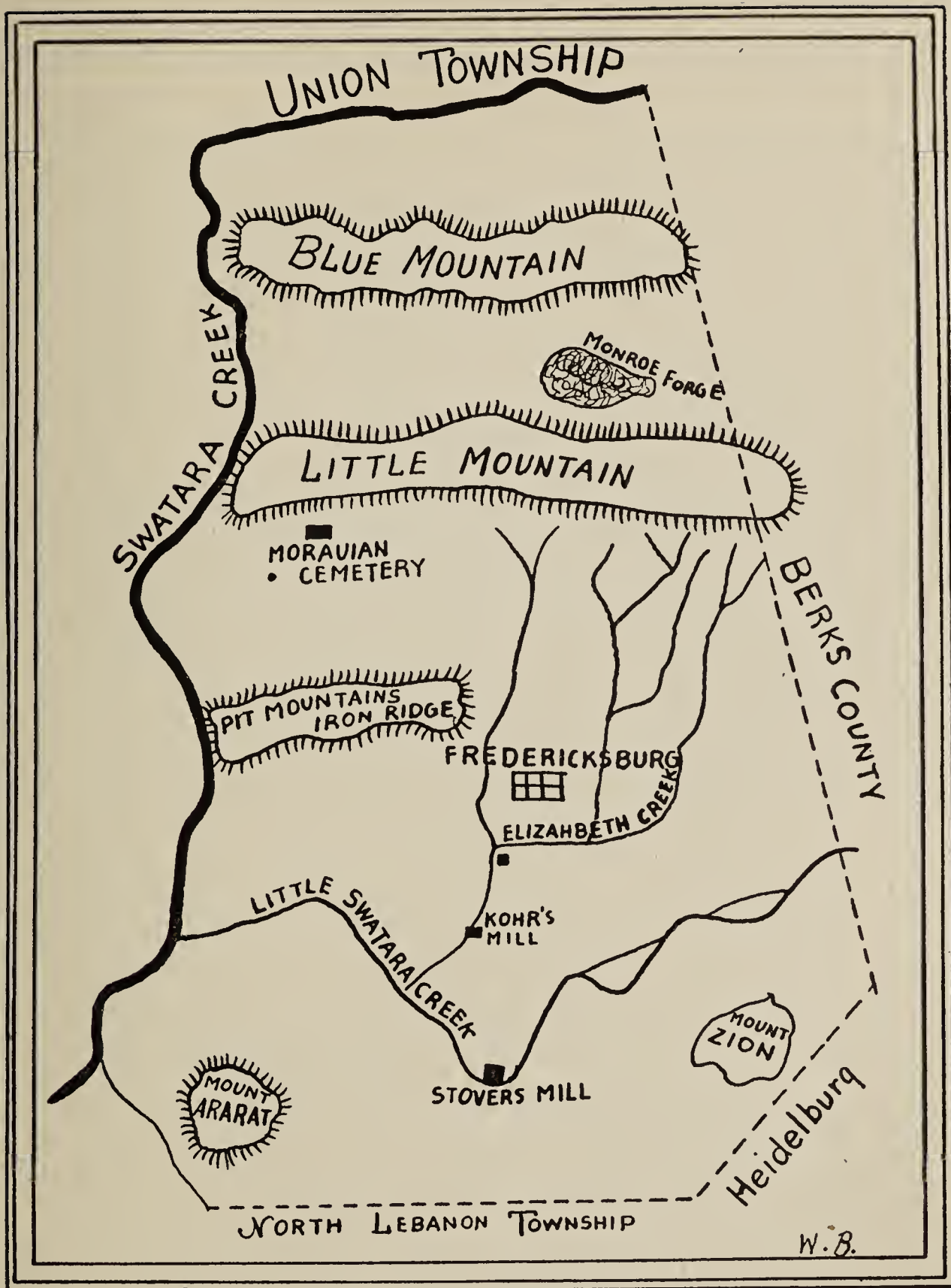
Kentucky descendants well versed in family history have stated that the Christian Orndorffs built mills

in this region, and it is highly probable in view of their various land holdings, and of the later activities of Christian II in Maryland, that they built several. Yet they sold out completely, it appears, in 1762 or 1763, and, accordingly, specific facts about these early mills are very difficult to find.

Official land records for frontier regions are often incomplete, and certainly those for the Pennsylvania hills in the 1740's and 1750's are defective. For example, lists of "taxables," or landowners, of Bethel and Heidelberg townships are available only for scattered years, Christian Orndorff's name appearing in 1752 and 1758.²⁰

The earliest deed made for a Christian Orndorff that has been found is for "372 acres and 73 perches on Elizabeth Creek in Bethel township"²¹ which was bought from a Peter Grove in 1749. Elizabeth Creek flows south into the Little Swatara, two miles southwest of Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, and this piece of land was later referred to as "extending eastward on the road leading from Fredericksburg to Lebanon." This region, located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, offered a number of good mill sites, and also an abundance of springs. The tract that Christian Orndorff bought in 1749 became famous for its mills, one of which functioned until the late nineteenth century. They were at one time owned by Anna Barbara's husband, George Casper Kohr, but he had received the land, on April 1, 1762, from his father-in-law, who had held the land for over twelve years. Whether the mills had been begun by Christian Orndorff before this date, or whether it was Kohr who began the building, that is the mystery.

The site of Kohr's mill, however, remains the most



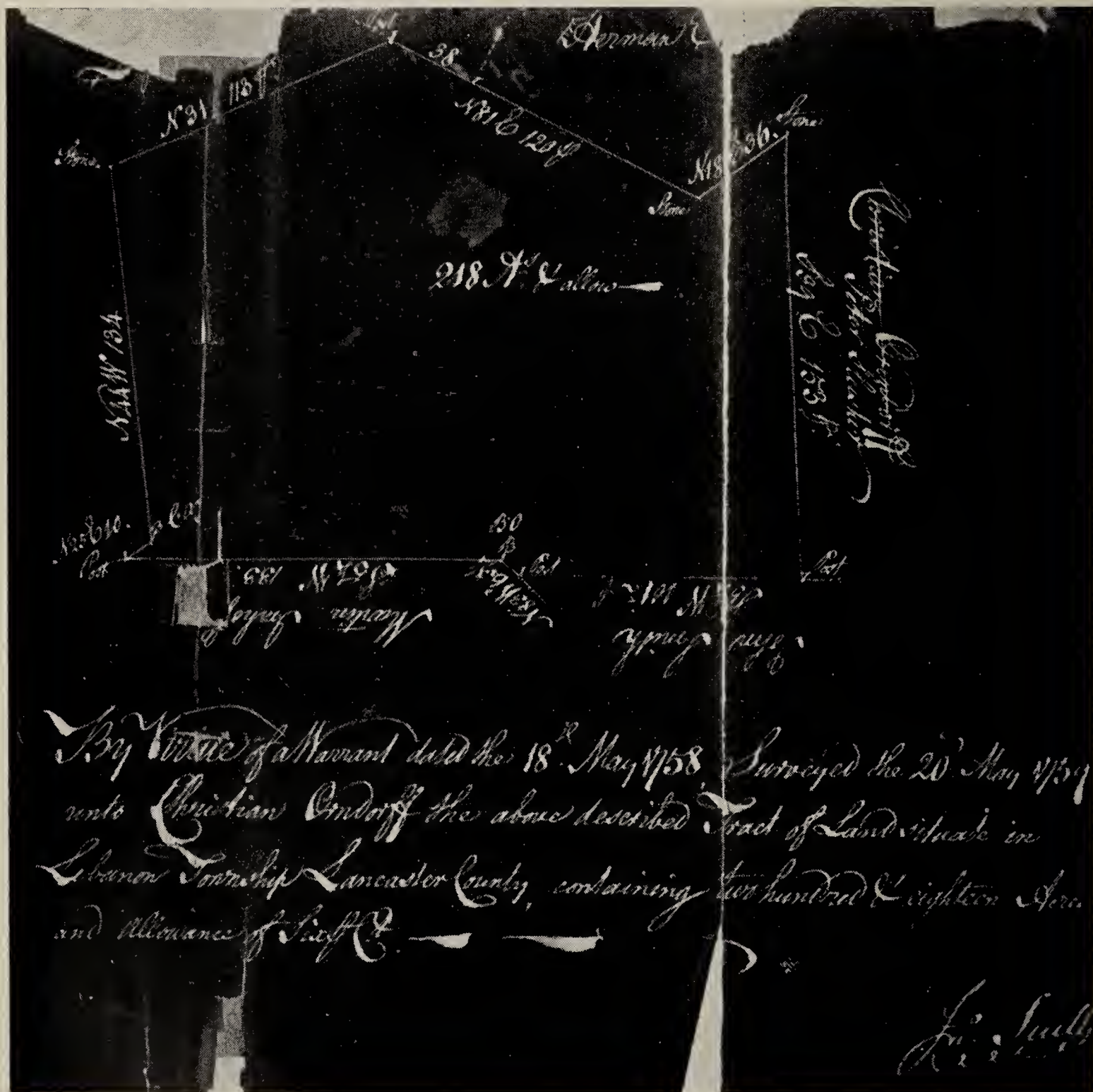
MAP OF BETHEL TOWNSHIP

This illustration shows the first mills. The land lay in Lancaster County until 1783, then in Dauphin until 1814, now in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Drawn by Welton Bailey from a sketch by D. E. Lick, Fredericksburg, Pa.



Photographs by Guy J. Daub

EARLY MILL SITE, FREDERICKSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



LAND WARRANT OF CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF, DATED MAY 18, 1758,
IN LEBANON TOWNSHIP, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

tangible symbol of the earliest mill pioneering of the first Christian Orndorff and his son in America. B. Morris Strouss, in *The Founding of Fredericksburg* writes:

On April 16th, 1763, Kohr entered into an agreement with Mathias Groth, the adjoining land owner on the north, for the construction of a mill race on his land. It thus appears that Kohr's Mill, running until a few years ago, was erected in 1763 or prior thereto. It may have been built by Ohrendorf and was undoubtedly the first grist mill erected near to, and for the convenience of, the people living in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg.²²

A further description is given in the following deed:

This Indenture, Made the second day of June, In the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, between Casper Kohr, senior of Bethel Township, in the county of Dauphin . . . and Casper Kohr, junior, son and one of the heirs apparent . . . by these presents Doth grant . . . unto the said Casper Kohr, junior . . . mills, stables, barn, orchard, gardens and one hundred and fifteen acres of land . . . It being part of that certain tract of land, which by warrant of the twelfth day of March, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight was confirmed unto Abraham Stetler . . . and the said Peter Grove by his Bill of Sale dated the twentieth day of December one thousand seven hundred and forty-nine did grant, bargain, sell . . . unto *Christian Orendorf* . . . And the said Christian Orendorf by his Bill of Sale dated the first day of April one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two did grant, bargain, sell . . . unto Casper Kohr . . . As also all the water right to a certain spring on the other land owned by the said Casper Kohr, Senior, to lead the same by ditches as it now is.²³

The accompanying illustrations were taken recently. The first one shows in the foreground the depression which once formed the basement of the mill. Just

beyond the willow tree at the extreme left of the picture may be seen the embankment of the old mill pond. Thence the race extended two hundred ten yards to the north, where it tapped the water of Elizabeth Creek. In the same view may be seen a tall dwelling house. The left, or western part, made of logs, is the older; but the right, built of brick, is also quite old. It is possible that both were built in the eighteenth century. The house is two hundred yards north by east from the basement of the old mill.

The second picture is an up-stream view of the water supply ditch which Casper Kohr, Sr., mentions in the deed as coming down from his other farm on the east, and which water-right is guaranteed by the deed in perpetuity. The only millstone remaining on the place is used as a stepping-stone at the yard gate near the house. Only thirty inches in diameter, it is undoubtedly from a very old mill. The grooves are nearly worn away, but can still be seen.

DEVELOPMENTS OF THE YEAR 1758

Yet the tract that has been described was far from being the only land bought in the name of Christian Orndorff in Pennsylvania. The year 1758 shows the purchase of two tracts in one day. The warrant for one of these, preserved in the Pennsylvania Land Office, follows:

Warrant — No. 4 by the Proprietaries

Whereas Christian Orndorff of the County of Lancaster hath requested we should grant him to take up Fifty Acres of land adjoining his other Land in Heidelberg Township in the said County of Lancaster for which he agrees to pay to our Use at ye rate of Fifteen Pounds Ten Shillings, Current Money of this Province for one Hundred Acres and the

Yearly Quit-Rent of One-half penny Sterling for every acre thereof . . . Given under my Hand and Seal of the Land-Office at Philadelphia, this eighteenth day of May Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty eight to Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General.

The other warrant was also issued to a Christian Orndorff in Heidelberg Township. But the boundaries of the township evidently were changed before the survey was completed the following May or else the surveyor made an error, for the report states that the second tract of land lay in Lebanon Township. This warrant as surveyed contained 218 acres and the usual allowance of six per cent. The names of the neighboring landowners on the two documents are entirely different. Perhaps the two tracts²⁴ were purchased separately by father and son.

In September of the same year "One Christian Orndorff"²⁵ availed himself of the opportunity to become a naturalized subject of the British Crown. Without official citizenship it was difficult or impossible for a man to participate in the political activities of his particular colony. Yet the Germans in Pennsylvania, according to the testimony of Benjamin Franklin,²⁶ did enthusiastically and effectively take part.

In the case of Christian Orndorff naturalization brought into citizenship a man destined to be a leader in the critical days of the 1770's. Along with the British tradition, the German mind and heart were joining the stream of American destiny.

This group formed a vast, moving flood that had gained entrance to the new land at Philadelphia, that was pushing up, up into the hills and deep into the forests and that, flowing south along the Appalachian valleys, would finally cross that great range. The two

Christian Orndorffs were to participate in this movement, going west and south, clearing farms and building mills, and thereby would establish a tradition of industrial pioneering.

CHAPTER II

YOUTH IN THE LEBANON VALLEY

Wallace Nutting, in his book, *Pennsylvania Beautiful*, writes:

A very striking peculiarity of Pennsylvania is the early use and knowledge of iron. Quaint forms of household hardware and utensils are found in Pennsylvania in large numbers, and there alone. The smith was an honored personage. He remembered the lore of the Black Forest. He shaped, in his iron, reminiscences of the Old World. This feature imparted a greater efficiency to the work of the housewife and the farm. . . . The Pennsylvanian was not merely a farmer, he was, very often, from early times, also a metal worker. We have therefore a grafting on of metallurgy to agriculture such as to give a peculiar tone to the life of the state.¹

The younger Christian Orndorff, at least, had a part in this phase of early American culture. Later he became known along other lines, but when he was thirty-six years of age he was identified in a deed as a "blacksmith." Probably he practiced this valuable craft as an adjunct to other activities. On the other hand, he may have participated in the great industrial movement, outstanding examples of which were the Stiegel iron stove factory, several power forges, and the building of Conestoga wagons.

These wagons, incidentally, were originated in, and for many years were built in, the settlements along Conestoga Creek, a neighbor to Swatara Creek. Swiss and German blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, and weavers took the heavy English wain employed by the

English settlers in Chester and Delaware counties and transformed it into a wagon of great use and durability. Gradually changes were made in accordance with the demands of the farmers, who had great amounts of produce to take to Philadelphia, until, as John Omwake writes, "a ponderous four-wheeled vehicle rumbled behind half a dozen strong draft horses." That the Germans had perfected these "ships of commerce" before the American Revolution is shown by the fact that Benjamin Franklin had no difficulty in securing one hundred and fifty Conestoga wagons in Lancaster for the American Army. Omwake describes it thus:

Its wheels and removable sideboards were painted a bright vermillion, while the running gear was a soft blue and the high white cover gleamed in the sunshine, a brave sight cruising between the green fields and wooded hills.²

A NEW HOME

Whatever may have been the industrial connections of the younger Christian Orndorff at this time, a few facts give us a picture of his personal life.

On April 2, 1749, he had married Elizabeth Ann Hoffman. No doubt they had been childhood sweethearts who had met at the log rollings and the German song fests and sat long hours in the log church listening to the inspired messages of the Calvinistic faith. For there were Hoffmans on the same boat with the Orndorffs, in the same church with them in Philadelphia, and among the neighboring landholders in the Lebanon Valley.

Our imagination will have to supply such details as the building of a cottage of native stones or logs, the young smithy's working of iron into things useful and ornamental, the bride's spinning and weaving for that frontier home.

There is no indication that Christian II and his wife followed the example of his sister and her husband in the matter of religion. They seem to have remained loyal to the Reformed, or Calvinist, Church.

The first child, born the following year, was a daughter, who was christened Margaret, but more often was called "Peggy." The next children were Christopher, born November 23, 1752, and Elizabeth. The only baptismal record extant is that for the one named after her aunt Barbara. The notation, found in the records of Host Church, follows:

Elizabetha, wife of Christian Ohrendorff bore a daughter August 21, 1759. Baptized September 2nd. Sponsors Caspar Korr and his wife. Name of child Barbara.³

Christian III was probably the last of the children born during their parents' residence in the Lebanon Valley.

"Peggy" and Christopher no doubt often listened in rapt attention at their grandfather's knee, as he related his experiences in the Prussian Army and told of the old castle from which Elizabeth, their grandmother, as a lovely bride was taken to the new home on the Rhine. Then had come hardships of great severity for all those who had espoused the Protestant faith, for those who zealously persisted in worshipping God according to their own beliefs. Property was not regarded, and, feeling that all would be lost unless they crossed the sea, they had embarked on the ship, *St. Mark*, to seek a home where opportunity awaited all those of the oppressed faiths.

Thus the grandfather spun many thrilling tales of the Homeland, which remain a deep mystery to the present generation, as they were woven in the love and

romance of the German tongue that only the spring breezes of the Blue Ridge might whisper through the treetops. But the descendants of Margaret and Christopher Orndorff continue to tell their children of Elizabeth von Mueller, the German grandmother who was a Countess.

INDIAN NEIGHBORS

The land south of the Blue Mountains had been purchased from the Indians shortly after the coming of the first settlers, but roving bands frequently passed through the valley and often lingered along the mountain streams. They were well treated and were generally good neighbors, but when the Six Nations banded together for war on the Colonies, these Indians were forced to choose between their own kin and their new friends. They chose their own, and several atrocities were committed. The Swatara Church and two other churches in the neighborhood were burned and destroyed. In June, 1756, the Indians surprised two boys and two men who were plowing in a field near Little Mountain and killed and scalped them. These men were neighbors of Christian Orndorff, and their interments were among the first in Bethel Moravian Cemetery.*

The settlers responded. At one time three hundred farmers under the leadership of Casper Wister gathered at the home of Benjamin Spycker, the son of an Indian trader, and came to the aid of the settlers near Blue Mountain.⁵

At last the red men, compelled to yield, passed out of hearing beyond the mountains. The war over, the

* They were buried on lots 4-7. Christian's daughter was buried on lot 9.⁴

settlers, raising their voices in the singing of great German hymns, turned again to their quiet work of building a nation.

ANNA BARBARA KOHR

The records of Rev. John Casper Stoevers mention Anna Barbara Kohr. On May 1, 1749, she was the sponsor of an infant, Anna Barbara Klein, who was baptized at the Swatara Church. She was also the sponsor for an Anna Barbara Mooser at the Atolhoe Church, in present Lebanon County, near the Berks County line, on June 7, 1756.⁶

While Anna Barbara was acting as godmother to various children, did she have any of her own? We have no extant records, but the oldest son of Casper Kohr, Christian,* was a "taxable" in 1771, and was doubtless her son. A certain small grave suggests that there might also have been a baby daughter, who lived only three years.

On April 1, 1762, the mill site on Elizabeth Creek, in Bethel Township, had been sold to Casper Kohr by Barbara's father. The older man was now seventy years of age, and his son Christian was leaving the Lebanon Valley. So this action, although a sale, probably was a part of his final disposition of the property. The mill site described in the previous chapter thus came under the very efficient control of Kohr, whose father, Michael Kohr, had arrived at the Philadelphia harbor in 1728,⁷ and for a time had been a member of the same German Reformed Church as Christian Orndorff.

If Casper and Anna Barbara were not living on this tract of land at the time of the transfer, they probably

* See Will of Casper Kohr, Sr., Appendix.

moved there then. For it became their established residence. Only two summers and one winter passed between the transfer of the Elizabeth Creek site and the death of Anna Barbara. One wonders whether the rigors of the weather in the pioneer hill country were too violent and caused the death of the young mother and the three-year-old Rosina. The two are buried side by side in the Bethel Moravian Churchyard, which was located about ten miles north of the Hebron Moravian Church. The inscriptions are:

Rosina Kohr — 1760-1763.

Anna Barbara Kohrin Ehefrau Geboren in Juli 1728.
Verscheid Nov. 20, 1763.⁸

LOOKING FORWARD

The life in the Lebanon Valley was a full, rich life. But perhaps elsewhere there would be greater opportunities for industrial and agricultural development. Possibly John Reynolds⁹ and the younger Christian Orndorff both sold out their interests in Pennsylvania, in 1761, and together sought a new frontier in Western Maryland. The will of John Reynolds, Sr.,* proved in September, 1745, gave an English shilling to each of his sons, Francis and Joseph, and to his son, John, "his plantation" in Bethel Township. John Reynolds on Feb. 10, 1761, sold this land to Frederick Stump of Heidelberg Township. That summer Stump laid out the town of Fredericksburg on a portion of this land.¹⁰ In November of the next year a John Reynolds was a witness to the purchase of a plantation of Christian Orndorff in Frederick County, Maryland.

* John Reynolds, Sr., was one of the first settlers in Bethel township, homesteading land there several years before he took out a patent for 193 acres and allowances on October 8, 1738. This land lay near Christian's land on Elizabeth Creek.

CHAPTER III

BEYOND THE BLUE RIDGE

The lure of the West was in the air and very early reports were circulated of the fertile limestone valleys across the Blue Ridge Mountains in Western Maryland. Explorers and itinerant ministers who had crossed South Mountain at Crampton's Gap and had ridden through the verdant woodlands below had christened it "Pleasant Valley."

Letters and diaries in the Orndorff family of a later period show that it was not uncommon for them to ride long distances into new frontiers to get the lay of the land and to select well watered tracts where desirable mill sites could be purchased. It is thus very probable that Christian Orndorff II, interested as he was in the development of mills, made such a tour. His route would follow an old Indian trail, which had become quite a pathway for settlers, and which led southwest between ranges until Crampton's Gap was reached, and there turned west into Pleasant Valley.

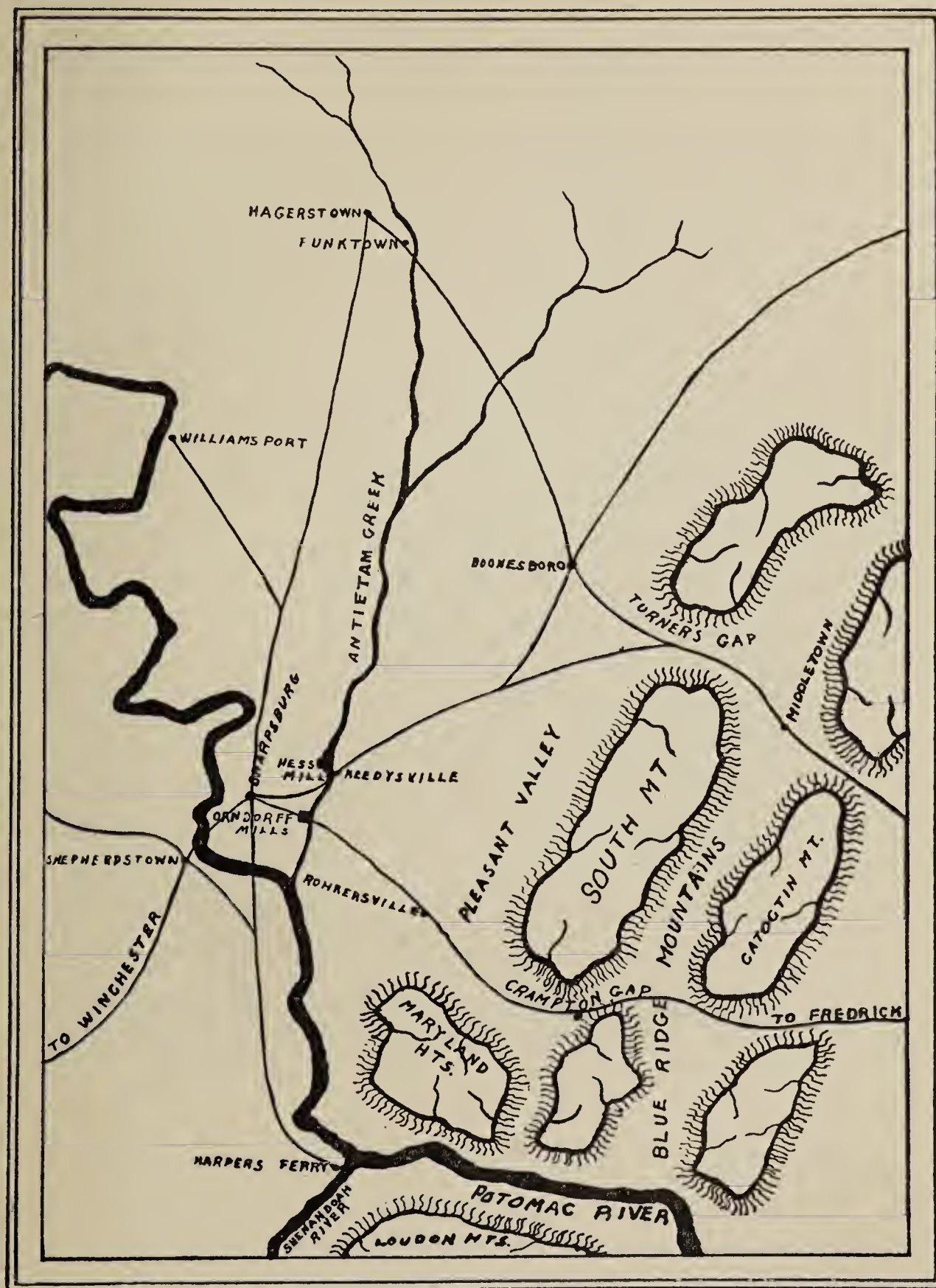
The last extant Pennsylvania records that could refer to him are those of 1758-1759, noted in the first chapter. But the deed for a Maryland plantation in 1762 mentions him as a resident of Frederick County, Maryland. Evidently Elizabeth Ann and four or five children had been transported from Lebanon Valley to Pleasant Valley between these dates. No doubt they came over the rough mountain road in a covered wagon of the Conestoga type.

In 1732 Lord Baltimore had offered liberal terms to

all who would settle on any of the back lands of the northern and western boundaries of the province. Settlers from Germany and Ireland, as well as wealthy residents of the Eastern Shore, took up large grants of land.¹ Among these was a James Smith who held over 4,000 acres near the Antietam during the period before 1779. Christian Orndorff purchased a part of Smith's Hills on November 17, 1762:

Between James Smith of the County of Frederick and Province of Maryland of the one part and Christian Orndorff of the same County and Province aforesaid (Blacksmith) of the other part . . . For and in consideration of the sum of six hundred and fifty nine pounds Current Money of the Province of *Pensilvania* . . . James Smith hath sold all that part of a Tract of Land called SMITHS HILLS laying and being situated on Antiatum Creek . . . (except one hundred feet square of a Burying Ground) . . . the beginning tree . . . being a bounded White Oak and *runing* thence South eighty two perches . . . to intersect the given line of a Tract of Land Called Vultons Grove . . . by a straight line to the *begining* Tree Containing Five hundred and three Acres of land . . . And also part of Another Tract of Land Called PORTO SANCTO laying adjoining Potomack River . . . begining at a bounded Honey Locust . . . on the Tenth Line of the Resurvey on a Tract of Land Called Addition to Piles Delight and running thence North . . . Containing Eleven Acres of Land together with all and singular the houses Buildings Structures or Edifices belonging or any ways Appurtaining unto the Two Above mentioned Parcells of Land . . . with the Orchards Gardens Pastures feeding Woods Underwoods . . . in the Presence of John Reynolds and Joseph Smith. . . .

December the 9th then reced, from Christian Orndorff One pound & seven pence Sterling as an Alienation Fine on the within mentioned Five hundred & fourteen Acres of Land by order of Edward Loyd Esq. Agent of his Lordship the Right Honourable the Propriety of Maryland, John Darnall.²



James Shell

MAP OF WESTERN MARYLAND



Photograph by Grace Elizabeth Drake

MT. PLEASANT, HOME OF MAJOR CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF

Within the jacket of weatherboarding stands the eighteenth century log house. Two chimneys served a total of six fireplaces, and a graceful open stairway led all the way to the third floor. The house still stands about a mile from Sharpsburg, Maryland, and is occupied by the family of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lohman



Photograph by Grace Elizabeth Drake

EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE KITCHEN AT MT. PLEASANT

This land, well supplied with water power from the Antietam, was located within the bounds of present-day Washington County. Smith's Hills was composed of numerous low hills covered with primeval forests except for the cleared patches that each year grew in size as the wheat fields were extended. This fertile farming country lay at the foot of the Blue Ridge System near South Mountain.

A writer of a later period says:

The panorama of farms and villages near South Mountain is of surpassing beauty, whilst to the right is the tortuous Potomac shimmering like molten silver in the sunlight and on either hand mountain after mountain top unfold themselves.³

Christian Orndorff moved into Western Maryland while the French and Indians were still a topic of vital interest on the frontier. As late as 1750, the Delaware Indians roamed the forests and warred on the few hardy pioneers who had attempted to make homes there. Horatio Sharpe, who had arrived as governor of the colony, on August 10, 1753, had taken aggressive measures to secure the safety of the settlers. But Braddock's defeat left the French in control of the territory until the summer of 1758, and British troops were retained at Fort Cumberland until 1765, as a protection against the Indians.⁴

MT. PLEASANT

No doubt influenced by the wide vista which the surrounding hills gave as one gazed toward South Mountain, Christian named his plantation Mt. Pleasant. This farm was to be the nucleus of the Orndorff estate and other tracts were to be added to his land holdings. Later his sons Christopher, Christian, and

Henry bought adjoining farms and many land transfers were made within the family.

It is thought that the large log house which still remains intact under modern weatherboarding was built about this time. Native limestone was plentiful and large blocks were used in the numerous fireplaces of the three-story home. Heavy logs and timbers were also abundant after arduous labor had felled the tall trees in the neighboring woodlands.

As was customary in the southern colonial mansions, a central hall with spindle staircase was an important feature of the new home. This staircase was built so well that even today it remains firm and solid. On the left, when one entered the doorway, was the long living room with its Adam fireplace. Here Christian Orndorff, the "ardent rebel," entertained many distinguished guests.

On the right of the stairway were two rooms with corner fireplaces in the central partition. The rear room had one of the typical small cupboards built in the wall above the door. The same plan was carried out above with the long room on the west and the corner fireplaces across the hall. Possibly the popular daughters of Christian Orndorff had a spinning wheel * or two in this long upstairs room and rehearsed delightful tales while their busy fingers flew in spinning the linen needed by the household, or lingered by the glowing logs in the Adam fireplace on cold winter nights and listened to the dreams they caught as the sparks flew upward.

The unfinished third floor furnished shelter for the

* An *Inventory* of Christian Orndorff's estate lists 4 spinning wheels, 1 cotton wheel, 1 wool wheel, 20 lb. hemp, 5 yards linen, 9 lb. wool, hemp toe, flax, 8 tablecloths, etc. See Appendix.

wandering peddler or traveler who arrived too late in the evening to be turned away from the hospitable door of the generous owner.

One also finds at the back of the main central hallway the original wooden door, massive and hand carved with enormous wooden hinges. The original door hinges were all handmade of the H pattern, as long as the doors were wide, and the nails and locks were likewise handmade. This doorway led out to the big stone kitchen, which was separated from the house by several feet. No doubt native stones formed the walks which led to the kitchen and the flower garden near by.

The kitchen was strongly built of large blocks of stone, with an outside stairway leading to the servant's room above. In the massive fireplace, nine feet high, eight feet wide, and three feet deep, must have been roasted many wild fowl and quarters of juicy venison. Game was plentiful at this time, for the wooden plows did not encourage a rapid turning of the tall grass into cultivated fields and the heavy woodlands harbored many kinds of wild game.

The window sills of the stone kitchen, still standing, are eighteen inches deep, while the great logs in the "big house" continue to keep their rooms cool in summer and warm in winter. Although near the intensive fighting of the Battle of the Antietam in 1862, these great logs were only dented by the cannon balls.

Then there was the cellar with its store of fruits and vegetables. For peach and apple orchards planted on the southern slopes supplemented the wild fruits and berries. A door to the cellar led from under the main stairway in the big house. Logs were used to make tables of generous proportions to hold the stone jars filled with preserves. Two rooms opening from the

main room contained the vegetables, apples, and other supplies.

East of the house was the spring, well enclosed, so that there was always an ample supply of cool, refreshing water. Across the road along the Antietam were the mills, a large flour mill, and the saw mill.

The crops of wheat and corn were abundant and a grist mill, a prime necessity. The mills that the Orndorffs built on the Antietam were a great asset to the pioneers who lived in the neighborhood and they did a good deal of custom milling for the farmers and planters, who often came a considerable distance to have their grain turned into flour.

The wheat would be ground between the upper and nether millstones. The power which cleaned the wheat passed it on to the bin in the upper part of the mill. From here it flowed in a constant golden stream into the grindstone. After it had been bolted, it emptied itself into the barrel placed by the miller who had little to do until the bell rang, automatically announcing that the barrel was full. Then the barrel was replaced by an empty one and the head put on the full barrel. The farmers would bring in five bushels of wheat for each barrel of flour and the extra bran.

Just across the Antietam under a high cliff stood the tall stone house of the miller. Narrow, and rugged as the cliff above, the two-story house still stands, although the mills were dismantled many years ago.⁵

SHARPSBURG FOUNDED

Joseph Chapline belonged to a distinguished Virginia family that had migrated to the colony from England. He had witnessed the first deed of "Shepherd's Purchase," in 1721. His friend, Col. Richard

Morgan, owned large tracts of land from Shepherdstown to North Mountain, having secured a deed to land on the site of Shepherdstown as early as 1734. During the French and Indian Wars, Chapline had joined Richard Morgan and his son, Col. William Morgan, to drive out the Indians from Western Maryland and Virginia.

Noting the fertility of the soil in the Antietam Valley, Chapline obtained nineteen different tracts of land totalling 13,400 acres. On this land was the Great Spring, once surrounded by a vast forest, which had been the favorite hunting ground of the Delaware Indians. His grants also included large deposits of iron ore, which became important in the development of manufacturing during and after the American Revolution, the Antietam Iron Works being especially famous. Looking forward to an influx of settlers and the creating of a new county, Chapline determined to build a town, and it was laid out on July 9, 1763. He named it after the popular governor, Horatio Sharpe, for from the first he planned Sharpsburg as a county seat.⁶

Christian Orndorff was one of the first to buy lots, as he was later one of the initial purchasers of lots in the newly formed national Capital on the Potomac. The following quotations from deeds describe his purchases in Sharpsburg:

Deed from Joseph Chapline of Frederick County, Md., to Christian Orndorff of the same County — Deed dated January 20th 1764 — consideration one shilling for a lot in Sharpsburg Town in Frederick County No. 13 containing 103 feet in Breadth and 206 feet in Length paying 3 shillings and six pence every year to Joseph Chapline as ground rent. Folio 114, *Liber J*.

Deed from Joseph Chapline to Christian Orndorff Oct. 28, 1765, consideration two pounds ten shillings, all that

lot or portion of ground laid off as an out lot to the Town called Sharpsburg No. 47 containing Twenty perches in Breadth & Forty perches in length.

Folio 437, *Liber K*

Deed from Jane S. Martin of Frederick County to Christian Orndorff of the same County. Deed dated Aug. 1st 1768. Consideration thirty three pounds eight shillings and nine pence for Lot No. 7 in Sharpsburg Frederick County Containing 103 feet in Breadth and 206 feet in Length paying rent of six shillings and six pence every year . . . Folio 437, *Liber I.*⁷

For a long time, Sharpsburg contained but four houses, one of which was used as a trading post. The first trader, a Mr. Miller, would ride down to Baltimore on horseback, and would bring back dry goods and groceries in a pair of saddlebags.⁸

Christian Orndorff * sold lot No. 13 to Philip Coon on August 4, 1769, for twelve pounds, and lot No. 47 on June 1, 1771, for two pounds and ten shillings.⁹

CHURCH AND SCHOOL ESTABLISHED

The hospitality of Christian Orndorff early became known, and prospectors passing through the valley often spent the night at Mt. Pleasant. Early, too, an itinerant minister from Pennsylvania reached the Orndorff home and held services in this new frontier. Until the American Revolution, Washington County, in which Christian located, was included in a large territory known as Frederick County. The Orndorff children attended the German schools established by the Dutch Calvinist pastors. From various records one discovers that Christian Orndorff had an active part in establishing a school in Sharpsburg. The *Maryland*

* Christopher Orndorff bought Lot No. 1 in Sharpsburg from Christopher Cruss on Aug. 23, 1781, for 100 pounds, and Lot No. 3 in 1788, for 105 pounds.

Gazette of June 8, 1769, published this item of Sharpsburg news:

Six Hundred Dollars has been raised by lottery to complete the Reformed Calvinist Church and build a schoolhouse in Sharpsburg.¹⁰

Among the managers of the lottery were Christian Orndorff, Joseph Smith, William Good, Abraham Lingenfelder, John Stull, and Benjamin Spiker. A Benjamin Spiker had also been a member of the Reformed Church in Philadelphia in the period before 1755.

Joseph Chapline, prior to his death in 1769, sold the lot on which the church was built to Abraham Lingenfelder for a shilling. Several years after the church was built, we find that the trustees "waited on Abraham Lingenfelder and requested him to give a deed for lot No. 61." The following quotations are taken from the deed:

This indenture made the second day of April in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-four between Abraham Lingenfelter . . . and Christian Orndorff, George Keiffer, John Middlekauf, and Conrad Habberger, Trustees appointed by the Dutch Calvinist congregation in and about Sharpsburg . . . in consideration of the sum of One hundred and Sixty pounds current Money of Maryland to him in hand paid by the said Christian Orndorff, George Keiffer, John Middlekauff and Conrad Hayberger, Trustees of the congregation . . . with the church thereon.¹¹

The church was built of brick surmounted with a cupola in which hung a small cast iron bell. The pulpit was high, in the form of a goblet, with a sounding board over it. The aisles and the space in front of the altar were paved with brick, and on one side of the

pulpit was a raised platform for the officers of the congregation.¹²

TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

When Christian Orndorff located permanently on the Antietam, Washington's scheme for improving the navigation of the Potomac had taken shape. Jonathan Hager and Thomas Cresap, the directors of the Colony of Maryland, were very enthusiastic supporters of the project. On February 11, 1762, the following item appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* of Annapolis:

To the Public

The opening of the river Potomack and making it passable for small craft, from Fort Cumberland, at Will's Creek to the Great Falls, will be of the greatest advantage to Virginia and Maryland, by facilitating commerce with the back inhabitants, whereas the Pennsylvanians now monopolize the very lucrative skin and fur trades. It will afford easy communications with the waters of the Ohio.¹³

But Christian Orndorff seems to have been more interested in trade with the coast. The Antietam had waterfall sufficient to turn all the mills the Orndorffs might wish to build, and their surplus flour would find a permanent market in the East, rather than the West. Christian also believed that his neighbors in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, would soon follow him and take up land in the neighboring valleys.

His prophecy came true. The incoming Germans raised large quantities of wheat and brought many wagons of grain to the Orndorff mill, leaving a small portion as a fee for grinding. Although the hardy pioneers were largely Germans, there were also English, Scotch, Swiss, and French from the border provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. As this flourishing business increased, the surplus flour was sent in large covered

wagons to Baltimore for export. There was a strong demand for flour in the West Indies and in the neighboring colonies, and during the French Revolution and the early Napoleonic era some of the Orndorff flour was to reach the markets of Europe.¹⁴

Christopher, the oldest son, early assumed responsibilities which made him an efficient assistant to his father. Later, as a pioneer into southern Kentucky, he was to follow similar methods in selling the products of his mills in Nashville, Tennessee. While still in his teens, Christopher had charge of the wagon trains in hauling flour and tobacco from the mill and plantation to Baltimore. He had inherited his father's business ability and also the genial, straightforward integrity which made him successful in his early business contacts. His skillful management of the men who were in the long line of drivers is said to have been proverbial.¹⁵

THOMAS CRESAP

Thomas Cresap was one of the unique personalities in the early history of the Antietam Valley. Born in Skipton, Yorkshire, England, he came to Western Maryland to engage in the fur trade with the Indians. On his petition for a survey of a tract of land he was granted a warrant for 550 acres on June 16, 1739. He erected a stone house for protection against unfriendly Indians, calling his plantation *Long Meadows*.^{*} He

^{*} The original area of *Long Meadows* was twice enlarged by Col. Cresap, by 100 acres in 1742 and 110 acres in 1743. In 1746 Daniel Dulany bought it. He made another survey and added 1371 acres in 1751. In the following year a second survey for 2370 additional acres was disputed with other claimants. Col. Henry Bouquet, a native of Switzerland and with Col. Haldimand serving in the French and Indian War in the famous 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps, bought *Long Meadows*. Bouquet adjusted the disputes, and increased the tract to a total of 4,163 acres. His patent bears the date Sept. 16, 1763. Shortly after this he was transferred to the Southern De-

collected a large quantity of furs and skins to send to England, but the vessel carrying his valuable cargo was captured by the French. He joined with Lee and Washington in the formation of the Ohio Company. With the aid of Namaco, a noted Indian hunter, he laid out the first road over the Alleghany mountains to the headwaters of the Ohio. Cresap's sons were associated with Christian Orndorff in various activities during the American Revolution.¹⁶

JACOB HESS AND THE ANTIETAM MILLS

In William's *History of Washington County, Maryland*, there is a picture of an Orndorff mill. Beneath it is this inscription: "Old Orndorff Mill Built in 1753 — Oldest in the County."¹⁷

A cornerstone, however, was discovered in the mill when it was dismantled that gives the dates 1782-1783, and indicates that this large grist mill was built by Christopher. It is very possible that Christopher rebuilt his father's mills at this time, for the plantation of Mt. Pleasant, on which the mills stood, was not transferred to Christopher until 1791.

A tradition persists in every branch of the family that Christian built a grist mill shortly after his arrival in Maryland. The story that came down in Christopher's line was that Christian employed a German youth, Jacob Hess, to aid him in the construction of the first mills on the Antietam. While in the Orndorff home Jacob fell in love with Margaret, Christian's

partment. In his absence a former servant, Abraham Draxell, managed the estate. When Bouquet died of fever in Pensacola his Will, executed June 25, 1765, has the following provision: "I constitute and appoint my friend Col. Frederick Haldimand, my heir and executor, and to him I give and bequeath all and everything which I may die possessed of in North America without any exception whatever."



Photograph by Helen Margaret Stover

STONE HOUSE OF JACOB AND MARGARET HESS

Just beyond the quaint house with its eighteen-inch window sills, flows Antietam Creek, and on the opposite shore, slightly up-stream is the site of Jacob's mill. The town grew up around this home

oldest daughter. When Jacob asked for Margaret's hand in marriage, Christian told him that he might not only have his daughter, but also a farm that lay to the north and east of the Orndorff plantation.

A direct descendant of Margaret Orndorff says that Christian decided to build a mill and sent back to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, for Jacob Hess to come on and superintend the construction of the mill. During this work Jacob came under the charm of the beautiful Margaret. They were married about 1768, and began housekeeping at another point on Antietam Creek, where Jacob built a home and a large mill.

Darius Orendorff, a descendant of Christopher, quotes his father, Aaron (1784-1845), as saying: "After Jacob Hess completed his mills for Herr Orendorff on the Big Antietam, he took Peggy to wife and with her fled to the Little Antietam where he built a large dwelling, Swiss barn, and flour mill."¹⁸

The stone house that Jacob built has a peculiar fascination for those intrigued by Colonial homes. Several architectural features are similar to those of Mt. Pleasant, for instance the spindle stairway and the deep window sills. A new feature is the decoration above the door formed by stones carefully cemented in a fan-like design. In the dining-room is the corner cupboard so useful in pioneer days. A kitchen, separated from the house, stood near the little stream, and a stone walk led to the footbridge below. Across the bridge and a few rods upstream stood the mill.

1271571

MT. VERNON REFORMED CHURCH

Like her father, Margaret was an ardent supporter of the Reformed faith, and Jacob was a serious youth. Old residents in the Antietam Valley related how the

first services of the Mt. Vernon German Reformed Church were held in the "Stone House" of Jacob Hess. Reverend Philip W. Otterbein,* pastor of the Reformed Church in Frederick, Maryland, made frequent visits in the Antietam neighborhood. After his removal to York, Pennsylvania, and later, when he transferred to Baltimore, he continued his religious activities on the Antietam.

Rev. George A. Geeting,** who had been teaching in the neighborhood, was converted under the ministry of Rev. Otterbein and continued the religious activities of the church in connection with his teaching. Thus the Mt. Vernon Church carried the torch from one great leader to another.***

* Rev. Philip W. Otterbein (1726-1823) was born in Germany. He studied theology and was sent to Lancaster County, Pa., as a missionary of the Reformed Church in 1752. In 1774 he went to Baltimore, where he later established the United Brethren Church in Christ, the first Conference being held in that city in 1789. Mr. Otterbein was a man of great learning and very liberal in his associations with Christians of other sects than his own, frequently cooperating with the Methodists in open meetings and itinerant tours.¹⁹

** George A. Geeting, born in Nassau, Prussia, in 1741, came to the Antietam Valley as a young man and built a home southeast of Keedysville. He had been well educated in Germany and soon organized a school in the community. A schoolhouse was erected and, later, a United Brethren Church. Rev. Geeting preached for thirty years and his home was Otterbein's headquarters when in this locality. As one writer says: "Certainly the Antietam Church was the first building erected by and for the new denomination, the United Brethren Church, founded by Rev. Otterbein. This Antietam Church became the center of wide and manifold labors, and the meetings, such as the Whitsuntide services, were attended by great crowds of people."

Samuel Baker, Henry Smith, Jacob Hess, and their families constituted the original membership.²⁰

*** Margaret Hess's stone in the family burying ground, above the site of the old mill, is in a good state of preservation. It bears this inscription: "Margaret died Oct. 9, 1814, aged 64." Jacob's stone and nearly all their children can also be identified.

Christian Hess, the oldest son of Jacob and Margaret, was born March 17, 1769. Other children were Jacob, Elizabeth who m. John Shafer, Rosena who m. Henry Shaffer, John who m. Susan Locker, Margaret who m. Andrew Rinehart, Catherine who m. Philip Grove and David born Oct. 15, 1785. A granddaughter of Jacob and Margaret Hess, Elizabeth Shafer, m. John Mumma who came to own the mills of Mt. Pleasant.

THE DEATH OF CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF I

While Christian II was busy with mills along Antietam Creek, and his older children were making their own places in the Maryland community, back in Pennsylvania, near Elizabeth and Swatara creeks, death called his father. The aged pioneer's birthplace is unknown, and only hints of a colorful yet perhaps tragic life in the Rhineland are ours. Yet his life and work in Pennsylvania is sufficiently sketched by scattered facts to reveal him to us as the first Christian Orndorff in America, and as a great soul.

His body was laid near that of his daughter, Anna Barbara, in a churchyard of that new denomination which he had espoused twenty years earlier, in Bethel Moravian Cemetery. His epitaph, kept in the church record book, reads:

Christian Orendorf
died April 16, 1772, aged 80 years.²¹

CHAPTER IV

SERVICE DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

When the Colonies began actively to protest against "taxation without representation," Christian Orndorff II immediately cooperated with Jonathan Hager and John Stull in the organization of Committees to act with the other Colonies. He also aided in the organization of military companies which were trained and sent to the front. Christian and his friends, on account of their industry and thrift, were prosperous and they gladly gave of their time and means in the support of the cause of liberty.

The first important public meeting held during revolutionary times in Western Maryland was convened at Elizabethtown (Hagerstown) on July 2, 1774. About eight hundred people met, chose John Stull their leader, and made resolves to drink no more tea and to raise a subscription at once for "the suffering in Boston." In the same year Christian Orndorff was appointed as "a representative of Frederick County in regard to the new exportation policy agreed upon by the Continental Congress." ¹

THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION

On Friday, November 18, 1774, the freemen of Frederick County held another meeting at the Court House in Hagerstown and appointed a large group of the leading citizens of the county to act as a Committee of Observation "to carry into execution the Association

agreed on by the American Continental Congress and that any five have power to act.”²

Among those selected were: Henry Griffith, Richard Thomas, Thomas Sprigg, Christian Orndorff, Evan Thomas, Jonathan Hager, James Smith, Conrad Hogmire, Charles Swearingen, Philip Thomas, Thomas Hogg, Col. Cresap, Samuel Hughes, Jacob Funk, and Thomas Crampton.* Several of these men were also included in a Committee of Correspondence.

Before the month was over, this committee was actively engaged in patriotic service. The *Maryland Gazette* of December 22, 1774, gives an account of “The Burning” in Frederick County:

The committee for the upper part of Frederick County, Maryland, having met at Elizabethtown on the 26th of November, which was the day appointed for the delivery of John Parks’ chest of tea, in consequence of his agreement published in the *Maryland Journal* of the 16th.

After a demand was made of the same, Mr. Parks offered a chest of tea found on a certain Andrew Gibson’s plantation, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, by the committee for that place, which tea he declared was the same he promised to deliver.

The committee are sorry to say that they have great reason to believe and indeed with almost a certainty, that the chest of tea was in Cumberland County at the time Parks said upon oath it was at Chestnut Bridge.

After mature deliberation the committee were of the opinion that John Parks should go with his hat off and lighted torches in his hand and set fire to the tea, which he accordingly did, and the same was consumed to ashes amongst the acclamation of a numerous body of people.

* Thomas Crampton was born on the ocean in 1735, where his father had just died. Crampton came to Pleasant Valley before 1759. He aided in building a road through the wilderness which led from the old pack horse ford below Shepherdstown, through Crampton’s Gap, and on to Fredericktown.³

The committee were also of the opinion that no further intercourse should be had with the said Parks. Every friend of Liberty is requested to pay attention to the same.

Voted the thanks of this committee to that of Cumberland County for their prudent and spirited behavior upon this occasion.

Signed by order of the committee.

John Stull, president.

N. B. The populace thought the measures adopted by the committee were inadequate to the transgression and satisfied themselves by breaking Parks' doors and windows.⁴

At the meeting of Tuesday, January 24, 1775, the Committee unanimously approved the resolutions of Congress and made provisions to raise their quota of \$1,333. Joseph Chapline and Christian Orndorff were selected to raise money from the "Sharpsburg Hundred." They were urged to solicit a generous contribution from every freeman and report the name of any person who refused to subscribe. The money was to be sent to the Committee of Correspondence by March 22.⁵

On June 17 the freemen of the Upper district of Frederick County resolved "unanimously" that they would support the union of the Colonies with their lives and fortunes. At another meeting Captain Jonathan Hager was appointed to receive all money that might be voluntarily given for the public good. This resolution was drawn up:

Resolved: That this committee is of the opinion that it is highly reasonable that every person who enjoys the benefit of their religion and protection of the law of this free country ought to contribute either in money or military service, towards the defense of their invaluable rights.⁶

Jonathan Hager, Sr., was accidentally killed on No-

vember 6, 1775, at his new saw mill, where he was supervising the preparation of timber for building a German Reformed Church in Hagerstown, and his place had to be filled by another.

Those who did not give military service were asked to pay two shillings and sixpence a week. Arrangements were also made to send a letter to the Committee of Correspondence in the middle district urging that they unite with them in the careful instruction of the minute men of the county. On the first Monday in December, the Committee met for the specific purpose of transmitting money to Philadelphia with which to buy supplies for their rifle companies.

On March 4, 1776, another appeal was made to the Captains of each hundred to take up association papers and return "a complete report of those who give and those who refuse, with their specific reasons for refusing." On April the eighth a letter from the Council of Safety at Annapolis was read, telling of the need for supplies. Immediately the Committee of Western Maryland sent out an urgent call for rugs and blankets from all who had them to spare. John Parks, whose tea had been burned, was one of many who responded.

On April 29, 1776, Christian Orndorff supported the following resolutions of the Committee:

Resolved. That this Committee pay the clerk seven shillings and sixpence for each day that he shall attend, and that he consider himself under the ties of honor not to disclose or reveal the secrets of the said committee.

The committee adjourns to three o'clock in the afternoon. *Resolved.* That the several returns of the nonassociators be considered. On motion that the Committee sit at Sharpsburg once in three times, the committee concurs therewith.⁷

As Williams has said:

That a committee of citizens responsible to no one and with no appeal from their decisions should have exercised their great powers with such a spirit of moderation, justice and wisdom, is enough to give each of them a distinguished place in the history of the Country. The president of this committee was John Stull* of Hagerstown, a man of German birth. His speech was broken English. He was a man of remarkable force of character, of excellent judgment and a strict sense of justice.⁸

AN ACTIVE PATRIOT

There is a tradition that Christian Orndorff helped to raise and equip the first company west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. As a friend of Captain Cresap and a member of the Committee of Observation, Orndorff doubtless had an important part in the formation of Captain Cresap's company. This company was composed of one hundred and thirty backwoodsmen who started on their long march to Boston armed with tomahawk and rifle, dressed in deerskins and moccasins, and with parched corn as their only provision. Captain Cresap's company was one of the two companies organized on June 21, 1775. The soldiers from Western Maryland left Fredericktown on July 18, and arrived at Boston twenty-two days later. They had traveled five hundred miles over rough roads and were among the first soldiers from the South to reach Boston.¹¹

Christian Orndorff not only took the initiative in enlisting and training men who were sent to the front, but he also served in other capacities. In 1776, he was a judge of the election of the Delegates to the Provin-

* The Resurvey on the Shoe Spring to John Stull, Oct. 3, 1755, 510 acres. Stulls Forest, Jan. 12, 1764, 1,891 acres. Addition to Stulls Forest Feb. 13, 1756 acres.⁹

John Stull, Jacob Funk, Joseph Sprigg, and James Chapline served in the House of Delegates from Washington County for several sessions.¹⁰

cial Convention to be held in Annapolis in October.¹²

The Christian Orndorff who acted on the Committee of Safety and who served the cause of liberty in the other ways mentioned was now a man of forty-nine. He had a son of the same name, a youth in his middle teens, who became a soldier and took part in numerous battles. Since neither the *Archives of Maryland* nor other official records make any distinction between the names of the father and his son, and since both acquired military titles, confusion has arisen as to the part each played. But a careful study of all available records has yielded at least this general difference, — that Christian II, father of Christopher, "Peggy," and others, was a mature leader and organizer; that Christian III was a young soldier on the field. The activities of the former are mentioned in the *Journal and Correspondence of the Committee of Safety*.

The following quotations are taken from the *Minutes* of an early meeting of the Committee of Safety:

The committee met according to adjournment. Present Joseph Smith, Esq., in the chair, Samuel Hughes, Secretary, James Smith, C. Orndorff, T. Cox, C. Swearingen, Capts. Hager and Stull, C. Hogmire, G. Twingeley, J. Sellers, W. Yates, W. Rench and W. Baird.

Declared that the commissioned officers of the militia companies in this district attend at Elizabeth on the third Monday of this month in order to vote for persons to be recommended to the Council of Safety as field officers.

The committee met on the 11th of November, 1775, Col. Joseph Smith in the chair.

Agreed that Capts. Stull, Hogmire, Baker, Rench, Hughes, Hershner, Shyrock, Clapsaddle, be the first battalion, Capts. Orndorff, Shelley, Williams, Smith, Demond, Swearingen, Walling be the second battalion.

The Committee of Safety met frequently during

January and February, 1776, for the times were troublous and quick action was necessary. The *Minutes* for February 19 state:

The committee met according to adjournment the 19th of February. Present Maj. Joseph Smith in the chair, Col. John Stull, Majs. C. Swearingen and A. Rench, Capts. J. Sellars, C. Orndorff, C. Hogmire, Mr. John Rench.

Ordered that Mr. Moses Chapline be recommended by this committee to the Continental Congress as a fit person to take command of a company in the service of his country.

Ordered — That Lieutenant Colonel Smith of the Thirty-Sixth battalion be recommended to the Council of Safety or Convention of this Province as first colonel to said battalion . . . and Capt. Orendorff as lieutenant colonel to said battalion, and Jno. Reynolds* Captain and George Keefer first lieutenant to Capt. Orendorff's company.¹⁴

CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF

On April 20, 1776, two Orndorffs, Christian II and his oldest son, are mentioned as officers of the Maryland militia:

Saturday 20 April 1776

Council Met. Present as yesterday

Commissions issued . . . to Joseph Smith appointed Colonel of the 36th Battalion in the Room of Sam'l Beall who resigned, Richard Davis, Lieutenant Colonel, Charles

* John Reynolds of the "Sharpsburg Hundred" bought land between the Antietam and the village in 1761. He was appointed by the Committee of Observation to appraise wagons, horses, etc., for Col. Smith's battalion, but he resigned the next week. After his appointment on Feb. 19th, he served in the Flying Camp of the Seventh Division, but gave up his Commission in Dec. 1777. In the latter part of 1778, he set off for the "wilds of Kentucky," with his family. He was accompanied by Capt. Daniel Stull and others. They spent the winter near the banks of the Ohio, not far from Pittsburg. In March, 1779, they embarked in two boats for a destination far down the river. They were attacked by Indians and three men were killed, including Reynolds. The women and children were captured and carried to Canada. After much difficulty Washington was able to get their freedom and the remaining members of the family returned to Maryland by way of Philadelphia.¹⁵

Capt John
was son
of John
who bought
land
1761

Swearingen 1 Major, and Christian Orendorff 2d Major of said Battalion, also John Reynolds appointed Captain of a Company of Militia in the Upper District of Frederick County in the Room of Christian Orendorff appointed 2d Major of the 36th Battalion, Abraham Baker 1st Lieut and Christopher Orendorff 2d Lieut of said Company.¹⁵

At this time Christopher was twenty-three, was married, and had a four-months-old son. He was experienced in handling men and efficient in organization. As the war continued and calls were made for large amounts of grain and supplies, he no doubt felt that his services were needed in helping supply the needy Colonial Army. Wagon trains of supplies were sent to Baltimore, but soon British warships harassed this great harbor, and the Council of Maryland began to direct the movement of troops and supplies to Elk Creek. Here the harbor was completely surrounded by thick woods, and had the advantage of being near the Pennsylvania line and more convenient to Philadelphia. From it fast sailing vessels then entered Chesapeake Bay near Havre de Grace and were gone before the British knew it.

The following quotations from the *Journal* of the Maryland Council of Safety are suggestive:

Council to Veazey and Harrison . . . You will perceive by the inclosed resolves that your Company is to march immediately to Philadelphia, the service requires the utmost dispatch — we think twill be the most expeditious as well as convenient way to go to the Head of Elk by water, and therefore recommend it to you to endeavor to procure a vessel for the purpose of transporting your troops thither, if however you cannot get over immediately, you will march as speedily as possible — waggons will be ready for you at the Head of Elk to carry your Baggage, and a proper supply of Provisions to Philadelphia. . .

Council to Buchanan . . .

Sir. We are despatching the Troops from home to Philad^a including those from Baltimore, they will amount to 1000 men, and they are to go by water to the Head of Elk.

Council to Brigadier General Johnson.

We are exceedingly desirous of forwarding the Service all we can, and should carefully have sent forward Blankets and stockings, but we have them not, nor can we get enough of Blankets for the Hospitals; we will send up five hundred or a thousand pair of shoes by the first waggon we can get to be left at Frederick Town and delivered to you, or in your absence to your order; unless you should write us that they had better be sent to Christina Bridge, or the Head of Elk where we are of the opinion the Troops might more readily get them.

In Committee, Baltimore, Dec. 12th 1776.

By a letter rec^d by y^r Post from M^r S. Chase we are directed immediately to send up to the Head of Elk and Charles Town all the Craft that can be got in order to assist in bringing down the public Stores, the Sick & which were to be removed from Philad^a . . . ¹⁶

While his brother Christian was enduring the hardships of a British prison from November, 1776, to November, 1780, Christopher continued as an officer in the Maryland militia. The following records refer to this service:

Monday June 22, 1778.

Commissions issued to Joseph Smith Col, Charles Swearingen Lieut. Col, Christ. Orendorf Maj, [Christopher's father] James Smith Capt, Robert Smith 1st Lieut, Christian Eckle 2d Lieut, Peter Melott Ensign,

John Reynolds Capt, Christopher Orendorff Jun.* 1st Lieut, William Walker 2nd Lieut, Joseph Reynolds, son of

* "Jun," evidently an error. Christian, Jr., was in the Continental Army at this time, while Christopher was serving in the Washington County militia.

John, Ensign . . . belonging to the second Battalion of Militia in Washington Co

Thursday Sept 20, 1781.

Ordered that the [Western Shore] Treasurer pay to Capt. Christopher Orendorff fifteen pounds of the Bills under the Act for the Emission of Bills of Credit and of the money appropriated for the present campaign for Stores on Account.

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Sept. 20, 1781. That the said Treasurer pay to Capt. Christ^r Orendorff six Gallons of Rum and twenty-four pounds of sugar.¹⁷

If the British had come into Maryland, as they did into the Blue Ridge region of the Carolinas, Christopher and his father would doubtless have led the militia into the front lines.

The father, Major Christian Orndorff, was consuming many hours each week in the meetings of the Committee of Observation. This busy committee would adjourn in the evening to meet again at seven the next morning. And when the Post brought an urgent letter regarding the contereiters or deserters a special meeting would be called for the afternoon. This left little time for the Major's private business. Although at least one miller was constantly employed, the general management of the mills and the directing of wagon trains would devolve upon a member of the family. The only son who could take this responsibility was Christopher.

HAGERSTOWN, THE NEW COUNTY SEAT

When Washington County was organized in 1776, Hagerstown and Sharpsburg, the two oldest towns in the County, were strong rivals for the County Seat. An election was held and Sharpsburg lost by one vote. Jon-

athan Hager, Junior, as a youth of twenty, rode down to Annapolis and, as one writer put it, "had his town made the County Town." Later developments would make us believe that Jonathan may have stopped at Mt. Pleasant on his way home to get a glimpse, perchance, of Major Orndorff's young daughter Mary. Jonathan and his sister, Rosanna, had often visited on the plantation, but now it was different. He had enlisted, and received his appointment and was soon going to the front. They were leaving for New York in July and this might be the last trip to Mt. Pleasant. One can imagine him reining up by the spring and finding Mary there to greet him. Still a child, but how charming he thought her to be. Mary seemed to sense the situation, for she had always admired the comely Jonathan. She was also knitting socks for her brother, Christian, who was leaving at the same time. Why must all the youths leave the valley for posts of duty so far away?

THE FLYING CAMP

Christian Orndorff III, while still quite young, served as an officer in the Maryland militia, and at the age of sixteen entered the Continental Army as an officer in one of its most famous organizations.

The record of the Committee of Safety for July 3, 1776, refers to him as a member of the local militia:

Ordered, That the Western Shore pay	
John Reynolds, Capt. (Fredk.)	£69.15
Moses Chapline, 1 Lt.	46.10
Christian Orandorff, 2 Lt.	46.10 ¹⁸

But on June 3, 1776, the Continental Congress, realizing the danger that threatened the Colonies in the British plan of concentration at New York, made pro-

vision for a "Flying Camp." This organization received its name from the expected rapidity of its movements and its unusual freedom from accoutrements. The Resolution of the Continental Congress is thus stated:

Resolved, that a flying camp be immediately established in the middle colonies, and that it consist of 10000 men, to complete which number,

Resolved, That the colony of Pennsylvania be requested to furnish of their militia 6000, Maryland of their militia 3400, Delaware government of their militia 600.¹⁹

When the notice of this action reached Western Maryland, twelve officers were commissioned in Frederick County. Among these was the youth, Christian Orndorff:

Frederick County — Upper District

Capt. John Reynolds

1st Lt. Moses Chapline

2nd Lt. Christian Orndorff

Ensign Nathan Williams July 18, 1776 ²⁰

The young lieutenant became active in enlisting other soldiers, and soon the new companies were on their way to the front:

Enlisted by Lieu. Christian Orndorff, July 20th. Passed by Joseph Smith, 22 men.²¹

Ordered that Col. Chas. Greenbury Griffith march his battalion in detachments or Companies, as they shall be armed and accoutered to the city of Philadelphia subject to the Order of Congress — Christian Orendorff commissioned 2nd Lieut. July 20, 1776 of the above Battalion.²²

Wednesday Aug 7, 1776.

Ordered that the Commissary deliver to Col. Griffith 588 Knapsacks and Haversacks, 110 Camp Kettles, 105 Tents, 678 priming Wires with Brushes, 658 Canteens — 50 lb Gun-powder and lead in proportion, 100 Gun flints,

and as many CARTOUCH Boxes with Slings, Bayonet Belts, and Gun Slings, not exceeding 588 of each, as may be necessary for his Corps.²³

The career of Christian Orndorff III was connected with several strategic battles. By forced marches, the Maryland troops were able to join Washington's army in New York at a very critical time. The British forces under the command of General Howe were well equipped and were ably supported by a naval force under his brother, Admiral Lord Howe. After the British fleet doubled Long Island and anchored within cannon shot of New York, Washington retired to the Heights of Harlem. Christian served at Harlem Heights and later was stationed at Fort Washington, on Manhattan Island, five miles north of the city, one of three thousand men under Colonel Magaw. On November 16, 1776, the British attacked Fort Washington with an overwhelming force. After a stubborn resistance, the little garrison was forced to surrender. Young Orndorff and his comrades were thrust into the prisons of New York, where they remained until they were exchanged.²⁴

SERVICE AS A SPY

Christian was returned to the American forces on November 1, 1780, and joined the Sixth Maryland Regiment as Captain. Receiving a short leave of absence the following summer, he visited his father on the Mt. Pleasant plantation near Sharpsburg. Just at this time a group of lawless men in the Blue Ridge Mountains had developed a strong Tory confederacy, and he played the chief rôle in breaking up an important conspiracy. The following quotations from documents in the *Archives of Maryland* tell the tale:

June (Christ. Orendorff. Information ab't the Conspiracy in Washington and Fred. Countys).

Inform — of Christian Orendorff —

About a Fortnit ago Henry Newcomer of Washington County came to him in Sharpsburgh and called him out of his Father's House and asked what he thought of these times, answered the Times were very bad & precarious — he then asked if he thought the King would over-come this Country answered he thought he might. I'm sure he will overcome the Country and Orndorff if you can keep it a secret I lead you into a Matter of great Importance answered he would he said we have raised a Body of Men for the Service of the King and we thought proper to make applⁿ to you to go to N. York for a Fleet, asked how many Men they had raised he said upwards of 6000 asked who was the Commanding officer of the Party, answered one Fritchey of Fred. Town a Dutch Man dont know his Christian Name — ordered Orndorf to go to his House and he would show him the Man, went to his House and rode with him to Fred. Town but did not go to Fritchey's House. Newcomer informed him Fritchey would not see him in Town but would meet him ten Miles from Town — he met him and then took him aside and said he understood Orndorff was let in to a Matter that was carrying on now. Orndorf said to him I understand you are the commanding officer Fritchey said he was and told Orndorf the name of the Man in Virginia from whom he received Instructions to recruit but has forgot the name — asked why they pitched upon him, said because he had been *in N. York so long* they thought he was the fittest Person if he would undertake — though they were not quite ready for a Thing of that sort. Orndorf desired him to get the Names of all the officers which he promised to do — before they parted Fritchey told him not to disclose what he had Communicated. Orndorf replied he would sooner sacrifice his life than do it —

Orndorf told him to get ready as soon as he could and let him know it and he said he would & as soon as he was Orndorf should be informed of it — and then he said some of his officers were so violent for it, that he was afraid it

would be made public — asked who they were he said one Kelly a Lawyer & an Irishman who lives in the mountains about twelve or fourteen miles from Fred. Town — had no further Conversation with Fritch —

After Orndorf rode four or five miles along the main Road Newcomer said Orndorf you look so dead Im afraid you ruin the matter, answered not at all Sir — says keep it a Secret whatever you do, for we will soon give these Fellows a dam Threshing — said as we were not ready I must send my Boy up the South Mountain and let them Know. We are not ready yet. Our Boys are so violent we can hardly keep them in, said he sent an Express last week to Lancaster to hush them a little while longer — he slapt Orndorf on the shoulder and said I am so glad as if I had £10000 we have got you Orndorf for they could not get one so proper for the Expedition as you are — said we have consulted one another a good while and were afraid to mention the Matter on your Father's Account as we know him to be a violent Rebel and then they parted and Newcomer went towards Hagerstown. Newcomer lives within five or six miles of Hager's Town.

Two or three days after Orndorf got Home, Bleacher one of the Captains came to him and called him out aside and said I understand you are let into a Secret that is going on now — answered he was and said I suppose you are one of the officers. Bleacher said he was, Orndorf asked him what Rank he was — he answered a Captain — Orndorf asked how many men he had recruited he said he had fifty men, Orndorf asked him to let him look at his Warr^t he said he had it not about him and made it a Rule not to carry it about him. Orndorf asked him to put it in his pocket and bring it to his House and show it to him, he said he would — and then Orndorf asked him how he managed to make known his Doings to those he wanted to join him he said he had applied to twenty that had refused him and asked Orndorf how he thought he must have felt after being refused — said to Orndorf you are acquainted with our Secrets and if you expose them you must abide by the Consequences Orndorf asked him how he thought they would do if he

went & brought the Fleet to George Town for you have no arms Bleacher said they would mount on Horses and ride down there and receive their arms for the Troops . . . and further said he could take the Magazine in Fred. Town with their Man — and then they parted.

Orndorf was at one Tinkles (who lives nigh to Kelly) who told him Jacob Young was informed of the Matter, made answer and said why is Jacob Young informed of the Matter—he said he was—Orndorf said why Jacob Young will certainly expose the Matter for he is a Magistrate, he said he would not.

COUNCIL CIRCULAR TO LIEUTS. OF FREDERICK AND
WASHINGTON COUNTY

Enclosed you have Warrants to apprehend Henry Newcomer of Washington County, Fritchey* of Frederick Town, Kelly of Frederick County, Bleachy of Washington and Tinkles near Kelly, whose going at large we have the strongest reason to believe from the information of Capt. Orndorff is dangerous and may be detrimental to the State. The Capt. intends to have another interview with them and converse fully on the Subject. He thinks they repose the utmost confidence in him and will disclose all their views and mention the names of the principal Persons concerned in the Plot . . . We wish you would see Capt. Orndorff and talk with him.

June 10 — Council Circular., Lieuts. of Fred. and Washington County.

Late last night and after our Dispatches of yesterday were closed a Law for the Trial of Spies, and such as may join the Enemy, was enacted by the Legislature, a copy

* Seven men were convicted of high treason and sentenced to be hung, including Yost Plecker and Casper Frietchie. Four were pardoned and three executed, one of these being "Fritchey," the leader in Frederick County who had been promised the rank of Colonel in the British Army. He was the father of John Casper Frietchie, the husband of Barbara Frietchie who became the heroine of Whittier's poem. She was a Pennsylvania German born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in December, 1766, a daughter of Michael and Catherine Hauer.

(These German names are spelled differently, according to whether the one spelling it spelled it by sound or not, omitting letters when one saw fit.)

whereof you have enclosed. Such a Law has been for a Long Time necessary, and it has been now hastened from the Information of Orndorff.

June 17 — Red Book #27 Letter 95 —

(Thomas Sprigg, Co'ty Lt. Hagers Town to the Council) (for'd by Capt — Morgan.)

I rec'd your Hon^{rs} favor by Captⁿ Orndorf of the 9th and 10th before his return the Conspiracy was discovered and several persons apprehended Among^t them the two persons mention'd in yours of the 9th Henry Newcomer and Yost Pleacker. I've been busy exam^g evidences for several days and find A great No are concerned in this Co^{ty} Many in Virg^a some in Fred^k Co^{ty} there is about 30 in Goal and expect the Guards every moment that are detach'd for 50 or 60 more. . . . They confess very freely. They say they expect and desire to be hang'd and I pray God that they may not be disappointed.²⁵

The Revolutionary records for 1780-81 also reveal the following:

Arrangements of Maryland line in five Regts; January 1st, 1781. 1st Regiment Capt. Christian Orndorff.

That the Commissary of Stores deliver to Capt. Christian Orndorff Cloth and Trimming for a suit of Cloathe and Linen for four shirts due him for the year 1780.

Thursday 11th July 1782 That the said Treasurer pay to Christian Orndorff thirty pounds agreeable to a Resolution of this Board of the 22nd of July 1781 — Sixty Pounds in lieu of the two suits of cloaths and eight shirts for the last and present years and Twenty Pounds, fourteen shillings of the same Emission for Stores to the first Instant on account.²⁶

From the records in the War Department and the Pension Office, the following summary has been made of the service of Christian Orndorff III in the Continental Army:

Christian Orndorff was commissioned on July 18, 1776, and served in Captain Reynold's Company in the Flying

Camp. He was in the battles of Harlem Heights (October, 1776) and White Plains. At the surrender of Fort Washington he was taken prisoner, and so continued until November 1, 1780, when he was exchanged and joined the Sixth Maryland Regiment as Captain, having received an appointment as Captain April 1, 1778. He was at the surrender of Cornwallis, serving until the close of the war.²⁷

HENRY ORNDORFF

Henry Orndorff, the third son of Christian Orndorff, also served in the American Revolution. But, since he did not enlist until the close of the war, few records have been preserved of his service. On Friday, January 12, 1781, Henry is listed as Captain in Col. Peter Adam's Regiment:

That the said Treasurer pay to Col. Peter Adams for the use of the following officers each.

Thirty pounds of the Emission allowed them by the Resolution of the General Assembly of the 30th of December last.

Captain Henry Orndorff, John Boone.²⁸

CHAPTER V

ACHIEVEMENT

While his three sons were serving their country in various capacities, Christian Orndorff found it necessary to keep the flour mills running at full capacity, for large shipments of flour were needed by the Colonial Army. A month before the Battle of Yorktown the following message was received by officers in Western Maryland:

Sept. 20, 1781 — Council to Colo. Thomas Price and Colo. Moses Rawlings.

General Washington writes in the most urgent Manner to hasten to him without a Moments Delay all the Flour that can possibly be procured, as his Army is in a Manner Starving for want of Bread. Under such repeated and Pressing Necessity we earnestly request you to exert yourself and employ others and impress if necessary whatever Waggon, Teams and Drivers you can possibly procure, and without a Moment's Loss of Time. We rely on your Zeal and Industry at this Important Juncture.¹

As Darius Orndorff, his great grandson, later remarked:

His early training, thorough knowledge of human nature, and his position in life made Christian a very useful and influential member of the Colonies, before, during, and after their war for independence.²

Through his successful milling interests founded on honest business policies, Major Christian Orndorff had won the respect and confidence of his neighbors and friends in the Antietam Valley. As an active member of the Committee of Observation, he gave time and careful



ORNDORFF BRIDGE NEAR SHARPSBURG
(Conestoga Wagons Crossing the Antietam)

thought to the execution of the new responsibilities thus thrust upon him. His home was the scene of many conferences, and his advice was sought on the many vital issues of the day.

With the formation of the State government, the Committee of Observation went out of existence, but Christian Orndorff still felt a deep concern for the welfare of the new republic. He welcomed with generous hospitality all of those who wished to discuss with him the great national issues of the day. For the time was rapidly approaching that should determine the control of the great West. There was still great anxiety, indeed, lest Spain or Great Britain should continue their dominating influence in the western hemisphere. That Orndorff's home was a popular place in the Antietam Valley is shown by the following references from histories of Western Maryland:

Major Christian Orndorff, a distinguished citizen of the County, was a man of wealth and great hospitality. Many officers of the Revolutionary Army in traveling between the North and the South crossed the Potomac at the Shepherdstown Ford and many of them spent the night at Major Orndorffs. Among these was General Horatio Gates,* who during one of these stoppages became desperately enamored of Miss Mary Orndorff who was at that time but fifteen years of age and distinguished for her great beauty.⁴

* Shepherdstown was on a mountain road through primitive forest, across murmuring brooks and cool gurgling streams.

Gen. Gates owned a plantation five or six miles beyond the Potomac River near Shenandoah, Virginia.

During the Revolution "Old Pack Horse Ford," one mile below Shepherdstown, was the only crossing E. or W. of Shepherdstown. The river was forded one mile S. of Shepherdstown or three miles from Sharpsburg. On April 30, 1755, British soldiers under Braddock, on the way from Fredericktown, Md., to Va., crossed the Potomac at the Old Pack Horse Ford. By way of this ford came the Germans from Pa. who found a gateway to the fertile land south of the Potomac. During the Civil War the ford was known as Blackford's Ford.³

Christian Orndorff was a man of German extraction, and lived in great state on his plantation near Sharpsburg. He was a handsome man of commanding presence, and very free and genial in his manners. He kept open house and dispensed a generous but by no means ostentatious hospitality. He reared eleven children, all of whom were educated with unusual care. Mr. Orndorff served in the Revolutionary Army attaining the rank of major, and all the officers of the Continental army passing to and fro from the theatre of war were received and entertained with the utmost cordiality. Upon one occasion when General Horatio Gates was a guest of Maj. Orndorff, Mary Magdalene, a daughter of the host, passed him in the hall without seeing him, and entered the parlor to view herself in a large mirror there. She was very young and had on a new cap of the latest style and doubtless wished to see if it was becoming. As she passed him, General Gates turned to her father and exclaimed, "Who is that lovely creature?" Maj. Orndorff replied, "That is my daughter." At Gen. Gates request she was placed at the teatable so that he could see her. A few days later Gen. Gates proposed through her father, to make her his wife, but as she was of a somewhat romantic temperament she could not reconcile herself to a marriage with a person as old as her father, and promptly rejected him. On the same manner, while stopping at Maj. Orndorff's house on his way from the scene of military operations, Col. Jonathan Hager met Mary Orndorff and surrendered at discretion. He was, however, more fortunate in his suit than Gen. Gates, for he paid his addresses one day and married the next.⁵

JONATHAN HAGER, JR.

Jonathan Hager, Jr., had enlisted at nineteen, fought in the battle of Long Island, was captured in August by the British and sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here he remained for a long time in a Canadian prison. His career was strangely unlucky, for his active service lasted only a month, and thereafter he remained in a

dark dungeon or as a prisoner of war under naval guard.

After a year of close confinement in Nova Scotia, his brother-in-law, General Daniel Heister, visited him in August, 1777, for the purpose of securing a "love gift" of 1400 acres of the Hager estate to his sister, Rosanna, with a life interest to the General. The general achieved his purpose. But the irony of fate was not complete. Young Hager promised a guard five hundred pounds to secure his release, only to find that he was playing into the hands of a British spy. Immediately a special guard was placed over him and he found himself cruising around the Atlantic in a British War Ship. He was not returned to Halifax until a month before the proclamation of peace.⁶

On his return to Washington County, he was acclaimed a hero and promptly feted with huge bonfires appropriate for the homecoming of the "Proprietor" of Hagerstown. The following day he wed the beautiful Mary Orndorff, and they took up their residence in the stone house at the northeast corner of the square, formerly occupied by his father.⁷ Scharf says:

His marriage to Mary Magdalena, the daughter of Major Christian and Elizabeth Ann (Hoffman) Ohrendorff of Pleasant Valley, Md., occurred November 17, 1783. Their daughter Elizabeth "proprietess" of Hagerstown married Upton Lawrence, whose daughter married Robert James Brent. Captain Hager died of disease, Dec. 18, 1798, contracted in a dungeon in Nova Scotia.⁸

Mary Orndorff Hager as a widow was courted by the famous lawyer, Luther Martin, the defender of Aaron Burr. But she rejected him on account of his intemperate habits and married Col. Henry Lewis. Scharf further adds:

Hagerstown was the centre of an exceptionally refined and highly cultivated society. In addition to the intelligent German families, who had settled in the vicinity or in the town itself, it had received valuable accessions from the wealthiest and most aristocratic of the leading Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore families. The period was one of fine dress and courtly equipage . . . On one occasion Mrs. Jonathan Hager wore plum colored satin trimmed with fine black lace and cord and tassels. Her wardrobe also included a bewildering assortment of silk and satin costumes, the colors comprising old gold, black, bronze, sage, and other hues which the English renaissance had made fashionable once more; light blue satin scarfs with trimming of lace and ribbons, capes trimmed with down, a green camel's hair shawl, with green bonnet to match, brocades of light blue and deep pink, embroidered with bunches of flowers, etc.

Among the leading citizens of Washington County . . . and one of the most conspicuous figures in the social, legal and political circles of Hagerstown was Upton Lawrence, a gentleman of exceptional talents and of a high standard of moral and intellectual attainments. Upton Lawrence married Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Jonathan Hager . . . Mrs. Lawrence, like her mother, the gifted Mary Orndorff, was lovely in person and character, and was one of the Belles of Hagerstown.

The daughters of Upton S. Lawrence and Elizabeth were Mary Ann Hoffman, Elizabeth Ann Lawrence and Martha West Lawrence. They retained the original plat of Hagerstown, the gold watch of Jonathan Hager, Sr., and many articles of clothing worn by Jonathan Hager, Jr., including some massive engraved silver shoe buckles, a gold ring set with a ruby and diamonds, a handsome silver stock-buckle set with brilliants and attached to a stock of black lace and blue satin, a brooch of brilliants for the shirt . . . a full dress suit of lace and ruffles. This costume consisted of two vests — one of white satin embroidered with spangles and colored silks, and the other of apple-green

silk . . . They also had the jewels, silver and gold plate used by Mary Orndorff Hager.⁹

CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF BUILDS MILLS

Christopher Orndorff, during the American Revolution, had married a German girl, Mary Thomas,¹⁰ who lived on an adjoining plantation. He purchased land near his father and assisted him in the selling of the large quantities of flour which the Antietam mills produced. In 1782-1783 Christopher built new mills near the Mt. Pleasant homestead.

When the last of these mills was razed in 1904 cornerstones were discovered which give information concerning their construction. The first stone bears the date Sept. 2, 1782, and the initials C.O. and M.O. Another stone * was set up six feet distant with this data: "June 20, 1783. Chr. Orendorff" and a verse in German script.

The *Hagerstown Globe* thus refers to the Orndorff Mill:

An Old Landmark Torn Down

The old stone and weatherboarded grist mill, which for 122 years stood along the historic Antietam at the bridge between Keedysville and Sharpsburg, was recently torn down. The old mill was built in 1782 by Christopher Orndorff. In the southwest gable, 20 feet above the ground was a large stone on which was carved the following:

1782, Sept. 2, C.O. M.O.

This was supposed to mean Christopher Orndorff and Mary Orndorff. Six feet distant from the stone on a coating of Plaster of Paris set in a recess in the wall — two

* This cornerstone is in the yard of Mt. Pleasant today, on the present Louis Lohman farm. It rests on a stone ledge 30 feet from the front gate and 20 feet from the side of the house that is shown in the illustration.¹¹

feet long, one foot wide and three inches deep was the following well preserved inscription in German script:

June 20, 1783. Chr. Orndorff
 Allein auf Gott sets dein vertrauen
 Wanen thust eine mühle bauen,
 Auf euschen hilf, verlase dich nicht,
 Sonst euschen hilf darf du nicht trauen.

This was translated as follows:

In God alone put your trust
 When you do build a mill
 Do not rely on outside help,
 For on outside help you dare not trust.¹²

SLAVES

The Orndorffs, like many of their German and Scotch-Irish neighbors, did not believe heartily in slavery and as a rule held only a few house servants or an extra man to do odd jobs at the mill. Later several of Christian's grandsons who migrated to Kentucky held such a dislike for slavery that they went on to the prairies of Illinois to avoid an undesirable environment for their growing families. They preferred white labor, hiring millers and other artisans to assist them in their varied activities.

Christian Orndorff only mentions two negroes in his Will, and an inventory of his estate lists "1 Negro Man 1 Negro Woman £50."¹³

On October 3, 1789, Christopher buys "Negro Nell and her issue for sixty pounds current money." In his Will probated many years later in Kentucky Christopher only lists one slave and makes provision for her freedom.¹⁴

Thomas Hogg, a Scotch neighbor, owned a plantation called Park Hall. Before his death in 1791, Hogg



Photograph by B. W. Phraener

ORNDORFF MILL ON THE ANTIETAM

Of the mills that Christian II and Christopher conducted on Antietam Creek, this one remained standing the longest. It was finally razed for its large stones, which made valuable building material.

The mill must have been a busy place in the days when it sent out wagon trains of wheat to the Colonial Army and to the harbor piers of Baltimore.

made Christopher Orndorff his administrator. Numerous bequests were made to young people in the neighborhood, with the three oldest sons of Christopher receiving the rest of the estate. Hogg made specific provisions for the care of his old slaves and the freeing of the able bodied negroes.¹⁵

Aaron Orendorff, the youngest of Christopher's sons who received a share in this estate, was a lad of seven at this time, but he must have retained a strong impression of the jolly old Scotchman who had accumulated much property but couldn't write his name, for he later named his oldest son Thomas Hogg Orendorff. It was also Aaron who did not want his sons to grow up in a slave state "on account of the low moral condition of the African race,"¹⁶ and who emphasized his conviction by moving into free territory.

There were often large German landholders in Western Maryland who held only a few slaves, while plantation owners of English and French extraction often owned many more slaves accordingly. A study of the list of "households" given in the United States Census for Washington County, Maryland, does reveal this tendency.

Christopher and his father were closely associated in business at this time and lived near each other. Their households seem to have been given together under Christopher's name. Christian III owned land in Virginia at this time, but must have removed there later as he is not listed in the Virginia Census for 1790. Christopher's children as well as those of his brothers were all under sixteen at this time, so the males over sixteen must have included the white artisans living on their plantations. Christopher had two younger brothers, Jacob and John, living at home at this time and

two sisters, Barbara and Rose. The following lists consist of items selected from the:

UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1790, MARYLAND
WASHINGTON COUNTY
HOUSEHOLDS

Jonathan Hager — 1 male, 4 free white females, no slaves.

Christopher Orendorff — 4 males over 16, 6 under 16, 4 females, 7 slaves.

Christian Orendorff — 2 free white males over 16, 1 under 16, 2 females, 4 slaves.

Henry Orendorff — 2 free white males over 16, 1 under 16, 3 females, 2 slaves.

John Rohrer — 2 free white males of 16 years or over, 1 male under 16, 2 free white females, 1 slave.

Jacob Rohrer — 1 free white male, 5 white males under 16, 6 free white females.

Jacob Rohrer — 3 males over 16, 3 under 16, 4 females, 3 slaves.

John Barnes	— 75 slaves
Thomas Belt	— 17 slaves
Charles Carroll	— 33 slaves
Joseph Chapline	— 19 slaves
Thomas Crampton	— 7 slaves
John Downey	— 8 slaves
James Ford	— 9 slaves
Jonas Hogmire	— 20 slaves
James Howard	— 15 slaves
Denton Jacques	— 19 slaves
Andrew Rentch	— 15 slaves
John Ritchie	— 48 slaves
Henry Schnabely	— 11 slaves
George Scott	— 18 slaves
Henry Shyrock	— 7 slaves
Robert Smith	— 8 slaves
Thomas Sprigg	— 44 slaves
John Stull	— 10 slaves
Charles Swearingen	— 11 slaves

Ignatius Taylor	— 54 slaves
James Walling	— 9 slaves ¹⁷

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S VISIT

On October 20, 1790, the social life of Hagerstown was stirred by the visit of George Washington. He had been in the county several times before, but on this occasion he came in the rôle of the President of the United States to make an inspection of the Potomac Company. The militia and the officers of the American Revolution made a colorful parade as they formed several miles out of Hagerstown and marched into the County Seat. Captain Rezin Davis of the light-horse, Major Orndorff, and other prominent citizens of the county met the distinguished visitor about two o'clock in the afternoon and escorted him to Hagerstown, where they were met by a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Ott. The President was then conducted down the street that ever afterwards bore his name. As the people lined the sidewalks and filled the windows and doors along the line of procession, bells pealed musically over the town, adding to the enthusiasm of the crowd. In the evening a banquet was served at Beltzhoover's tavern and toasts were given to the "President of the United States," "The River Potomac," "American Manufactures" and "Commerce and Manufactures." * ¹⁸

ACROSS THE OHIO

The Indian troubles arose in the West again in the

* The first monument erected to George Washington was built on the "Blue Rocks" on the top of South Mountain near Boonesboro in July, 1827. It was fifty-four feet in circumference at its base. The wall was composed of huge stones. A flight of steps led to the top, where the fertile fields of Washington County and Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia, furnished a landscape teeming with life and wealth.

early nineties. The *Washington Spy* of May 11, 1791, carried the announcement that levies were being made in the State for service against the Western Indians. Captain Lewis issued this appeal:

All able bodied men who are willing to render service to their country for six months, will have an opportunity to see a new country, free from all expenses, by applying at drum head in Hagerstown, where they shall have all their bounty and be taken into pay.¹⁹

By the first of June two hundred recruits had been enlisted; on the twelfth two companies marched across the Ohio to aid in subduing the Indians.

Christian Orndorff III, who volunteered and joined a company as a Major, went with his comrades into the Miami Valley.²⁰ He evidently returned to Maryland with the conviction that the well established Orndorff mills in Washington County had markets not to be surpassed in the wilderness of the West and Northwest, for years to come. Later his nephew, Captain John Orndorff, very prominent in the Kentucky history of the family, also made a trip into the Miami Valley, but he also failed to find a suitable place for the location of a mill. There are no land records of patents taken out by the Orndorffs across the Ohio, although Dayton was established as early as 1796. Their attention was still focused on their varied activities in Washington County and in the markets of Georgetown and Baltimore.

SPECIAL LAND TRANSACTIONS

On April 2, 1785, Christopher had purchased from Francis Reynolds

Three parcels of land . . . Part Anderson's Delight, Part of John's Chance and Abstones Forest for 1186 pounds,

five shillings, which the said John Reynolds, Sr., Deceased by Will dated March 22, 1784 willed to his son Francis . . . one half of his real estate in lands.²¹

In 1791 Christian Orndorff II sold the plantation, Mt. Pleasant, to his sons Christopher and Henry, giving each a part of the large tract. It will be recalled that at the time that Christian bought this land from James Smith in 1762, it included 503 acres of Smith's Hills and eleven acres of Porto Sancto, a total of 514 acres. Now, in 1791, he deeded to Christopher 303 acres of the Smith's Hills tract, and the eleven-acre tract adjoining; and to Henry, the remaining 200 acres of Smith's Hills.

The deed for Christopher's land was made on May 2, and specifies 2,500 pounds as the price that he paid. The land is described thus:

. . . the first tract of land being parte of the resurvey on Smiths Hills and beginning for said parte at bounded white Oake it being the original beginning of Henry Orndorff's part of Smiths Hills . . . to the beginning of Henry Orndorff's part of Smiths Hills as was surveyed to him by James Smith and with the outline of said deed North 46 degrees . . . west 36 perches and containing 303 acres.

*this
ground
was on
Smith's
Hills
see deed
p 22*

Second tract of land called Porto Sancto lying and adjoining Potomac River . . . to Piles Delight containing 11 acres of land except one hundred feet square of a burying ground on the west side of Antietum Creek.²²

The deed for Henry's portion was dated August 20 of the same year, gives the price as 1400 pounds, and describes the tract thus:

. . . being parte of a tract of land called the resurvey of Smith's Hills . . . running with outline of the whole tract . . . south . . . to intersect the given line of a tract of land called Vultons Grove . . . to the Bank of Antietum Creek and then down to the East bank of Said Creek S 38 degrees

W 20 perches . . . then across the Creek N 58 degrees . . . then by a division line between the said Henry and Christopher Orndorff, 200 acres . . . let the said run called Sharpsburg run 3 days in week forever from the first day of April, until the last of October hereafter through his the said Henry Orndorffs ditches . . . made for the use of watering the meadow . . . a full passage into a Ditch made for the use of watering Christopher Orndorffs Meadow.²³

The mills were on Christopher's land, and so his father, in this transaction, turned over to him the business which the two had carried on for many years together.

Furthermore, on the same day that Christian Orndorff II sold the last of Mt. Pleasant to his son Henry, he bought from Christopher a smaller plantation — the one which Christopher had bought from Reynolds a few years earlier. Here he took up his residence, and on this farm he died six years later. It is recorded that he paid Christopher

. . . 1186 pounds 6 shillings for three parcels of land, Anderson's Delight, part of Johns Chance and Absence Forrest lying Contiguous to each other and reduced to one tract of 182½ acres.²⁴

At the same time, Christopher was increasing his holdings from outside the family as well as from within, becoming its most landed member. In June, 1791, he secured a special warrant to resurvey Vulton's Grove, containing 100 acres, and added 72 acres and three-quarters of an acre of vacant land. He paid the treasurer of the Western Shore thirteen pounds, twelve shillings and tenpence current money caution, also eleven pounds fifteen shillings "for some improvements thereon."²⁵

On August 20 Christopher bought Valtimo Grove, 100 acres, for 410 pounds. In October he sold to Henry Botler the tract of land called "Poppler Spring" for 1500 pounds. This was a part of a tract of land called Park Hall,

That I have a right by the last will and testament of Thomas Hogg deceased to sell . . . only two acres excepted and laid off to build a church and school house.²⁶

CHAPTER VI

INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS

The Orndorffs were of a mechanical turn of mind, and from the first were always intrigued by any new labor-saving device that might help them in their farming, their milling, or, later, might develop their own inventions and manufacturing interests in Kentucky. In all probability they attended the successful demonstration of Rumsey's novel steamboat at Shepherdstown, three miles west of Sharpsburg. A large part of the machinery had been constructed at the Antietam Iron Works. George Washington wrote in his *Diary* on September 6, 1784:

Remained at Bath all day and was showed the Model of a Boat constructed by the ingenious Mr. Rumsey, for ascending rapid currents by mechanism.¹

The Rumsey monument erected in Shepherdstown in 1915 gives this story:

In honor of James Rumsey, inventor of the steamboat who in October A. D. 1783 on the Potomac river, near the mouth Sir John's Run, made the first successful application of steam to the practical purpose of navigation and who on December 3, 1787, made a further successful demonstration on the Potomac river at Shepherdstown, Virginia, about 300 yards above this site.

At this time there were very aggressive manufacturing groups in Hagerstown. William Reynolds conducted a copper and tinning establishment until he removed to Baltimore. William Heyser was a copper-smith, and John Geisner who fought in the Miami cam-

paigh had a brass foundry opposite the Beltzhooover tavern.²

The deep rich soil of Washington County produced large quantities of flax. The women hackled, spun, and wove at home stout linen, which, dyed in many colors, secured a ready market. This hemp was also used in the ropewalks of Hagerstown. Col. Thomas Hart conducted one of the principal ropewalks and made well ropes, mill ropes, bed cords, etc.³

The cost of importing shoes, nails, and other commodities was very high and encouraged early development of industries within the county. Yet the personnel of the community, being largely Teutonic, was so aggressive in work and so skilled in both farming and industrial crafts, that they developed their industries beyond the bounds of home consumption and contributed to the export trade of Baltimore.

In the first tabulation of manufactures in the United States Census Report of 1810, Washington County compares favorably with New York and Massachusetts:

4 fulling mills made 17,000 yards of cloth valued at \$17,000.

19 tanneries.

41 manufacturing shoes, valued at \$50,759.

8 hatteries made 14,380 hats.

52 flour mills produced 86,250 bbls. of flour valued at \$819,375.

Forges valued at \$75,200.⁴

TRADE EAST AND WEST

Among the growing industries were the Orndorff flour mills, conducted by Christian Orndorff II and his son, Christopher. Although these mills were located along the western border of the populated sec-

tion of the county, much of their trade was with the coast. Probably a little of their flour went west, in the half-barrels used by pioneers to carry flour on the back of pack-horses to Fort Pitt,⁵ and thence to those wilderness men who were prevented by the Indians from raising their own small grain.

But we know that large amounts went east in long wagon trains. Nearly every week these wagon trains were sent from the Orndorff mills to the coast, eighty miles away. The large Conestoga or covered wagons were used to carry the flour, tobacco, and other products of their plantation to Baltimore.

During the American Revolution the Proprietary Governor and Royal Collector in Annapolis stopped functioning, and Baltimore gained the prestige of being the leading port. A lucrative trade in tobacco was developed with Germany, France, and Holland, while the trade with Spain and Portugal greatly increased. The French Revolution initiated new demands for flour, and, with the entry of Napoleon into French politics, the foreign trade of Baltimore was further expanded. As a climax, the revolution in San Domingo resulted in flour selling at nine and ten dollars a barrel.

The *Baltimore Clipper* greatly stimulated trade during this period. For this swift craft could dart into European ports and out again, thus evading capture. Among the exports from Baltimore between October 1, 1789, and July 1, 1790, we find the following:

Bread	5,558 bbls.
Flour	127,284 bbls.
Tobacco	9,442 hhds.
Wheat	228,062 bushels ⁶

Between 1790 and 1800 Baltimore more than doub-

led her population, but increased her exports seven-fold. The following figures show the relative financial and commercial growth of our chief American cities in export trade:

	1792	1798
Philadelphia	\$8,000,000	\$10,000,000
New York	5,500,000	13,000,000
Baltimore	2,500,000	10,000,000 ⁷

Baltimore had thus become a leading commercial port, and ships were loaded at her wharves for Trinidad, Lisbon and other ports. The increasing value of the Baltimore export trade was one of the main factors that held Christopher Orndorff in the East until the nineteenth century. For, with Spain in control of New Orleans, the markets of the West were paralyzed.

THE WASHINGTON SPY

The first number of the *Washington Spy*, a four page sheet, 10x15½ inches, was issued on January 1, 1790.⁸ The advertisements listed in this paper during the early nineties reveal many unique local industries.

In 1801, a Peter Orndorff conducted a stage route from Hagerstown to Frederick, Maryland. He announced in the *Spy* of June 9, 1802, that he had gone to considerable expense to arrange for running two stages a week to Baltimore. They would leave the Indian Queen Stage Office at Baltimore every Tuesday and Saturday at 4 o'clock and arrive at Frederick at 6 p. m., leaving there the next morning at 4 o'clock and arriving at Hagerstown at 4 p. m.⁹

Another item of interest reads:

Fulling, dying, and coloring of all kinds, the business of John Rohrer, son of Jacob, near Hagerstown.¹⁰

INTERMARRIAGE WITH THE ROHRER FAMILY

Three of the children of Jacob Rohrer, an early pioneer of Western Maryland, married into the Orndorff family and migrated to Kentucky about the same time that Christopher did. Frederick Rohrer, the progenitor of the family, came from the German frontier of France in 1729. After moving into Western Maryland he discovered immense salt springs and boiled down salt in earthen jars to sell to the Indians. He carried the first wheat into the Ohio Valley, having made several trips into Ohio trading cattle with General St. Clair. Frederick Rohrer had settled on land where Hagerstown later stood, and his descendants held much land in that vicinity. He held large tracts of land in Western Maryland and members of his family founded Rohrersville.

A tract of 507 acres called "Hagers Fancy" was granted to Jacob Rohrer in 1747. Jacob held large landed interests near Hagerstown and later acquired several tracts in Kentucky, being engaged for some time in the sale of western lands. He also conducted a cloth-making industry and a fulling and dyeing plant.¹¹

Jacob's son John, who married Catherine Orndorff, a sister of Christopher, assisted his father in at least a part of the industrial work, and in 1790, according to a notice in the *Washington Spy*, John took over the fulling mill. The item also informed the public that the mill was located near Hagerstown, and that "fulling, blue dyeing, and all sorts of coloring" were done there.¹² On April 4, 1792, the *Washington Spy* published the following:

Six pence Reward

Ran away from the subscriber an apprentice boy named Jesse Wickman, about 16 years of age he had one short coat of a drab color, the elbows mended with cloth of another color. He was an apprentice to the Fulling and Blue Dying business.

Whoever apprehends said apprentice and brings him home to his master shall have the above reward.¹³

John Rohrer was also a farmer, and he owned a large tract of land at the east base of Miller's Ridge.

Meanwhile, the Orndorff and Rohrer families were becoming more closely united. Catherine's sister, Rose, married Jacob Rohrer, Jr., in 1799. The following year, their nephew, Christopher's oldest son, Christian, married a sister of John and Jacob, Jr., as one may see from this record:

Marriages, 1800, June 7. By Rev. Mr. Rahouser, Christian Orndorff of Shepherdstown, Virginia, to Mrs. Mary Wireman, daughter of Jacob Rohrer near Hagerstown.¹⁴

Mr. H. E. Orndorff of Adairville, Kentucky, told how Christian arrived in Logan County with quite a number of slaves. He had married a widow who had inherited much wealth from her first husband, a man much older than herself. It was remembered that four slaves had been required to carry the chest of silver from the wagon to their new home on Red River.¹⁵

NATIONAL UNCERTAINTY

International problems were causing much anxiety during the nineties. On February 1, 1793, the French National Convention declared war against England and Holland. Washington hurried from Mt. Vernon to Philadelphia and issued a proclamation of neutrality both for offence and defence. Coöperating with Washington, Governor Thomas S. Lee reorganized the

state militia. Christopher Orndorff was appointed Major and prepared to assist the government.¹⁶

As it turned out, however, the Whisky Rebellion became a more serious national problem. In the summer of 1794 Washington issued a proclamation warning the insurgents to disperse and at the same time ordered the troops of Maryland and Virginia to rendezvous at Cumberland. Light Horse Richard Henry Lee was made commander of the expedition.¹⁷

THE JACOB ORNDORFF LINE

Jacob Orndorff, next to the youngest son of Christian II, volunteered for service in the Whisky Rebellion. The *Washington Spy* of September 3, 1794, thus refers to him:

Member, Captain Zeller's Company of Col. Thomas Sprigg's Regiment Reorganization militia account Whisky Rebellion, Jacob Orendorff.¹⁸

The *Washington Spy* of February 14, 1794, had printed this item:

Married on Sunday last, Mr. Jacob Orendorff at Hagerstown, Md., by Rev. Jonathan Rawhauser, Minister of the German Reformed Church, to the amiable and agreeable Miss Susan Miller, daughter of Mr. Jacob Miller of Franklin County, Penna.¹⁹

Jacob Orndorff was the only son of Major Christian Orndorff who remained in Maryland, and one of his sons became a leading Baltimore merchant. Jacob inherited the tract of land called Anderson's Delight and John's Chance from his father, subject to the Dower Rights of his mother, and cash payments to his sisters. He died at the age of thirty-three, leaving four children. His wife, Susanna, sold her Dower Right to Jacob Mumma, removing first to Hagerstown and later

to Baltimore. The following notice appeared in the *Hagerstown Weekly Advertiser*:

March 10, 1813 — To be sold or rented —

That large and convenient two story Brick House in Franklin street, Hager's-Town near the Public Spring, now occupied by the subscriber. Possession will be given on the first day of April next. For terms apply

Susanna Orndorff²⁰

Susanna went with her son John to Baltimore and did not sell the property until later:

April 1826 — Indenture between Susannah Orndorff of Baltimore City of one part and Samuel Newman the other part for the sum of £1500 for all that portion of ground in Hagerstown No. 86 fronting on W. Franklin St. with house buildings.²¹

John H. Orndorff in 1822 at the age of twenty-seven, is listed in the Baltimore City Directory as a grain and flour merchant.²² He established the firm of Orndorff and Wilson Merchants, and in the *Torch Light* of Baltimore for September 14, 1824, the following articles were advertised for sale by this company: "Flour, salt, alum, sugar, coffee, fish, tar, Tanner's oil, feathers," etc.²³

John married Arietta A. E. Ridgely of Baltimore, widow of Charles G. Ridgely.* They had a town house and a country residence, and one of the first bathrooms in Baltimore. The innovation excited much curiosity, and even strangers would come to their door and ask to see it.

During the Civil War, John's daughter, Irene Orndorff, who had been carefully educated, gave her tal-

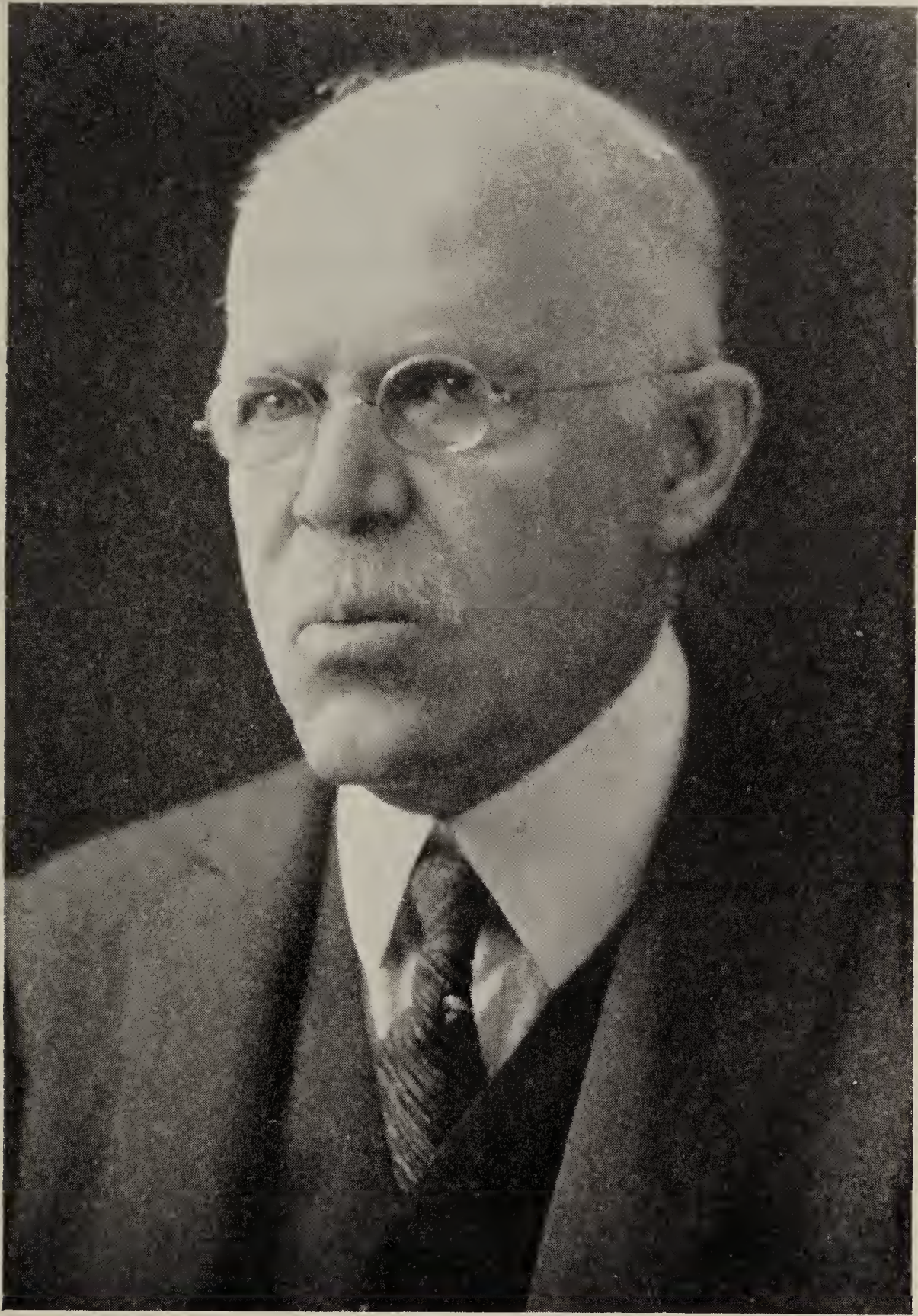
*The marriage was performed on June 23, 1828, by Rev. Greenberry Ridgely, a grandfather of Charles G. Ridgely. To-day, among the descendants of John H. and Arietta Orndorff, is Capt. J. R. Orndorff, whose maternal grandfather, James Lot Ridgely, was a brother to Charles G. Ridgely.

ents in the support of the Southern cause. When she heard that a trainload of Confederate prisoners were coming through Baltimore she and her young friends collected all the food they could find in their own kitchens and took it down to Calvert Station. Irene asked the permission of the Union Officers to acknowledge the cheers of the soldiers. When she waved to the boys in grey she was immediately arrested and roughly handled. She protested so angrily that she was taken before the Provost Marshal, who gave her a week to get out of the state. In the meantime she was carefully guarded.

Her brother, William Wellmore Orndorff, a young merchant, went with Irene * to Harper's Ferry, Virginia. After they had reached the Potomac her captors said that they could go no further, and she had to walk the Baltimore and Ohio railroad bridge in order to arrive at the Virginia side. By this time, she was determined to aid the Southern cause. The fearless girl finally reached Richmond, walking or riding in any kind of a vehicle she could find. She worked in the Confederate Treasury at Richmond,** Virginia, and Columbia, South Carolina. She was also a blockade runner, carrying valuable papers across the line. Dispatches of Robert E. Lee were memorized, written on fine paper, and rolled into capsules. When in danger of capture she swallowed them.

* A nephew, Dr. W. R. Orndorff, late of Cornell University, and a graduate of Johns Hopkins, was one of the foremost chemists of the country. He studied in the laboratories of Europe, contributed to chemical journals both here and abroad, and was co-author with Professor Remsen in many works of scientific research. He was a member of the international jury of awards at the Paris Exposition in 1889, at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904, at the San Francisco Exposition in 1915. He also served as special agent in the United States Census of 1890 and in other important posts.

** There is a lady ninety-five years old, Mrs. Hankins (formerly a Miss Savage) living at Williamsburg, Virginia, who was with Irene in the Confederate Treasury at Richmond.



PROFESSOR WILLIAM RIDGELY ORNDORFF

Once she was successful in slipping back into Baltimore, but when she reached home she found a spy in the pantry. Within twenty-four hours she was arrested and sent back across the line.

As a federal prisoner she was taken before Abraham Lincoln, who pardoned her. She refused, however, to give her allegiance to the Union, and told President Lincoln that she would always remain a rebel.

CHAPTER VII

“WASHINGTON IN EMBRYO — OR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL FROM 1791 TO 1800”

One of the rare books in the Congressional Library in Washington is entitled, *Washington in Embryo — Or the National Capital from 1791 to 1800*.¹ This volume gives the story of the early buying, surveying, and selling of land for the Federal city. In the Map Room of the Library, where the book may be studied, are also the first maps drawn of the city.

When the government took over the District of Columbia two earlier town sites within the bounds of the district had been plotted, but neither had grown into a real settlement. They represented a current craze for the laying out of towns. The proprietor of one of these plots was an acquaintance of Christian Orndorff, Jacob Funk. He had surveyed and laid out the prospective town in 1771, and had his plot recorded in Upper Marlborough, Maryland. Funk named the place Ham-burgh, and sold a number of lots, but the deeds were never recorded.²

Washington issued several proclamations concerning the new city, and Congress passed a number of acts which finally completed the specific method for the sale of lots. The following statements give some of the provisions relative to the new Federal city:

An Act concerning the Territory of Columbia and the City of Washington. Passed Dec. 19, 1791.

Whereas the President of the United States, by virtue of several acts of Congress, and acts of the Assemblies of

Virginia and Maryland, by his proclamation dated at Georgetown, on the 29th day of March, 1791, did declare and make known that the whole of the territory of ten miles square for the permanent seat of government for the United States shall be located and included within the four lines following . . .

And many of the proprietors of lots in Carrolsburg and Hamburg have also come into an agreement, subjecting their lots to be laid out anew, giving up one-half of the quantity, thereof to be sold, and the money thence arising to be applied as a donation.³

When the United States Government announced these new Hamburg lots for sale, quite a number of the leading citizens of Washington County became buyers, perhaps influenced by Jacob Funk, the preceding proprietor. Among these investors we find the name of Christian Orndorff.

A few of the purchases during the first two years are listed:

1793	June	10	Wm Magrath	Lot 1, Sq. 61	[first purchase]
	"	14	John and A. Rench	Lot 11, Sq. 122	
1794	Feb.	20	John Rohrer	Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, Sq. 56	
	Mar.	20	Jonathan Hager	Lot 8, Sq. 56	
	June	20	Jacob Hess	Lot 2, Sq. 120	
	"	24	Jno. Mountz	Lot 11, Sq. 63	
	"	24	Christian Orindorf	Lot 14, Sq. 89	
				[Bordering on the Potomac]	
				Lot 3, Sq. 59	
				[On Virginia Street]	
	"	24	Evan Thomas	Lot 2, Sq. 59	
			[Member Committee of Safety with Christian Orndorff]		
	"	24	John and A. Rench	Lot 10, Sq. 79	
				Lot 4, Sq. 120	
[No date]			Benjamin Spiker	Lot 20, Sq. 88	⁴
			[Coworker with Christian Orndorff in building Dutch Reformed Church]		

Several years later Christian's widow advertised for sale the Washington lots which her husband had bought, in the *Maryland Herald* of March 27, 1807:

For Sale at Public Vendue

On Saturday the 4th of April next

At George Beltzhooover's Tavern at 10 o'clock

Two lots in the City of Washington, the one No. 14 in Square 89, the other No. 3 in Square 59 — one of them is a water lot and will from its situation become immediately valuable in a few years, the other is well situated for any kind of public business. The terms are one fourth to be paid on the day of sale, when a good deed will be made on the purchaser giving bond with approved security for the balance in six and nine months.

Elizabeth Orndorff ⁵

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Elizabeth Orndorff ⁵



This sketch exhibits the road location of Georgetown and Carrollburg, and the approximate lines and bounds of every estate then embraced within the precincts designated by the President.

In addition thereto the subsequent Avenues as well as several other early improvements viz. River bridges, etc. are indicated by dotted lines, and the names of some estates in the direct vicinity are given, so as to facilitate the location of present sites in their relation to former estates and thus to complete the most perfect illustration of the historical antecedents of the present topographical features of our National Capital.

EARLY SURVEY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

CHAPTER VIII

THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF COMPLETED

The most famous of all the Christian Orndorffs was the one who had come as a youth to Pennsylvania and who, as a citizen of Western Maryland in the critical years preceding, during, and following the separation of the Atlantic colonies from England, so strongly influenced the life of his family, his community, and the nation. His childhood home is unknown. His father had been a Prussian military officer and a man of wealth; his mother, a lady of noble birth. As a youth, accompanied by his father and sister, Anna Barbara, he had entered the new land. A few years later he had married Elizabeth Ann Hoffman, quite possibly a member of an outstanding family, similar in background to his own, and about 1760 they had brought their small family into Pleasant Valley.

The young man's father, who had remained in Pennsylvania, became to following generations only a legendary figure, and in accounts given by grandchildren to their grandchildren, the Prussian officer became fused with his son, came to be known as *the* Christian Orndorff. Only recent and diligent research has revealed the fact that there were two early Christian Orndorffs, both of whom entered the port of Philadelphia in the Ship *St. Mark* on September 26, 1741; that the duchess named as "your grandmother" was the mother of the younger man, and that Elizabeth Ann Hoffman — often confused with the duchess — was his

wife. And although this man had a son of the same name, it was still he — Major Orndorff, the host of Mt. Pleasant — who was the big figure. Yet perhaps tradition did not go far wrong, for Christian Orndorff II seems to have been very similar to his father in character, and to have summed up the strongest family characteristics.

The last years of Major Orndorff were spent on the plantation bought from his son Christopher, with his wife, several of their children, and his wife's mother. He seems to have continued to take a deep interest in both community and national life, and was confident of a great future for the West.

But he did not live to see the culmination of his hopes for the young republic, for he died on December 10, 1797. He passed on to his children a heritage of service, as well as of earthly possessions, which are suggested in his Will:

In the name of God, *Amen* I Christian Orndorff Sr of Washington County and State of Maryland calling to mind the uncertainty of this mortal life being of sound and disposing mind and memory and wishing to Dispose of and Settle what worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say:

First I order that my just *Debts* (if any) and my funeral charges to be paid by my *Exacutor* — as I have already advanced and paid my sons Christopher Christian and Henry their full *proportion of Legacie* in lands my will is they are not to *Draw* any further part of my *Estate*. Whereas I have already given *Each* of my Daughters Peggy[,] Elizabeth and Mary fifty pounds *Each* toward their *Legacies* and my Daughter Catherine one hundred and forty pounds and paid my *Daughter* Barbara a negro Girl to the amount of fifty pound in part of *Legacie* I will and order

that my Daughter Rose shall draw fifty pound out of my Estate to make her Equal with the rest.

I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Elizabeth *During* her widowhood one third of the Plantation whereon I now live and the back room in my now dwelling house and all my household Furniture and all kinds of Stock that I may have, and my son Jacob his heirs or assigns to cut and *hall* all the firewood free without making any charge what *Ever*, my well beloved wife and her mother Elizabeth Cophaver shall want or make use of *During* the life of the said Elizabeth Cophaver — but if my well beloved wife should *marie* again That then she is to leave the whole of the above article and plantation and my son Jacob to pay her one hundred pounds and she to acquit the plantation.

I likewise give to my wife *During* her widowhood my two *negros* Hany and Pheba — she to do with them as she thinks proper. I will that my wifes Mother shall live *peaceable* and unmolested from any person in the house wherein she now lives during her life. I give and bequeath unto my will beloved son Jacob his heirs and assigns the whole of the plantation whereon I now live with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging free and clear *Except* my wife's thirds as above mentioned and to pay to my Executory for the use of my *Six* Daughter one thousand pounds current money in the following manner (to wit) one year after my *Decase* one hundred pounds and so yearly one hundred pounds untill the one thousand pounds is paid and my son Jacob to give security for the money if required by my Executors. I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son John his heirs and assigns for *Ever* the plantation lying on the potomac river which I lately purchased of my son Henry agreeable to the Deed I have got for said land, he the said John and his heirs or assigns to pay within one year after my Decease to his mother the sum of forty pounds in *Consideration* of said place, but if his mother should decease before the money is paid that then my son pay the money to his Grandmother Elizabeth Cophaver. I also will and

order that all my personal Estate what is not heretofore willed away with the two *Lotts* I hold in the City of Washington to be sold at the best advantage my Executors can and the whole of the money to be propriated to my Six Daughters their heirs or assigns as follows (to wit) out of the first money arising out of my Estate that each one shall with what they have already got, Draw one hundred and forty pounds to make them equal with my daughter Catharine Rohrer and after they have all an equal share then *my* will is that each one shall Draw an *Equal Share* of money as my Executor *Can* receives it out of my whole Estate that is to say Each of them to Draw at one Time *Equally*.

I will and order that if Elizabeth Cophaver should live longer than my wife, that after the Death of my wife my son Jacob his heirs or assigns to pay and Deliver to his Grandmother Every Year Twelve bushels of good wheat and one hundred pounds of good sound beef and pork during her life.

I nominate and appoint my well beloved wife Elizabeth and my well beloved son Henry and son-in-law Jonathan Hager whole and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty *eight* day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and ninety-five.

Christian Orndorff (L.S.)

On the 30th day of December, 1797, came Elizabeth Orndorff and Jonathan Hager and made oath . . .

At the same time came Jacob Piper * and made oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God and John Miller he being a Dunker Solemnly declared and affirmed that they did see the Testator herein named sign and seal this will.

. . . ¹

After the death of Major Orndorff, his home was

* Mr. S. Webster Piper of Hagerstown wrote in 1936: "Christian Orndorff was a great friend of my ancestor in Sharpsburg, Md. section, as Jacob Piper Sr. mentioned him as his 'good friend' and he signed the will of Jacob Piper, Sr., in 1792."

soon broken up. The following May his daughter Barbara bought two lots in Hagerstown,* and the next year, at the age of forty, she married a leading citizen of that city. The following newspaper clippings tell the story:

Sept. 26, 1799. By Rev. Mr. Bower, John Ragan — innkeeper to Barbara Orendorff both of Hagerstown.³

Washington Spy

Wednesday, May 5, 1802.

A Stage and Horses

For the accommodation of Passengers may be had at any time by applying to

John Ragan

Sign of the Indian King

Hager's-Town

The Maryland Herald and Elizabeth-Town Weekly Advertiser

June 23, 1841 (Wednesday) — Died — At her residence in this place on Sunday Past, Mrs. Barbara Ragan in the 82nd year of her age consort of the late John Ragan Senior. The deceased was one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Hagerstown.⁴

Hagerstown Herald of Freedom

Jacob Orndorff, who was in charge of the home plantation, died in 1803, leaving, as we have seen, a widow, Susannah, and several small children. In 1805 Elizabeth Orndorff and her daughter-in-law both sold their dower rights in the plantation to Jacob Mumma,⁵ whose son John later married a granddaughter of Margaret Orndorff Hess. Elizabeth and Susannah moved to Hagerstown,⁶ whence the younger widow moved to Baltimore.

*Two lots on which there were "houses and buildings paying an annual rent to the town of five shillings 6 pence Sterling for each lot over and beside the taxes that may grow due to the government," were bought from Jonathan Hager for sixteen pounds.²

Elizabeth Orndorff, the Major's wife, lived for a time in the stone house on the square, built by Jonathan Hager, Sr. But at the time of her death she was living in the now famous Rochester House.

Colonel Nathaniel Rochester was born in Virginia, but began his mercantile career at sixteen in North Carolina where he was employed by a merchant. At twenty-three he was a member of the Committee of Safety. After several advancements, Rochester served as Deputy Commissary General of Military Stores and superintended a manufactory of arms for the Continental Army. During the American Revolution he moved to Hagerstown and became a business partner of Col. Thomas Hart,* who made nails and ropes. Rochester also held an interest in a flour mill, served as Sheriff of Washington County, and organized the first bank in Hagerstown. Seeing the evils of slavery, he decided to remove to a free state. He sold his home to Upton Lawrence, invested in land in New York, and later founded Rochester.

Upton Lawrence, a talented and eloquent lawyer of his day, purchased the Rochester House in 1803, after his marriage to Elizabeth, the only child of Jonathan Hager, Jr. Lawrence built an addition to the east end of the house, which faced Prospect Street, the lot having a frontage of three hundred feet. There were two large living rooms with open fireplaces. On the front

* Col. Thomas Hart, a member of the Provincial Assembly of North Carolina and a member of the Committee of Safety, was one of the proprietors of the Transylvania Company. He secured five thousand acres in Kentucky, but waited until later to migrate there. In the fall of 1780 he moved to Washington County and purchased a 1300 acre estate called "Long Meadows," on which forty years before Thomas Cresap had built a fort-like home as a protection against the Indians. Hart raised large quantities of hemp in both Maryland and Kentucky and no doubt stimulated the protective tariff policy of his son-in-law, Henry Clay.

door was a large brass lock six by twelve inches, made in the Rochester lock factory. After Lawrence's death in 1831 the property was sold. His wife later bought the Reynolds property next door.

In the records of the descendants of Jonathan Hager, Jr., is the following item:

Christian Orndorff's wife, Elizabeth Ann Hoffman, was a lady small of stature and delicate health, her last residence for a number of years was with her daughter and granddaughter at #122 Washington St. Hagerstown, Md. At her death was 99 years of age said her [great] granddaughter, Martha W. Lawrence.⁷

Her age seems to be incorrectly stated here, as other records give her birth year as 1732 and this date corresponds with the statement in her obituary, published in the *Hagerstown Mail* of Friday, July 24, 1829:

Died at her Granddaughter's on Sunday night last in the 97th year of her age, Elizabeth Ann Orndorff, widow of Major Christian Orndorff, formerly of this county. Thus, full of years and with an unshaken confidence in the Merits of her Redeemer has this venerable lady paid her debt to nature. It is supposed that not less than one hundred of her children's children are now living. Two of her children are 60 [Mary Hager Lewis] the other 70 years of age [Barbara Ragan] witnessed the solemn ceremony of interment. Several of her grandchildren from forty to sixty years of age and great grandchildren from twenty to forty years of age and so on to the sixth generation followed her to the tomb. How inscrutable, yet how just are the ways of an ever-ruling God . . . His goodness is most graciously displayed — the lisping infant is taken pure as the new born rose from the bosom of its Parent, into the blessedness of Heaven, and if there is a pang left behind there is also an accompanying consolation, virtuous age sinks under the weight of infirmities at peace with that world and with the promise of immortality. The lamented

husband of the subject of this notice was well known in this County as a high toned Whig of former times. — Mrs. Orndorff devoted much of her time to the perusal of the Holy Bible; this source of all light and wisdom seemed to yield her pure delight in the evening of her days and made easy and placid the Moment of her mortal exit.⁸

CHAPTER IX

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS ON THE ANTIETAM

NEW MILLERS AT MT. PLEASANT

In 1795 Christopher had bought land from his brother Christian near Shepherdstown with mills already in operation. A year later he sold his part of Mt. Pleasant, and the mills which he and his father had made famous went into the hands of Jacob Mumma:

Christopher Orndorff Deed dated May 6, 1796
to

Jacob Mumma Consideration 5500 £

All the following tracts of land, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid:

Part of the Resurvey on Smiths Hills

Part of the Resurvey on Hills Dales and the Vineyard

Part of tract "Sancto" lying on the East bank of the Antietam Creek

No. 1 — Containing 303 acres

No. 2 — Containing 10¼ acres

No. 3 — Lying and adjoining the Potomac River and containing 11 acres

To hold the three tracts of land and every part thereof

Except two burying yards of 100 feet square which is now erected on the part of the Resurvey on Smiths Hills to be forever excepted from the said Jacob Mumma, his heirs and assigns forever and free passage through said land to said two burying grounds whenever required and wanted.¹

The *Maryland Herald and Hager's Town Weekly Advertiser* of Friday, April 8, 1808, prints this notice:

Wanted — A Miller who understands his business completely by the subscriber living in Washington County on

Antietam Creek, one mile from Sharpsburg on the road from Sharpsburg to Frederick-Town

Jacob Mumma ²

John Mumma, a son, assisted his father in the management of the mills, using negro teamsters to send the flour to Baltimore. John married Elizabeth Shafer, a granddaughter of Margaret Orndorff Hess, and came into possession of the homestead and the mills. Samuel Mumma, another son of Jacob, was given that part of "Smith's Hills" which was closer to Sharpsburg and included the family burying ground, which was about a mile and a half from the mills.

BATTLE OF THE ANTIETAM

Samuel Mumma and his family were still living on this land during the Civil War, when the Battle of the Antietam occurred. Williams writes:

The early morning of the 17th of September, 1862, was saluted by a roar of cannon over the fields around Samuel Mumma's house. Hooker, Sumner and Mansfield had concentrated and opened the battle by an attack upon Jackson's men in the cornfield . . . The Confederate bayonets had been discovered rising above the tall and luxuriant corn, and in a wonderfully short time the cornstalks had been leveled by the balls as completely as if they had been cut down by knives.³

This battle and that of Sharpsburg were fought over a large part of the early Orndorff land, and cannonballs lodged in the logs of the old Orndorff homestead near the Antietam.

ANTIETAM OBSERVATION TOWER

All the land for some distance surrounding this tower belonged to Christian Orndorff and his sons between 1762 and 1800.



B. W. Phreaner

BLOODY LANE

Bloody Lane, which acquired its name in the Battle of the Antietam, led up to the Orndorff plantation. This lane had been worn down by carts and wagons taking grain to the Orndorff Mill.

Isaac Reynolds wealthy merchant Balt. Md.
 son of Joseph grandson of John Reynolds Sr who
 owned present Roulette farm. Julia Munna Shreve
 has confirmed that both Smith & Reynolds' cemeteries
 were bought by her great grandfather Jacob
 Munna from the Orndorffs
 from Francis Reynolds by Christopher
 Orndorff in 1785. Sold to his father Major Christian
 Orndorff 5-2-1791. Sold to Jacob Munna 1811 -
 conveyed to son Samuel Munna 1831 (all deeds /agerstown)
 grandfather of Julia Munna (wife of /agerstown
 (Mrs A. Wallen Grove).



Photograph by Helen Margaret Stover

Mumma
 HISTORIC CEMETERY NEAR SHARPSBURG

For three successive families: *Reynolds* Smith, Orndorff, and Mumma. In the
 background stands South Mountain. In the foreground the stones mark
 graves of the Mumma family and members of a nearby Dunkard church.

Behind the photographer low grass covers the earlier graves.

Joseph Reynolds' wife was Sarah Smith dau of Joseph.
 The Smith Cemetery was near
 the observation tower and near
 Mt Pleasant. Above cemetery (Munnas)
 was on land of Francis Reynolds 1784
 who sold it to Orndorff who
 sold it to *Jacob* Mumma. Originally
 Andersons lookout where they lived
 out cannon for Revolution. Sold
 to John Reynolds Sr 1761. Willed 1784
 to son Francis. Roulette farm was
 on part willed to son Joseph Reynolds.

A lane formerly led from near this spot to the mill. Early pioneers said so many trips had been made over this road that it became the custom for certain housewives to fasten a bag of corn on a mule's back and the animal would come and go to the Orndorff Mill without assistance. In the Battle of Antietam it was filled to the top with wounded and dying soldiers. A landscape photographer of Hagerstown took the accompanying picture before the Federal Government took over the territory and removed almost all traces of the old road.

A GRAVEYARD WITH A HISTORY

The Mummas seem to have buried their dead next to the graves of the Smiths and the Orndorffs, and then to have allowed members of a nearby Dunkard Church to bury there. In the course of the Battle on the Antietam, fierce fighting went on in this vicinity, and the earliest stones were so broken up as to become part of the battle debris. Evidently the Mumma family cleared away all the ruins and sowed blue grass over the now unidentified graves. Then they built a low stone wall to enclose both this space and also those graves which were still marked. The wall extends about one hundred and eighty feet in each direction. Standing within this enclosure, with a wheat field behind and a mountain range before one, the modern Orndorffs may hope that the remains of Major Christian Orndorff and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, still rest in this peaceful spot in the Valley of the Blue Ridge, looking toward South Mountain.

Ma Peterman says Orndorff graves are under a tree. Her teacher Philomen Smith pointed them out to her as a boy.

CHAPTER X

SHEPHERDSTOWN

Where the tumbling Shenandoah
From its sources in the deeps
Of the blue Virginia mountains
Lifting up their azure steeps
To the fleecy skies above them,
Meets the great Potomac's waves:
A Queen of beauty rules them
and sends them forth her slaves.

From her throne between the mountains
She smiles upon the twain
As they join their crystal currents
In their journey to the main;
And their emerald ripples murmur,
As they glisten in the sun
A benison and anthem
To the Queen who makes them one.

Anonymous.

Reprinted by permission of W. B. Galloway, General Passenger Traffic Manager, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co.

The Orndorff brothers had two conflicting loves, the inherent love of land and a closely allied interest — that of mills. As the eighteenth century drew to a close the three brothers, Christopher, Christian, and Henry Orndorff, moved across the state line into Western Virginia, now West Virginia. They sold out their interests in Maryland, and, keeping close to the Potomac River, bought plantations near Shepherdstown.

At this time the migration into Kentucky over the old Cumberland Road through Hagerstown was becoming very pronounced. But as a group of small man-

ufacturers the Orndorffs were able for a time to resist this western exodus.

Shepherdstown had been settled by mill-builders and artisans. There were numerous small streams flowing into the Potomac which had falls suitable for mill sites.¹ Although they had successful mills in Maryland, the Orndorff brothers felt that they could improve their finances by making a change. Incidentally, this move brought them close to that spot so fascinating to artists, engineers, and military strategists — Harper's Ferry.

CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF III

Christian Orndorff III, who may be remembered as the youth who was a successful spy during a part of the Revolutionary War, was one of the first of the brothers to buy land in Virginia. Very little is known about his later activities, except by means of land transfers, yet they sketch an interesting tale. Soon after Christian's return from the battle of Yorktown, he invested in confiscated Tory land:

Deed from Clement Hollyday and Nathaniel Ramsey, Commissioners appointed to preserve Confiscated British Property by an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland . . . to Christian Orndorff, Jr. and George Adams of Washington and Frederick Counties Lot No. 12 being part of Monacocy Manor, containing 248 acres of land, consideration — 2535 Pounds. Deed dated February 7, 1783.²

Before the year was out, however, Christian sold his share of the property to Adams.

In the spring of 1786 Christian bought a plantation in Berkeley County, Virginia. Here he may have conducted mills and farmed after the manner of his father. On the other hand he may have maintained his residence on a near-by plantation of which no record is

now extant. For in the census of 1790 his household seems to have been listed in Maryland. However, by 1795, Berkeley County was his legal residence. In that year he sold the Virginia plantation with its mills to his brother Christopher for 1100 Pounds Pennsylvania Currency.³ In January, 1797, Christian acquired two lots in Shepherdstown.⁴ Perhaps Christian III is the one referred to as a trustee in the Presbyterian Church of Shepherdstown several years later, but it may have been his nephew:

Christopher Orndorff of Frederick County Maryland sold to John Thornburgh and Christian Orendorff of Jefferson County Virginia and Jephtha Martin of Berkeley County Virginia all Trustees — for \$20.00 current money of the United States, a small piece of land containing one acre, lying and being in the County of Berkeley, Virginia . . . for a school house and a Presbetarian Meeting House.⁵

Christian's wife was Anna Maria Stille, and they had five children, — Perry, Eliza, William, Christian, and a daughter whose name is unknown. Perry served under General William Henry Harrison (Old Tippecanoe) at Fort Meigs; then returned to Shepherdstown and married there.

The records from the Veterans' Administration and the Pension Office give the following:

Christian Orndorff was allowed a pension on his application April 16, 1818, at which time he was aged sixty years and a resident of Frederick County, Maryland. In November, 1820, he was living in Jefferson County, Virginia.

The arrears of pension covering the period from September 4, 1824, to October 1, 1824, were paid January 22, 1845, by the Treasury Department to Thomas Quantrile as attorney for the children Perry Orendorf of Washington County, Maryland, and Eliza Shafer of the District of Columbia.⁶

Dandridge writes in *Historic Shepherdstown*:

Captain Christian Orndorff distinguished himself in the battles of Bennington and Skeenesborough. He died on his farm near Shepherdstown.⁷

The *Martinsburgh Gazette* publishes this item:

Died Sun. Oct. 3, 1824, Christian Orndorff, Army of 1776 as Lieu. in 6th Regiment Md. Line captured at surrender of Fort Washington; after general exchange of prisoners, he joined the army at the South under General Greene.⁸

CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF

Christopher Orndorff's wife had a background similar to his own. No doubt she had attended the church school in Sharpsburg and learned the lovely ballads of the Fatherland. At first the German language was used in the family circle. But when they moved to the Virginia plantation conditions changed. Aaron, one of the sons, later said that when the family moved to the plantation between Harper's Ferry and Shepherdstown they were in an "English speaking settlement, where the family learned and ever after spoke the English language."⁹ Yet, even after they had moved on into Kentucky, the mother still sang German songs, then to grandchildren gathered about her knee.

Christopher bought and sold various tracts of land near Shepherdstown, including a farm from Nicholas Young, land from his brother-in-law, John Rohrer, and a 120-acre tract from the estate of one John Wilson. The same day on which he bought the Wilson tract, a Thomas Turner gave bond to assure Christopher the advantage of a mill race located on Turner's land:

Know all men by these Presents that I Thomas Turner of Berkeley County & State of Virginia am held and firmly

bound to Christopher Orndorff of the County and State aforesaid in the sum of 2000 Pounds *Virginia Currency* for the due Payment of which to be made to said Christopher Orndorff his heirs or assigns I bind myself my heirs Executors and administrators . . . Witness my hand and Seal the 25th of November, 1796.

The condition of the Above Obligation is such that whereas the said Thomas Turner and Christopher Orndorff have this day Purchased the Lands Lots of John Wilson Deceased and — Whereas upon a Division of the said Land a part of the said Christophers Tail Race was included in the said Thomas Turners Part of said Land . . . his heirs, executors or administrators shall not molest or hinder the said Christopher Orndorff his heirs and assigns from Occupying the said Race for the intended purpose and also from making the necessary improvements on the said Race. Provided it is not extended any further into the said Thomas Turner Land and Provided Also that the said Christopher Orndorff shall not hinder or interup the said Thomas Turner in Fencing across the said Race or from leading the Water out of said Race on his own Land so as he does not InJure the said Orndorff's Mill — Then the above Obligation to be Void Otherwise to Remain in full force and virtue. . . . Thomas Turner (L.S.) ¹⁰

In 1803 Christopher Orndorff transferred an eighty-one acre tract of land to his son John, who was then twenty-one years of age. This son was later a large landholder in Kentucky. Christopher also paid taxes on 140 acres near Shepherdstown until 1805.¹¹ The above quoted passage, dated 1796, gives Christopher's residence as Berkeley County, Virginia, but he did not remain there long. Not yet assured of markets further West, he was restless and returned to Maryland. Later this is recorded:

I the subscriber late of Jefferson County * in the State

* Jefferson County was formed from Berkeley in 1801.

of Virginia but now in Frederick County in the State of Maryland with a bonafida Intention of settling there declare that I brought with me from the County of Jefferson and State of Virginia the following slave for my use, Peggy aged about thirty years who is a native of the United States.

Witness my hand the 29th of March, 1802.

Christopher Orndorff.¹²

Evidently the intention held at least a year, for the deed made out to the Presbyterian trustees in May of 1803 gives Frederick County as his residence. Yet soon a greater change was to be undertaken, the trek to Kentucky.

HENRY ORNDORFF

In the fall of 1793 Henry had purchased 343 acres along the south side of the Potomac River,¹³ but he did not remove to Virginia permanently until he sold his portion of "Smith's Hills" and bought another plantation near Shepherdstown containing 322 acres for 3097 pounds:

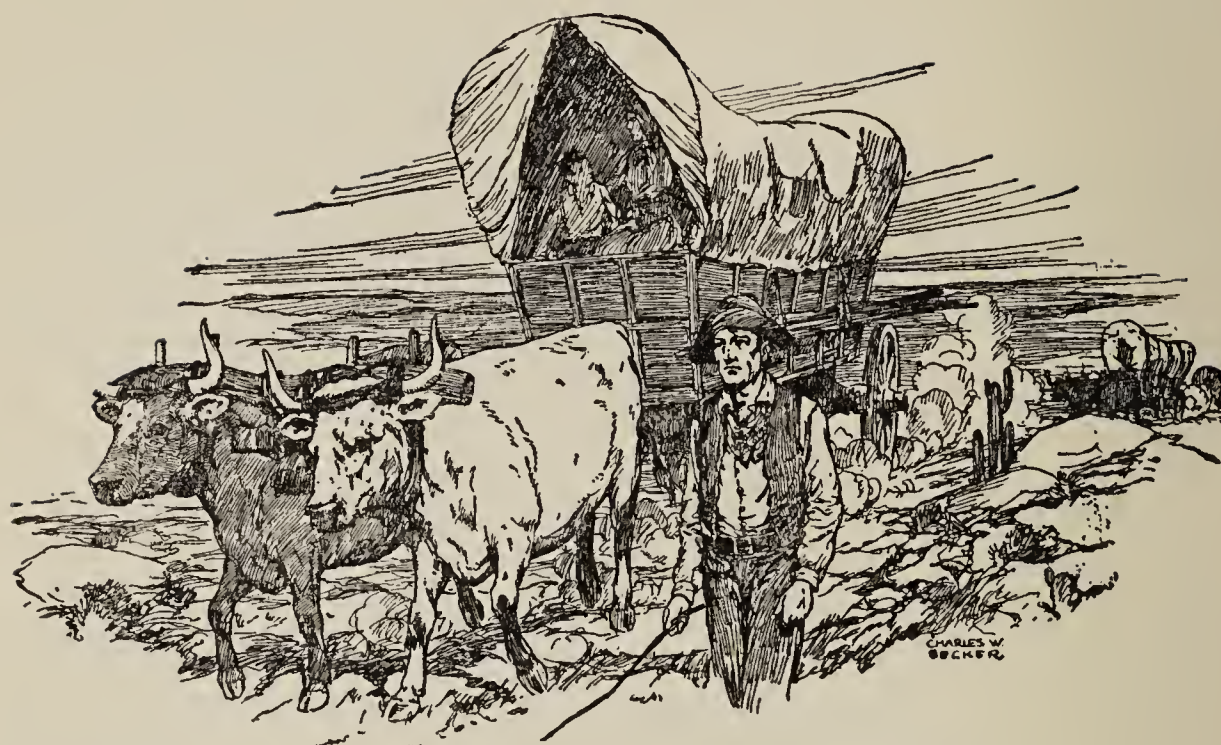
Certificate — Berkeley

I do hereby Certify that Henry Orndorff Personally appeared before me Abraham Shepherd a Justice of the Peace for said County and took the Oath Prescribed by Law for the Removal of Slaves into this State and has given their Names and Age as follows to wit — James about Forty Six Years of Age — Mercury about Forty Five Years of Age.

Given under my hand and seal this Sixteenth day of May 1796.

Abraham Shepherd¹⁴

CHAPTER XI



THE LONG TREK TO KENTUCKY

Give me the heart of the pioneer,
The lure of his golden dream,
His matchless skill,
His dauntless will
To follow the trail through good or ill,
By rock or wood or stream.

Give me the strength of his mighty arms,
The brawn of his rugged frame;
The snap and vim,
The zeal of him
Who fought his way to the western rim,
And carved on high his name.

Give me the road of the pioneer,
The scene of the early dawn —
His tents are rolled,
His trains unfold,
While prairie ships like the fleet of old
Sail on and on and on!

Give me the sweep of his starlit skies;
See, the evening shadows fall!
The campers sleep,
The sentries keep
A guard where the wolves or men might creep!
Oh, romance of it all!

Give me the soul of the pioneer,
Who followed the marching sun;
His simple creed
Is all I need
To quest for the place where men succeed,
And find the deed well done.

The Pioneer — JOHN RANDOLPH STIDMAN ¹

Christopher Orndorff, an officer in the American Revolution, and the oldest son of Christian Orndorff II, had watched his neighbors and friends take the Wilderness Road to Kentucky for a period of twenty-five years, but still he hesitated. As a successful business man, he understood the obstacles to trade caused by Spanish interference. For, as the eighteenth century drew to a close, our international problems were creating considerable anxiety, which was increased when Spain retroceded Louisiana to France in 1800.

But, even before the death of Christian Orndorff, in 1797, events were shaping themselves for the removal of the family to Kentucky. The neighboring town of Hagerstown, their local trading center, had been the main thoroughfare into the great West for some time. Many travelers going through by horseback, wagon, or stagecoach, stopped at the busy taverns, and, as the men gathered there, on the streets, or at the Orndorff Mill, they discussed the new town of Nashville, which was reported to be an aggressive place. Then, too, Christopher had three sons who were growing up

in this atmosphere* of westward migration. They made frequent trips to Baltimore to sell flour, tobacco and other products from the plantation. Here they met the drivers of wagon trains who had come over the mountains from Tennessee and Kentucky. For goods were hauled to Baltimore from Nashville in wagons in the period from 1790 to 1810, when keel boats became more profitable. These wagons from Nashville often brought eight thousand-pound-loads of cotton, which could be sold in Baltimore for five dollars a hundred pounds.³

As these youths, Christian, John, and Aaron Orndorff, listened to stories of thrilling adventure with the Indians and life on the frontier, they began to urge their father to go into the great West. There were also glowing accounts of the Cumberland Valley in southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee, which had as yet scarcely been touched by the early pioneers. Christopher had undoubtedly wished that as his large family grew up they might have the opportunity to obtain cheap land in the West, and at last he made the decision to move.

A FAMILY MIGRATION

Meanwhile, Christopher's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married:

County Court — Berkeley County — Martinsburg Virginia.

* The *Washington Spy* of Wednesday, May 27, 1794, tells of the departure of an important citizen, Col. Thomas Hart, the future father-in-law of Henry Clay. In November, 1797, Henry Clay, the young lawyer, passed through Hagerstown on the way to Kentucky.

In December, 1801, five Indian Chiefs of the Pottawotamie tribe passed through Hagerstown, on their return from Washington City, accompanied by a Capt. Wells who acted as their interpreter. In January, 1802, the "kings" of the Delaware and Shawnee tribes, nine chiefs, and two attendants, passed through Hagerstown; and in March, 1802, 15 Indians of the Seneca tribes.²

Marriage Bond

On the 12th of March 1802 Jacob Miller and Elizabeth Orndorff daughter of Christopher of Berkeley County affirmed a marriage Bond.

This bond was signed by Jacob Miller (L.S.)

Christopher Orndorff (L.S.) ⁴

The young couple either accompanied Christopher in the spring of 1805 or followed shortly afterwards. In fact, several households made the trip about the same time. There were John and Catherine Rohrer and their family of about six children; Jacob Rohrer, Jr., with Rose; and Christian Orndorff (Christopher's son) with his wife and their group of slaves. ✓

Christopher and Mary Orndorff had seven sons and four daughters, but the eldest son and daughter were now in households — that is, covered wagons — of their own. The others all accompanied their parents, from John, twenty-three, to Enoch, six. The third son, Aaron, was to remain in the new territory only during the summer, for he returned East in the autumn and studied civil engineering. John kept a diary of the trip, which, combined with his voluminous letters of a later period, gives us an insight into his thrifty, energetic personality, and which tells us the story of the journey.

Among those who did not set out with the family group, however, was Christopher's brother John, a sort of Rip Van Winkle whose chief accomplishments were hunting and playing the flute.

Family ties have been unusually strong in the Orndorff family, and mementoes were treasured. Christopher had inherited the old German Bible, of the Martin Luther translation, published in Basel, Switzerland, in 1753, and he carried it into Kentucky with him. There was also a large mirror which the first

Christian is said to have brought over on the boat when he came from the Old Country. Whether or not this is the mirror in which Horatio Gates saw the lovely Mary admiring herself, it was nevertheless quite an heirloom. Packed carefully away in the big chest were the silver knee buckles that Christopher had worn during the American Revolution. Although seemingly trivial, when displayed in the wilderness of Kentucky they were to revive memories of the old plantation on the Potomac.

A significant fact about the migration of the Orndorff family was that the trip was made in covered wagons. The first pioneers into the Cumberland Valley had blazed the trail by horseback. But, although the roads were still almost impassable in places, at least an effort had been made to improve them, as the following quotation indicates:

In 1795, the Kentucky legislature passed an act to make the Wilderness Road a "wagon road," thirty feet wide from Crab Orchard to Cumberland Gap. In 1797, the Kentucky legislature had appropriated £500 to repair the road and arrange a toll gate.⁵

ON THE CUMBERLAND ROAD

The day of the month on which the Orndorffs started to Kentucky appeared on the cover page of John's diary, but it is now defaced with age. The nearest suggestion of the date is April 22, 1805.

The travelers followed the old trail down the Shenandoah Valley through Winchester, Staunton, and Salem. Crossing New River at Ingles Ferry, they passed southwest through Pulaski, Wyethville, and Abingdon (Washington Court House).

There was ample game and the men no doubt did

John W.
for hand off
panama river
the 1500
Started from
county of
to Camp of
State of
Christopher
John

Distance from Shepherd
Town
30 Miles to Winchester
100 m to Han Town
62 m to James River
34 m to Salem
25 m to Megomony
45 m to With Board
57 m to Abbingdon
97 m to Seneca State
20 m to North fork of Holston
26 m to Hankins Court house
25 m to Keans Station
9 m to Top of Clinch Mountain
4 m to Clinch River
4 m to Foxville
5 m to Toombs River
5 m to Cumberland Mountain
14 m to Cumberland river Swamp
63 m to Langport
26 m to Pulaski Court house
6 m to Megomony ferry
18 m to Veign Court house
35 m to Burkowille
4

Abbingdon
5 B Corn at 1/6 - 1-2-6
50 lbs of hay - 0-2-0
1 B Corn at 1/6 - 0-1-0
5 B Straw at 1/6 - 0-1-10
3 B Straw at 1/6 - 0-0-9
2 B Chop at 1/6 - 0-9-0
5 B Straw at 1/6 - 0-1-0
3 B Corn at 2/6 - 0-6-0
3 B Oats at 2/6 - 0-6-0
6 B Rye at 2/6 - 0-18-0
6 B Corn at 2/6 - 0-12-0
6 B Oats at 2/6 - 0-8-0
50 lbs Hay - 0-5-0
39 Bunches of hay - 0-3-0
1 B Corn at 2/6 - 0-9-0
9 B Oats at 2/6 - 0-12-0
4 B Corn at 3/6 - 0-7-6
2 B Corn at 3/6 - 0-7-6
8 B Oats at 4/6 - 1-16-0
9 B Oats at 4/6 - 0-9-0
3 B Corn at 4/6 - 0-12-0
9 - 9-9

3 B Corn at 3/6 - 0-9-0
10 B Oats at 2/6 - 1-2-6
1 1/2 B Corn at 4/6 - 0-6-0
3 1/2 B Corn at 4/6 - 0-14-0
5 B Corn at 2/6 - 0-12-6
6 B Corn at 2/6 - 0-12-0
9-16-0
9-9-9
8-5-1
21-10-10

DIARY OF CAPT. JOHN ORNDORFF IN 1805
Showing list of horse feed

Expenses

horse feed 21-10-10
 Family — 6-10-4
 Carriage — 2-1-9
 Turnpike — 1-7-9
 Blacksmith 1-4-6
 32-15-2

Distance is 63 1/4 Miles

Expenses for Feed

3 B Corn at 4/- 0-12-0
 1 B Straw at 4/- 0-1-6
 50 lb hay — 0-1-6
 1/2 B Cobs at 4/- 0-6-0
 3 B Oats at 2 1/2/- 0-7-6
 100 lb hay at 3/- 0-3-0
 1 1/2 B Straw at 4/- 0-2-3
 5 B Corn at 4/- 1-0-0
 15 B Straw at 4/- 0-4-6
 100 lb hay — 0-4-0
 1 B Chop Hay — 0-4-6
 2 B Corn — 0-2-0
 2 B Oats — 0-6-0
 3 B Oats at 3/- 0-9-0
 100 lb hay at 4/- 0-4-0
 12 B Straw at 4/- 0-9-0
 5 B Corn at 4 1/2/- 1-2-6
 2 B Oats at 3/- 0-6-0
 50 lb hay — 0-2-7
 3 B Oats at 2 1/2/- 0-6-0
 4 B Straw — 0-0-9
 5 B Chop Hay 3/4 0-18-9
 50 lb hay — 0-2-0
 5 B Straw at 4/- 0-1-3
 2 B Corn at 3 1/2/- 0-7-6
 2 B — 0-5-1

Christopher Gendoff
 Arrived on Cumberland
 River on the 5 of June
 1805

Dr. to Mr. Gendoff
 Do 3 Bush of Corn
 Do 9
 Do 8 1/4
 Do 2 1/2
 Do 8 3/4
 Do 8 3/4
 Do 2 1/4
 Do 8 3/4
 Do 8 3/4

some hunting along the way. Yet it is worthy of note that, as members of an early manufacturing class, the Orndorffs had a comparatively large expense account and purchased an unusual variety of food.

Although a number of pages in the diary are filled with the list of items of food that they bought for themselves, a still larger space is given to the tabulation of a large quantity of horse feed. The second page of the original diary and the pages that follow are suggestive.

Expenses for the family

2 Qrs. Sider	0 —	1	0
3 Chick @ /6	0 —	1	6
4 Doz eggs 0/0	0		0
3 Qrs Sider	0		*
1 Qr Sider	0		
To ferreage	0 —	7 —	6
2 Chicks	0 —	7 —	6
50 lb. Flour	0 —	9 —	6
3b *	0 —	1 —	6
* erriage	0 —	15 —	0
2 Chick	0 —	1 —	6
70 lbs Flour	0 —	10 —	6
2 Doz Eggs	0 —	0 —	9
2 Chick	0 —	1 —	6
10 Qrts tar @ 0/9	0 —	7 —	6
1 B Corn meal	0 —	1 —	6
3 Doz Eggs @ 0/6	0 —	1 —	6
1 Chick @	0 —	0 —	9
1 Doz Eggs	0 —	0 —	9
1 Bus potatoes	0 —	3b —	0
1 Chick	0 —	1 —	0
1/2 B wheat	0 —	2 —	6
8 Chick @ 0/9	0 —	6 —	0
9 Eggs	0 —	0 —	6
Talit (?)	0 —	0 —	9
	—	—	—
	4 —	3 —	10

* Defaced by age.

20 lbs flour	1	—	16	—	0
2 Fish	0	—	4	—	0
4 Chicks	0	—	3	—	0
Fish	0	—	4	—	6
.					
To ferriage Cumb	0	—	15	—	0
4 Dozs Eggs @ 0/6	0	—	2	—	0
1 Chick	0	—	0	—	6
	—		—		—
			4	—	8 — 3
			4	—	3 — 10
	—		—		—
			8	—	12 — 1

The mileage and general expenses are given near the close of the document:

Distance from Shepherdstown

30 miles to Winchester
 100 mi to Kan Town (Staunton)
 62 mi to Team River
 34 mi to Salom
 25 mi to Megommory (Montgomery)
 45 Do to With Town
 57 Do to Abbingdon
 97 to Tenese State
 20 to North fork of Holston
 26 to Hawkins Court House
 29 to Beens Kation
 3 to Top of Clinch Mountain
 4 to Clinch River
 9 to Tazville
 8 to Powls River
 5 to Cumberland Mountain
 14 to Cumberland River Turnpike
 63 to Lang forts
 26 to Pulaski Court House
 6 to Megomerys ferry Cumberland

18 to Veign (Wayne) Court House (Monticello)
35 to Burksville (Burksville on the Cumberland)

—
634

Turnpike Expenses

Clinch turnpike	0	—	9	—	0
Cumberland	0	—	18	—	9
	—		—		—
	1	—	7	—	9
horse feed	21	—	10	—	10
Family	6	—	10	—	10
Ferriage	2	—	1	—	10
Turnpike	1	—	7	—	9
Blacksmith	1	—	4	—	6
	—		—		—
	32	—	15	—	2

Distance is 634 Miles.

Christopher Orndorff Arived on Cumberland River on the
5 of June 1805.

The last tabulation of horsefeed might suggest that
this was purchased after they reached Kentucky:

Du to Mr. Tunnan
To 3 Bush of Corn
To 9
To 8¾
To 2½
To 8¾
June To 8
27 To 8
26 To 8¾
To 8¾⁶

CHAPTER XII

THE RED RIVER VALLEY

The greatest desire of the Orndorffs was to locate on a stream where water power was abundant. On inquiry, they discovered that only a very small part of the Red River Valley had actually been settled, and much of the land had not even been patented. This river is a tributary of the Cumberland. Its two forks take their rise in Tennessee, flow north, and meet in Logan County, Kentucky. Thence the stream flows back south until it joins the Cumberland River. It receives its color, and, accordingly, its name, from the soil through which it flows. Toward this stream the Orndorff party cut their way.

At length they came to the banks of the Red River, and camped at a spring twelve miles south of Russellville, the seat of Logan County, Kentucky. This spring had been a favorite gathering place for the Indians, but as yet it remained unclaimed by any white man. In the days that followed, the forests on both sides of the river were carefully examined, the neighboring prairies were surveyed, and the best mill sites, selected.

One evening while the new settlers were gathered around the camp fire preparing the evening meal, and before a log cabin had been completed or there had been time to build a permanent shelter, they were aroused by a familiar sound far back in the woods. Leah, the ten-year-old daughter, was one of the first to exclaim:

“What’s that?”

While they listened intently and held their breath,

the sound of a flute came again and more distinctly through the tangled brush with mellowed sweetness. The faithful wife of the Major replied: "It's John!"

But how could it be, when he was left away back beyond the rivers and the mountains? How could he have followed on so quickly and found them so readily?

Nearer and nearer came the enchanting music. It was a familiar air, and the listeners were reminded of the pleasant summer evenings on the Maryland plantation. Soon the musician rode into camp, followed by his hounds. It was John, the Major's youngest brother, who carried his flute with him wherever he went. Bent on adventure, he had followed his brother to the West. The fictitious story has been told that John sold his plantation on the Potomac, inherited from his father, and started to the West with a bag of gold. Intrigued by big game, he is said to have set the bag of gold in a fence corner, and then to have forgotten it. Ill adapted to the hard life of the pioneer, he died in 1807.¹

"CAPTAIN" JOHN ORNDORFF

As the "wanderer" John fades out of the picture, his energetic nephew of the same name, through a varied and active life, becomes an important figure in the early history of Logan County, Kentucky. This younger man, often called "Captain John," was the first to blaze the trees and select a tract of land. On August 29, 1805, he patented four hundred acres on Sumner's Branch of Red River. The same year he bought two hundred acres² from Ninian Edwards.*

* Ninian Edwards, born in Md. in 1775, studied law and medicine and located in Logan County, Ky. He was elected to the legislature several times, appointed Circuit Judge and Chief Justice of Ky. In 1809 he was appointed Governor of Illinois Territory and served until the state was admitted to the Union, when he became a member of the United States Senate.

John soon sold the four hundred acres that he had patented on Red River, but the county records show that this was the only tract of land that he ever sold. He had a love for land. His own tracts were increased by the purchase of adjoining tracts, and he was distressed at the thought of any land owned by one of his brothers going out of the family. When Aaron moved to Illinois, John bought six hundred acres that Aaron held in Kentucky. He purchased land from the Christopher Orndorff heirs, and when Absalom, his bachelor brother, died in Illinois, he bought the two hundred acres which Absalom had retained in Kentucky. In all John purchased 1,691 acres near the Red River in southern Kentucky, and rather late in life he patented still more.³

“MAJOR” CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF

On December 16, 1805, Christopher Orndorff patented 170 acres of land near Whip-Poor-Will Creek. The next November he patented two hundred additional acres in the same locality. He also bought land from holders of military grants. His largest purchase was made in 1816, when he bought 1,595 acres of land from Morton Maulding, the first pioneer in that part of the state.⁴

The original homestead, situated near the old spring, is said to be partly included in the summer-kitchen of a farm house near the present town of Adairville, Kentucky. More pretentious homes were built by Christopher's sons and grandsons, some with floors from the choicest hardwoods they could select; but the finest traditions hover around the site of the old home, which still remains in the Orndorff family.

BEGINNINGS IN KENTUCKY

An orchard was started from seedlings, while crops of wheat, flax, and tobacco were planted. Nashville soon became their chief market for the surplus products of the Orndorff farms and mills. John held land adjoining that of his father, and he and his brother Aaron, the young engineer, built mills in conjunction with Christopher. John remained a bachelor for many years and his sister, Delilah, kept house for him until they both married in 1842. As the milling business developed, John hired a miller, and usually a carpenter or semi-mechanic to help him in the construction of all kinds of machinery.

While John became familiarly known as "Captain," his father was affectionately referred to by his old friends and neighbors in Logan County as "Major." John G. Orndorff of Russellville later remarked:

Major Christopher Orndorff had an eye not only to water, but to much water and wood, for he located on the principal watercourse of the County, known as Red River, which runs westerly through the southern part of Logan County, thence along the State line, emptying into the Cumberland at Clarksville, Tennessee. For its waterpower and natural advantages it perhaps is surpassed by no stream in the County. The southern part of it, or that part being contiguous to the river, being recognized as the wheat belt.

Our people, the Orndorffs of Logan County, have made themselves as millers. Old Major Christopher was perhaps the first person * who ever erected a mill on Red River, and checked its water to do his bidding, since which time we have the milling interest in Logan County chiefly in hand. At one time I remember my Uncle Eli was the owner of three flouring mills and two woolen mills, Uncle

* A recently discovered record states that a John Bailey built the first mill on the Red River, but one of Christopher's sons bought it.

John one mill, Uncle Aaron one mill, Uncle William Price one mill, and my great uncle Captain Orndorff's estate one mill. At one time Captain John Orndorff owned and operated a large mill in Louisiana, and my father [Christian W. Orndorff] and one of my uncles [Ira Orndorff] owned and operated for a long time a large steam and saw mill on the Cumberland . . . Milling and the manipulation of Machinery seems to have been the chief concern of the Logan County Orndorffs.⁵

CHAPTER XIII

SCOTCH-IRISH NEIGHBORS

Christopher Orndorff's nearest neighbors were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from Guilford County, North Carolina. They had moved into northern Tennessee in 1799, the same year that the expedition was sent out to establish a boundary line between Kentucky and Tennessee.

First Tennessee Boundary Survey.

The survey began on the 20th of May and ended Friday the 28th of June, 1799 . . . There were General Joseph McDowell, Col. David Vance, Major M. Mathews, Commissioners, John Strother and Robert Henry, surveyors; Messrs B. Collins, James Hawkins, George Penland, Robert Logan, George Davidson, J. Mathews, chain-bearers and markers; Major James Neely, Commissary, two pack-horse men and a pilot.¹

This General Joseph McDowell was a kinsman of the Joseph McDowell, Jr., who removed from Guilford County to Robertson County, Tennessee, and became so closely identified with the Orndorffs. The *United States Census* for 1790 lists three Joseph McDowells as "Heads of Families" in North Carolina, the two in Burks County and Joseph McDowell of Guilford County, all of whom had done patriotic service during the American Revolution.²

In 1764 the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia had sent Dr. David Caldwell as a missionary to North Carolina. This great pioneer served the congregations of Buffalo and Alamance, near present Greensboro, as teacher, minister, physician, and patriotic leader. He

was well loved by his parishioners, and they, inspired by his stirring messages, ably supported Greene in his warfare against the Tories.³ In 1783, the state assembly passed an act reserving a certain tract of land in the Territory of Tennessee, near the present Kentucky line, for the North Carolina soldiers. Among those who settled in this territory were two brothers, James and Joseph McDowell, and their kinsmen, the Paisleys.⁴ *

James McGready, Sr., father of the famous Presbyterian Divine, moved to Guilford County from Pennsylvania to become an active member of the Buffalo Church. The son attended the church school, and Dr. Caldwell, discovering his great intellectual powers, encouraged the youth to complete his education in the North. Arrangements were made for him to go to Pennsylvania to receive special training under Judge McDowell and the keen intellectual thinker and Latin student, Dr. John McMillan. Completing his education for the ministry, he returned to Guilford County to find his messages coldly received by the Old Side Presbyterians. The Buffalo Church had held to the Old Side in the division of the Presbyterian Church. They believed that only the Psalms of David in meter, by Francis Rous, should be used in the church service. The Alamance congregation held to the New Side and used the Hymns of Isaac Watts. When Dr. Caldwell preached at Alamance he led the congregation in singing the melodious strains of Watts, but when at Buffalo he was constrained to chant the Psalms of David.⁶

* General Andrew Jackson was admitted to the bar in Guilford County in 1787. He lived in the home of Francis McNairy, a member of the Buffalo Church. He and John McNairy went to Tennessee in 1788; McNairy as the Judge of the western district and Jackson as the prosecuting attorney. Jackson later joined the Presbyterian church.⁵

Supported by the more progressive leaders, McGready removed to Kentucky and organized the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Three congregations were established in southern Kentucky before 1800, one being the Red River Church, three miles from the Orndorff Spring. *The History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church* says: "When McGready came to Kentucky the houses and deep forests of Logan County rang with the prayers of the newly inspired hearers."⁷

As Christopher Orndorff had belonged to the Reformed Calvinist Church in Maryland, it was not difficult for him to affiliate with the Presbyterians. For many years the Red River Church remained the only convenient meeting-house, and a number of Christopher's children and grandchildren were active co-workers with the Scotch-Irish.* The McDowells, particularly, who lived just across the line in Robertson County, Tennessee, were very closely associated with the Orndorff family, and Aaron Orndorff married Joseph McDowell's daughter Martha, on September 2, 1814.⁸

Rev. James McDowell, Martha's brother, related how his father, Joseph McDowell, migrated to Tennessee in 1799, when he and his twin sister, Elizabeth, were two years old. His father's half-brother, James McDowell, an officer in the American Revolution, came with them to the new frontier and we find his signature on a number of county records and deeds of the Paisleys and Orndorffs.¹⁰

The first land grants which were secured from North Carolina are not extant, but a number of later deeds

* Theodore Roosevelt, in *The Winning of the West*, refers to these hardy Scotch-Irish pioneers who drifted from Pa. to N. C. and later to Tenn., as "enterprising and intelligent, a God-fearing race whose ministers followed close behind the first settlers and shared their toils and dangers."⁹

are found in the Robertson County Records for land bought on the South and Middle Forks of Red River, including the following:

228 acres on South Fork of Red River from Tom Barker to Joseph McDowell, April 27, 1804.

Joseph McDowell deed July 14, 1804 . . . from Lewis Barker of Livingstone County, state of Kentucky . . . for and in consideration of four hundred and fifty dollars in hand paid to the said Lewis Barker.

Indenture made 16th day of December, 1805, between James Benton of the County of Robertson, State of Tennessee of the one part and Joseph McDowell on West side of Red River containing 100 acres.¹¹

CHAPTER XIV

DEVELOPMENT OF MILLS AND LAND INTERESTS

Russellville was the nearest town and the county seat. The present town of Adairville, within two miles of the Orndorff homestead, was not founded until 1820, and remained a crossroad trading post for years. A small town by the name of Orndorff was established between Adairville and Russellville, which became an elevator stop when the railroad went through. But the Orndorff's chief interest was not in the promotion of town sites. It was in the development of their farms and mills.

MORE MILLS

When Aaron returned from school in the East in 1808, he had a commission from the government to survey the "Illinois County," but Indian uprisings were reported, and his father urged him to give it up and remain in Logan County. Since his father and his brother John had very good business prospects in the growing town of Nashville, he felt that his assistance was needed until the grist and saw mills were completed and the flour industry well established. Aaron became the principal teamster and sold the products of the Orndorff mills in Tennessee. He also assisted his brother in the management of mills. An indenture for a tract of land was obtained by the brothers in 1814, probably for a prospective mill site. The following quotation from the deed illustrates the form that was used at that time:

That the said Pitts Lynn and Catherine his wife for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred & fifty three dollars to them in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted bargained and sold unto the said Aaron and John Orndorff a certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the County of Logan, on Red River, containing fifty-six acres and thirty poles and bounded as followeth, To-Wit: Beginning at a sugar tree and elm, thence down the river including every part of an improvement formerly accepted by Edmund Richey to the beginning of which 34 acres of said land is taken out of a military claim of 100 acres . . . bearing date the last day of October 1799.¹

Christian, the oldest son, owned twelve hundred acres of land several miles below that of his brother John. The flour mill which he built has been referred to for one hundred and thirty years as the Red River Mill.

SEEKING NEW SITES

John, who was in the habit of writing down his impressions, also exemplified the Orndorff characteristic — perhaps, rather, the High German characteristic — of unusual care in the selection of land. At one time he made an exploratory trip into Ohio, and the following selections from his account reveal not only John's method, but the attitude and skill of earlier Orndorffs less fluent but equally keen:

We staid two day in Chilicothy. There is eleven stores in it. The Land around it is very good but no springs. Expenses in Chilicothy \$11.32.

Started from Chilicothy to John Coars which is twelve miles. The land is very good and level but scarce of springs. Staid all night with John Coars he has corn 15½ feet high. From John Coars the next morning September 9 . . . The land is very poor and hilly and scarce of water from New

Market to Little Miami which is thirty miles. The Land is not good it is very level and Swampy and no running water. There is a little Town in the bottom of Miami called Springfield. . . . There is another town laid off called Lebinon, a county Town. The Land is in spots very good.

Staid all Night in Daten started the next morning up Mad River . . . The Land around is midling thin in spots.

Staid all night at Mr. Gallaways. The next morning we went to old Chilecothy there is very fine springs there and it is a very pritty place . . . to the Yellow springs which is five miles the water is very clear. . . . the Land is very good about two miles the other side of Chilecothe, then about five miles the Land is very Hilly and thin and no water from thence the Land is Midling good and Levil but no runing water.

Started from Chilicothy on Thursday Sept. 19 to New Lancaster which is twenty miles. Expenses in Chilecothy \$17.15.

Came home on the 3 Day October . . . through Wheeler and Morgan Town. . . .²

This diary, which was not dated, was titled thus: "*Exploring Trip by Horseback into Miami Valley* — Made with John Rohrer* and Martin Rashner."

The sons were prepared to carry on the work initiated by their father. By their far-sighted industry they greatly stimulated local manufactures and also pushed westward the development of the nation.

THE PASSING OF CHRISTOPHER AND MARY ORNDORFF

Christopher Orndorff died on September 4, 1823, and his wife a month later. Their tombstones may be

* John Rohrer purchased four hundred acres near Russellville, Ky., from Ninian Edwards, the new territorial Governor of Illinois, on May 8, 1810. (Deed Book C, 55, Logan Co., Ky.) A family record states that John Rohrer, Jr., oldest son of Catherine and John, born in Hagerstown, removed with his parents to Ky. in 1805. He m. Susan Black in Ky. and later removed to Shawneetown, Ill.

seen in the Orndorff-Morgan Cemetery just across the road from the original homestead.

WILL OF CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF

In the name of God Amen, I Christopher Orndorff, of Logan County and state of Kentucky, being very sick and weak in body but sound mind and memory thanks be given to God and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die do make this last Will and Testament, that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent christian burial at the discretion of my friends. And touching my worldly estate witnesseth, it hath pleased God to help me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of it in the following manner and form.

Item — I will and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Orndorff during her natural life, one third part of all my real estate also . . . my negro Warner Aucky during her natural life, and after her death to my daughter Delilah Orndorff as long as she remains single but if she marries Aucky is then free.

Item — I will and bequath unto my sons John Orndorff and Aaron Orndorff, all the land that was laid off including mills, houses, unticles to them their heirs and assigns forever.

Item — whereas I have given my son Christian Orndorff the full amount of his legacy heretofore, I will that he shall enjoy the benefits resulting therefrom.

Item — I will and bequath to my son Esau Orndorff two hundred acres of land where he now lives to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

Item — I will and bequath unto my son Enoch Orndorff adjoining John and Aaron Orndorff's land, also my wagon, horses, gears and all unticels belonging to my farm and my clock to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

Item — I will and bequath unto my daughter Leah Morgan two hundred acres of land including a Moity, I will hereafter name and including the place where William Morgan now lives and running with the Nashville road

and adjoining John and Aaron Orndorff's land to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Item — I will and bequath unto my daughter Delilah Orndorff two hundred acres of land adjoining Leah Morgan including a Moity of timber, I will hereafter name running with the Nashville road to Chick's line. I hereby bequath unto her a full legacy of household goods stock and &, as the rest of my daughters that are married, to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Item — I will and bequath unto my daughter Elizabeth Miller all the balance of my barrorer on the east side of the Nashville road to her heirs and assigns forever.

Item — As there will be a balance of timber I will and bequath it to my three daughters jointly, Elizabeth, Leah and Delilah Orndorff to be divided by my Executors to them or their assigns forever.

Item — All the before named lands are to be laid off by my Executors hereinafter as they will think proper; and lastly I appoint my sons John and Aaron Orndorff and William Morgan Executors of this my last will and testament. . . .

✓ In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 6th day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred and twenty three.

Christopher Orndorff (Seal) ³ *

LAND ALONG THE RED RIVER

The home plantation of Christopher Orndorff, containing the Orndorff-Morgan Cemetery, was a large wedge of land extending down the Red River to the brick house of Captain John. John's 1,300 acre plot, beginning there, connected with the 1,000 acre tract of

* Notices of the death of Christopher and his wife appear in the newspapers of Hagerstown and Martinsburg:

Herald Mail — Died on Sept. 14, 1823, Logan Co. Ky. Christopher Orndorff, after a short illness, age 72, formerly an inhabitant of Washington Co. Md.

Died Oct. 4th, Sat. 1823, Logan Co. Ky. Mary Orndorff relict of late Christopher Orndorff, age 68.⁴

his sister Leah and her husband, William Morgan. Next lay the land of Delilah, who later married John Grubbs, and, beyond that, a 1,200 acre tract bought by Christian in 1808. Christopher willed the home plantation to Esau, but when Esau migrated to Illinois he sold it to Wash Hummer, who had married into the family. Leah's descendants later inherited this land, which still remains in Orndorff hands. All these farms lay near the Tennessee line and were watered by the Red River.

THE GRANDFATHER'S CLOCKS

The ancient clock stands, gaunt and tall,
And quaint and grim, against the wall:
Its measured tick is loud and slow
And it speaks to me of the long ago.

* * *

With pensive face and outstretched hands,
It bears me back to other lands, —
To days when life was fresh and new,
When friends were real and kindred true.

Its solemn tick recalls the fears,
The hopes and plans of earlier years, —
The friends and loves whom once I knew
Seem passing by me in review.

Its hands move on from hour to hour,
Urged by the same mysterious power
Which erst ordained my course in life
'Mid labor, care and daily strife.

A destiny still shapes our ends,
On which each action e'er depends;
'Tis like the weight within the clock
That bids it sound its tick and tock.⁵

Grandfather's Clock — E. GRUMBINE



GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK

Aaron Orendorff carried it to Illinois in 1827. Tradition says the first Christian Orndorff brought it over from Germany in 1741.

The clock that was willed to Enoch is one of two grandfather's clocks that are said to have come from Germany. But since no definite proof of their Old World origin has been found, and since early German Americans often imported the works of a clock and built the case themselves, probably these two heirlooms are the product of both German and American manufacture. Enoch went to Illinois as a bachelor and left his cumbersome inheritance with Christian. The descendants in Logan County, Kentucky, who retained the clock only remembered that a great uncle had given it to the family.

Aaron Orendorff, Enoch's brother, had the other grandfather's clock. Always enthusiastic over family heirlooms, Aaron carried several with him to Illinois, including a desk and the grandfather's clock. After a long period of service the clock stopped running. A recent owner, who had married into the family, determined to make it function again, so he worked at odd moments for several weeks until he finally got the clock to strike at fairly regular intervals. Then a member of the family reported hearing it strike seventeen times at midnight. The others, hearing the old clock make its usual single strokes the next day, doubted the story, until, during the evening meal, it burst out with fifty-three strokes. The clock still possessed its former functioning ability and was soon on its way to regular service again.⁶

CHAPTER XV

THE VIRGINIA MORGANS MIGRATE TO LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Col. William Morgan, a famous Indian fighter, spy, and scout, raised a company of volunteers from Shepherdstown, Virginia, and marched to Morristown in 1777 to join Washington. He later decided that the most urgent need of his country was the conquest of the West. On March 1, 1779, Col. Morgan set out on Boone's trail in command of an expedition into Kentucky. While there he established Morgan's Station.¹

His oldest son, Col. Abraham Morgan, also served in the American Revolution as one of Washington's most beloved generals. Appreciating the brave and noble service of his Virginia friend, Washington bequeathed to him a pair of very fine holster pistols* and a pair of silver knee buckles.

During the period, 1803-1810, with the exception of one term when his cousin, Daniel Morgan, alternated with him, Col. Abraham Morgan was chosen as a Delegate from Jefferson County to the Virginia Legislature. He still held several thousand acres in military grants and made a number of trips to Kentucky, to locate land and secure good titles. This proved to be a very difficult task, as the grants had been given

*When Col. Abraham's son Joseph enlisted in the War of 1812 he gave him the treasured pistols. Young Joseph served at Fort Mimms in Alabama as a mounted rifleman, participated in the struggle at Pensacola, Florida, and served with Coffee's Brigade at New Orleans, taking an active part in the battles of December 23rd and January 8, 1815. His company entered their last battle 32 strong, but only sixteen came out. He had lost the treasured pistols.²

without a true knowledge of the water-courses and the boundaries of the strips overlapped with other claims. He also sent out Abel, his oldest son, who knew something about surveying, to see what could be done in the settlement of the issue.³

In 1809, Col. Abraham Morgan bought two thousand acres from Ninian Edwards and sent his two sons, Joseph and Abel, to build cabins and open up the land. They put in a crop and were joined by the rest of the family the following year. They located near the Nashville Road, six miles south of Russellville.⁴

In 1812, William Morgan, a nephew of Col. Abraham, joined his uncle and entered the destiny of the Orndorff family. Born near Shepherdstown, he had studied for the ministry under Episcopalian divines in the East and had intended to become a minister of that faith, but Leah Orndorff, with her golden red hair, and her efficient, capable personality, gave a pleasing turn to his plans.

Leah Orndorff had won a reputation through southern Kentucky for her fine marksmanship and skill in bringing down wild game. With her brothers she would trail the wild deer and turkeys through the deep woodlands and river valleys and be more successful than the best huntsman in the party. William Morgan was not long in deciding that he would sell out his interests near Shepherdstown. The County Clerk's office in Charles Town, West Virginia, shows this transaction:

January 8, 1813. Deed of William Morgan, Jr., unmarried, to Walter B. Selby, conveying all his interests in a tract of land in Jefferson County, which William Jr. had inherited from his father, Zacheus Morgan, who received the same by the last will and testament of his father Col. Wm. Morgan. The deed further setting up the fact that

the tract contains 200 acres, and is subject to a dower of his mother, Margaret Morgan, the widow of Zacheus Morgan.

Leah and William were married on November 24, 1814. They lived on Orndorff land, and it is said that "he remained a gentleman and a scholar and wrote a Commentary on the Bible." Leah was the real manager of the plantation, and humorous sketches found in the family Bible picture her in some of the outdoor activities on the farm. One son, Henry C. Morgan, graduated from a New York law school. When he and his brother volunteered for service in the Federal Army they won the disfavor of their Kentucky cousins, who supported the South.⁵

A local citizen, George Blakey, in an historical sketch, in a series of articles written on Logan County men in the *Bowling Green Messenger*, says:

William Morgan, so well and kindly remembered by all who knew him, was born and educated near Shepherstown, came to Logan County in 1812, married Miss Leah Orndorff, sister of John and Christian. They lived on Red River near the Nashville Road, where, after raising a large, interesting and intelligent family of sons and daughters and retaining the friendship of all who knew him, he died at the advanced age of 83. Two of his sons Henry Clay and Mortimer, one of whom was Captain, were in the Union Army. It is said, and truly said, that they came home at the close of the war as honest as when they enlisted. . . . Captain Morgan was selected a few years since by his so-called Republican friends as a candidate for the Legislature.⁶

Christopher Orndorff had given the German mirror, which Christian I is said to have brought over from the Old Country, to Leah. It was given a prominent place in the living room and remained in the William Mor-

gan homestead until the twentieth century. The story is told that a daughter, Molly Morgan, when she was growing into young womanhood, insisted that the mirror be removed to her own room and the change was made.

William Morgan's homestead* has recently been remodeled on the old lines and is said to be one of the most attractive places on the Adairville Road. Flowers pressed and tucked away in the leaves of the old Bible give faint memories of old romances. But some of the daughters never married, perhaps for lack of a real gentleman of the old school.

*The upstairs of the old Morgan home is said to have been a real "Treasure Trove." When a member of the family died he left the money he had possessed in a certain drawer of an old bureau. Many old letters and books were carefully preserved, including the Commentary written by William Morgan. Later members of the family, not at that time realizing their real value, destroyed them.

CHAPTER XVI

CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF, AND THE RED RIVER MILLS

CHRISTIAN, SON OF CHRISTOPHER

Land records are not extant for Christian before 1808, but members of his family stated that he came to Kentucky with his father. An old store ledger of George Blakey, a Revolutionary soldier who went into Kentucky with the first settlers, also gives an early account for goods purchased by Christian Orndorff in Russellville.

Blakey built a home near Russellville which he called "Rural Choice," and, according to recent reports, it is still standing. He lived to be past eighty and became well acquainted with all the pioneers. His son, George Blakey, Jr., wrote sixty-two articles for the *Bowling Green Messenger* on Logan County men whom he and his father had known. Among the sketches that he clipped from the paper and pasted in the store ledger were those on the Orndorff and Morgan families. The following references from the *Messenger* are suggestive:

John Bailey, the elder brother arrived in Kentucky in 1792 and was elected to the Constitutional Convention. . . . Shortly afterwards he moved to Logan County and settled on Red River, and built the first mill ever put on that stream. It was later owned by Christian Orndorff.

Colonel Anthony Butler immigrated to Logan County in 1805-6 . . . purchased from Christian Orndorff a very desirable farm five miles from Russellville on the Clarksville

Road. He lived there until 1821 or so and moved on to Louisiana.

After discussing the mill of William Irwin on Whip-Poor-Will Creek, "Where I was a Mill-boy and his son W.J., the Market-boy," Blakey adds:

I love to remember that other old miller Christian Orndorff and his sons Ely and Christian, each of whom left a legacy in a good name, which it is gratifying to learn, is not likely to be tarnished by those who are now reflecting credit on the name. It has ever been pleasant for me to meet an Orndorff for the name is but the synonym of an honest man of noble and generous instincts.

It was my pleasure a few days ago to pass from *Rural Choice* which stands near the head stream of the Dry Fork Branch of Whip-poor-will, which is the first stream crossing the Elkton road, which empties into Cumberland River; all east of that dividing ridge $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Russellville, running into Green river. . . . Reaching the Clarkesville road, opposite the lovely farm of Christian Orndorff, then of Anthony Butler, then of Robert Crockett, all of precious memory.

It is pleasant to remember the names of those who forty or fifty years ago were pillars of the church and good society around Pleasant Grove Meeting House. In addition to the Baileys and Burks . . . memory calls up the names of the Orndorffs — Christian and his sons Ely and Christian, each of pleasant memory.

The "Day Book" for accounts in the *Store Ledger* owned by George Blakey, Sr., for May 14, 1807, lists the following:

Christian Orndorff Dr.

To $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds muslin	5/6	8 —	3
$\frac{1}{4}$ " ditto	7/6	1 —	$10\frac{1}{2}$
2 yds flannel	4/6	9 —	2
8 skeins thread		1 —	4
1 Almanac		1 —	6
4 yds muslin	2/6	10 —	

1	yd lace 3/1 skein silk	3 —	9
1	yd flannel	4/6	
$\frac{1}{2}$	dz Buttons	5 —	3
3	skeins thread 1 dz buttons	4 —	3
$\frac{1}{2}$	lb tea	12/	6 — ¹

Christian Orndorff bought 1,200 acres of land on the north prong of Red River from A. Morehead in 1808.² Here he built mills, five miles from the future town of Adairville. Eli, Christian's oldest son, helped his father develop the mills and passed them, together with the homestead, on to an only son, Benjamin Franklin Orndorff. Franklin had married Drucilla Hummer, a granddaughter of Leah Morgan, and their son, christened Hummer Eli, thus came into the possession of Orndorff land from both sides of the family. He developed water power from the old dam and installed electricity. On the death of H. E. Orndorff in September, 1931, his son Franklin took over the mills that had originally been built by his great, great grandfather, Christian Orndorff.

H. E. Orndorff obtained dower rights in Leah Morgan's land, which still remained intact until the twentieth century. A few years ago he and Dr. C. M. Brown of Russellville, Kentucky, the two surviving grandsons, sold two tracts of virgin timber for over \$20,000. Dr. Brown still retains the home farm, which Leah inherited from her father in 1823.³

Honest and strict integrity were strongly emphasized in all the Orndorff business dealings and the children were well trained in those virtues. H. E. Orndorff told the following story as an illustration of this.

About two hundred yards up the creek from the Orndorff Spring was an old cave where the children sometimes played. One day Enoch and Tom discov-

ered a pot of gold in the cave and ran home to tell their folks about it. The boys were told that some man had left it there and that they should not disturb it, for some day the owner might return for it. Nothing more was said about it and later the underbrush was allowed to grow and cover up the entrance to the cave. So far as Mr. Orndorff knew it was still there.

Not only had Christian built new mills, but he improved his plantation by extensive cultivation. He treated his slaves with great kindness and they soon became trusty drivers on the wagon trains that were sent to Nashville, or good workers on the plantation. As his sons grew up, and there were six who survived him, they were of great assistance in the milling business. Eli, the oldest son, bought a number of tracts of land totalling nearly a thousand acres.

More mills were built and the output increased. Eli also built woolen mills and was very successful in carding wool and in the manufacture of woolens. He collected wool from a large area in northern Tennessee. Nearly every crossroads store became a depot for the wool which was carded in the Orndorff mills. Once each week they would collect the raw wool and return the manufactured product.

"BIG JOHN"

Of the negro slaves who became useful assistants of the Orndorffs, "Big John" was the most unique character. Eli bought him about 1835, when a neighbor was settling his estate. At that time John was a big overgrown boy, as large as a mature man. As he grew, he became a veritable giant, but well proportioned. His most striking characteristic, however, was a deep musical voice, suggestive of all the incantations of the

jungle. From the first he felt at home on the Orndorff plantation. He became a dependable teamster and went regularly with the wagon trains to Nashville.

It became his custom, as he returned late in the evening, to give a weird call when he reached a knoll two miles from home. It was indeed a call of the jungle — a sound never to be forgotten — and was clearly heard at the plantation. On still moonlight nights his deep voice carried a great distance in all directions and people who lived in cabins far off the trail would exclaim: "There goes Big John!"

Those who did not know his kindly disposition would shudder with fear, when in the darkness his voice would come ringing through the woods. Strangers visiting in the Orndorff home were filled with awe under the spell of his marvelous musical chant. The women spinning at the loom or working about the house learned to love his weird songs, that often burst forth as he was working in the garden or about the house. They would sometimes stop their labor to listen as he called the hogs or halloed to the pickaninnies in the neighboring woodland.

Big John took great pride in the fact that he was spoken of as the principal agent in collecting wool in northern Tennessee. He would put on his wagon a very large frame, that had been made especially for the purpose, and hitch up two or four mules, as the load might require. In the busy season three wagons were employed in the collecting of wool. He would go down one day and deliver the yarn and return the next day with another load of raw wool. At times, the Orndorffs would get three loads of wool at one country store, with a thousand pounds to each wagon. Many were the wagons of wool that Big John helped to collect in northern

Tennessee and many barrels of flour reached the market through his willing efforts.

John remained on the plantation after the Civil War and always displayed a certain novel freedom in giving away chickens or vegetables from the garden.⁴

DEATH OF CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF

Dr. W. A. Provine, the late state historian of Tennessee and a grandson of Rev. Weeden, gave the following quotations from the *Diary* of his grandfather, who served the Red River Presbyterian Congregation as a part of his circuit:

February 17, 1833. Preached at Eli Orndorffs. March 28 there again. A very large assembly.

January 2, 1834. Few out. Some feeling among saints and sinners. December 11, 1840. Preached at Orendorff's schoolhouse to small assembly, the evening being rainy. Continued preaching the next day at the same place.

February 4, 1845. Tues. Preached funeral of Christian Orndorff, Esquire, on Sabbath before the Assembly.

Extracts from Christian's Will reveal some proof for the family tradition that they brought a "chest of silver" with them to Kentucky:

I Christian Orndorff of the County of Logan and State of Kentucky . . . will and bequeath unto my wife, Mary Orndorff, all my household and kitchen furniture of every description whatever and all my negroes and all my stock of any kind also all the profits arising from the moity of a tan yard in the town of Springfield in the County of Robertson and State of Tennessee.

I will and bequeath unto my daughter Catherine Gunn four hundred and thirty-four dollars and also my silver table spoons at the death of her Mother.

I will and bequeath unto my son Eli Orndorff one hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath unto my son Christian W. Orndorff one hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath unto my son Aaron B. Orndorff two hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Ann Burr four hundred and twenty dollars also my Silver Soup Spoons at the death of her Mother.

I will and bequeath unto my son John Orndorff two hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath unto my daughter Eliza Orndorff Four Hundred and Seventy dollars also two beds and furniture.

I will and bequeath my son Ira Orndorff two hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath my son Hiram Orndorff two hundred dollars.

I will to my son a minor [Hiram] my moiety of the tan yard . . . all the tools and bark that may be on hand . . . and said minor to take possession of said tan yard in the above named August 1847 . . .

It is my desire that my Executor shall hire my young negroes out as soon as they are able to earn anything and to whom he pleases, and if either or both my old negroes become unfirm or die it is my desire that their places be filled with my young ones and pay to my wife the interest and hire annually . . .

And it is my desire that all the property of every description that may be left after the death of my wife Mary Orndorff shall be equally distributed among my children or their legal representatives in the following form — my negro man Jim and woman Melvina . . . that they may have a choice which of my children they may wish to live with . . . and if any two or more of my children should wish to have either lot they shall draw for them and the ballance of my negroes shall be sold among my children.

It is further my desire that the Court will not demand any surety of my Executors.

And lastly I appoint my son Eli Orndorff Executor of this

my last will and testament to transact all matters contained in as ample a manner as though I had done the same myself.

In testimony I hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand and Eight Hundred and forty-five.

Christian Orndorff (Seal)

Witnesses Present

John Orndorff

Wright Crunk

William Morgan ⁵

ACTIVITIES OF CHRISTIAN'S SONS

The manufacture of leather and boots was a pioneer industry in northern Tennessee and tanneries were rather numerous by 1840. In that year Tennessee reported 454 establishments, of which 225 were in East Tennessee and 164 in Middle Tennessee. At this time over \$280,000 was invested as capital in this enterprise.⁶

On October 16, 1843, Christian's brother John had written to the Illinois brothers:

Christian's son Hiram was married last week to John Pasley's daughter. He learned the tanning business with Combes and Christian purchased the tanyard in Springfield for him.⁷

Hiram was nineteen when he married and started on his career in the leather business. He later established a leather harness store, which his son William continued. William specialized in fine saddles, and this profitable phase of family industry was continued until the death of William Orndorff a few years ago.

Aaron B. Orndorff lived four miles from the Orndorff Spring and owned a mill on Little Whip-Poor-Will, while his brother John, who lived at Adam's Station, built a mill on Red River. A team of mules ran away with John and a barrel of sorghum molasses kill-

ed him. Their sister Louise married William Price, who built a mill on Triple Bridge, Simpson County.⁸

Ira's son, James V. Orndorff, remained on Orndorff land between Oakville and Adairville, Kentucky. Interviews with James V. Orndorff have been very delightful and informational, as he is well versed on family traditions and a real student of historic lore. He told how his father, an adept handcarver, whiled away many happy hours on rainy days carving designs on tables and beds. Ira's brother, Christian W. Orndorff, also engaged in the same pastime in his moments of leisure from the milling business.

Three of Ira's grandsons, Seth, Lee, and Burt Orndorff, born in southwest Missouri, later moved to El Paso, Texas, where they were large landholders and are associated with the development of various enterprises of Texas and the lower South.

ELI ORNDORFF

Eli, Christian's oldest son, continued the development of his father's plantation and of the Red River Mills. Eli had patented fifty acres of land on the North Fork of Red River on April 30, 1831. For 1832, there is a deed of 300 acres to him from his father and for 1841 another deed of 400 acres. During the years 1829-1844 he and his father bought various tracts of land together totalling 988 acres in Logan County, Kentucky. He also bought and sold land in Robertson County, Tennessee. For 1832 there is a deed for 215 acres from Eli and his father to Christian W. Orndorff, whose land holdings were never so large.⁹

Eli was elected to the Kentucky Legislature in 1845, and he served most acceptably. During the same year he built a lovely new home with hardwood floors, brass

knockers, and polished mirrors. There was great regret in the family when this wonderful old homestead burned down, for it had been considered the most beautiful home in southern Kentucky.

On September 26, 1845, John Orndorff wrote to his brother Esau in Illinois:

Ely is elected to the legislature this year. He is building himself a very splendid mansion house nearly in the middle of his farm.

Eli and his sons developed an extensive business, maintaining both flour and woolen mills. In 1870 a new brick woolen mill was built by Franklin, Eli's son. Years later old fashioned women continued to send their wool to the Orndorff mills, where it was carded on the custom basis. After receiving their roll, they would weave their own cloth on hand looms. The Orndorffs began weaving yard goods and blankets, but the woolen mill burned in 1905, and since by this time the custom business had decreased very much, they decided not to rebuild it. The flour mill and the sawmill were continued, but the agricultural interests became their strongest asset.

JOHN G. ORNDORFF

Christian W. Orndorff had a son, John G. Orndorff, who later became a prominent citizen of Russellville, Kentucky. John gives us a vivid picture of the Orndorff flour industry:

For many, many years the Orndorff flouring mills were run to their full capacity, night and day, and the surplus flour was hauled by wagons to Nashville, a distance of forty miles. Week after week, almost the year round, the wagons would make these trips. Oftentimes when a mere boy, I have started out on Wednesday mornings in charge of three

six mule teams, with faithful negro teamsters, arriving at Nashville the following afternoon and camp at McNary's Spring in the outskirts of the city. Usually on Thursday morning I would deliver the flour, collect the money, and by noon start out for home, which we would reach Friday night. This we would repeat the next week. . . . I have known as many as 20-25 wagons from off Red River to camp at McNary's the same night.¹⁰

On the way home they would stop at a barrel factory, built in the woods where lumber was plentiful and easily obtained, and fill the wagons with new barrels. Old chairs, heirlooms in the family, were made as a side line at this barrel factory.

John G. Orndorff adds:

When I was a boy . . . no less than eight of these mills were in successful operation on the banks of Red River, within the County of Logan. They were recognized as the best investments in all the county.

In the Orndorff saw mills many feet of lumber were produced, which supplied the incoming settlers with material for their new houses and big barns. John G. Orndorff (1838-1933) in his personal reminiscences gave the reason why he did not continue in the milling business which had been so successfully developed by his father and grandfather. He said:

I must confess that I never, to the best of my recollection, had any taste for the business, for when ten years of age I had an experience with a mill, from which time I have said "No Mills in Mine!"

One Sunday afternoon the plantation became so quiet that the lad craved excitement. He took several little negro boys and went down to the saw mill. As they were walking around, investigating the big pile of shavings, John had a sudden inspiration to try his hand at sawing a log. His companions agreed to be his allies.

The saw mill was of the primitive type which fastened in a frame like a window sash. As the frame ran up and down it was manipulated with a homemade wheel of planks fastened on buckets. It was all home-made and of wood, except the steel blade which was one-fourth of an inch thick and six inches wide. John wasn't quite tall enough to manage the wheel easily, and just as he turned it his foot slipped. The little negroes pulled him away, but it was too late. His foot had been crushed and he had been crippled for life. Although as he grew older he became manager of the wagon trains to Nashville, he had lost the desire to conduct mills for himself.

At twenty John G. Orndorff entered the mercantile business and was a successful merchant until he was elected County Clerk in 1876. He served in that capacity for sixteen years and then entered an Abstract Office, where he remained an active member and partner of the firm until he was past ninety.

Crippled in his father's mill as a small lad, he was unable at the time of the Civil War to enter the regular enlistment. But one day he started off by himself to Richmond, by way of Shiloh, on a big grey horse, to see what service he could render. He tells us that it was a very lonesome trail, but when he got to Shiloh a battle was under way, so he helped take care of the wounded. He stayed for two months, assisting in every way that he could, and for his special concern for the severely wounded soldiers he was made Adjutant on the staff of General J. B. Briggs.

A TRIBUTE

Johnson in his *History of Kentucky and Kentuckians* (1912) gives the following sketches:

Those who have born the name Orndorff have contributed materially to the development and up-building of this favorable section of the state, and it is fitting that due record be made concerning their lives and labors. John Grubbs Orndorff was born on his father's homestead farm, near Adairville, Kentucky . . . Christian Orndorff was one of the sterling pioneers and influential citizens of Logan County . . . Christian W. Orndorff was a cabinet maker by trade, but this active career was closely concerned with agricultural pursuits and milling, he and his brothers having been pioneer millers of southern Kentucky and their father having also been identified with this line of enterprise, in connection with which he established one of the first grist mills in Logan County.

Hummer Eli Orndorff resides on his finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty-five acres, which includes the house, farm and mill first owned by his great grandfather . . . He and his sister jointly own the farm northeast of Adairville, first bought and settled by their great, great grandfather, Christopher Orndorff . . . Mr. Orndorff owns and operates the Red River Mill, which was constructed at an early day by his forefathers.¹¹

CHAPTER XVII

CAPTAIN JOHN, INVENTOR

Captain John, Christopher's second son, has already been referred to as the author of the diary of the Orndorff migration into Kentucky and as one of the largest landholders in Logan County. He built a flour mill and a sawmill on Red River, which were improved from time to time. Yet, being of a mechanical turn of mind, he found much time to experiment with various types of machinery.

As a mechanical enthusiast, John is an embodiment of the manufacturing spirit of the first half of the nineteenth century. Men of his type prepared the way for the great manufacturing plants of the present day. He rarely carried his experiments to perfection, but if one makes a study of his varied interests he gets some idea of the experimental enthusiasm of the time.

Unfortunately the records of the Patent Office are not open for inspection, and one is unable to obtain the history of the patents John applied for, or any references to the patents he received with the exception of one for a "Spinning Wheel" ¹ on March 10, 1829. But through his letters ² to his brother Esau in Illinois, his particular hobbies are revealed. The letters are extant only for the latter part of John's life, or the period from 1838 to 1848. But a number of John's experiments in the mechanical field are referred to. They disclose the problems of pioneer agriculture and mechanics.

A COTTON PRESS

On January 6, 1838, John writes:

Mr. Price came up at Christmas to carry on the farm I hired old Mr. Hellums to carry on my factory I am to give him \$9 per month I Expect him here on Monday I have not yet got A Patent for my Press I received A Letter from Underwood A few weeks past that my papers are not yet properly prepared I wrote to him to send them all back and I will make another trial I Beleve I got my press to stand at last tho the last trial we broke one of the wheels but that I do not regard My racks and Pinions stood the wheels are easily strengthened I have A Double rack and redused all my wheels to two feet I have only Calculated this Press for Common Baling I do not believe I shall be able to make it strong enough for compressing That will injure the sale of it considerable McClane has also gone on with his press and it is an exolent press he is able to Compress with his, But genuary has threatent to bring soot against him and I have no doubt but he will as McClane makes use of his Princible I Consider McClares press superior to genuarys I was informed A few days past that McClane had sold jacson County in the Mississipy for \$5000 and there was two of genuary's presses in the County this appears they are prefferable to Jenuarys

I have tested the princible of my improvement on the sawmill with a Double flutterwheel on Elys mill it has proven superior to my expectation Ely thinks it gives the saw fully one third more power he says he would not have the Improvement taken from his mill for \$500 he cut thru A Log 12 feet Long and 20 inches deep in 2 minutes and 50 seconds by close attention he can cut 2500 feet per day, I tryed it first with a 30 inch wheel that is the Lower wheel with a 2 feet cogwheel but it did not do well I had some 4 feet wheels surplis from my press I applyed one of them and A 5 feet waterwheel it then went right Ahead the wheel cleared itself well, But the first wheel was so low it was wallowed in the water. This invention is A valuable one I shall have A model made immediately and Prepare the

drawings and specifcation and send for A Patent Old Mr Hardy has been here several times he wishes to go on to Washington City and attend to my business. I expect to send him on and take him in as an agent and Let him attend to the whole business (I shall reserve some few states) and give him one half he makes, I will let him have the sawmill Press and ventilator he thinks he can do an exolent business with the ventilator in the seaport towns to take the stag-nated are out of the sellers to avoid sickness.

Jacob Miller died a few weeks past I was at his house when he died The rest of the Connection are all well flour at Nashv is worth three dollars, our Bridge was completed yesterday the men boarded at my house upwards of 2 months I Calculate going down the River this spring and probable take A few set of Press Irons with me Delilah and myself remember our best wishes to you all

write when convenient

John Orndorff

On February 2, 1839, John again refers to the Cotton Press:

He calculates for us to make at least fifty per cent on our funs, we calculate to get them sot up at different points this season and probable by the next Season they will want from 50 to 100 set, the alteration I have made to the patrons, they will weight 2000 lbs. I have engaged their last ten sets for \$86 each and we will sell them in the Louisiana at \$175 each, the freight cost us about \$10 or \$12 for each set and we calculate to furnish the screws and the balance of the Irons but this I expect we shall omit, he says he can sell any quantity now if I would send them on but I do not wish to commence on two large a scale He stated there was a Doct Jones from the East came in that contry with a new Pattent Press and heard of mine and called on Van Wickle to see it, and when he saw it he observed if this answered the purpose it was not worth his while to try to sell his, as he heard them talking of the Orndorff Cotton Press where ever he had been, and he stated the Doctors costs Double of ours.

On August 6, 1841, John remarks:

Since I wrote John Orndorff went to Louisiana to set up some more cotton presses but when he got down he found that two of those presses he had set up was broke, in consequence it threw them out of repute and he could not sell those he had taken down I expect there is 3 or 4 sets left unsold. . . .

As I have fell threw with the cotton presses, an old man by the name of Aiken and myself have invented another machine which I consider very valuable if we can succeed to make it answer, the intention of this invention is for a man to go under water any reasonable depth from one to two hundred feet and carry with him and enter a nye vessel which below he can perform with as much care as on the ground, only with the exception of the incumbant of the water, and he can remain there for hours or a day without coming out I have so much confidence in it that I have furnished Wm. Barker with \$200 and sent him to Cincinnati to have the invention tested by actual experiment and if we succeed we can by this machine unload all the boats and vessels that sink under water not exceeding 300 feet. I expect to hear from Wm. Barker in a few weeks.

The diving bell had long been in use, but the open helmet diving dress had been made practical only two years earlier in England. Quite possibly John had not yet heard of the British invention, and believed that all men were still shut out from the cargoes of sunken vessels. No further mention of John's diving mechanism is found, but for a time he had been among the host of seekers after sunken treasure.

PROBLEMS OF MOVING A MILL

From time to time Captain John mentions repairs that he is making on his mills. On December 26, 1842, he writes:

I am closely engaged in getting all my machinery in repair.

On Sept. 26, 1845, he comments:

I have undertaken a heavy job this fall. I will move my mill to the bluff in consequence I have to build my mill on the other side of the river. . . . I wish to quarry this rock this fall and get out all my timber for the dam and eatherboarding to the mill also for the sawmill My Principle object to moving the mill is to run my sawmill I shall construct my works so as to be able to draw the logs out of the mill pon immediately on the sawmill.

Later on in the letter he adds:

I have hired another man a ruff carpenter for \$12 per month to assist me with the mill him and Issac can get the timber and do all the rough framing.

On July 14, 1847, he writes:

I shall finish cutting my oats in a few days I then will commence putting up my sawmill. . . . I have my Wash tending the mill since I started. He understands grinding very well, But Billy Hummer will tend it again as soon as he gets his crops secured.

March 22, 1848, Captain John reports:

I hired Wm Hummer for \$150 a year he superintends my farm and his I have a man by the name of McGowin who formerly lived with the shakers to attend to the mill . . . I have a good deal to do to my saw mill and mill before I have them completed.

THE VIRGINIA REAPER

There is a family tradition that John experimented with a reaping machine and had made preparations to patent it when the advertisements of the Virginia Reaper reached him. Wheat was raised in large quantities on the Orndorff farms, but it was a difficult problem to cut and harvest the heavy grain with the cradle in the cumbersome manner of the time. As soon as they heard about the Virginia Reaper they began to investigate

its specific advantages. For the Orndorff brothers were always among the first to buy improved farm machinery as it came on the market.

Cyrus McCormick had made trials with the reaper in his home state of Virginia, and through extensive advertising the "Virginia Reaper," became well known. The first reapers were sent to the West in 1844. In the *Daily Richmond Enquirer* of November 19, 1844, McCormick printed this advertisement:

The undersigned returned a short time since from the Northwestern Country, having left Virginia the latter part of June last to attend to the introduction of his Reaper. He had machines in operation, during the last harvest in western New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri. Machines were sent to Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, but they did not reach their destination until too late for harvest.³

The Orendorff brothers bought some of the first reapers sent to the West. Darius Orendorff (1828-1921) often told that his father, Aaron, bought the first McCormick Reaper sent to Illinois. Through some mischance McCormick lost the record of sale as to who bought the first Virginia Reaper in Illinois, but John's letter of September 26, 1845, reveals the fact that Esau,* one of the other Orndorff brothers on the Illinois prairies, successfully used a reaper the second summer:

My reaping machine did not come to hand till after har-

* This letter was addressed to Esau whose oldest son, Franklin, evidently had been visiting in Kentucky. Family ties remained very strong and annual trips were not uncommon. Later Franklin went back to Kentucky to secure Christian II's Bible after he found that it had been auctioned off at a sale for ten cents. On the second trip he succeeded in buying the Bible. Franklin lived to be past ninety-three and was engaged in farming near Delavan, Illinois. The Bible is now owned by a grandson, Phil Orendorff.

vest it is now lying in Clarksville I have not seen it, you have recvd yours and it operates well Franklin says the raking is hard work but you thought it could be made to rake itself this I have no doubt could be done but I think it would require another kind of a cutter or a siccle is two rought an edg for timothy, if there could be a blade maid something like a crescent saw and keep the sides of the teeth sharp but this would be very difficult.

Mr. J. B. McCormick, a cousin of Cyrus H. McCormick, who lived in Versailles, Kentucky, was a salesman for the McCormick interests in Illinois in 1845. He was acquainted with John Orndorff and was probably the one who sold him a Reaper that year.⁴ There were three Orndorff brothers raising wheat on the prairies of central Illinois in 1844, Aaron, Esau, and Enoch.

In his *Memoirs*⁵ Aaron stated that he bought the first Reaper sold in Illinois. One wonders if the three brothers used this reaper in their harvest of 1845. Esau, the brother to whom John often addressed the family letters, was evidently considering the buying of a "new Model" reaper in the spring of 1849. The following letter was preserved by his great granddaughter:

Chicago 7th May 1849

Esau Orendorff Esq.

Delavan Tazewell Co. Ills Sir

Your favor of the 7th Inst. came duly to hand. We should be glad to sell you one of our Reapers, but we cannot do so on the terms you propose. We have but our cash price, and that \$115 here, or the same price freight & Ware House charges at Pekin — That is \$115 you paying freight and Charges. Should you wish one on these terms we will furnish you, and give the guarantee which you have seen in our advertisements. The sickles this year are much superior to any ever before made, and their connections with the

crank so well arranged, that the liability of breakage is almost entirely removed. . . .

Yours Respectfully

McCormick Ogden & Co.⁶

MARKETS

Marketing their flour and tobacco, and the less important products of the farm, corn and pork, was another problem that confronted the Orndorffs. In writing to his brothers, John often refers to market conditions in Nashville and Clarksville, where he did his business at this time.*

After 1810 tobacco became an important money crop in Tennessee. By 1820, 7,000 hogsheads were annually sent to New Orleans to be exchanged for coffee, sugar, and other commodities, but tobacco prices remained low until 1838. From 1841 to 1846 the prices ranged from two to four cents a pound. In 1846, on account of the Mexican War, tobacco was selling from one to three cents a pound.

By 1834 dealers had begun to put up factories in Clarksville and to purchase leaf tobacco. With the exception of Louisville, Clarksville opened the first inspection warehouse in the Middle West. In 1840 the number of "stemmeries" had increased, but it was difficult to persuade such planters as still adhered to the practice of pressing the tobacco and shipping it to New Orleans, to consent to sell it at Clarksville.

On December 1, 1838, John writes:

I sold my Tobacco at Clarkesville for \$5 per hundred and all round lugs and all the same price.

On August 16, 1841, he comments:

* Pekin was Esau's nearest shipping point on the Illinois River, and the Orndorff brothers often purchased goods via Pekin from either St. Louis or Chicago until the railroads came through Tazewell County.

Our tobacco is late in consequence of the cutworms and insects destroying it in the spring.

In a letter of December 26, 1842, he remarks:

Money is scarce and produce of every description is low. Pork is worth \$1.50.

On October 16, 1843, John says:

I also had the misfortune to have my crop of tobacco burnt. I broke up your young orchard since you left and I cultivated around the old barn about 8 or 9 acres the tobacco was very fine. It was housed in your old barn. I had put a new ruff on it of boards and so soon as they got all the crop in threw some — it took fire and consumed the tobacco and the barn. I did not mind the crop so much as burning down the old barn.

It was in 1843, also, that the influence of organized buyers began to be considered in the control of markets. On December 22nd of that year John writes:

Flour at Nashville is still low from \$1.50 to \$1.75 and \$2 There has several hugsters established themselves there and the town appears to encourage them. They will give the hugsters \$2 when at the same time they will not allow the waggon more than \$1.50 and \$1.75 and the waggon men cant sell even at those prices under those circumstances the waggoners are compelled to sell to those hugsters what they are willing to give I think the citizens are standing in their own light under those circumstances the farmers will decline raising wheat. Raising tobacco is also a dull drag on the farmer. Those stemmeries in Clarksville are giving \$3 and \$1 they are their own inspectors When the farmer halls his tobacco down there is always a squabble they will throw into the lugs what they please as they are their own inspectors In this way we are imposed on by them If there was a distinteresting [party] it would be to the farmer advantage I believe I could do better to raze wheat and sell the flour at \$1.75 at Nashville than I could by raising tobacco. Pork is worth \$2.50 Drove to Clarksville there was about 5000 drove from this County.

LOOKING WEST

John, as we have seen, had explored the Miami Valley but had turned back, as his Uncle Christian before him had done. He did not find the water power that he desired for the building of mills. From his relatives and passing travelers who had made extensive excursions into the West and Southwest, he learned that waterfalls were not very abundant. On March 4, 1842, he wrote to his brother Esau:

I was informed that Franklin had explored the Missouri but was not pleased with the country. I have been informed of some traveler, that in the south west was a very good country but I know of no water fit for navigation.

John was willing to remain in Kentucky and accumulate land, while other members of the family sought out new frontiers. He built a brick house near Red River and married late in life. In his Will he refers to a daughter, an only child:

WILL OF JOHN ORNDORFF

I John Orndorff of the County of Logan and State of Kentucky being weak in body but sound in mind and memory do make this my last will and testament . . .

1st I will and bequath unto my wife Caroline Orndorff all my Lands west of the Nashville Road on this side of the River Including my Dwelling house and my orchard on the East side and one negro man and one negro woman one girl and one boy to select the same at her discretion one hundred dollars annum all my household and kitchen furniture One Road wagon and four horses four Plows 1 Harrow 2 Axes and two hoes three cows all my Sheep three Brood sows and twenty shoats and sufficient quantity of forrage and provisions for one year and if any of my negroes should Become disabled or otherwise disposed to be brought to my old cabbins and these taken care of by her and all Expenses arising to be taken out of my Estate. . . .

2nd. I will and Bequeath unto my daughter Lorenda Orndorff all the residue of my property Both real and personal . . . to be raised and educated at the Direction of my Executors out of said property and the residue to be payed or delivered over to her at the age of twenty one years.

3rd. I Direct my Executors to purchase my brother Esau Orndorffs Land adjoining mine out of any moneys they may have in their hands For the Benefit of my Daughter Lorenda Orndorff.

4th. I appoint my two Friends William Morgan and William Hummer my Executors or Either of them to retain in their hands until my daughter Becomes twenty one years of age . . . and transact all the Business of said Estate in as ample a manner as though I had done the same myself to close my estate and to Loan out my money to take mortgages on real estate but if there should be any time a residue of moneys in their hands not to be accountable for any interest arising on same but to loan or retain at their discretion to collect all my open accounts and receipt for same and it is my further desire that the county court will not require any surety of my said Executors as I have full confidence in them. In testimony I hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this 5th. day of Sept. 1848.

John Orndorff (Seal)

. . . Secret Clause It is my further desire that if my daughter should die leaving no lawful heirs . . . that all my negroes shall be free from all kinds of Involuntary servitude.

John Orndorff (Seal) 7

CHAPTER XVIII

THE ORENDORFFS AS PIONEERS ON THE PRAIRIES OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Had I been born upon a wood-green hill,
And lived my years upon its friendly crest,
I think a love would throb within my breast
That finite time nor distance could not chill,
Or if my home had been where, loud and shrill,
The sea wind brawled, or growing calm, caressed
My hair, I think I could not lie at rest
Save by the sea, when I some day grew still.
But all the hills I knew were in the sky,
The binder's reels above the wind-tossed wheat
Had been the sailing ships upon my sea.
Today I stood where a hill climbed high,
Tonight I felt the restless sea's heart beat —
And all day long the prairie called to me.

Environment — CORINNE GARNER ¹

Aaron Orendorff,* a pioneer into the vast prairies of central Illinois, completes an important cycle of frontier life. He was born in Washington County, Maryland, and during his childhood he was inspired by the stories of the adventures of Major Christian Orndorff, so active a patriot during the American Revolution. He never forgot the part played by his father and grandfather in the Revolutionary period or their strict integrity in business associations. Moving to Shepherdstown, Virginia, and later to Kentucky and Tennessee, Aaron carried with him into the West the tradition of service and business sagacity.

Although he had been unable to fill his Commission

* Illinois Orendorffs retain the *e* in their name.

as a surveyor into the "Illinois Country," he had retained a vital interest in the new state that was gradually evolving. Ninian Edwards, the well known Circuit Judge of Kentucky and Tennessee, had gone into the new Territory to serve as governor. Aaron's friends and neighbors also began to migrate to southern Illinois.

With his marriage to Martha McDowell he settled on a farm in northern Tennessee which Martha had received from her father, Joseph McDowell.² Aaron's attention was temporarily centered in the new tracts of land he had purchased on the Red River on the Kentucky border. But by 1825 a movement began which swept pioneers northward. Travelers passing through told of the great prairies in central Illinois, inhabited by only a few wandering Indians and great herds of wild deer. Aaron, who had previously held a surveying commission for the Illinois Territory, became interested and decided to investigate. The Indian problem was practically conquered at this time, but the slavery question was becoming critical.

As late as 1790, the Kickapoo tribe of Indians were in possession of central Illinois. In 1812, a protracted council was called by Governor Edwards which was attended by Chippewas, Kickapoos, Pottawottomies and Ottawas. But hostilities soon broke out again. A proclamation was issued in January, 1821, which forced the Indians to move across the Mississippi. By 1822 only four hundred remained in Illinois, but for years they tarried along the creeks, loathe to leave their old homes.³

Peter Cartwright, the pioneer Methodist preacher, had moved from Logan County, Kentucky, to Sangamon County, Illinois, arriving at his new field of serv-

ice on November 15, 1824. The following quotations from his *Autobiography* give a vivid picture of Illinois at this period:

Sangamon County was not only a newly-settled country, but embraced a large region. It was the only northern county organized in the state. Just north of us was unbroken Indian country, and the Indians would come in by scores and camp on the Sangamon River bottom, and hunt and live there through the winter. Their frequent visits to our cabins created sometimes great alarm among the women and children.

My circuit extended to Blooming Grove in M'Lean County, near where the City of Bloomington now stands. A few fine Methodist families had settled in this grove . . . My district was 400 miles long, and covered all the west side of the Grand Prairie, fully two thirds of the geographical boundaries of the state.

Our Pottawattomie Mission was located on Fox River. Jesse Walker was missionary, and I was appointed superintendent. . . . We had near one hundred miles of unbroken wilderness country to pass through to get to this mission. There being no roads, I had to hire my pilot, and camp out. . . .

All the chiefs shook hands with us, as their custom is, and all bid us a cordial welcome save one. . . . He did not wish to change their religion and their customs, nor to educate their children.

There was present a Chippewa Chief, with his two daughters. The Chief made a flourishing speech in favor of the mission and in favor of our "Great Father, the President," and the American people. He had fought under the American colors in the last war with England, and had his diploma from the President as a brave captain, and showed it with great exultation. His two daughters were dressed like the whites, and could read pretty well.⁴

THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY

Aaron Orendorff disliked slavery and did not wish

his sons to grow up in a state where slavery existed. He was sympathetic toward those who held slaves, for he felt that if his brothers and friends desired to own slaves they should be guaranteed their property rights. But he hoped that his sons would never own negroes. His son Darius later remarked :

Politically Aaron Orendorff was a supporter of Jacksonian principles and the African Colonization Society. The dislike of slavery was one of his reasons for leaving the South. Having a thorough knowledge of the low moral condition of the African race, he was conscientiously opposed to their freedom in America.⁵

In 1822, with a riotous struggle, the Illinois legislature had passed a resolution to submit to the people a proposal to call a constitutional convention. The aim was to make slavery legal in the state, and the proposed conference was popularly called "the Slavery Convention."

Although the pro-slavery people had a two-thirds majority in the legislature, the governor, Edward Coles,⁶ was a zealous and able opponent of slavery. He had freed his own slaves, and it is said he expended all his salary to defeat the calling of the convention. Emotion ran high on both sides for at least eighteen months.

John Reynolds, who later became governor, favored the measure and wrote :

At that time northwestern free states were poor and sparsely inhabited, and the southern states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, having slavery in them, were our nearest neighbors, and flourished tolerably well. Wealthy and intelligent farmers moving to Missouri seeing our excellent soil, regretted that they could not stop with their slaves in Illinois, which fired our people for slavery.⁷

But the action of the legislature was challenged by

Rev. John M. Peck, a keen anti-slavery writer, who developed a strong opposition to the movement. Peter Cartwright, who entered the legislature to fight the slavery issue, said:

The year before I moved to the state, there had been a strong move by a corrupt and demoralized legislature, to call a convention with a view to alter the constitution, so as to admit slavery into the state. I had left Kentucky on account of slavery, and, as I hoped, had bid a final farewell to all slave institutions, but the subject was still rife through the country. . . . I very freely entered the lists to oppose slavery in this way, and without any forethought of mind, went into the agitated waters of political strife. I was strongly solicited to become a candidate for a seat in the Legislature of our state. I consented, and was twice elected from Sangamon County.

But I say, without any desire to speak evil of the rulers of the people, I found a great deal of corruption in our Legislature; and I found that almost every measure had to be carried by a corrupt bargain and sale; which should cause every honest man to blush for his country.⁸

The anti-slavery forces conquered. The proposed slavery convention was rejected. Reynolds in his history of Illinois, *My Own Times*, suggests that the migrations from Kentucky and Tennessee were greatly reduced by this event, the larger number after that time coming in from the East. But when a careful survey is made one discovers that the Kentucky and Tennessee migrations were very strong during the next ten years. Evidently there were many families of German and Scotch-Irish extraction who disliked negro labor and preferred to work out their own destiny with their own hands. In fact, the Illinois Legislature for 1833 contained fifty-eight members from the South and only four from New England.⁹

EXPLORING TRIP OF AARON AND ENOCH

In 1826 Aaron persuaded Enoch, his youngest brother, who as yet had not invested heavily in land, and who, incidentally, was still single, to go with him on a horseback trip through Illinois. If they liked the country they would select a site for a future home and sell out their interests in the South. As they passed through southern Illinois, where the majority of the settlers had located, they were impressed by the poverty of the soil, but the farther north they traveled the more assured they became of the fertility of the wide prairies. In central Illinois, now dotted with towns and cities, they saw only an occasional log cabin. As they rode on they heard about a Christopher Orendorff who had established a mill on Sugar Creek, in present Logan County. Being curious, they searched out his cabin, located about six miles north of the present city of Lincoln.

The strange Mr. Orendorff welcomed Aaron and Enoch and told them that Major Christian of Sharpsburg, Maryland, was his uncle. In 1791, he said, he had married Elizabeth Philips in Hagerstown and left shortly afterwards for Georgia, where his eldest son, William, was born. After a few years he felt the call of the West, and moved to Kentucky with his growing family. William was married in Hopkinsville and by 1815 he had persuaded his father to remove to St. Clair County, in southern Illinois. Feeling the urge to move on into the Indian country, Christopher homesteaded land on Sugar Creek and built a mill.¹⁰ His son Joseph patented land farther down on Sugar Creek and built another mill.

Hon. Lawrence B. Stringer, the Logan County his-

torian, refers to "the famous Orendorff* mill known to three generations of Logan County people."¹³ Both mills have now gone out of existence, but the "Orendorff Bridge" over Sugar Creek is often referred to.

A friendship was immediately established. In the short visit at Christopher's home, Enoch seems to have fallen in love with his daughter, Rose. For the following year he built a log cabin and they were married. The identity of Christopher's father, however, is to this day a mystery. The strong resemblance among older members of the family has kept alive the interest in the relationship of the two Christophers, especially since both lines were famous for their mills and later for their business acumen.

After a pleasant recounting of old Maryland days, Aaron and Enoch went on to the home of William Orendorff, Christopher's son, who had taken out land a few miles north of his father in "Blooming Grove." The next year this William was to organize Tazewell County,¹⁴ the future home of Aaron Orendorff.

Riding on the next day as far as the present city of Ottawa, they forded the Illinois River. Then they turned west and south and guided their horses through the high prairie grass, sighting many herds of wild deer and numerous flocks of wild turkeys. At Fort Clark, later to become a large trading center, they swam their horses back across the river.

Fort Clark, 165 miles southwest of Chicago, developed into the city of Peoria. It is one of the oldest set-

* Peck's *Gazetter*, published in 1837, refers to Orendorff's Mill as one of the settlements in the northern portion of Sangamon County.¹¹

In his *Will*, written on December 18, 1829, the first will recorded in Tazewell County, Christopher leaves his mill to his son Alfred. But Alfred who was more interested in farming soon sold the mill to John Morgan who had arrived in Eminence township from Kentucky.¹²

tlements west of the Allegheny mountains. On the lake, east of the present city, La Salle with his party made a small fort in 1689, and from his hardships called it and the lake Creve Cour, or broken heart. After the massacre of the garrison at Fort Dearborn in 1812, Fort Clark was built as an outpost against the Indians. The first dwelling house between Peoria and Chicago in the nineteenth century is said to have been raised by three veterans of the War of 1812 on the old French field near the fort. With the entry of the first settlers, the State Legislature established Peoria County in 1825.¹⁵

Enoch and Aaron rode on about fifteen or twenty miles beyond Fort Clark until they came to a tract of high prairie land which was called at first "Highland Township," but later "Hopedale Township." Here Aaron selected a site for a home. His brother Enoch, evidently planning to marry and establish a home of his own, declared that he would locate on the Mackinaw, a near-by stream flowing into the Illinois River, as he would feel more at home near the water. Aaron advised him to avoid the low, swampy land infected with malaria, but Enoch had made his decision.

On their return to Kentucky and Tennessee, the Orendorff brothers were enthusiastic boosters for the prairies of the North. During the months that followed, Aaron urged his friends and relatives to seek a home in this new frontier. He sold six hundred acres that he held in Kentucky, including the land he had inherited from his father's estate, to his brother John. But since he had paid from six to twelve and one-half dollars for his land in Tennessee, it was a difficult matter to find a buyer for it at that price. He waited several years until he had had time to survey large tracts in Illinois, before he sold out his holdings in Tennessee:

Deed Book Y, page 371. Daniel Baird from Aaron Orndorff 253 acres @8.00 per acre, August 22, 1836.

Deed Book Y, page 572. George Childers from Aaron Orndorff and wife Martha McDowell Orndorff 460 acres @ 8.00 per acre, August 22, 1836.¹⁶

Enoch, on the other hand, retained the two hundred acres from his father's estate until 1834, when he sold it to William Hummer, who had married into the family. John for years managed the land of his four brothers who went to Illinois, and in the end bought most of the land himself as he hated to see any of it go out of Orndorff hands.

✓ Aaron Orendorff was the forerunner of a large exodus from the Red River Valley to the wide prairies of Illinois. Among those who were to follow was a country lawyer, Elias Ogden. The Ogdens of Maryland had settled near the Orndorffs in Kentucky. Elias had invested in an anvil, and, as a side line, had been a blacksmith. When the Orendorff brothers settled in Tazewell County they felt more need for a blacksmith than a miller, as horses would be used to plow their wide acres and a "smithy" would be a desirable asset to the community. As a special inducement, Ogden was given a large tract of Orendorff land for transferring his anvil from Kentucky to Illinois. Aaron was also instrumental in his appointment by Governor Ford as the first justice of the peace in their township.¹⁷

THE PAISLEYS

Martha's widowed sister, Jane Paisley, and her eight children also seem to have followed the Orendorffs to Illinois. Thomas Paisley had come to Tennessee from Guilford County, North Carolina, and bought

land adjoining Joseph McDowell. Among the deeds of Thomas Paisley we find the following:

August Term 1813 — Henry Capale to Thomas Paisley . . . Tract containing 100 acres beginning at a Black Oak in McDowell's Corner Run.¹⁸

Thomas later sold this land. He also sold fifteen acres on Red River, "Beginning at a hickory on the said Thomas Paisley's southwest corner of a 100 acre survey. Witnesses Abner and James McDowell."¹⁹

The following will was transcribed the day before his death, James McDowell, guardian for the Paisley children, sending them cash payments after they had removed to Illinois:

In the name of God Amen Sept. 5, 1823, I Thomas Paisley of the County of Robertson and State of Tennessee . . . do make and ordain this my last will and testament — first I recommend my soul to God and first of all it is my desire that all my just and lawful debts be paid. I do give and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane Paisley the plantation and farm whereon I now live together with all buildings and improvements until the youngest child come of age.

I do give my wife two mares bay, Poll and Gray fly, three cows, with one of the present years calves, four sheep and all the plows with all their fixings . . . also two axes, also four pair of gear, also all the household and kitchen furniture except the clock it is to be sold.

I give and bequeath to my son Robert a young sorrel horse called Major and one saddle with twenty dollars and one saw extra.

It is my desire that a back shade be built to my house it and the house to be covered with shingles with a brick chimney to each of them the expenses to be paid out of the property sold. I wish the property not mentioned sold also wish the farm tract of land to be sold if it can be sold to advantage the money remaining to be equally divided between my wife and children, Robert, Martha, Peggy, Joseph

McDowell, Jane, Thomas Morgan, James Harris, Elizabeth Barnet. I wish my books to be kept for the use of my family, my wife to school the children out of the income of the farm, if not sufficient other money belonging to the estate be made use of for that purpose. I leave it in the power of the executors to sell the lands I now possess at any time they think proper the money to be laid out in land for the benefit of my wife and children.

Lastly I constitute make and ordain my trusty friends Robert Paisley and Aaron Orendorff Executors and also my beloved wife Jane Paisley executrix. . . .

Michael Finley

James McDowell

William Paisley

Thomas Paisley (Seal)

County Term of Court November, 1823.²⁰

THE LONG TREK NORTHWARD

Aaron Orendorff started for the northern grass region in the fall of 1827, after the crops had been harvested. The trip was made in "a wooden spindle, linch pin wagon" drawn by a yoke of oxen.²¹ His daughter Mary, aged seven, later told how she and her four-year-old sister Abigail sat in the chairs held in by the big chest, the grandfather clock, and their father's desk. The great clock, a valuable possession in the family, was as highly treasured as the books which her father as a young man had brought from the East.

It was a long, difficult journey northward over the swampy prairies, for many streams had to be crossed and there were few bridges. Edward's Trace, made by the Governor's rangers, who had followed an old Indian path in the spring of 1819, led from the Mississippi River near present Alton to Peoria. This trail became the highway for the entry of the covered wagon trains into the territory north of the Sangamon River.

The newly established County of Sangamon had

made an attempt to improve the old Fort Clark Road by the encouragement of ferries. Robert McClure * entered land in the vicinity of the place where the trace crossed Salt Creek and at this crossing he established a ferry. In the fall of 1825, the Sangamon County Commissioners improved the ferry and appointed McClure "one of the road Viewers of the Springfield to Fort Clark road," laid out through the present Logan County that year.

When the party was several miles from Highland Township, Aaron pointed out to his friends and relatives the location of their prospective homes. Absalom Orendorff, a bachelor brother, climbed to the top of the wagon to get a better view. Looking to the northwest in the direction of his brother's land he espied a very large oak tree standing on high ground near the timber. He remarked to his brother: "Aaron, if that tree is on your land and I die while in Illinois, I want to be buried on that spot."

Aaron eventually bought several thousand acres in this locality, including this specific spot, and the Orendorff Cemetery** was later located there. Absalom was the first person buried in it and a large stone has been erected to mark his grave and to tell of his part in the Orendorff migration.

When Aaron reached a point one and one-half miles southwest of the present site of Hopedale, he looked over the broad and rich prairies, decided he had found his promised land, unhitched his oxen, and made a camp on the northwest corner of what Aaron later surveyed

* The McClures settled near the present Chautauqua grounds, the first pioneers to make their home near what is today the city of Lincoln. Later the McClure family married into the Orendorff family.²²

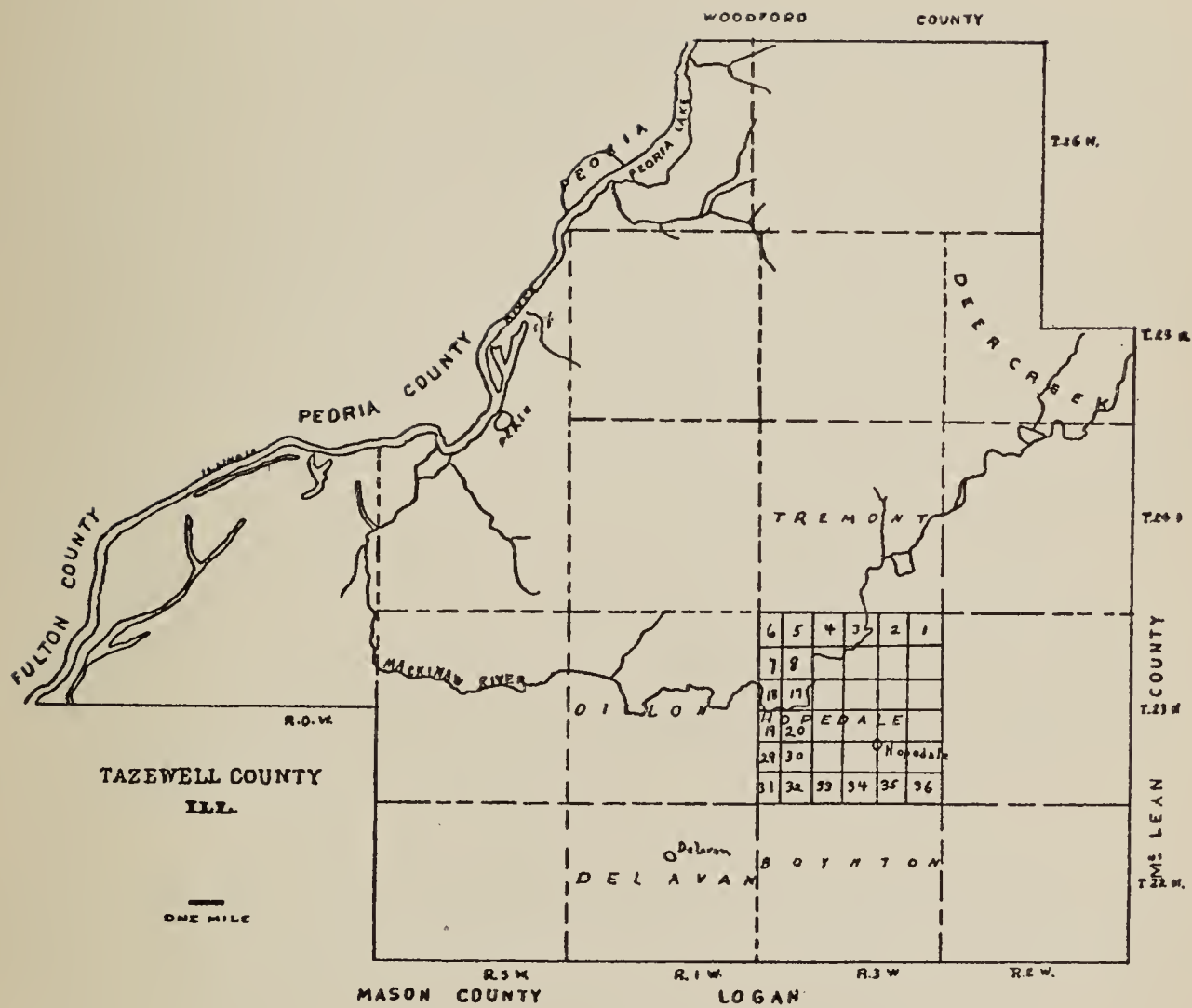
** Elias Ogden was given a tract of land extending up to the west side of this cemetery.

as section 34, Hopedale township. He built a log cabin and prepared for an Illinois winter.

LIFE ON THE OPEN PRAIRIE

Deer and other wild game were plentiful in this new frontier, and Indians frequently passed through the neighboring woodlands. A prominent village of wigwams was located on the Mackinaw River, composed of a band of Kickapoos, with Chief Machina as their leader. Chief Shabbona, a noted Pottawatomie, and a true friend of the "paleface," lived on the site of the future city of Pekin. During the Black Hawk War Shabbona saved the lives of the early pioneers by maintaining peace among his Indian warriors.²³

An Indian squaw, whose husband had been killed in the earlier Indian wars, requested the privilege of remaining on Orendorff land where her husband had often hunted. She remained until her death many years later, very grateful for the promise of being buried near the scenes of her early childhood.



MAP OF TAZEVELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CHAPTER XIX

EARLY TAZEWELL COUNTY

Tazewell County was organized by an act of the Illinois Legislature of January 31, 1827. In accordance with this act, the commissioners for choosing the site of the county seat met at the home of William Orendorff * in March. An election for county officers was also held in his home and the county commissioners convened there for their first meeting on April 10.¹

Soon a contract was drawn up to build a court house for one hundred and fifty dollars, and a tax levy was proposed. It included no tax on real estate, but a "tax of one-half of one per cent laid on the following description of property to wit: On slave ** or indentured or mulatto servants; on pleasure carriages, distilleries, stock in trade, on all horses."

* In the spring of 1823, William Orendorff and his brother Thomas settled in a finely wooded section in Fayette County, called Blooming Grove. They were ordered away by Machina and other Indians, but refused to go and were not molested.

In 1825 William received a Commission from Governor Coles, having been nominated by the Illinois House of Representatives to the office of the Justice of the Peace for the County of Fayette. When Tazewell County was cut off from Fayette, Orendorff was again commissioned on Sept. 29, 1827, as Justice of the Peace in Tazewell County. In 1830 his home fell in the newly organized county of McLean. He served as auctioneer in the first sale of lots in Bloomington, Illinois, July 4, 1831. He continued in active service in his county and community for many years.

** "The first negro to reach 'Town Site', or Tazewell county, was known as 'Black Nance', who came as a slave, leased to Major Cromwell to satisfy a debt. This occurred about 1829. She was a good soul, ever willing to help on all festal occasions. All her children were 'born in freedom,' at Pekin. As the years rolled by, she gained distinction by being the first black slave freed by the great emancipator, ABRAHAM LINCOLN. This case came before the courts and was won by Lincoln when he was known as 'Honest Old Abe.'" *Historical Souvenir*, Dedication of the New Tazewell County Court House, Pekin, Illinois, 1916, p. 11.

The new town was christened "Mackinaw," the Indian name of the river near which it was located. The Court House, a building eighteen by twenty-four feet, was made of hewn logs one foot square, and stood on blocks of wood about two feet high, sawed from large trees. It had small glass windows, still a rare thing on the frontier. At first the county contained seventy-nine townships, but by 1842 the number had been reduced to nineteen.²

On September 1, 1831, the Court granted a Mr. Laman a license to peddle clocks and assessed him twenty-five dollars for a period of three months.

In the June term of Court the next year, "One Morrison, 'a man of coullor' presented his certificate of freedom from his owner, William V. Burnett," and had the registration of his claim secured, together with "the right to buy land when it came on the market." He was the first slave "emancipated" in Tazewell County.³

LAND; EARLY AGRICULTURE

Springfield, the present capital of the state, was laid out in 1823. A new land office was established there the same year.⁴ The first land was entered in Tazewell County on October 27, 1827.⁵ Very little land, however, was surveyed by the settlers until the boundaries were defined in 1829. Aaron surveyed and registered his first eighty-acre tract of land at the Springfield Land Office in the fall of 1827, but he homesteaded the land on which he settled in Section 34, Hopedale Township, until two years later.

Aaron built his first home on as high an elevation as it was possible to find on the level prairie. Enoch insisted on building his cabin on the Mackinaw, but after shaking eighteen months with an early Illinois malaria

he followed his brother's example and moved his home out on the open prairie.

From the first, Aaron had the vision of a real agriculturist and believed that farming would be the most profitable occupation in that part of the state. His main interest lay in the accumulation of land, in the improvement of his stock, and in the development of his farms. He started an orchard from seedlings, but later bought a few trees of the grafted variety.

Solon Orendorff (1832-1930), Aaron's youngest son, during the seventies owned a Ranch and Greenhouse near Pueblo, Colorado. He completed a life of nearly a century in Los Angeles, California. In a letter of July 26, 1928, he said:

Father must have fixed a place and planted an orchard about the first thing he did for my early recollection we had apples and peaches and I remember the turkeys would come through the orchard gathering their feed. In the early days they had no scarcity of wild meat, turkeys, deer and prairie chickens.

In another letter he wrote:

The orchard was mostly of the seedling variety only six grafted trees in orchard of over a hundred trees. Many of them had local names. The graft was of the lady finger variety. Our local names were various, such as Kitchen Corner, which was the earliest, getting ripe about the middle of August. Never get ripe was a sweet apple but never got mellow, but always hard and tough, Dumpling was only fit for dumpling. Tazewell Sweet was an early winter and was an excellent variety . . . I must not leave out old Choke as we called it. When it was fully mellow they were as hard to eat as a green persimmon.⁶

FIRST BRICK HOUSE IN THE COUNTY

Aaron experimented with the clay on his farm and found that he could make bricks successfully.

The winters were cooler on the open prairies than they had been in Tennessee, and he felt the need of a warmer house. About 1830 he completed the first brick house in the county. His brother Enoch built a home of brick on an adjoining farm. Aaron's home may still be seen from either the highway or the railroad, about one and one-half miles from the town of Hopedale, which was later laid out by Thomas H. Orendorff.

The house seems small to the modern visitor, with two rooms on the ground floor and two just beneath the roof. But the influence of southern architecture is shown in the two large fireplaces with their walnut mantels. There are also two well-built staircases, one leading up from the northwest corner of the living room, and the other, from the southeast corner of the kitchen. On examining the two large rooms above, one finds a pile of lathes on the floor, hand split from hardwood trees on the farm. Later, a larger house built nearby provided more rooms, but the old brick house must have filled a vital need when the days were cold and a heavy snow-storm raged without.

The Orendorff brothers became the largest landholders in Tazewell County. Between October 27, 1829, and November 20, of the same year, Aaron bought 1,380 acres from the Springfield Land Office. Within a few years he owned 6,000 acres of fertile prairies interspersed with virgin forests. Thomas H. Orendorff, a lad of scarcely thirteen when his father moved to the Illinois prairies, was the oldest of six children born in Tennessee; Darius White Orendorff, the oldest of Aaron's three Illinois children, was the first white child born in the township, and one of the first in the county. Darius lived to be ninety-three, and, as we shall see la-

ter, added a unique page to the industrial history of the county.

Meanwhile, the aspect of the nation as a whole was changing. Geographically, its western boundary had been pushed beyond the Mississippi River. At the same time, the various parts of the country were becoming less independent: commerce was increasing; manufacturing was concentrating in the East; the future of agriculture lay in the Middle West.

The Orendorffs who had come to Illinois sensed this situation, and turned their eyes toward the agricultural development of the Mississippi Valley. They were abandoning the mill wheel for the plowshare.

CHAPTER XX

AARON AND MARTHA INSPIRE THE FIRST SCHOOL AND THE FIRST CHURCH

Aaron had had the best educational opportunities of any of his brothers and had accumulated a small library, which he prized very highly. His wife, Martha, came of a devoted and scholarly family; at the time she and Aaron moved to Illinois, her brother James was preaching, and soon afterwards he took a postgraduate course in a new divinity school; two nephews followed his example. So one is not surprised to find that the first church service and the first school in the neighborhood were held in their home.

In 1832 a Mr. Smith came from Tennessee and stated that he was qualified to teach. He was employed and conducted a school in the Aaron Orndorff home until two years later, when a schoolhouse was built.

Peter Cartwright, the celebrated pioneer preacher, had come into Illinois with the first pioneers from Logan County, Kentucky, where he had been riding the Methodist Red River Circuit. Shortly before the arrival of the Aaron Orndorff party, he had held a camp meeting on Dillon Creek. Later he visited the vicinity a number of times, and his popularity is suggested by the saying that even the guineas, when they saw him, heralded his approach by calling from the tops of the trees: Cartwright! Cartwright!¹

But the Orndorffs were loyal followers of the Cumberland Presbyterian faith in this new frontier. Meanwhile, an itinerant minister came through from Ohio.

He conducted a service in the log cabin of Aaron and Martha, the first religious service in that community.

CUMBERLAND BACKGROUND

The McDowells and Paisleys, members of the famous Buffalo and Alamance congregations established in Guilford County, North Carolina, before the American Revolution, had carried their religious enthusiasm to Robertson County, Tennessee. Under the inspiration of the Rev. James M'Gready, whose parents were also members of the Buffalo Church (See Chapter XIII),² the McDowells had built Mt. Carmel Church at the turn of the century. Here camp meetings had been held from time to time.

James McDowell, Martha's brother, had been farming in Robertson County when the call came to enter the ministry. Since the Cumberland Presbyterian church required as high a standard of training as frontier conditions could give, he entered a college at Louisville, Kentucky. After graduating he received a license to preach and immediately commenced his work on the Green River Circuit, which embraced a large district in southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee. His *Journal* kept during this period states that forty-seven made professions of faith during the first six months of his ministry, or from October 1825 to April 1826.

After the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church it had grown rapidly for a time. Eighty ordained ministers gathered in their General Assembly in Kentucky and arranged for the establishment of a church college at Princeton, Kentucky. James McDowell was one of the first to study at Princeton College. He completed a course in divinity in the summer of 1830.³

KITTY ANN CONTRIBUTES TO THE FRONTIER

At this time McDowell was a serious bachelor of thirty-three. But if he would succeed as a preacher, he needs must wed! The girl of his choice was a Kentucky Belle, Kitty Ann Bowlings, who had been born and reared on a plantation in Breckenridge County. As she related to her grandchildren later, she never realized what she was getting into when at sixteen she married a pioneer preacher. Reared in ease with negro servants she could not even "boil water" when she married this serious and dignified divine.

They were married in September and left at once for the prairies of the north. They traveled on horseback with the featherbed over the saddle and the dutch oven, axe, and tinder in the saddle-bags. It is thought that McDowell had made a horseback trip to Illinois in the spring and selected several tracts of land. Aaron might have aided him with surveying, for after arriving in the fall McDowell took out several tracts of land.

On November 28, 1830, or almost immediately after his arrival in Tazewell County, Rev. McDowell established a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He chose a high knoll on which to build his first cabin and soon discovered that it was an old Indian burying ground. Kitty Ann has told how they used greased paper for window lights and how sometimes, while her husband was away on a six weeks tour of his circuit, she would sit up all night heaping wood on the fire to frighten the wolves away.

It was several miles to the nearest neighbor, and she had many experiences that demanded instant decision. At one time she heard Abner, the second baby, who was in the fireplace room of the two-room log cabin, saying,

"Pitty, Pitty." She stepped to the doorway to see what he was ejaculating over and to her horror saw a rattlesnake lying across his lap, as he sat on the floor, the child rubbing its back. The moment Mrs. McDowell appeared the snake coiled to strike, but she grabbed the child and violently threw the snake into the fire.

THE BIG SNOW

The winter following the arrival of the McDowells was the coldest the pioneers had ever experienced. It was so extremely cold for such a long period that for years afterward the settlers referred to events as having happened "before" or "after" the big snow.

The majority of the immigrants were from the South and were not prepared for the unusually cold weather. The snow began to fall about Christmas time and continued to fall until it reached a depth of three feet or more on the level. Then came a cold rain and a crust of ice was formed, strong enough to hold a team and a sled. Some drifts were twenty feet deep. Men stood on the crust of snow and cut off trees for fuel, that after the snow had melted away in April, left stumps above ground tall enough for fence rails. Large herds of deer perished, and many cattle, hogs, and other domestic animals died of exposure. During every month that followed that year, after the snow went away, there was a frost. Much of the fruit was killed and it was difficult to raise grain and vegetables.

Cotton had also been raised by several of the new landowners from Kentucky and Tennessee. Elisha Primm had built a cotton gin in Sangamon County in 1822 and there were settlers who considered Illinois as good a cotton country as Georgia. But the big snow put an end to cotton culture.⁴

CHAPTER XXI

A RAIL-SPLITTER IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

The Black Hawk War caused a good deal of excitement on account of the fact that the strength and numbers of the Indians in northern Illinois were over-estimated. The unnecessary encroachment of the white man on the cornfields of the Indians aroused Black Hawk to revenge, and resulted in a number of skirmishes. Enoch Orendorff¹ was called out for service near the close of the war, but was not actively engaged in any of the campaigns. Yet there were a number of young men from Tazewell County who were in active service. Among them the most striking personality was a Kentucky youth, Mathias Mount.

Mount was born in Shelby County, Kentucky. At the age of sixteen he removed with his parents to Washington County, Indiana, where he helped his father clear and improve a tract of land. When he was twenty-one he came to Illinois to seek his fortune. In order to get cash he hired himself to a prosperous farmer north of Jacksonville to split rails. Extensive fences were needed for the new farms to protect growing crops from wild deer as well as from domestic stock, and the prairie was almost free of stones, the material commonly used in the Allegheny region. Consequently, rail-splitting was in demand. Among the youths employed with Mount on his first job was Abraham Lincoln, also from Kentucky. The two swapped yarns and Mount came to admire his new friend, although they

differed in politics. While Lincoln was a Whig and later became a famous Republican, Mount, retaining his Southern viewpoint, was always a Democrat.

Both young men enlisted for the Black Hawk War.² The troops left Beardstown the last of April, and arrived at Dixon on Rock River May 10. Two battles occurred in July and August, Black Hawk was defeated, and he, his two sons, and six other chiefs were taken prisoners, although later released.

Mount served in the first regiment and third brigade under General James D. Harris of Springfield, and spent 100 days in active service. He was chosen lieutenant by his comrades. His commanding officer was a physician and trained Mount as his chief assistant in the vaccination of the soldiers. Scales were procured from a man who was recovering from the smallpox and placed in tin boxes for use as desired. Mount also had the opportunity to renew his acquaintance with his fellow rail-splitter, Abe Lincoln.³

Mount had kept \$150 that he had earned splitting rails, and he returned from the Indian skirmish with the determination to invest it in land. On October 22, 1832, he entered his first tract of land in Tazewell County.⁴ He continued splitting rails for his more prosperous neighbors, receiving fifty cents per 100 and boarding himself. He saved enough money in two years from making rails, to enter over 600 acres in Mackinaw township. In 1834 the new town of Tremont was established by a colony from New York, and lumber was in great demand for the new houses that were going up. Mount "engaged himself" as head sawyer in Stout's Saw Mill, where he received seventy-five cents a day and twenty cents per 100 for all the boards he would saw after night. He saved several hundred

dollars and built a house on his own land. He settled on Tennessee Ridge, Tremont Township, and began farming on an extensive scale. In 1843 he married Abigail C. Orendorff, a daughter of Aaron and Martha Orendorff.

Doctors were almost unknown in Tazewell County, and for years Mount kept the tin boxes that he had used in the Black Hawk War and on request vaccinated people against smallpox free of charge. Whenever an epidemic of the disease broke out people would come by the wagon-loads to his home, and altogether he treated over 1,500 people. In addition, he cared for a number of the afflicted, and buried the dead when others were afraid to do so. One day he vaccinated seventy-eight persons. His arm became numb, and required several hours of massage that night.

Mount also gratuitously gave the first dental service in the county. He used a specially made "pullum," which seems very large and crude in this generation. Yet many a time it relieved pain when a neighbor came to have a throbbing tooth pulled. When administering vaccine or pulling teeth he wore a blue and white checked shirt; otherwise, he invariably wore white.

He inherited many of the good Samaritan traits of a Cumberland Presbyterian mother. He loaned money to poor men for periods of time without interest and always provided a bed for any stranger that came to his home. His daughter has told how one night after she had retired she had to get up to prepare supper for five men. Checking up the next morning, she found that her father had furnished beds for four peddlers, two lightning rod agents, two book agents, and three tramps.

His home in Dillon Township was one built for real Southern hospitality. A large veranda extended across

the entire southern and eastern sides of the big two story house, and it was well supplied with chairs to accommodate the numerous visitors. In the summer time one might look south on the lovely flower garden and grape arbor below the house, and, walking around the veranda, guests had frequent scents wafted to them from the big kitchen, separated from the house, where fried chicken and biscuits were being prepared for the noon-day meal.

William M. Fridley, an artist of the day, was a welcome visitor in the home when not engaged in portrait painting in some other part of the state. In 1850 Fridley painted a very good likeness of Mathias Mount.⁵ The portrait reveals a face clean-shaven and kindly. Those who knew Mount say that the picture is true to the man. On this new frontier where men often grew careless of their personal appearance, he would shave before breakfast every morning and carefully arrange his yellow and black silk kerchief in a bowtie before taking up the business of the day. His sparkling blue eyes revealed the kind thoughts that inspired the gift of a ham or a bag of flour to a needy neighbor.

CHAPTER XXII

ESAU FINALLY PERSUADED TO LEAVE THE SUNNY SOUTH

CONFLICTING ATTRACTIONS

The winter of 1831 and 1832 had been mild and there were excellent crops the following summer. Aaron Orendorff, acclimated to Illinois winters, wrote to his brother Esau, and assured him that he would make no mistake in coming north and entering land while there were still large quantities of fertile prairies whose black loam would not be exhausted for many years.

Esau had married and successfully established mills and agricultural interests in Logan County, Kentucky, and it was a little more difficult for him to leave than it had been for Enoch and Absalom. Unlike Aaron, he held no particular dislike for slaves. When he decided to go to Illinois he left one slave, Margaret, with his brother. In his letters down to 1848, John mentions this slave, whom he rents out. He later tries to sell Margaret and her child.

Esau also retained land in Kentucky until 1850. Different reasons could be assigned for this. First, he was going into a new country where markets had not developed. Second, he was going into a colder climate and might decide that he could do as well financially in a more desirable location further south. Third, he hoped that land values might increase and a demand for slaves would bring a better price than he had been offered.

I now all me By these Presents that I and
Wendoff of Logan County and State of Kentucky
Hath Bargained and sold unto Batty Petty
of Robertson County and State of Tennessee a
Negro girl Delphy aged about Twenty four
Upon the consideration of Three Hundred dollars
in Hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged the afore L^d Petty is to have
the afore A^d Negro Slave to H. afore L^d Petty
during her natural life and the afore L^d
Esau Wendoff doth warrant and for Ever
defend the afore A^d Negro Slave to him for

Ever This 19th day Oct^r 1829

in L^d Esau Fletcher

E. Wendoff
Bill of sale
for Delphy

A bill of sale for a "negro girl, Delphy," which Esau sold, appears on opposite page.¹

THE JOURNEY

Ophelia Sherman, Esau's daughter, often told her nieces that they left Kentucky on her brother George's tenth birthday, September 5, 1833. She also distinctly remembered how her mother would carry the tub of precious dishes across the stream on her head. She was afraid that the heavy old wagon would hit the rocks in the bottom of the stream and bring havoc to her most treasured possessions. A large, hand carved chest carried many useful articles to the new home.

Another member of the family related that the trip was made with a horse team and an ox team, "taking some four weeks." They reached Pana, Illinois, one afternoon, but decided to push on a few miles, as it was too early to stop for the night. A cyclone completely destroyed the town that evening, and they felt that they had been providentially saved.

When they reached the Orendorff settlement in Highland township, they built a temporary shelter of logs, on a knoll on the west side of section 33. This protection was blown away by a storm, and another just like it was erected on the same spot. Later a more substantial house was built further east, which served as a dwelling until a frame house could be erected.²

The records of Tazewell County show that Esau entered his first land on the following dates: October 18, 1833, August 8, 1834, January 26, 1835, and October 12, 1835. Within this period Esau bought fourteen tracts of land, near the present town of Delavan, totaling 1,446 acres. He later added to his holdings until

he held 2,700 acres of fertile prairie, interspersed with woodlands.³

ESAU IS UNDECIDED

Although Esau liked the open prairies and had invested heavily in land, after several cold winters in Illinois with a partial failure of crops, he began to wonder if he had been wise in leaving Kentucky. On February 2, 1839, his brother, Captain John, writes from Adairville, Kentucky:

I am sorry to hear that your wheat crops have again failed. I expect you have given us a correct statement of cropping in that contry, that always has been my fear, the winters are so very cold the ground frieses so deep it always will be late in the spring before you can plant your crops and then it is subject to be injured by the frost. Experience so far has proven it in that contry. I discover you have an idea to seek for a mild climate and from the difficulty of cropping you have stated I should pursue the same course. Our crops of wheat is not very promising owing to the drouth last fall.

In a postscript John adds:

If you should examine the Missouri and find a situation that should please you and you would wish to sell the land here I will take it and give you a fair price for it land has risen this fall There has been a few sales this fall for choice places well improved at \$15 per acre, the common prairie at this time appears to be from \$9 to \$12, tho should you not be pleased with the Missouri it may be probable you may return as you are not pleased with the Illinois I do not wish to purchase without you are determined to sell it to get funds to purchase in that country which will be a better judge of when you have explored more of that contry . . . It is probable the seasons may change in Illinois and the ground become more settled and the crops do better, but as the ground becomes more settled I have always concluded the air becomes more colder.

Eight years later, on July 14, 1847, John writes:

You stated in your letters that you had some idea of selling your land in this contry provided you could soot yourself there and requested me to say what it would bring in cash, this is hard for me to say as lands are generally sold by payments and few sales have been made threw this country for several years. Neddy Hughes sold his 50 acre tract joining Morgans upper farm on the Creek a few days past for \$10 per acre the land is ranging here from \$8 to \$12. Very little goes over that without it is well improved, as to my part I will give you \$2,500 for the track which I think is a fair price, the way the lands are rating here, but if you think it not enough I will have to give you more if you sell I must purchase it.

In a letter of March 22, 1848, John says:

I received a letter from you under date 22 April 1847 in which you stated that you had some idea of selling your possessions here and purchase lands in that country, and Requested me to say what the land would bring in cash. I answered the above letter and maid you a liberal proposition (as I think) for the land . . . I have received no answer to this letter and feel at a loss to know whither you have intirely gave out the idea of selling or not, I have sent to Louisiana for money. Van Wickle sent me \$2095 which money I have no particular use for, which you can get at any time you wish to sell. Mr. Wilkerson informed me that one of the Beards in Henry Millers neighborhood was willing to give \$475 for Margaret exclusive of the child which I think is a very good price for her . . . Wilkerson hired out Margaret for \$25 this year she is hired out for \$30.

CONCLUSION

On Friday, June 22, 1849, Esau's son Francis who had gone to Kentucky to dispose of the slaves wrote:

The negroes are not sold yet but there are several men who want her. She is hired out to the widow Hughes and I am afraid she cannot give her up as went to see smith

hughes today and he said he would for the best he could for us Uncle Morgan says that they are worth 800 dollars but he is afraid we will have to sell her to a disadvantage in consequence of having to sell them subject to the hire and for cash and also in a hurry we are going to Adairville tomorrow where we will see some of those men and we will find out what they will give for her.⁴

Evidently Esau had at last decided definitely to sustain his interests in Tazewell County.

CHAPTER XXIII

SETTLEMENT OF ABSALOM'S ESTATE

Absalom, the bachelor brother, had retained land in Kentucky that he had inherited from his father's estate. He also bought at least two tracts of land in Illinois. Captain John's letters to Esau give some light on the settlement of the estate:

Logan County, Ky. June 29, 1838.

Dr. Brother

I wrote a letter to Aaron a few weeks past relative to Absaloms business I have since consulted with the Heirs and their oppinion is that the Land here had better be sold and the money divided between you and Delilah, Delilah Could then put hur part on interest fro which she would receive her portion, If the land is left lying here unsold it never can be of any benefit to you or Delilah the rents would not more than pay the taxes and keep up the farm, and there would also be A House and stable built before it could be rented, you could take your portion of the money and lay it out for land in that contry and A few years probable would be worth double of this, If the title is once made to you and Delilah it then cannot be sold During her life and probable not untill your children come of age and if the land would fall to your children what would they do with it they would be obliged to sell it, under those circumstances my own opinion is that the Land had better be sold than to lye dead here for years, no benefit to you nor Delilah nor your heirs for many years, If you all agree to have the land sold, I have no Doubt you would rather for me to purchase it than A stranger, I am willing to take the Land, the Heirs here think two thousand dollars to be A fair price as there is no improvement on the land, I am willing to give that

price (and A little more rather than A stranger should have it.

On August 31, 1838, Captain John writes again to Esau:

Dr. Brother I Received your letter dated July 28 in which I understand that you and Enoch did not wish to have any more of Absaloms property than any of the other heirs. But with this arrangement I am not fully satisfied as Absalom wished you and Enoch to have this property you ought to have it, or at least the greater part of it, I have concluded to do this to make it satisfactory to all, the money arising from the sale of this land to be equally divided among all the heirs, the balance of the land and property in the Illinois I wish you and Enoch to keep and we will all give you and Enoch A Relinquishment to the whole as the heirs are all of age we can distribute it as we think proper the heirs here have no objection to this arrangement, and I think you and Enoch ought to succeed to it . . . there is two notes will amount to about \$100 and a few barls of rent Corn which is not worth administering for, we can settle that among us, so I have not administered, I was in town yesterday and got Morton the Clerk to draw up a Deed for this land, which I will send on with this letter for you all to sine and relinquish your clames to me, and I will pay all the heirs their equal portions which will be \$250 so soon as you have sined it send it back immediately for the heirs to sine it, as to my part I do not wish to have one dollar my portion . . . We have had a severe Draught our corn crops are cut short but we have had good crops of wheat . . . Please inform me whether any of you will come in and when.

On December 1, 1838, John sends another letter to Esau:

Dr Brother

I Recived your letter a few weeks past Dated 26 September Inclosed with it the Deed, we met yesterday and had all the necessary arrangements made I had the Deed drawed and signed by all the heirs here I had it made on you and

Enoch, you can make any arrangements among yourselves you think proper relative to the land, I also had two Receipts drawn up and all the heirs have signed one to you, which receipt will give you all the Clames in Illinois for the money and property left in your hands by Absalom The other Receipt I also send on for all the heirs in Illinois to sign and send it back to us. There is about \$105 in the possession of me and Delilah in Notes, Please to give me your wish what I shall do with it, wither to Divide among all the heirs, or give it to the heirs here, I have arranged all the business here as well as I Could agreeable to Absalom's wish, I could not have arranged it in any other way As some of the heirs would not been willing to bind themselves for the title to you, without receiving Compensation The Deed you and Absalom carried to the Illinois for the heirs to sign there, for the thirty acres of land I purchased of the heirs at our settlement with Morgan, has not come to hand; Also the receipt which the heirs gave to Morgan for the settlement of the estate, you carried with you for the heirs to sign there, nether has come to hand, Please to inform me at the receipt of this, wether you have sent the Deed and receipt by male or wether you have them yet in your possession, If you have thim yet in your possession Please to have them arranged and signed and send them on by male if you have no other opportunity, It has been very sickly here particularly on the watercourses, I was taken sick in A few days after I wrote to you and was almost gave out by the family and Doc Boling, my severe illness only continued a few days, but I was confined to the house near two months not able to attend to my business, Price was taken shortly after I was and is not yet able to attend to my business, our waters is yet very low we have done but very little grinding since harvest, flour at Nashville has been worth \$3 but has fallen to 2.50 pork has been selling at Nashv for \$5 Corn here is worth \$2 per Barl, I sold my Tobacco at Clarkesville for \$5 per hundred all round lugs and all at the same price, I was sorry to hear that there has been much sickness amongst you . . . They are making arrangements to commence the turnpike from Lewisville to

Nashville they have built several dams on Green river to make slackwater navigation. Delilah and myself remember our best respects to you and all the Connection

Yours with Respect

John Orndorff

CHAPTER XXIV

MARKETS AND THE STEEL PLOW

NEW TRADE ROUTES

The question of markets was a perplexing problem for years. Aaron Orendorff was 160 miles from Chicago, still a small village of little promise. His nearest market was Pekin on the Illinois River, which was not named or surveyed until 1829. Yet commerce had begun in 1827, with the arrival of the first keelboat load of goods for the county.

The first steamboat ascended the Illinois River in 1828. According to the *Historical Souvenir of Tazewell County* this event "created wild consternation":

The Indians, living in villages along its banks fled to the hills or dense timber. At Kingston, where Jesse Eggman had settled and established a ferry, one Hugh Barr, who had never seen a steamboat, hearing the hideous noise made by the escaping steam, and seeing the open fires under the boilers, which looked like the flashing eyes of some monster, at the weird hour of midnight, turned out with dog and gun and chased the "monster" until it passed up the river. The small band of settlers who lived along our river front from the present site of the old Tazewell House to the site of the gas works, were awakened from their peaceful slumbers by the grewsome exhaust from the old-fashioned "high pressure" steam engines, gathered in knots, and awaited the approach of the "monster of the deep." It is stated that old Father Tharp gathered his family together for prayers, doubtless thinking that Gabriel was blowing the "last call" and that good Aunt Ruth Stark prayed the All Wise One to have Gabriel call at Fort Clark, as they were "wicked up there."¹

Pekin and Peoria, two Illinois ports eight miles apart, early developed trade with Pittsburg, on the Ohio, and with New Orleans. Pekin became a distributing center for a large agricultural region, farmers from a radius of many miles going there to buy their groceries and needed supplies. The Orendorff brothers sold much of their grain and livestock in Pekin.

Aaron also made trips by boat to Chicago when it was still a village. Darius told how his father took apples and other farm products to sell in Chicago for whatever price they would bring. He also remembered the time when his father sold a barrel of cider there.

In 1831 the county seat was moved to Pekin, and during the same year the first warehouse was built. During the year 1834 work was begun on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. After its completion, in 1848, the people of Tazewell County had better markets for their products by way of Pekin, Chicago, and the Great Lakes, and received their merchandise more quickly and cheaply.

As the Great Lakes began to draw world trade, goods were carried to St. Louis via the Illinois River at one-third less than by way of New Orleans and the Mississippi.²

It took two or three weeks to drive through to Chicago with a wagon of wheat, but by 1840 many farmers in central Illinois * were making the trip, for wheat that only brought from fifty to sixty cents a bushel at Pekin could be sold in Chicago for seventy to ninety cents. On the return trip the wagon would be loaded

* Midwinter issue of the *Illinois State Journal*, 1836, spoke of the new immigrants who were coming in and buying improved farms at prices ranging from five to twelve dollars an acre. Flour was selling at \$10 a barrel, corn meal 50c a bushel, corn 25c, oats 35c, potatoes 25 to 31c, apples 62 to 75c, fresh butter 16c, pork 6½c, and beef 45c.³

with many household necessities which could be purchased much more cheaply in the Lakeshore village.

In 1841, when markets in southern, central and northern Illinois offered but fifty cents for wheat, Chicago paid an average of eighty-seven cents; the day that the Peoria market bought wheat at forty cents, Chicago paid one dollar. Farmers hauled wheat to Chicago sometimes from 250 miles away. Though 150 vessels a month docked at Chicago in the season of 1841, they were insufficient to carry away the grain.⁴

THE STEEL PLOW

Although the point of the Colonial plowshare was of wrought iron, the mouldboard and all other parts of the plow had been of wood. Plowing was slow, for the share accumulated heavy mire as it was pushed through the soil; it could not scour. Dissatisfaction with wrought iron soon had revealed itself in patents for cast iron plows of various types. But the brittleness of this metal kept it from being used extensively. So the Colonial type continued in use.

One evening Elias Ogden, returning from a trip to Springfield, called at the Aaron Orendorff home, and reported that he had seen a cast steel plow which the salesman said would scour. Aaron thought of what that would mean — a plowshare that would cut through the soil like a knife through warm butter. No doubt he was skeptical as to the salesman's description, but he had enough interest to hitch up his best team the next morning and go to Springfield, some sixty miles away. He returned with the plow.

All the neighbors gathered for the trial of the new implement. Doubts were expressed about its practi-

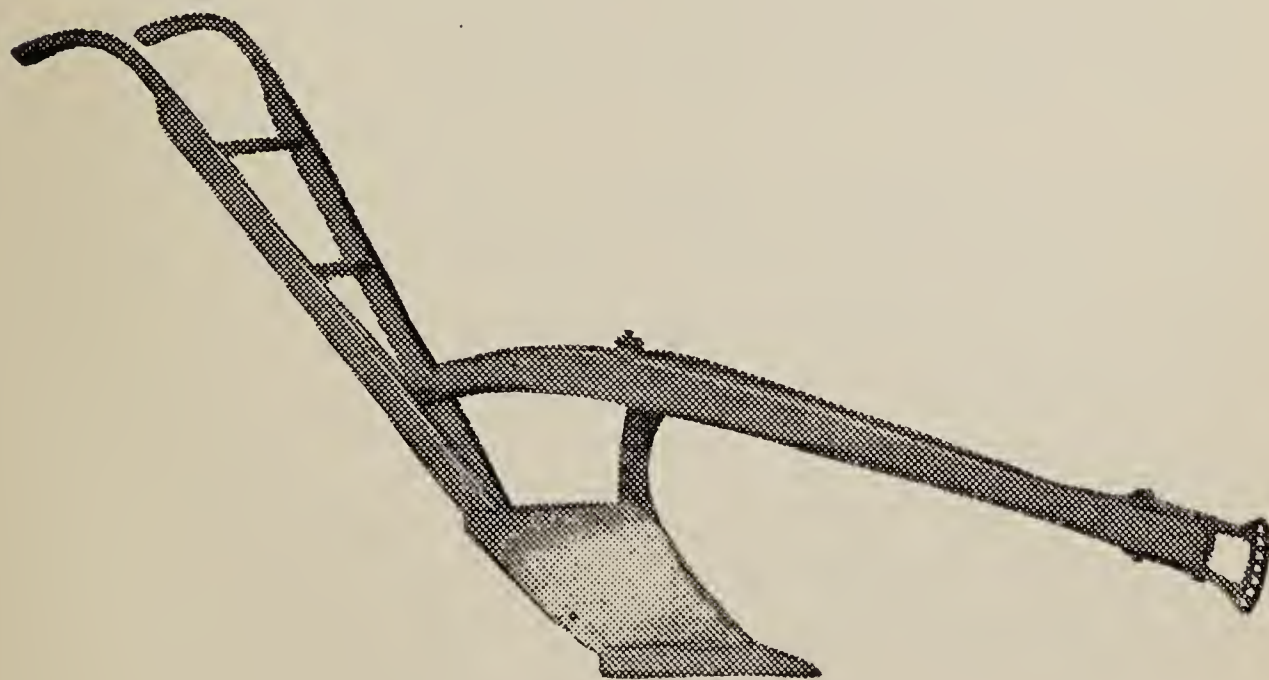
cality, and hints were dropped concerning the foolishness of the purchase. But the new plow worked, and the jokes were followed by praises. A descendant of Esau wrote, "This was the first scouring plow brought into the community." ⁵

Illinois became the center of agitation for better farm machinery. It was a young country, and its unbelievably rich soil was black and deep and very stubborn. William J. Orendorff, of Canton, Illinois, of the family of the Illinois Christopher, was one of the organizers of the Parlin and Orendorff Company, the oldest and for many years the largest permanently established agricultural implement factory in the Middle West. This is the story:

William Parlin, a thorough blacksmith, walked into Canton, Illinois, on July 4, 1842, with a total capital of fifty cents and his tools. He hailed from Massachusetts, but had plied his trade for a year in St. Louis, before ascending the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to the landing ten miles from Canton. He set up a blacksmith shop and soon began making plows. The first plow he turned out had wooden mouldboards with steel shares cut from old saws. In 1842 he made several plows with steel mouldboards and landslides. These proved so popular with the farmers that he found it necessary to employ extra help and get additional capital.

In 1852 William J. Orendorff formed with him the firm of Parlin and Orendorff. Orendorff was the salesman, first taking the plows over the country in his wagon or sending them down the river by boat. He secured markets in Iowa and Missouri. Soon he was sending the plows by rail to many points in the Middle West, and ultimately a world market was achieved.⁶

As the fame of Canton plows grew, a variety of implements were added: walking cultivators; the single and double shovel corn plows used in the 1850's; the stalk cutter, originated in the Parlin-Orendorff plant in 1857. In 1871 the famous "Canton Clipper" was one of the favorite walking plows, and there was a double corn plow with a right- and left-hand bottom for cultivating one side of two rows at a time; and a four-shovel cultivator was also built. Between 1872 and 1879 the line included a variety of walking plows, many new types being added from time to time. Then came the riding plows, with the first disk plow about 1894. The same year the two-row corn planter was added. In 1914 the Canton plow line included tractor plows with ten and twelve 14-inch bottoms. At the time U. G. Orendorff sold out his interests to the International Harvester Company in 1919, there were 1400 different kinds and sizes of machinery being turned out.⁷



FIRST PLOW MADE BY WILLIAM PARLIN

This is the plow which was the foundation of an industry that has expanded into a great modern manu-

facturing plant. In the heart of Canton, Illinois, extending from Second to Fourth Avenue, east and west, and from Elm Street to Maple and beyond to the south, with many of its buildings reaching well into the air, is a vast manufacturing unit which has grown in ninety-five years from a blacksmith shop with a single anvil.

CHAPTER XXV

REV. JAMES L. McDOWELL

RUSHVILLE

In 1834 the *Gazetteer of Illinois* describes Rushville as the "seat of justice for Schuyler County with six stores, four cabinet makers, four tanneries, one carding machine, four lawyers, two physicians, and 750 inhabitants." The town also boasted a brick court house and school house. The *Gazetteer* also gives these suggestive items:

County	Vote	Pop.	County Seat
Cook	528	3265	Chicago
Peoria	223	1980	Peoria
Schuyler	680	4240	Rushville ¹

At this time Rushville was the northern terminal for the stage route from Springfield, with stage roads to Peoria and Quincy.

Abner McDowell, a younger brother of Martha Orendorff, had moved from Robertson County, Tennessee, as early as 1835, bought a number of lots, and entered the tanning business. Other members of the family came to the county, including a nephew, James Lewis McDowell. On July 4, 1836, the citizens of Rushville gathered at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church where a Rev. McDowell opened the patriotic service of the day.

ORENDORFF INTERESTS IN RUSHVILLE

Meanwhile, Aaron Orendorff had sent his sons to

Kentucky to be educated. His oldest son, Thomas, married Letitia C. Mitchel at Bowling Green, Kentucky, November 25, 1840. She was a niece of Hon. Henry Grider, Congressman from Kentucky. When Thomas returned to Illinois, he assisted his uncle Abner McDowell at the tannery in Rushville. His younger brother, Joseph McDowell Orendorff, on his return from school in Kentucky, made brick one season for the Delavan colony and then joined Thomas in the tanning business in Rushville. Their sisters attended the new Rushville Seminary during the early forties.

Among the county records for Abner McDowell are the following:

Seal, June, 1843. Know all men by these presents that we Abner McDowell and Nancy S. McDowell . . . for and in consideration of forty-five dollars in hand paid by Aaron Orendorff of Tazewell County, to the said Aaron Orendorff one undivided third of 150 feet of the South part of lot No. 1 in Block No. 13 Recd. payment Dec. 25, 1843.

June 20, 1843 — Dec. 25, 1843. Abner McDowell and wife to Thomas H. Orendorff. Part of Lot 1, one-third block 13.²

Thomas had also taken out land from the government in Tazewell County, and, after the death of his father in 1846, large landed interests were under his control. He discontinued the Rushville industry.

COLLEGE DIARY OF REV. MCDOWELL

Quotations from a diary,³ covering the period from 1845-48, tell their own story. A brother, Rev. John W. McDowell, who was preaching in Missouri at this time, is often mentioned, as well as a brother, Abner, of Camden, Illinois. The main diary is given in the first person, but the first page, a summary of his religious experiences, is written in the third person:

James Lewis McDowell was born in Robertson County, State of Tennessee, January 15, 1818 . . . He professed religion at a Camp meeting holden at old Mount Carmel Church, on the waters of the Red River Robertson County Tenn. on Monday evening A. D. 1832. And on Wednesday following joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Mt. Carmel. In the fall of 1837 he emigrated to Illinois, Schuyler County . . . He was duly licensed to preach. Preached in Brown County . . . Preached two or three times a day, often at Candlelight, in Knox, Warren, Fulton and McDonnough Counties until October 5, 1845.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church had organized a new college at Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1849, and had elected Dr. F. R. Cossitt, a graduate of Middlebury College, Vermont, as the first President. Dr. Cossitt had previously taught in Princeton College, at Princeton, Kentucky, when James Lewis's uncle James was a divinity student there. Rev. C. G. McPherson had been chosen as Professor of Mathematics and Dr. T. C. Anderson as Professor of Languages.

The town of Lebanon, founded chiefly by the Scotch-Irish, is situated six miles from the Cumberland River and a few miles west of the Cumberland Mountains. On July 29, 1842, it had been announced that fifty students could obtain board in Lebanon for two dollars a week, including "washing, fuel and lights." *

Quotations from the *Diary* continue the story:

October 7, 1845. Tuesday. I left my home in Schuyler County, Ill., for the purpose of attending Cumberland University at Lebanon, Wilson Co. Tenn. My Aunt N. S.* McDowell was in company on her way to Kentucky. At night we arrived at Quincy — not much opportunity for meditations. October 8th, we spent the greater part of the day in

* Marriages. Bowling Green, Kentucky, June 5, 1828. Abner McDowell — Nancy S. Grider.

Quincy — but little reading. Exchanged my new fur cap for a fur hat. Paid our host for lodging \$2.00 at five o'clock in the evening took passage on the Steamer Die Vernon for St. Louis. Paid our fare \$2.50 apiece. Mailed a letter Brot. J. W. McD.

Oct. 9th. Thurs. Arrived at St. Louis about 3 o'clock. 5 P. M. Engaged passage on the Clermont for Smithland. October 10th Friday. Spent the day in St. Louis. Purchased a pocket knife .50 apples 12½.

Oct. 11 Saturday. At 8 o'clock left St. Louis for Smithland. Purchased Penny Magazine.

Oct. 12th Sunday Spent the day on the steamer Clermont . . . Arrived at Smithland at 7 o'clock P. M. & went aboard the Senate for Nashville. Monday October 13 Spent the day on Cumberland river — a little reading — traveling very slow. Tuesday 14th. Still on the C. river — day spent not to much profit. Paid our passage to Nashville 10.00.

Wednesday 15th Spent the day on the steamer, Senate, bound for Nashville — Settled with Aunt N. S. her part of the bill amounting to \$13.02 — paid a hack driver to take us to Mr. Siglers — \$1.00 Thursday at 12 o'clock arrived at Nashville. Friday 17th at 3 o'clock A. M. parted with my aunt — She taking the stage for Bowlinggreen. Spent the day in Nashville — went into the legislature tarried a few hours, saw Gov. Gaines, visited Campbell's hill & saw the foundation for State house, visited the penitentiary — on the whole I hope the day was not unprofitably spent. At ten o'clock left Nashville in the stage for Lebanon — paid stage fare 1.55.

Saturday 18th Arrived in Lebanon at 4 o'clock A. M. put up at McWhirtons tavern. At 9 o'clock called on Dr. Cossitt & formed some acquaintance with himself and family. At 11 o'clock called on Rev. Mr. Anderson & by his kind invitation made his house my home until I could secure boarding — day happily spent. Review of the past week. I am now far from home — have not made much literary or religious improvement — have spent in traveling expenses and otherwise 16.12½.

Oct. 19th Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M. heard Rev. Mr. Lowry preach at C. P. ch. in Lebanon from 2 Tim. 2:15. Spent the evening at Mr. Anderson's in reading & conversation — some profit.

Monday 20th at 8 o'clock called on Dr. Cossitt & and settled account for 2 & 3 vols. \$5.00 and Clarks acct. for 4 vol. Wm. Stapp account presbyterial subscription 1.50 — Spent the balance of the day in securing boarding & engaged with Rev. T. Anderson at one dollar fifty cents per week . . .

Oct. 22nd. Wed. Entered preparatory department in the University. Reciting in Delectus also in Virgil. Anniversary of my father's decease.

Oct. 23rd. Thur. Attended Univ. class in Delectus. I was promoted to the first class . . . Attended prayer meeting in C. P.. Ch. Rev. Boone conducted and exhorted . . . Sat. Oct. 25. Attended my Greek and Latin — went into town and purchased a bottle of Sarsaparilla .50. Oct. 28 Tues. Called on Dr. Owen & paid into treasury of college contingent fund .50 Also paid for copy of the laws of the University .25 . . . Wed. Nov. 5th. By the direction of President Anderson I ceased reciting Latin and shall devote the principal part of my time in studying Algebra with a view of entering the Freshman class as soon as I can overtake them in Algebra. Spent for books \$7.00 . . . Tu. Nov. 11 deposited a letter in the P. O. to Bro. Abner. . .

Sat. Nov. 15th. At ten o'clock attended the regular public meeting of the college . . . attended the Philadelphia literary society, quite interesting debate — at candlelighting time heard Rev. Mr. Campbell . . . [Attended protracted meeting all week].

Sat. 22nd Rode to Nashville to fill an appointment for Rev. S. W. Aston — gave ten cents to a poor woman in the streets — tarried with Bro. Allen. Saw the Hermitage for the first time.

Sat. Nov. 23, 1845. At 9 o'clock attended the Sab. School in Nash opened it by prayer & at the close offered a few thoughts to teachers & Scholars — preached . . .

Mon. 24th Spent morn in Nashville purchased a cravat

for \$1.25 — at 10 o'clock left Nash. for Leb arrived in Leb. at six o'clock. . . Mon. Dec. 1st. A snow 11 in. deep fell last night . . .

Mon. Arose at 3 o'clock. retired at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ purchased 2 vols. of Maj. Bro. Bowin for \$3.00. Paid Dr. Cositt \$1.50.

Wed. Dec. 10. Spent morn. in writing to Bro. Bind a short communication called a "fragment" also enclosed in the letter \$2.00 for a subscription to C. Pres. . .

Tues. 23rd. Received a letter from Brother Abner 10¢ postage. Wed. Dec. 24 Spent morning in study — resolved I will be second to none in Algebra class . . .

Thurs. Dec. 25. Christmas morn. College was suspended until Mon. Spent a part of the day in reading and study. Spent evening in company at Mrs. Donnell's — spent 10 cents for molasses. Fri. 26th spent the day in study, reading, social conversation — Spent 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for raisins and candy. . . Sab. Rode with Bro. H. M. Hill some 4 miles & preached at C. P. ch. Mt. Pleasant cong. . .

Mon. Dec. 29th. I am now in the Freshmen class in full & am resolved to try to excell. . .

Jan. 1, 1846. Thurs. New Years morning — arose at 4 o'clock close application until college hours. Recited in Greek at 9 received a letter from Bro. J. W. McDowell, postage 10¢. . . Mon. 5 Received a package of the Cum. Pres. from Uniontown Pa. Paid 20¢ postage. Purchased a neck stock and umbrella. Tu. Jan. 13th Advanced to first class in Algebra. . . Resolved that I will make increased efforts to obtain a high standard in the class recitation. Jan. 15. Received a letter from Aunt N. S. McDowell, from Bowling Green. . .

Sat. Feb. 14. Have for some time felt a great deal of interest on the subject of home missions, have been praying over it & endeavoring to write upon it for the *Banner & Advocate*. Wed. Feb. 18. Subscribed for the *American Messenger*. Sab. 22 Lecture at 2 o'clock by Rev. D. Lowry addressed to the students. Feb. 23rd. The semiannual examination in the University commences. The Freshmen class was examined in Latin from 10 until 12. Tues. Freshmen examined in Algebra Wed. Freshmen class examined in Greek

from 9-12. . . Fri. Paid tuition for next session to Dr. Owen trasurer, Amount \$20.50. . .

Sat. 28th. Wrote a letter to T. P. Poe and A. J. Babb. Settled my boarding bill with Mr. Anderson amount for 19 weeks \$28.50. Engaged boarding with Rev. J. P. Campbell. Paid in advance the sum of \$20.70. Elected a member of A. Literary society, March 14th. Wrote a letter to Uncle James McDowell of Illinois. Elected A. Society to deliver the 4th of July oration.

It was one of the college rules that every student within the town corporation should attend prayers every morning in the College Chapel at "sunrising." For weeks McDowell records rising at four or four-thirty to attend College Prayers at five A. M. He often preached at Mt. Pleasant and returned to Lebanon to attend college lectures in the afternoon and church at night. He frequently attended the Methodist Church and found in the Methodist minister a fellow spirit. He spent much time on the Fourth of July oration, which was one of the honors the college gave to an able speaker. The *Diary* continues:

Mon. April 6, 1846. Loaned Bro Campbell gold piece, value \$4.85.

Tues. April 7 Saw in the *C. Presbyterian* a notice of the death of Uncle A. Orendorff of Ill. May I prepare for that solemn change . . . At night attended the open meeting Chapman presbytry C. P. ch. Leb. sermon by Rev. D. Lowry . . . Sat. At 1 o'clock attended the session of Pres. also at 2 o'clock heard the candidates read their pieces, most of them too long, but most of them were interesting. April 12th, Wrote a letter to cousin T. H. Orndorff in reference to the recent death of his father. Tu. Apr. 21 Received a letter from J. W. McDowell & six nos. of the *Tenn. Medium*.

May 2, 1846. Sat. Arose $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 o'clock Col. prayers at 5 o'clock . . . In Pres. Anderson's room — he made arrangements with the young men preparing for the ministry to lecture for them on Friday evenings. Attended the meeting of the

A. L. Society at 2 o'clock interesting debate. In evening visited at Prof. Andersons.

Mon. Recited latin at 10. recited in Geom through 4th Book to page 199. At night attended monthly concert meeting — some interest. paid 22¢

Tu. May 19, 1846. . . Great excitement in college on the subject of war with Mexico & prospect of war with G. Britain — there was a public meeting of college called by the Faculty to allay the excitement — but partially successful — quite a martial spirit in college — measures were made by most of the students to organize themselves into a military company to prepare for war — Merciful Father: save our country.

Wed. May 20, 1846. Arose $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 o'clock College prayers at 5 o'clock. Classes. Wrote some. Resolved to new energy.

23rd. Arose at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ College prayers at 5 o'clock. Studied until 9 then attended public meeting at college — at 11 o'clock heard ex-gov. Jones speak upon the subject of war with Mexico — great excitement in town may the good Lord avert the calamities of war & save our country.

June 1st. Mon. Must stir up again — too little improvement. Wed 3d, At night attended the examination of the Abbe institute of young ladies . . .

June 25th. This day commenced reviewing Greek preparatory to the examination. . . .

4th July Sat. Arose at 4 o'clock Attended College prayers at 5 o'clock. Spent morning in A. L. Society and making preparations for celebrating the day — delivered a speech after Mr. Cook at the M. E. ch. on independence — heard a short address from Gov. Jones.

Sab. July 5th Rode 9 miles and preached to New Hope Cong. . . July 9th Received a letter from cousin T. H. Orendorff. . . Mon July 20. Examination commenced. Freshmen class 8-11 o'clock. Came off very well in forenoon. Examined in Geom. from 2 to 5 o'clock. tolerable only. Wed. attended examination of Junior class from 9-12. Thurs. July 23rd. commencement exercise of C. University at C. P. ch. . .

July 24th. Left Lebanon for Kentucky. Rode in company with Bros. Beeson & Halsch. Revival Warren Co. Ky. . .

Mon. July 27th. Rode up into Allen county & spent several days in company with aunt N. S. McDowell at Mr. Austin's & Dr. Harlins 31st. Left Allen co. for Warren County — a protracted meeting — closing on August 13th. It was a precious meeting — some 15 converts. I preached frequently, with unusual liberty.

Sat. Aug. 15th. Left for Robertson County in company with Bro. Reed. I arrived at old Mt. Carmel meeting house — my feelings were undescribably wrought up — here is where I received my early education — spent my school days and received my first religious impressions & here is bower, where in a glorious revival in 1832 at a camp meeting I first found peace in believing in the Saviour. I sought in the old graveyard the last resting place of my father & a younger sister (Martha)

Thurs. Aug. 20 Wrote a revival notice for the Banner & spent several days at Bro. Moore's & in my old neighborhood. . . Camp meeting at the Ridge Meeting house . . .

Wed. Aug. 26th. Returned to my old neighborhood — visited some & on the Sabbath Preached at Mt. Carmel with indescribable feelings — O that God in mercy would build up that church. In Eve, preached at Babb's house. Sept. 1st. Rode up into Simpson County Ky. & spent several days at cousin J. Copeland's. . . Tues. 8th. Protracted meeting near Uncle J. Covington's. Wed. Sept. 9th. Returned to Bro. Grider's & spent several days there with aunt N. S. McD. Wed. 16th. returned to Robertson County. At Mt. Carmel camp-meeting until Wed. following . . . Tues. Sept. 29th Left Warren Co. for Lebanon — taking sick on the road. Employed Dr. Sharp. was not able to attend college until Oct. 19. . .

Dec. 28th, 1846. Commenced boarding with Mrs. Cartwright at the rate of 35 dollars per session of 5 months — everything found. . .

Feb. 24th Winter session of college closed, and there was a week & a half recess in college which I spent very pleasantly among my old friends & acquaintances in Robertson & Logan counties . . .

June 10th, 1847. This day Sophomore class completed

their course in Analytical Geom. & on the 11th commenced surveying. . . June 21st. Set in with renewed vigor in my collegiate studies — somewhat encouraged. . .

July 17th. Saturday. Initiated into the order of the Sons of Temperance The movement is one of the *grand wonders of the age* & will doubtless effect much in the cause of temperance.

July 21st. Wedns. The usual examination of the classes in C. University commenced this day. . .

July 28th. Wed. At night, Hon. A. P. Maury delivered an address before the two Societies of the University — after the speech the honorary degree of the Amassagassian Society was conferred upon several members elect, I having previously been chosen President. July 29th, 1847, Commencement exercises, there were four graduates. At night I was raised to the honorable degree of Master Mason . . .

July 30th Friday. Left Lebanon in the morning in the stage for Illinois. July 31st. Sat. Left Nashville about 11 o'clock A. M. on the steamer Aleghenny Mail for Smithland . . . August 6th Arrived at home on Friday morning about sunrise . . . Spent a very pleasant vacation in Ill. and left home again Nov. 2nd for Lebanon, where I arrived Nov. 14th.

The college catalogues of Lebanon University for the years 1845-1849 list James L. McDowell as a student from Camden, Illinois, and as an alumnus of the Department of Arts in 1849.⁵ Like other college students, his diary also reveals the fact that he secured two loans to complete his education :

Aug. 15th, 1848. Borrowed of Captain John Orndorff in cash \$50.00 for which I gave my note, due eighteen months hence. Paid in full, February 26th A. D. 1851.

Aug. 28th, 1848. Borrowed of Eli Orndorff in cash \$25.00 for which I gave my note due eighteen months after date in full, February 26th, A. D., 1851.

CHAPTER XXVI

WILL OF AARON ORENDORFF; WOOLEN MILLS

HERITAGE

As James L. McDowell mentions in his Diary, Aaron Orendorff had died in the early spring of 1846. Aaron's Will, written several years earlier, reveals a personal interest in individual members of the family, as shown by the following quotations:

Unto my beloved wife Martha Orendorff the house and farm whereon I now live during her life also all the household and kitchen furniture also all the farming utensils also all my stock horses, Cattle Sheep and hogs out of which each Child is to have a horse when they become of age. I further give and devise to my oldest son Thomas Hogg Orendorff five hundred and sixty acres of land . . . I further give to my second son Joseph M Dowell Orendorff seven hundred and twenty acres of land. . . I further give to my third son Cyrus Wilson Orendorff seven hundred and twenty acres of land . . . I further give eldest daughter Delilah Jane Orendorf three hundred and forty acres of land . . . I further give to my fourth son Darius White Orendorff 480 acres of land, that is the east half of the north east quarter and the east half of the south east quarter of section 33 and the North west quarter and the west half of the south west quarter and the west half of the north east quarter all of section 34 township 23 North and range 3 west. It is to be understood that Darius White Orendorff is to have no control over the north west quarter of section 34 as long as his mother lives on it. I further give to my fifth son Solon Orendorff six hundred and forty acres of land . . . I further give to my fourth daughter Minerva Orendorff 320 acres of land . . . I further give to my second and third daughters Mary

Harris Orendorff and Abigail Chapman Orendorff jointly 478 acres of land that is the west half of the south west quarter of section 19 and the north east quarter of section 21 and the west half of the north east quarter of section 22 and the east half of the north west quarter of 22 all of town 30 north and range 2 west of the third principal Meridian also the west half of the southwest quarter of section 25 town 23 North range 3 west of the third principal meridian I further give each of my children one horse saddle and bridle and two hundred dollars when they become of age the horse to be furnished out of the family stock as mentioned before which sum and horse my oldest sons Thomas and Joseph have received. It is my wish that my younger children be well educated out of my estate and if need require it that money be furnished my wife Martha Orendorff to raise and clothe them. I also leave my wife Martha Orendorff my carriage and harness What money is left at my death I empower my Executors to loan out for the benefit of my children after my children become of age and all is settled up what money is left is to be equally divided among all *all* my children My library of books I wish to be kept in the family and if there is anything or any article that I have not mentioned I empower my Executors to sell it privately or leave it in the family as they think best; and lastly I appoint my two oldest sons Thomas Hogg Orendorff and Joseph M. Dowell Orendorff my sole executors. . . this 28th day of November in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and thirty eight.

AARON ORENDORFF (Seal)¹

THOMAS AND DARIUS ORENDORFF

Of the five sons of Aaron Orendorff, two died while in their early twenties, and the youngest pushed west, finally reaching the Pacific Coast (See p. 169). Thomas, the eldest, and Darius carried on in Illinois. By 1850, immigrants were coming into Hopedale township direct from Germany and Ireland and from the Eastern states. This movement produced a demand for lumber,

and the two brothers built a saw mill during the winter of 1849 and 1850. Thomas owned the land where Hopedale * now stands. In 1853, he laid off the lots for a new town. He also established the first Post Office, and served as the postmaster.

Darius built the first store, and shortly afterwards Thomas formed a partnership with T. A. Smith for the second store. Thomas also organized a bank and gave twenty acres of natural forest to the town for a park. Darius had a part in the building of a Presbyterian Church and a number of the first houses. He withdrew from the saw mill and Thomas added steam power and a flour mill.

Enoch Orendorff, an uncle of Thomas and Darius, was chosen Overseer of the Poor, and served as one of the road commissioners. Enoch's oldest son, Quintus, had entered business in the neighboring town of Delavan. Having plenty of capital, he erected a steam flour mill in 1855, but soon found the mercantile business more profitable. As a County historian says:

This was the first flouring mill in the town, but the enterprise in the sequel was a convenience to the community and a loss to himself.²

WOOLEN MILLS IN ILLINOIS AND ARKANSAS

Darius sold his store and traveled extensively, planning to find a new location. He invested in Kansas lands. During his visits to Kentucky he had become interested in the woolen mills of his cousin, Eli Orendorff, and he decided that a woolen mill might be profitable in Illinois. For years he had raised sheep on the prairies, but he now decided to buy imported stock.

* Hopedale township, christened at meeting of County Court in 1850. Little Mackinaw and Indian Creek run through the township.

He invested in five hundred Spanish sheep and, in 1865, bought new machinery at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. He established a large woolen mill and built a number of houses for his employees. He also started a school and secured Mrs. Jasper Mount, previously principal of the Hopedale Schools, as the first teacher. Concerning this lady and her husband, the following paragraph is quoted from the *Tazewell County Atlas*:

Jasper Mount is one of the young and enterprising farmers of Hopedale township. He is the oldest son of Mathias Mount, Esq., so well and favorably known throughout Tazewell County, and Abigail Orendorff Mount. Jasper received his first education in the common schools of Tazewell County, and completed his education in Notre Dame College, Indiana, where he received a degree in 1866. After this he returned to his home and labored for his father until 1867, when he was joined in marriage to Miss Angeline Waldon who was born in Elm Grove township in 1846. She was recognized as one of the popular teachers of the county for several years. Immediately after their marriage, Mr. Mount moved to Orendorff's Woolen Mills, where he was bookkeeper and general foreman. He later settled on a farm on section 22 of Hopedale township, where he has been successfully engaged in improving land, farming and raising stock. Mr. Mount is a man possessed of excellent business ability and has been required to hold many responsible offices of the township; he is a collector at Hopedale at present. He is held in high esteem for his moral worth, integrity, and promptness, and we know of no young man who has more warm friends than Jasper Mount.³

Darius also opened a lumber yard, established a furniture store, and built a public hall in Hopedale. In January, 1876, he sold out his interests and took a prospecting tour through Texas, Arkansas, and Mis-

souri,* to look for a new site for a woolen mill. In January, 1878, he moved his mill to Judsonia, Arkansas, and during four summers he operated mills at that place. One of his daughters accompanied him to Arkansas, but the rest of the family remained on the home farm near Hopedale. In his dealings with the public his motto was; "Manufacture and deal in the best and guarantee satisfaction."

* Darius also spent much time on family history. He once remarked that he had seen the picture of Senator Benton's wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth McDowell, and "she was the very image of my mother, Martha McDowell Orendorff."

CHAPTER XXVII

THE FIRST ORENDORFF REUNION

We are your ancestors
We are forgotten — but ever present.
We are unknown — but inescapable.
We are spurned — but still with and within you.
We are the men and women who long ago put ourselves into the bloodstream of the world.
At long and laborious labor we shaped the civilization of our time, not even aware that we were also shaping yours.
Those of your day who make your laws must first study ours.
The architects who build your houses must begin by mastering our knowledge of line and form.
Those who fight your wars first plot on maps the way we fought ours.
That which you learn by patient work and thought, you often find that we have discovered ahead of you.
By a multitude of invisible but potent hands we reach out and change you.
We are your ancestors.

We Are Your Ancestors — P. R. HAYWARD ¹

Darius Orendorff in his extensive travels over the United States had intensified the interest of the family in their early history. He thus inspired the first Orendorff Reunion, which was held in Bloomington, Illinois, October 12-14, 1886. The *Bulletin* of Tuesday, October twelfth, reports the following:

The first reunion of the Orendorffs is being held in Washington Hall. Seventeen states and territories have been heard from. . . A number of relics were exhibited but it was not so large as it would have been had not a great many come from a distance and found it unhandy to bring them. Among things exhibited today was a family Bible from the

Louisville Branch that dates back as far as 1735. A pair of Revolutionary knee and shoe buckles, a silver spoon over a hundred years old, and a conch shell * that the first ownership can be traced back 200 years, and has been used as a dinner horn in the family for 100 years, and is known down in Logan County, Kentucky, where it is daily heard as the "Regular."

The reunion is to last three days. It is expected by tomorrow that between 200 and 300 will be present, including statesmen, lawyers, doctors, farmers and all trades and professions. Those who have arrived in the city and registered so far today are as follows:

John G. Orndorff, Russellville, Kentucky
 William Orendorff, Mediapolis, Iowa
 Alfred Orendorff, Springfield, Illinois
 Edmonia O. Bullock, Louisville, Kentucky
 T. T. Orendorff, Rolling Forks, Mississippi
 Howard Bullock, Bloomington
 S. A. Orendorff, Davenport, Iowa
 Francis Orendorff, Davenport, Iowa
 Leander Baker, Farmer City
 A. E. Orendorff, Canton
 John W. Orndorff, Adams Station, Tennessee
 William A. Orendorff, Bloomington
 John and George P. Orendorff, Bloomington
 William Orendorff, Tower City, Dakota
 Ottis Orendorff, Kansas City, Missouri
 Quintus Orendorff, Delavan
 A. B. McClure, Hopedale
 Darius W. Orendorff, Hopedale
 Ophelia Sherman, Normal
 Fanny Orendorff, Hendrix
 G. B. Orendorff, Chicago
 Salina C. Ballard, Franklin Mills, Iowa
 Elizabeth, Myron, Jesse, Helen Gilbert, Wanatosa, Wis.
 Sarah M. Riley, Wymore, Nebraska

* A Conch Shell was listed in the Inventory of Christian Orndorff's estate in 1798.²

One of the family who deserves great credit for coming is P. W. Kelly, who drove a pair of mules from Polk County Missouri, a distance of 500 miles. He and his two boys came together and were fourteen and one-half days on the road. He says they had fair weather all the way except at starting out when they experienced two very wet days. They will start on the return trip Saturday.³

The reunion opened with an address by the President, William J. Orendorff, and a prayer by Dr. W. H. Adams of the Illinois Wesleyan University. An address of welcome was given by Hon. Alfred Orendorff of Springfield. Miss Francis Orendorff of Delavan read an essay. Dr. Charles B. Orendorff identified the first Christian Orndorff in the United States as a German Palatinate who began the family industry of milling. Remarks were added by Judge Tipton of Bloomington and William Orendorff of Burlington, Iowa. These speakers represented the descendants of both Christophers, the one whose father was Christian II and the one discovered in Illinois by Aaron and Enoch.

On Wednesday about two hundred and fifty members of the family were in attendance. Members from all the states and most of the territories were present or heard from. Miss Mary Orendorff of San Francisco played a piano solo that she had composed for the occasion, "Iron Crown Mazurka." This was followed by a piano duet by Misses Grace and Eva Orendorff of Delavan. In the afternoon the program was called to order by Dr. Henry Orndorff of the Louisville Medical College, who gave a response to the address of welcome delivered in the morning. He referred to Christian Orndorff as a man of noble birth and an officer in the German army.

Hon. Green P. Orendorff of Hopedale, a grandson

of Aaron, also spoke. He told of the family interests on the Atlantic Coast and their part in the American Revolution. He said that probably some of them had been scalped by the Indians in seeking new frontiers.

The longest and most inspirational address of the reunion was given by John G. Orndorff of Russellville, Kentucky, the man who as a child had been injured in his father's mill. He gave a very dramatic account of the work of Major Christopher Orndorff in Logan County, Kentucky. John insisted that the correct way to spell the name was without the "e", as the Kentucky and Tennessee branches of the family spelled it. He also said:

I am especially proud of this meeting, because the progenitors and promoters of it are of my own immediate tribe; for four brothers of my grandfather, namely, Aaron, Absalom, Enoch and Esau moved from Logan County, Kentucky, to this section some fifty years ago.

John also referred to Captain John's inventive skill. He told how Captain John patented a wool-carding machine, and that a reaper similar to the McCormick machine was invented, but the papers did not reach the patent office in time. John G. Orndorff had opened his address thus:

I am a representative of the Orndorffs of Logan County, Kentucky, of whom there are only a few compared with twenty or thirty years ago. So many have gone to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. Many of our younger ones like our forefathers have moved westward to grow up with the country and keep abreast of the growing civilization.⁴

As these words suggest, the descendants of the Christian Orndorffs who braved the Atlantic so long ago had not lost the outstanding characteristics of that early

father and son. They had pushed steadily westward, proceeding, as they went, from mill wheel to plowshare.

Today members of this family are still pushing on, into new fields of all kinds. In many ways and in many places they are functioning as American citizens of a character that will always be needed in the development of a richer and fuller national life.

APPENDIX

I. Christian Orndorff I (Ohrendorff) was born in Prussia about 1692. He married Elizabeth von Mueller. He died near Fredericksburg, Pa., April 16, 1772.

II. His son, Major Christian Orndorff, was also born in Prussia, November 15, 1726, and married Elizabeth Ann Hoffman on April 2, 1749. He died near Sharpsburg, Md., December 10, 1797. His wife Elizabeth died in Hagerstown on July 19, 1829, in her "97th year."

THEIR CHILDREN

1. Margaret (1750-Oct. 9, 1814) m. Jacob Hess (1740-July 1, 1815) in 1768.

2. Christopher, born Nov. 23, 1752, m. Mary Thomas March 21, 1775. He died at Adairville, Kentucky, Sept. 14, 1823. His wife died Oct. 4, 1823, aged 68.

3. Elizabeth (1754 ? -April 30, 1824) m. Peter Stille (1748-Oct. 2, 1803).

4. Barbara born Aug. 21, 1759; m. John Ragan, Sept. 26, 1799. She died June 23, 1841.

5. Christian (1760 ? -Oct. 3, 1824). He m. Anna Maria Stille.

6. Henry (176?-1821) m. Margaret Alberts.

7. Catherine (1763-1845) m. John Rohrer (1764-1855).

8. Mary Magdalena born Oct. 20, 1767, m. Jonathan Hager Nov. 17, 1783. Jonathan born Dec. 13, 1755, died Dec. 18, 1798. She m. Captain Henry Lewis on May 26, 1802. Mary died June 8, 1845.

9. Jacob born Feb. 3, 1770, m. Susan Miller Feb. 9, 1794. He died Nov. 6, 1803. Susan born in 1771 died Sept. 19, 1832.

10. John born April 16, 1775, m. Susan Wohlgemuth

(1771-April 18, 1810). She died at the home of Col. David Schnebley. He died in Ky., June 21, 1807.

11. Rose born Jan. 30, 1780, m. Jacob Rohrer March 30, 1799. She died in Lexington, Ky., March 30, 1821.

ORNDORFF BIBLES

The following Orndorff Bibles are known to be extant:

1. German Bible, a Martin Luther Translation, published in Basel, Switzerland, in 1753. Christian II wrote in the date of purchase as April 6, 1765. This Bible was carried to Kentucky by Christopher Orndorff. Years later, in the settlement of an estate, the Bible was sold for ten cents. Benjamin Orndorff, Esau's oldest surviving son, who lived in Delavan, Illinois, heard about it and made two trips to Kentucky to locate it.

This Bible weighs eleven pounds. It has wooden covers, originally covered with leather, but worn off by constant use in the eighteenth century. Evidently some member of the family has in the remote past removed the records of Christian I and II. An examination in the summer of 1928 revealed only the German records for Christopher's immediate family.

2. James V. Orndorff of Oakville, Kentucky, retained an old family Bible which gives early records for Christian Orndorff II and Christopher.

3. German Bible, Third Edition, published by Christopher Sower in Germantown, Pa., 1776. The quarto Bible of Sower was the first one printed in the New World in any European language. Three editions were published before the first English Bible appeared in Philadelphia, in 1782. This Bible is said to have been owned by Elizabeth Ann Orndorff and was later sent to Kentucky. It is now in the possession of a great granddaughter, Mrs. Lulu Childers Locker of Hopkinsville. These records were found in the Bible:

1803, November 6th, my son Jacob died in God. His age

was 33 years, 10 mons. and 3 days, and he left a wife and 4 children.

1807, June 21st my son John died, his age was 32 years, 3 mo. 25 days. He left a wife and 3 children and was buried in Russellville, Kentucky.

4. German New Testament, published in 1787. It belonged to Christopher's wife, Mary Thomas. Examined at the home of H. E. Orndorff, in June, 1928.

5. English Bible, Philadelphia, 1817. Bought by Aaron Orendorff in Nashville in 1817.

6. Records of Esau Orendorff, Delavan, Illinois:

Esau Orendorff and Polly Milliken joined companions May 18, 1815.

Sir William Loreign Orendorff was born May 4, 1816. His plannet Leo. He died August 15, 1825. His age was nine years three months and eleven days.

Benjamin Franklin Orendorff was born May 31, 1819.

Ophelia Orendorff born August 6, 1821.

George Washington Christopher Orendorff was born Sept. 5, 1823.

Francis Marion Orendorff born Oct. 14, 1827. My son Francis M. Orendorff died April 17, 1852. . .

Levi [the twelfth child and grandfather of Mrs. H. M. Wood] born Jan. 27, 1844.

WILL OF CASPER KOHR, SR.

In the year one thousand seven hundred ninety nine, 22d day of February, I Casper Kohr of Bethel township, Dauphin County, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament. I do hereby order that my beloved wife Anna Maria shall hold and enjoy all the half part of all the mentioned privileges and articles as it is agreed and mentioned in two certain indentures which I have delivered to my two sons Casper Kohr and Michael Kohr, to one delivered to my son Casper Kohr bearing date second day June A.D. 1796 & the other delivered to said son Michael Kohr, bearing date 13th day Oct. 1796 as also the sole use of the dwelling

house and stable therein mentioned during her natural life.

I give and bequeath unto my said beloved wife Anna Maria, 2 of my beds and bedsteads, my bible, her spinning wheel, my chests, all my linens, all my wool, also as much of my other household goods as she shall choose or please to take, also my dresser standing in my room, my copper Kettle and as much of my kitchen furniture of whatsoever name or denomination as she shall choose to take also my bay mare, one of my cows which she shall choose to take all my pigs, also her side saddle and bridle . . . one hundred and fifteen pounds in gold or silver money of Pa. . . .

I do hereby order that if my executors shall think it proper and convenient that all my certain tract of land situated in Tyrone township, Cumberland County adjoining the land of John Jamisons and other containing 100 and 50 acres and $3/4$ shall be sold either private or public sale.

I give and bequeath to my *eldest son Christian* Kohr* the sum of 150 pounds gold or silver over and above his equal share with all the rest of my children. I give and bequeath unto my two younger sons Ludwig and Jacob the sum of 600 pounds above and over their equal share with the rest of my children. I bequeath unto my youngest daughter Anna Maria Kohr the sum of 25 pounds in gold and silver. . .

THE JONATHAN HAGERS

(See Chapters IV and V)

In 1771 Jonathan Hager, Sr., was elected as a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, the first German to enter politics in Maryland. He was at first declared ineligible because he was a naturalized citizen. But the difficulty was overcome by a new Provincial law. He served on several committees while a member of the Assembly.

* Christian Kohr is listed in the United States Census of 1790, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania thus: 1 free white male 16 years and upward, 4 free white males under 16, 2 females.

The *Baltimore Sun* on Wednesday, March 17, 1886, published an article on Jonathan Hager, giving some of his land patents, including a patent for 200 acres of land on December 16, 1739, which he christened "Hager's Choice." In 1765 he had 2,488 acres. At one time he secured 1,780 acres which he called *Hager's Delight*. Jonathan Hager, Jr. is said to have inherited five thousand acres from his father, subject to a "gift" to his sister Rosanna.

Archives, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Md:

Henry Orndorff, on January 21, 1790, gives Jonathan Hager, Jr., the power of attorney for two years:

Whereby my other business requires and takes up so much of my time to protect my woodlands in Washington County from trespassers who have been felling cutting destroying and carrying away my timber.

QUIT-RENTS

Maryland

Charles, Lord Baltimore, seeing the movement of Pennsylvania Germans into Virginia, wished to obtain settlers for the unoccupied portions of his colony. He issued a proclamation at Annapolis on March 2, 1732, offering settlers 200 acres of land free.

"To allow each single person Male or Female above the Age of Thirty and under Fiftee One hundred Acres of said Lands upon the same terms . . . and without paying any QUIT RENTS in the three Years after the first Settlement and then paying four Shillings Sterling for Every hundred acres to us or our heirs for Every year after the Expiration of the said three years."

Pennsylvania Germans in the Settlement of Maryland, (University of Pennsylvania Press, Lancaster, 1914), 42-44.

Archives of Maryland, vol. xxviii, 25.

March 1748. Black Lists for non-payment of quit-rents.

The Governor (Ogle) submitted the names of the following persons who paid fifteen shillings penalty:

Jacob Foot, Peter Apple, Henry Trout, Melcor Wherfield, Christian Thomas, Peter Hoffman, Christian Gessonner, Stephen Ramsberger, Henry Roads, Conrad Kemp, Francis Wise, Jacob Smith, George Lye, Isaac Miller, Thomas Johnson, Joseph Browner, Henry Browner, Mick Frisk, John Smith, John Browner, Ken Bacdolt, Nicholas Reisner, David Delaitre, Martin Wissell, Casper Wisebread and Peter Shaffer.

In a disposition by Stephen Rausberger, dated May 6, 1748, he says:

A great number of Germans and some others were so much alarmed by the Sheriffs Proceedings that Several of them have already left the Province and others have declared that as soon as they could sell what they are Possessed Off, they would go away. Many of the Germans declaring that they being Oppressed in their Native Country Induced them to Leave it and that they were Apprehensive of being Equally Opposed here and that therefore they would go away to avoid it.

American Archives, Fourth Series, Vol. I, 423, 986.

But the quitrents staid in Maryland. They were created on the lots laid out in Hagerstown and Rohrer's addition to Hagerstown. These lots were all subject to a perpetual ground rent unless redeemed. They were sold according to location, one in particular for 300 pounds subject to an annual rental of 20 shillings payable on or before a certain date forever. If the party owning the building failed to pay the ground rent when it became due his property could be seized and sold and he must stand all costs.

Approximately two-thirds of the Hagerstown ground rents descended to the Lawrences of Hagerstown and afterwards to the Brents of Baltimore. The last ground

rents inherited by the Brents were sold in the fall of 1917, when the last ground rent was paid.

No law was passed to force the sale of irredeemable ground rents, but an act of the Maryland Assembly about fifteen years ago provided that no more irredeemable ground rents could be created and that all new ground rents should be made redeemable in 15 years at 6 per cent.

WILL OF JACOB HESS

(1740-July 1, 1815)

In the name of God Amen. I Jacob Hess of Washington County and State of Maryland. . . do hereby on the twelfth of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen constitute and ordain this my last will and testament. And first I recommend my Soul to Almighty God who gave it . . . to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven prepared for his elect and chosen and now for settling my Temporal estate and such goods and chattels as it hath pleased God to bless me with. . .

I give and bequeath unto my son David Hess his heirs and assigns forever all that part of the Land. . . to begin at a large stone set up and planted. . . adjoining the *waggon* road leading from my Mill to Boonsboro and runing by and with said road toward Boonsbury *untill* it intersects the outlines of the whole of my land then to run and bound westerly on my outline adjoining Michael Spasart and Jacob Thomas until it intersects *Antietam* Creek then to run and bound on and with the bank of said Creek downwards . . . to the beginning of a tract of land called Burrel's Bower . . . East three perches to a stone. . . for the division line between my son David and my daughter Margaret. . . excepting that part of land I have conveyed to Andrew Rinehart containing by estimation about two hundred and fifty acres . . . he and my son David to pay for the aforesaid Land the sum of Seven Hundred Pounds current money and on the following conditions (to wit) one year after my

decease to pay the aforesaid sum in Six equal payments to my daughter Rozenah Shafer, the second payment to Catherine Grove, the third payment to my Grand daughter Elizabeth Mumma . . . I also give to my son David . . . the residue of my land in the South Mountain which is not willed or conveyed to any of my other children hereafter named he and my son David to let the rest of my children have a wagon road through his land to their land.

I hereby will and bequeath unto my Daughter Margaret her heirs and assigns forever all the following land that may be included in the following Meets and bounds. . . At the beginning of my Son Davids part and runing thence South fifty three degrees west fourteen perches then in the center of the new Road laid off from my Mill to Boonsberry South Sixty two degrees west fourteen perches . . . to a stone on the Hill of the Creek . . . about one hundred acres of Land more or less — I also bequeath unto my Daughter Margaret her heirs and assigns forever all that small parcel of land to the East of the New Waggon road. . . I will and bequeath unto John Hess, David Hess, Elizabeth Hess, Samuel Hess and Susana Hess heirs and children of my son John Hess. . . the whole of my land and Mills hereafter described — The first parcel being the land I now live on with the improvements Mills and all the utentials. . . to begin at the end of the first line of Margarets part until it intersects the land my Son John purchased from Robert Smith . . . to include all the land in this my home place heretofore not willed away by me and a small tract of land near Antietam Creek it being the Land I purchased from James Chapline — also another tract of land on *Anteatam* Creek . . . above the spring known by the name of Donalsons Springs it being the land I purchased from Lawrence O. Neal — the whole of the aforesaid lands and mills to be held on the following Conditions — that my son Jacob Hess, David Hess, Henry Shafer and Philip Grove shall hereby have full power and authority to rent out the aforesaid estate to the most advantage for the . . . maintenance and education of the whole of the said six children . . . and that the aforesaid six children shall draw an equil proportion out of the

aforesaid estate except that John Hess shall draw and receive two hundred pounds more than any of the rest — my reason for so doing is his grand mother and myself raised him as our own child. . .

Pay Elizabeth Mumma my granddaughter the sum of six hundred pounds current money with interest from the date of this my Will . . .

Susana Hess widow of my son John shall receive such a sum of money as to make it amount to One Thousand pounds imbacing her thirds of her husband's personal property . . . I further give and bequath unto the aforesaid widow the new part of my now dwelling house—the east end of the spring House—the little horse stable above the House—the part of the garden east of the upper road that runs through the garden—and to have privilege of the choice of five apple trees in the Orchard so that they shall not all be of one sort and full privilege of one half of the kitchen and one fourth of the *seller* and pasture for two cows and one horse and have privilege of cuting yearly seven cords of wood . . .

JACOB HESS [in German] (Seal)

Indenture made March 29, 1805 between Elizabeth Orndorff of Washington County, Maryland, widow of the late Christian Orndorff & Jacob Mumma . . . plantation where Christian Orndorff then lived . . . that said plantation for sum of 100 pounds . . . unto her paid by said Jacob Mumma doth grant . . . all her part of plantation afsd, which said plantation is composed of three parcels of land, the one called Anderson's Delight, the other called "John's Chance" and the other called "Abstone's forrest. . .

Signed, sealed in the presence of Elizabeth Orndorff [in Dutch]
Liber R, 74.

Upton Lawrence, Henry Lewis and Jonathan M. Lawrence of Washington County, Md. are bound for one thousand dollars of current money, to perform the office of Administrator of Elizabeth Orndorff late of said county.

The last and final acct of Upton Lawrence . . . Money recd of Henry and Peter Schnebly \$284.48.

July 21, 1835.

Liber 10, 317.

AN INVENTORY OF THE GOODS AND CHATTELS OF CHRISTIAN ORENDORF DECEASED APPRAISED BY US THE SUBSCRIBERS THE 10TH OF MARCH 1798

4 sheep 50s, 2 cows £ 10 £ Stove £ 3	£ 15.10. 0
4 cow Chains 12s 1 Horse £ 10 £ Stove £ 2	12.12. 0
120 lb of pork @ 8 lb	4. 0. 0
Sundry Articles 30 s 1 Big table 20s	2.10. 0
Sundry Bucketts and piggons 20s sundry Earthen potts 5 s	1. 5. 0
2 Harrows 30s 1 half Bushel 2/6	1.12. 6
4 Spinning wheels 1 cotton wheel 1 wool wheel	3.15. 0
Sundry tools £6 Sundry forks 10 s	6.10. 0
2 log chains Sledge Hammer & hone	0.15. 0
1 Hand Screw 15 s 1 Grindstone 15 s 1 Bedstead 15s	1.15. 0
Three Sieses @ 17 /6 & Cross Cut Saw @ 7/6	1. 5. 0
3 Augurs & 2 Chizels 10 s	0.10. 0
4 adzs 1 Grubbing hoe & 1 Drawing knife	0.17. 0
2 Cradles & 1 Sies 12/6 1 Bed £ 6 1 Ditto £ 6.19	13. 2. 6
1 Ditto £ 6 20 lb. hemp @ 1/6 lb	7.10.10
5 yds linen @ 2/6 per yd.	12. 6
Sundry Baskets 6/6 1—Copper Cittle Sundry Ar- ticles 10s.	5. 6
1 pr. silerds 7/6 Sundry Articles 10 s	0.10. 6
1 Box and Leather 4 s 7lb yams 15 s 2 tables	1.11. 6
1 pr. gold Scales 5 s Sundry Articles 10 s 3 Heckles	45s 3. 0. 0
12 forks and 7 knives 1 Sheep Shears 1 pr. Scales	0.10. 0
3 lamps 1 oil Can 1 Candle Stick 1 tea Canester	0.12. 6
8 Bottles and Sundry Articles 6 s Water Can & Sundry Articles 25 s	1.11. 0
1 Stove pipe 75 s 9 lb of wool @ 2s lb	4. 8. 0
Hemp toe 15s Flax 40 s	2.15. 0
35 lb feathers @ 3/9 lb	6.11. 3
2 Iron potts 7/6 2 Iron potts 1 Scilett 1 tea Cittle 12 s	0.19. 6
1 pr. fire Dogs Shovel and tongs	0.12. 6
1 Kitchen Cubbard 30 s 1 table 10 s 1 Dough tray	3/9 2. 3. 9

Articles of pewter 32/6 Chaney ware 7/6	2. 0. 0
Sundry Articles 10 s 1 Coffee pott Bottle & Glass	
	4s 14. 0
1 Stove pipe, flat iron L 6 Dishes 70 s	9.10. 0
1 Clock £ 5 1 Table 15 s 1 Bed and Bedstead	
	£ 7.10 13. 5. 0
1 Corner Cupboard 80s 6 chairs 15s 1 looking	
	Glass 7/6 5. 2. 6
8 Table Cloaths 60 s 7 hand towels & 2 sheets	
	27 s 4. 7. 0
1 Conch 25 s 1 Jack reel 5 s	1.10. 0
51 Bushels of Wheat @ 7/6	19. 2. 6
50 Bushels rye @ 6 s	15. 0. 0
63 Bushels Corn @ 4 s	12.12. 0
6 Silver Table Spoons & 6 Silver tea Spoons	3.15. 0
1 Table 20 s 1 Negro man & 1 Negro Woman £50	51. 0. 0
10 Acres Wheat & rye 30 s acre	15. 0. 0
	£ 248.11. 6

Certification of sincerity etc in valuation, signed by the appraisers March 10, 1798 — Jacob Piper — Joseph Reynolds

Christopher Orndorff Jacob Orndorff Next of Kin April 10, 1798, Elizabeth Orndorff & Jonathan Hager Executor of Christian Orendorff came & swore that the inventory is true.

Certified by Thomas Belt Reg.

Washington County Court House, Liber B, 246

INVENTORY OF THE GOODS AND CHATTELS OF
JACOB ORNDORFF LATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
[SON OF CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF ABOVE]

1 road Waggon Trough bucket and hoops	50.
1 Brown Cow 10\$ 1 Brindle Bull 10\$	20.
1 red Cow with white face and Calf	10.
1 white and red Cow 9\$ 1 red ditto 9\$	18.
1 Black ditto 9\$ 1 Brindle ditto 12\$	21.
3 calves 8\$ 1 red yearling 3\$	11.

1 Sorrel Stud Horse 4 years old	100.
1 old Sorrel Mare 30\$ 1 Sorrel Colt 10\$	40.
1 old Blind Horse Blind of one eye	6½
1 Bay Ditto 10\$ 1 Sorrel Horse 8 years old 80\$	90
1 Black Ditto 5 ditto 60\$ 4 hogs 30\$ 3 ditto 12\$	102
4 Sows & 26 pigs 18\$ 2 small Hogs 3\$	21
7 old Still Tubs 4.20 2 Sheep 2\$	6.20
9 Geese 1 Turkey and fowles	4
1 Grindstone 100¢ 1 Shaving Hone 25¢	1.25
2 Scythes 100¢ 3 Corn Hoes 37½¢	1.37½
2 Grubing Hoes 150¢ 1 Medstone 50¢	2
2 Axes 50¢ 1 old Spade 75¢	1.25
1 old Hough and Clovis 50¢ 1 ditto and Ditto 125¢	1.75
1 Hough and Ditto 250¢ 1 old Slay 50¢	3
1 clovis 50¢ 5 old Swingle Trees 100¢	1.50
1 old Apple Mill and Trough	4
2 Setts hind Gears 8\$ 2 Setts fore ditto 6\$	14
5 Horse Collars 2.50 4 Blind Bridles and leading line 2.50	6
1 pr. Traces and hasuers, 162½¢ 3 halter Chains and 5 collars 4.50	6.12½
1 Waggon Saddle, Bearskins and Bells	11.50
1 Cuting Box 125¢ 1 Dung and Pitch Fork 75¢	2.25
2 old Tubs and Straw Basket 1.25 1 Wind Mill 10\$	11.25
100 Bushels of Wheat in the Straw Say @ 93 Cents	93
39 Bushels rye in Ditto @ 70	28
1 old Hhd 6¼ 1 Bucking Tub 150¢	156½
8 Still Tubs 400¢ 2 Barrels 50¢ 1 Cegg 50¢	5
14 earthen Crocks 140¢ 1 Skillet and pott rack 125¢	265
1 large Iron Kettle 2\$ Kitchen Furniture 13\$	15
5 Cow Chains 250¢ 1 Log Chain 60¢	3.10
2 prs Hobbles 50¢ 2 old Cow chains 50¢	1
1 pr. pinchers and Hammers 60¢ 1 old Breach Crupper	25¢ .85
1 fifth Chain 200¢ 1 foot adz 30 pr Mall rings 30¢	2.60

Old Iron 150¢ ? 250¢	4
1 Waggon Cloth old 1\$ 6 Bells and Basket 1	2
1 large Meal Chest 2\$	2
90 Bus. Corn @ 53¢ To some Wool 300¢	50.70
3 pr wool Cards 100¢ 1 old Chest 100¢	2
1 Candle Stand 60¢ 1 old Chest 100¢	2
1 old Straw Bed 75¢ 1 Basket 50¢	1.25
1 Set Curtains 5 Sheats 6 towels and 3 pillow cases and Chaf Bag	8
1 Small paper Trunk	.50
Wearing apparel of the Deceased	8
1 old Bedstead 50¢ 1 Tin plate Stove and pipe 20\$	20.50
1 Small Bed 2 pillows and Bolster	7
1 Ditto ditto	7
1 Feather and Chaf Bed 1 pr Sheats, 1 pr Blankets and Coverled	30
5 Coverleds, 22\$ 1 pr Old Blankets 2\$	24
2 Chaf Ticks 350¢ 1 Sheat 100¢	4.50
1 Cradle and Furniture 2\$ 1 Couch 6\$	8
18 yards Blanketing	9
1 Empty Tub and half Bushel Measure	.37½
9 Twild Baggs @ 75¢	6.75
1 Bag and Feathers	15.50
1 Mans Saddle Sursingle 2 Bridles and Saddle Bags	4.50
1 Womans Ditto	8
1 old Shot Gun 200¢ 1 Syth Anvil 66½	2.66½
Old Books 100¢ 1 Corner Cupboard 4\$	5
1 day Clock 8\$ 1 pr. Sheats & Table Cloths 7\$	15
Hay 15\$ 1 Jack Screw 3\$	18
1 Bedstead 200¢ 1 Wheel Barrow 100¢	3
20 pewter 8\$ Old Delp Ware knives and forks 2 waiters 3\$	11
1 Corner Cupboard 16\$	16
1 Dog (?) and old Chairs 3\$ 1 Table 4\$	7
1 pr hand Irons 2\$ 1 pr Tongs and Shovel 75¢	2.75

Orphans Court of Washington County . . . 1018.87

Given under ourhand and Seal Nov. 24, 1803

John Good

John Abell

Additional Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Jacob Orndorff, appraised Dec. 16, 1803.

28 yards of furniture Callico @ 33 cents	9.24
Spun yarn 8\$ 1 Small Spinning Wheel 2\$	10
One reel 50¢ pocket Compass 50¢	1
One old Watch	4
One pair plated Spurs, one Small Brush, etc.	1.75
One pr. Iron Wedges one Small hoe and iron rake	.75
One Sheep 1\$ 1 drawing knife 20¢	1.20
51 Bushels Wheat @ 93 cents per Bushel	46.43
Liber B — Folio 480.	72.17

JACOB ROHRER

In the Will of Jacob Rohrer, Sr., a very long document, he refers to a:

Deed from Christian Wireman dated March 27, 1799 being part of a larger tract of land granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the said Wireman for one thousand acres. . .

I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Orndorff in addition to what she has already received of me the sum of seven hundred and twelve pounds ten shillings current money four hundred pounds thereof to be paid her one year after my decease.

I give and bequeath to my son Jacob Rohrer the plantation or farm on which he lately lived being part of a larger tract of land called Land of Prospect . . . to the eighty second line of addition to Hagers Delight . . . and as I have lately leased the said . . . plantation to Christian Orndorff until the spring of the year 1807. It is my will that . . . Jacob Rohrer shall not have the use or possession of the said land . . . until the expiration of said lease.

I give and bequeath unto my son John Rohrer in addition to what he has heretofore received. . . the sum of fifty pounds in money to be paid by my executors in one year

after my decease. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Catherine Crumbaugh in addition to what she and her husband Conrad Crumbaugh have heretofore received of me one half of the ground rents which may be due and payable . . . in Rohrer addition to Elizabethtown.

I give and bequeath unto John Crumbaugh the other half of the rent. . . in Rohrer addition to Elizabethtown which I sold and conveyed to his father John Crumbaugh now deceased.

To my son Frederick Rohrer and heirs . . . first he is to pay my daughter Mary Orndorff or her legal representative the sum of three hundred and twelve pounds in five equal payments being the residue and in full of the Legacy herein before bequeathed to her the first payment to become due and payable at the end of two years after my decease and so at the rate of forty-two pounds ten shillings per year.

I do give and bequeath all my Linen and Woolen cloth to my wife and my sons Frederick and Samuel Rohrer.

It is my will to sell and convey all my Lands in the State of Kentucky . . . and in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

JACOB ROHRER [Seal]

Proved Oct. 23, 1804.

Christian Orndorff and wife vs. Frederick Rohrer, Bill in Exc. To Washington County from Frederick Rohrer, June 26, 1809.

Maryland Herald and Hager's Town Weekly Advertiser

October 17, 1804 [Wednesday]

Died on Saturday morning last at his residence near Hagerstown in the 63rd year of his age Mr. Jacob Rohrer a peaceful citizen, an obliging neighbor an honest man. On Sunday following his remains were interred with accustomed solemnity in the family burying ground in the presence of a great number of sympathizing friends.

The Washington Spy

Washington County, Aug. 22, 1794. Christian Orndorff came before me and brought with him a dark boy Colt about 14 and a half hands high apparently about two years old, a natural trotter, with a small star in the forehead. . . the

said Christian Orndorff has taken up said colt as a stray agreeable to Act of Assembly.

This notice was published in the *Martinsburg Gazette*:

October 18, 1805

Four Dollars Reward — Strayed away from Frederick Rohrer's plantation near Hager's Town, on Tuesday, the 8th inst. a Sorrel Horse about fifteen hands high six years old, has a middling long tail not docked, a little gutted by the saddle on the near side, shod all around. Whoever will take up said horse and deliver him to the subscriber in Hager's Town shall have the above reward and reasonable charges.

CHRISTIAN ORNDORFF

HENRY ORNDORFF'S FAMILY NEAR SHEPHERDSTOWN

Henry died about 1821, leaving children who were minors. His heirs paid taxes on 355 acres from 1822-1834, when the estate was divided between the following children: William, Mary, Samuel, Jacob, and James. James seems to have remained a bachelor and continued the milling business. The following extracts are taken from his will, written in 1846:

I James Orndorff of Jefferson County in the state of Virginia . . . give and bequeath unto William Orndorff, Jr. son of William Orndorff and Thomas Henry Orndorff, son of Jacob Orndorff all my real estate, part in Jefferson County and part in Berkeley county . . . But it is my wish that William Orndorff, Jr. shall take all the land lying in Berkeley County, and Thomas Henry Orndorff shall take the graveyard field as one part of his share and then the balance of my land to be divided to them so as to make share and share alike. Nevertheless if the said William Orndorff, Junior shall not arrive at the age of twenty-one years, then the said land above shall be divided between his brothers and sisters share and share alike.

Item. I give and bequeath unto James Orndorff son of

William Orndorff, Sr. the proceeds of the hire of a negro boy named Warner until the said Warner shall have his freedom.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Margaret Orndorff daughter of William Orndorff, Sr. all my Bed, Bedding . . . also my large chest one sett of large silver tablespoons.

Item. I give and bequeath unto all the balance of my slaves that has not heretofore been willed away, their freedom according to the laws of the County, Viz. as follows, Moriah and her two children names Charles and Alexander also Moses and Herman.

JAMES ORNDORFF

Will Book 11, 37.

Captain John Orndorff of Adairville, Kentucky, corresponded with his cousins near Shepherdstown. An extant letter written to Jacob Orndorff states that he had received a letter from Jacob that day [December 25, 1846] "written Dec. 6, and was sorry to hear of the death of Mary. . . I wrote to Aunt Barbary Ragan a month past . . . Aunt Caty Rohrer is always anxious to hear from you all, she is getting very feeble. . . Uncle John Rohrer enjoys a tolerable share of health for a man of his age. Our crop of oats, corn and tobacco are very good and we would have an overflowing crop of wheat if the rust had not destroyed it."

Archives of Maryland

George T. Johnson, a descendant of Margaret Hess, attended college in Shepherdstown in the early seventies and recalls seeing an old homestead just north of town near what was later referred to as Billinger's Mill. There were two old men, Orndorff brothers, managing the mill. But within a few years the Orndorffs had entirely disappeared from that vicinity, as the younger men moved to other states, south and west.

SALE NOTICE IN THE "SHEPHERDSTOWN REGISTER"

December 20, 1928

(Original Farm of Henry Orndorff)

Farm for Sale. The Billmeyer farm, also known as the Orndorff farm, one mile north of Shepherdstown on the Potomac River, one-fourth of a mile from Shepherd Pike containing 331 Acres. Two hundred acres in good cultivation. One mile of river bottom. Balance in pasture and timber. . . Never failing stream of water running through the farm. Will make a good stock farm. Lots of timber, including poplar, oak, walnut, sycamore, cedar, locust, etc. Wood enough for many years.

R. C. GROVE, Shepherdstown, W. Va. Box 12.

WILL OF COL. WILLIAM MORGAN

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I William Morgan of Berkeley in the State of Virginia being weak of body but of sound memory blessed be God for his mercies doth this ninth day of September One thousand and Seven hundred and eighty eight make and ordain this my last will and testament . . . first I leave my Soul to the Almighty God that gave . . . and as for my worldly estate it has pleased God to bless me with . . . first I leave to my son Abraham Morgan One hundred and fifty acres of Land where he now lives to begin at the great road joining Wm. Bedinger and run with the road to the lane and run parrallel with the great road . . . with a square line across to West line which said Land and improvements I leave to the said Abraham his heirs and assigns forever.

Item I leave to Zacheus Morgan two hundred acres of Land where he now lives to begin at Abrahams South corner and run across with his line to the west line then to run with Buckles line . . . and Lucas line. . .

Item I leave my daughter Eleanor Morgan the house & lot I now live in Mecklenburg Town [Shepherdstown] No. 65 and four acres of land joining the Gate as we go to Yearleys and now fenced in as a pasture which said Lot & Land I leave to my daughter Elenor with improvements. . .

Item I leave to Rawley Morgan two hundred acres of land to begin with the Great Road at Elenors corner of her four acres and to run up the road with such a line as to cross the meadow with the fence between Yearley & Nace then to extend in the woods. . .

Item I leave to my son Ralph Morgan one hundred acres of land to begin at the Great Road at Rawleys corner then with Abraham line to where it leaves the lane that goes to George Morgans then continue. . .

Item I leave to my son George Morgan two hundred acres of Land where he now lives to begin at the corner to Abraham and run with his course to make the two hundred acres by taking the side line as near square as possible with the last devised piece. . .

Item I leave to my daughter Sarah A. Williams one hundred acres of Land joining William Rights Land and Wolfreds Land.

I leave to Sarah Stogdon daughter of Olive and John Stogdon one hundred acres of Land lying on north side of Kentucky on Glen Creek being part of four hundred acres to be laid off in a square to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Item I leave Abel Morgan son of Ralph Morgan One hundred acres of the same tract to be laid off square to him and his heirs and assigns forever. I Leave to William Morgan son of George Morgan one hundred acres of land laid off the same track

Item I leave Rawleigh Morgan the remaining hundred acres. . .

Item For my moveable estate after my just debts and funeral charges are paid and discharged it is my will that it be sold and equally divided between my seven children Ralph, Abraham Zacheus George Rawleigh Sarah and Elenor to them and their heirs forever.

Item As there will be a remainder of Land not already willed it is my will that when the time is out that it is leased for it to be sold to the highest bidder and the money divided between Six of my children Abraham George Zacheus Rawleigh Sarah and Elenor to them and their heirs forever.

Item It is my will that the article between Thomas Shepherd and me concerning the mill be set up yearly to the highest bidder pr. bushel for manufacturing of wheat as the article directs during the time the article lasts and the money arising to be an equal division among my children as before mentioned to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

Item It is my will that my daughter Elenor part be rented and money otherwise arising to keep on interest except what clothes schools and maintain her till she come to the age of eighteen to receive it.

Item It is my will to appoint my son Abraham and George Morgan my executors of this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning . . .

WILLIAM MORGAN [L.S.]

Colonel William Morgan is buried under the chancel of the old Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown and his son, Captain William Morgan, is buried in the churchyard. Many members of the family went West. Colonel William Morgan was one of a hundred to assemble at Morgan's Spring near Shepherdstown for the Beehive March to Boston.

EXTRACTS FROM ABEL MORGAN'S DIARY

[A SON OF ABRAHAM MORGAN]

Dec. 20, 1808. Bad day rain and snow, horse fell in Flat Creek with McCormack . . .

Sept. 28, 1810. Father and family arrived in Logan being 5 and 1 day on the road.

30 Nov. Set out for Blue Licks from home. fair weather. I got as far as Mr. Reeds 18 miles. Recd 35 dollars from Bank. Dec 30. Reopen the claim of my fathers land . . . names of men who knows of it. J. Townsend Green Clay, Cradlebaugh. Surveyor named John Crook. . . Employ Rob. A. Sturgus to transact my land business agree to give him 200 if he gains it or nothing if he loses it. Leav patten with him. Started for Logan. . . Arrived in Russellville 27 of April 1811. Since my arrival from Blue Licks to this time

has been employed in Farming Surveying etc. in Logan . . .

From the 8th of May to the present day 4th of July was spent at G. M. Bedingers [an uncle] B. Licks reading and visiting and at Canebridge superintending the building of a house 28 x 22 in the interval G. M. went to Philadelphia for goods. . .

July Fri. 26 Started for Pittsburgh . . .

Sept. 2 Goods arrived at Canebridge.

Nov. 16 Saturday Arrived at Home at my fathers after 7½ months absence. After about three days rest I went to Christian County after some land. got 200 acres 8 miles from court house west on Casey Creek and then returned to my fathers and made preparation for building. . .

Remarkable events for 1812. Jan. 5 I was married to Mis Mary L. Caldwell. in 1 mo from the time I was married moved to my own house. My family consisted of 3. My wife negro Reuben and myself. The boy R. dies in 2 or 3 months. . . I went to housekeeping at the head of the big spring — about the middle of December this year was an earthquake which was followed by a number during the winter. . .

Jan. 1, 1813 worked on my house. . . Jan 9 Continue at work. to a salt ptr. Cave. . . Quit the cave in May. made nothing. July about the first purchased another cave. . . made 2000 and quit in December.

Moved back to my farm 15 Jan 1814 after 1 year and 2 weeks absence Father absent in Virginia and about late or middle of Feb. ret. Nothing of very grave importance transpired this year. War is prosecuted with great vigor . . . 27 years old two children. Raised a small crop of corn, potatoes and cotton.

July 7, 1815. Father died at 5 o'clock P. M. . . .

1817 moved this year to the old place where father died the land being divided and I drew the old place which contained 284 acres.

Feb. 7. Negro girl Eliza came to my house to continue until the age of 21 years as a bound girl. She was born on the 16th of May 1813 on the 16th of May 1834 she will be free. . .

Feb. 16, 1825 moved to Fritts place on the Nashville road. . . March 11, 1826 Commenced sowing oats. Very mild weather. The influenza. Attact of it myself.

Blakey writes for the *Weekly Messenger*:

The memory of Abel the oldest son is still cherished by the old men of the town and county. He married Miss Polly Caldwell, Daughter of Gen. Samuel Caldwell of Russellville. He died in 1834, leaving nine children who, with their mother removed to Fredonia, Ky. Abel was a quiet, peaceable man esteemed by all who knew him. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, much of his time was spent in surveying during the land troubles in Kentucky.

John Orndorff was one of the three commissioners who appraised the estate of Abraham Morgan. The negroes were given a valuation of \$4,150, being valued from \$125 to \$475 each. He left 2,295 acres to his children. A library including a 32½-vol. set of Reese's New Cyclopaedia, valued at \$70.50, much wool, hemp, wheat, 16 head of sheep, many horses, hogs, and cattle are mentioned.

WILLIAM PAISLEY

William Paisley and his wife, Eleanor McLean, came to Pennsylvania from Tyrone, Ulster, Ireland, about the year 1736, and settled twenty miles above Philadelphia on the Schuylkill River. By this time the Scotch Irish were becoming so numerous in the colony the government passed restrictions against their buying any more land. Paisley rented land, and by his industry and thrift was able to save money so that when he went to Guilford County in 1765 he was able to buy farms for each of his six children. Jane, his oldest child, born in 1737, married John White. They settled on Rich-

land Creek, near present Greensboro. Their only surviving child, Martha, married Joseph McDowell, who migrated to Tennessee in 1799. John White died in 1787, and his widow became the second wife of William Gowdy, ruling elder of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church near Greensboro. William Gowdy died in 1795, and for a time his wife, Jane, managed the farm of her former husband, John White.

An old desk that was brought across the ocean from Ireland was carried across the Blue Ridge Mountains into Tennessee, then to Illinois and later to California, for years contained a package of old letters written by Jane White Gowdy to her daughter, Martha McDowell, on the Kentucky-Tennessee line. Unfortunately these letters in recent years were removed and lost so that we have meager facts on the first years of Joseph McDowell* on the Tennessee frontier. John White, by his Will probated in 1787, gave Joseph McDowell two-thirds of all his lands. In 1801 McDowell sold a 640 acre farm in Guilford County, subject to the one-thirds claim of his mother-in-law, Jane Gowdy, who returned with him to Tennessee, where she died in 1804.

Col. John Paisley, a brother of Jane Paisley White, was appointed Major of the First Battalion of Minute Men of Salisbury District. In 1776 he joined General Rutherford to subdue the "Overhill Cherokee Indians." He was also a field officer and Lieut. Col. of the Guilford Regiment. He and his brother, Robert Paisley,

* "Joseph McDowell," by Julia A. Drake, *N. C. Historical and Genealogical Record*, Forest City, N. C., Oct. 1932, 132-138. *Buffalo Church and Her People*, Rankin, S. M., Greensboro, N. C., 1934, 21, 45, 56, 108.

saw active service in fifteen or more skirmishes, leading the Whigs in almost a constant warfare against the Tories. The State Assembly made provision for the soldiers and officers who had fought under General Greene to take out grants of land, if they so desired, along the Kentucky line. Col. Paisley was one of those who decided to remain in the hills of North Carolina, and his great grandson, John Paisley, today owns land bought by William Paisley before the American Revolution. His Will is a brief sketch of the plantation system. His daughter Elizabeth who married Moses Gibson, later moved with her husband to Mississippi. The negro Rose, that she inherited from her father in 1811, lived until after 1900 and died in Benton County, Mississippi, when about 105 years of age.

WILL OF JOHN PAISLEY

I John Paisley of Guilford County and State of North Carolina, on this 25th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & eleven, do make and publish this my last will and testament. . .

I first give and bequeath to my wife Mary Ann Paisley all my estate real and personal now in my possession, for her use and benefit during the term of her natural life.

Secondly. — I give and bequeath to my son William Paisley two negroes Milly and Aaron.

Thirdly. — I give and bequeath to my son James Paisley two negroes Gilbert and James.

Fourthly. — I give and bequeath to the children of my daughter Nancy Hanner all that part of the plantation on which I now live lying on the North of the present great Road, & East of Burch creek also eighty five acres on which my daughter Nance Hanner now lives.

Fifthly. — I give and bequeath to my son John Paisley three negroes Pete, Cute and Dick, and all their offspring

from this date; also the plantation on which I now live together with all the stock & household furniture, etc. at my wife's decease.

Sixthly. — I give and bequeath to my daughter Elenor Paisley two negroes Seventy and Sally, and fifty acres of Land, it being part of a survey adjoining the Northwest corner of the plantation on which I now live.

Seventhly. — I give and bequeath to my son George Paisley two negroes Emmy and Isaac.

Eighthly. — I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Gibson, two negroes Rose and Mary.

Ninthly. — I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Ann Paisley two negroes Jenny and Moses, and other property similar, and equal in value, with that which my daughter Elizabeth has received.

It is further my will if any of the negro should die, or become useless before they are received by those to whom they are left, in that case each legatee is to make and equal dividend to whom the negro may belong. . .

Appointing my living son John Paisley and my son Moses Gibson the whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament . . .

JOHN PAISLEY [Seal]

James McDowell acts as a guardian for the children of Joseph McDowell, Jr., who died Oct. 22, 1822. and of Thomas Paisley, who died in September, 1823.

James McDowell Guardian for the minor heirs of Thomas Paisley Decd. To the amount due the first January . . . \$455.35½. . . Robertson County Feby Term 1828.

James McDowell Guardian for the minor heirs of Joseph McDowell Feb. 12, 1827 . . .

Dr.	669.68
	40.18
	707.86
	12.87½
	696.99½

Similar records are given for several years.

INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY BEQUEATHED BY JOSEPH
MCDOWELL, JR., TO HIS WIDOW

Three head of horses Six head of Cattle . . .

One desk and bookcase, one corner cupboard, one table
. . . One set of knives and forks. One set of spoons, ten delph
plates china dishes One set of fire dogs. One set of smooth-
ing irons . . . one trunk, two sets of Cups and Saucers One
set of bowls, six square bottles One three Gallon Stone Jar
three Parihen Crocks One Stone Jar, One Clock Reel, one
horsehear plow two small plows two pair of plow Gears
. . .

MEMORANDUM OF THE BOOKS

One large Bible one small do. One testament. Sheridan's
large dictionary. One small ditto. Brown's dictionary of the
Bible, Buck's Theological dictionary Two volumes of
Brown's History of Missions Two volumes of Moses Uni-
versal Geography first volume of big lassers [?] view of the
World Three volumes of Davids Sermons Murry English
Grammar Key and Exercises of faith Bullerworeties [?]
one ordinance wares on the mind First volume of Josephus
works Seventh volume of the Christian Mansion three spel-
ling books. . . three volumes of village Larenons.

Aaron Orendorff & Abner McDowell Esrs. . . Received
the within named articles together with a years provision
by the hand of the Executors of Joseph McDowell dec'd.

Received of me by this 25th January 1823

ELIZABETH MCDOWELL

Robertson County Court February Term 1823 an inven-
tory of the articles bequeathed to Elizabeth McDowell

Summary of the Estate of Joseph McDowell decd

1 pair of Saddle Bags	2.00
1 Saddle	10.00
1 big coat	15.00
1 black heiffer	7.00
1 red steer	4.00
1 red heifer	7.00
1 Bull	9.00

1 Sorrel Mare	8.00
1 Brown Mare	80.00
1 Watch	20.00
1 Brass Clock	70.00
1 writing desk	50.00
1 pair of shoes	1.37½
1 Sow and three Shoats	4.00
16 Heads of Hogs	14.62½
1 Horse Mill and Irons	7.00
1 Still and Tubs	100.00
1 half Bushel Measure	.62½
2 Razors 1 Strop & Shaving box	1.30
25 Head of Hogs sold by James McDowell	\$ 27.50
1 Shelling Machine	(?) 20.00
Account . . . for Keeping School	20.10½
To Account James McDowell . . .	22.20

JAMES MCDOWELL, AARON ORENDORFF Ers.

The following quotations are from Thomas Morgan's Estate, proved in the February Term of Court, 1823. Thomas Morgan owned land near Aaron Orendorff, and was doubtless the man for whom William Paisley named his son. S. M. Rankin, *History of Buffalo Presbyterian Church and her People*, 90: "Thomas Morgan was living a few miles northeast of the church [near Greensboro, N. C.] in 1770. He was sheriff of the county in 1772. In 1794 he moved away."

An Inventory of the property of Thomas Morgan to the Honourable Court of Robertson County, Tenn.:

Twelve head of cattle	12.00
Twenty five Head of Hogs	25.00
Twelve head Sheep	12.00
A Mare and horse	
Three wheels	
A quantity of tobacco, corn	
Three water pails and coffee pots	
One pair saddle bags . . .	

Two Sugar boxes
Two Fodder Stacks
.

James McDowell guardian Due to Joseph McDowell's children February 27, 1831 — 784.66.

Andrew Stewart Survey for James McDowell guardian for the heirs of Joseph McDowell, Esq.

John Orndorff agent for Aaron Orndorff by the direction of a jury summoned by the Sheriff of said County for the purpose of procepcioning a tract of Land Situate, lying and being in said County on the Middle Fork of Red River said tract being a part of a survey origionally granted by the State of North Carolina to Lewis Barker by a grant No 203 for 400 Acres . . . to three post oaks on the State line thence with the said line South 82 degrees West to a stake in a garden where Aaron Orendorff formerly lived to Spanish Oak near the house where Jonathan Traughbor now lives. 432 Acres. August 21, 1832.

Book W, 161.

Amos Moon from Elizabeth McDowell March 5, 1838. This Indenture made the second day October 1837. . . in consideration of 1225 dollars. . . parcel of land containing one hundred and sixty four Acres lying and being in Robertson County on the south fork of Red River Beginning at a White Oak and Spanish oak near the Spring. . . thence up the river with its meanders. . . also one other tract containing Ten Acres. . .

ELIZABETH MCDOWELL
LUCINDA MCDOWELL
THOMAS J. POE
ANDREW J. BABB
JAS L. MCDOWELL
JAMES B. POE
ELIZABETH H. BABBS

Book Z, 455.

Elizabeth McDowell, wife of Joseph McDowell, Jr., thus disposed of her last property in Tennessee; then migrated to Camden, Illinois.

Joseph McDowell, Sr., had died shortly after the

marriage of his daughter Martha to Aaron Orendorff. Joseph seems to have given Martha a tract of 460 acres. The following is the last record we find pertaining to Joseph McDowell, Sr.:

Huey to McDowell 20th June 1814. 30th Sept. 1813. Between Thomas Huey of the State of North Carolina and the heirs of Joseph McDowell decd of the County of Robertson and State of Tennessee. . . the said Thomas Huey for and in consideration of the sum of \$25 paid by the said Joseph McDowell Decd the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath. . . conveyed unto the heirs of Joseph McDowell dec'd. . . a parcel of land containing twenty five acres beginning at a Sycamore Tree on an island of Red River which is northwest corner of a tract of land granted by the state of N. C. to Thomas Barker. . . to a post Oak in Paisley line, north with said line. Signed by James McDowell. . .

This was Rev. James McDowell, Martha Orendorff's brother, who held the land for some time. He carried the old sheepskin deed with him when he migrated to Illinois on horseback in the fall of 1830. His great granddaughter, Mrs. H. P. Anderson, has preserved the deed. The Robertson County records show that his mother, Martha White McDowell, gave him another tract of land in 1828:

June 2, 1828, Martha McDowell to James McDowell 174 acres.

Oct. 20, 1834, James McDowell and wife Kitty Ann McDowell of Tazewell County, State of Illinois, sold to Thomas Moon 174 acres in Robertson County.

Martha McDowell died Sept. 5, 1828.

All records for Aaron Orendorff in Robertson County are not extant, but these are available:

Aaron Orndorff from Edmund Edwards, 8½ Acres, \$100 Cash. March 7, 1816. Deed Book L, 364.

Aaron Orndorff from Sam Mcalilly & wife Jane O. Mcalilly 200 Acres. \$2000 Cash. Apl. 26, 1810, Book O.195.

Aaron Orndorff from Bartly Pitt, 17 Acres. \$1.00 Cash. Oct 24, 1822. Deed Book Q, 448.

Aaron Orndorff from Thos. Fisher 173 Acres. \$900. Cash June 18, 1824. Deed Book R, 288.

Aaron Orndorff from Wm. Strickland, 12.2 Acres. \$20.00 Cash. Dec. 20, 1824. Deed Book R, 472.

On Feb. 12, 1827, Aaron Orndorff is listed as a Guardian of Levi Traugher.

May Term Court 1828 to divide one hundred acres of land between Aaron Orndorff and the heirs of David Rumber . . . Forty acres drawn by Aaron Orndorff May 16, 1828.

WASHINGTONS IN THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY

In the 1812 session of the Tennessee State Legislature a petition was presented by "Residents of Robertson and sundry citizens of Logan County against opening to navigation the Red River." The petition was signed by Christian Orndorff, John Orndorff, Abel Morgan, Robert Paisley, James McDowell, and other leading citizens of both Kentucky and Tennessee. Among the signatures are found the names of Fairfax Washington, who owned a plantation in Logan County, and George Augustine Washington, who lived in Robertson County. *State Archives*, Nashville, Tenn.

George D. Blakey in his series of sketches on local citizens in "Men Who I Remember," says:

My mind's eye turns to the high point of that ridge which divides the waters of Dry Fork, a tributary of Cumberland River, from the tributaries of Green River, and on that elevated point there stood a palatial residence which I think was the second brick house built for miles around. It was the residence of

WHITING WASHINGTON

to which according to the old Virginia custom was given the name of Green Ridge, which it bears to this day, although the home has long since been consumed by fire. . . It was a lovely home, occupied by Mr. Washington and his brother Fairfax, natives of Virginia. . . Both of the brothers had a striking resemblance to their distinguished kinsman.

The wife of Whiting Washington was a lady who worthily won the esteem of all. . . She was a lady of high intellectual culture and polished manners, survived her husband many years and upon the marriage of her accomplished daughter to Chief Justice Waller of Arkansas removed with them to that state about the year 1833 or 34.

FAIRFAX WASHINGTON *

settled a few miles from his brother, higher up on Whip-poor-will, near the state line, and at a later period in Southwest Logan, where he spent the remaining years of his life in the confidence and esteem of a large circle of friends.

THOMAS MOUNT

After the American Revolution, Thomas Mount sold his property near Princeton, New Jersey, for \$25,000 in Continental money. Three days later the money would not buy a breakfast. He went to Virginia to recoup his fortune. He later removed to Kentucky, retaining considerable land in Virginia. His grandson, Mathias Mount, split rails with Abraham Lincoln.

WILL OF THOMAS MOUNT

In the name of God, Amen. I Thomas Mount, of Shelby County, and State of Kentucky, do make this my last will and testament. . . .

* Fairfax Washington was born in Va. about 1778, removed to Elkton, Ky. He married Sarah Armstead in Gloucester county, Va. *Some Colonial Mansions and Those Who Lived in Them*, Thos. A. Glenn (Henry Coates & Co., Phila., 1900), 79.

In the 1st place, I give my son, Elijah Mount, my young Negro man, James, to him and his heirs forever.

2ndly. I give to my son, Ezekial Mount, my young negro man, John, to him and his heirs forever.

3rdly. I give to my son, John Mount, my negro man, Bill, to him and his heirs forever.

4thly. I give to my son, Mathias Mount, my negro boy, Bob, to him and his heirs forever.

5thly. I give to my daughter, Hannah Maddox, my negro girl, Elsa, to her and her heirs forever.

6thly. I give to my daughter, Polly Barnett, my negro girl, Franky, to her and her heirs forever.

7thly. I give to my daughter, Lettice Swindler, my negro woman, Grace, to her and her heirs forever.

8thly. I give to my daughter, Rhota Beatty, my negro boy, Daniel, to her and her heirs forever.

9thly. I give to my son, William Mount, my negro boy, Henry, to him and his heirs forever.

10thly. I give to my son, Thomas Mount, my negro boy, Lewis, to him and his heirs forever.

11thly. I give to my son, Amos Mount, my negro girl, Matilda, to him and his heirs forever.

12thly. I give to my son, Jasper Mount, my negro girl, Grace, to him and his heirs forever.

It is further to be understood that any of my said negroes so willed in case of their death, before a settlement takes place, it is my will and desire that my said executors hereafter mentioned shall pay to the legate to whom the negro or negress was willed, their full value in cash out of money arising from the sale of my other estate before a division takes place of this money.

It is my further will and desire that my plantation lying in the Little Bull Skin and on which I now reside, be sold after my decease by my said executors, and the money arising from such sale, be equally divided between my twelve children, heretofore mentioned.

I further direct that my tract of land on Ten Mile Run, and containing 325 acres, near Clarksburg, be sold and the money from such sale, after paying my son-in-law, James

Beatty, \$359, the residue to be equally divided among my twelve children, heretofore mentioned.

I further will and desire that the 4000 acres of land lying on or near the waters of Red River, Kentucky, be divided as follows — 1000 acres to be laid off for my son, Elijah Mount, and 500 acres for my son, Ezekial Mount, and the residue sold by my executor and the money equally divided among my twelve children heretofore mentioned except my son Elijah.

It is further understood that any legal expenses, arising from sale of land, my executors are to remember themselves before they make any distribution of said money; it is also my will and desire that all the residue of my said estate not heretofore willed, such stock of every description, furniture of every kind, plantation tools, debts due and bonds, cash on hand or any increase of the negroes so willed, before they are divided shall be sold and the money equally divided among my twelve children.

It is my will and desire that a tract of land I purchased of Dan'l Moon, Sr., Lying in Franklin Co. Kentucky, be sold and the money equally divided among my twelve children.

It is my will and desire that my two old faithful slaves, James and Paga his wife, shall go to my son, John, and to live with him during their life and to be treated as he knows I would wish them treated and I lay a faithful injunction on him not to offer them for sale at any price.

I lastly declare that if any of my children should make any alteration or attempt any law suit concerning my said estate which I have willed to them, that child, or children, shall forfeit their portion and their portions shall be equally divided among the residue of the children, who behave themselves with prudence and discretion.

It is my request that my son-in-law Jonathan Swindler, and my son, John, act as executors of this my last will and signed and acknowledged the 31st October, 1815.

THOMAS MOUNT [Seal]

Land: Land purchased of Daniel Moore, Sr. — Franklin Co. Ky.

His plantation on Little Bull Skin
 355 acres on Ten Mile Run, Clarksburg
 1500 acres in Harrison County, Va.
 4000 acres on Red River, Ky.

Maurice L. Loudkin, Clerk, County Court, Harrison County, Clarksburg, West Virginia, writes:

I find three deeds in the years 1821, 1829 and 1837 conveying property formerly owned by the late Thomas Mount of Ky. One of the deeds recites that the property is sold pursuant to the Will of Thomas Mount . . . that it is the same property obtained by Thomas Mount by virtue of a patent July 11, 1798.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

At the request of Jacob Mumma the following Power of Attorney was recorded the 8th January 1811:

State of Maryland Washington County. Know all men by these presents to whom it may concern That I Christopher Orndorff of the State of Kentucke do . . . appoint my trusty friend Jacob Mumma of Washington County my whole and Sole attorney to act in my stead for all my part of a Tract of Land called Vultons Rest that lyes to the south of the great Road leading from Sharpsburgh to Frederick Town & to sell & dispose of the same and do . . . empowere the said Mumma to make a Deed of Conveyance of the afsd tract of Vultons Rest . . . the said Christopher Orendorff hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the tenth day of August Eighteen hundred and Ten.

CHRISTOPHER ORNDORFF [Seal]

Washington County Court House. Liber W, 377.

On June 23, 1794, Christopher had sold "153½ Acres of a resurvey on Vulton's Rest to the Great Waggon road" to Gabriel Thomas for 918 pounds."

On May 3, 1794, Christopher sold five acres of Vultons Grove to Peter Thomas "together with houses barns buildings and improvements. . . Thirty-five pounds received by Christopher Orndorff . . .

Mary Orndorff examined apart. Liber H, 778.

In a large number of the deeds we find that the wife was taken aside to see if she in all ways accepted the sale of the land.

At the request of Samuel Mumma the following deed was recorded May 22, 1837:

This Indenture made the thirtieth day of April, in the Year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty seven, between Jacob Mumma and Barbara Mumma his wife of Washington County in the State of Maryland of the other part, and Samuel Mumma of the same county . . . for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars current money to them in hand paid. . . confirm unto the said Samuel Mumma his heirs and assigns forever that part of a tract of land called the Resurvey on Smiths Hills, part of the "Resurvey on Hills Dales" and the "Vineyard," part of a Tract of Land called "Porto Sancto" . . . being all the land conveyed by Christopher Orndorff to Jacob Mumma on the Sixth day of May 1796 containing by estimation Three Hundred and Twenty four and one quarter acres . . . also one other part of a tract of Land called addition to Loss and Gain . . . the deed from Jacob Mumma to Jacob Kauffman for part of Addition to Loss & Gain, containing by estimation Thirty four acres. . . All that part called Mumma's Fancy granted to Jacob Mumma by patent bearing date the 18th of February 1828, containing twenty Acres of land. . . West sixty perches to a marked hickory sapling . . . to the end of the first line of Smiths Hills . . . the thirtieth day of March 1837.

Signed. . . JACOB MUMMA [in German]
Liber SS, 835.

WILL OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

In the name of God Amen. I Sir Francis Drake of the County of Logan and State of Kentucky being of a sound and disposing mind do make this my last Will and testament — I lend to my beloved wife Martha Drake all my estate

both real and personal during her natural life or widowhood, at her death or marriage I give the said Estate both real and personal to be equally divided between my children John Gilleam Drake, Taylor B. Drake, Sarah S. Drake, Sir Francis Drake and Jacob G. Drake. . . I constitute my wife Martha Drake Executrix and my son Taylor B. Drake Executor . . . I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fifth day of May in the year of our Lord Christ 1814.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE [Seal]

Will Book I, Logan Co. Ky.

This Francis Drake was a son of James Drake of Powhatan Co., Virginia. James Drake had purchased land in Cumberland County, Virginia, in 1763-64.

COLLATERAL DESCENDANTS OF MAJOR CHRISTIAN
ORNDORFF AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH
ANN HOFFMAN

Adams	Ballard	Churchill	Dougherty
Augendright	Barton	Conner	Dreaggest
Ahalt	Blackburn	Crum	Dove
Andrews	Bradlew	Close	Darnell
Albright	Baldwin	Campbell	Dearing
Arnold	Burr	Curtis	Dunseth
Allen	Bell	Cate	Dryden
Allers	Boyd	Conley	Drake
Auspach	Brinnaman	Cooper	Delashman
Allison	Browner	Cosby	Dutroff
Alender	Brown	Catlin	Dunklin
Alberts	Brunner	Childs	Drane
Akel	Brent	Compton	
Armstrong	Bloor	Cassel	Engler
Anspeck	Brien	Cowman	Everhart
Archer	Barnum	Cloud	Eader
	Beck	Carpenter	Ebert
Brady	Berry	Cothart	Elbert
Blain	Brogmire	Clarke	Eakle
Bagger	Bailey	Cole	Enslow
Barnard	Benson	Cain	Eaton
Burgess	Baugh	Crawford	Emerson
Beasley	Barker	Childers	Eicleberg
Beuhler	Baird	Carter	Emmert
Ball	Bartruff	Cathcart	Edworthy
Bosler	Brock	Camp	Evans
Bentz	Baker	Crumbaugh	Estes
Bushong	Bright		
Boyer	Brogdon	Davis	Fair
Beison	Beauchamp	Diehh	Fowler
Brengle		Doty	Fletcher
Bruner	Coulter	Du Pont	Finley
Brinning	Coates	Downey	Farmer
Besst	Cunningham	Dyer	Faulkner
Bliss	Conder	De Lashmutt	Ferguson
Briden	Claybaugh	Day	Forehand
Bland	Crane	Dalton	Flowers
Bryan	Cline	Davenport	Fossleman
Butcher	Caddell	Dethridge	Fout

Fulton	Hancock	Kinsley	Mitchell
Fisher	Harland	Kempling	Mathews
Files	Huffer	Keuthe	Moler
Foster	Herring	Kirkman	Mathias
Franer	Helm	Knowles	Morgan
	Haskins	King	Mix
Ginnocchio	Henderson	Koch	McKinstry
Grimm	Hagan	Keller	Measle
Garrison	House	Kelly	Merrett
Green (E)	Hutchison	Knott	McClure
Gunn	Hager	Kidwilder	Moore
Gouch	Hamner	Keedy	Millen
Grove	Hutchesen	Keplinger	Miller
Goacher	Hazelette	Kresser	Mills
Gordor	Hail	Kennerley	Murray
Grubbs	Hannah		McCauley
Griffith	Hite	Leaf	Melvin
Griffin	Hieschberry	Locker	McLean
Gibb	Houghlett	Locher	Mount
Gracey	Huntzberry	Lucy	Mason
Gardner	Heard	Lemon	McKinzie
Glass	Horten	Lee	Milliken
Gumbine	Hummer	Leigh	McElhane
Gibson	Hicks	Lawrence	Mumma
Grenwood	Heller	Lowe	Morrow
Greger	Hunter	Leard	McSween
	Harding	Lischey	Milner
Hayes	Hess	Linsey	McIntosh
Hubert	Hale	Lyon	McCuddy
Haver		Livington	McCormick
Headler	Iliff	Londers	Meads
Hendershot	Irving	Lasater	McDermot
Hudson		Lanford	Martin
Hurt	Jacobs	Link	Miner
Harris	Jones	Lewis	McCoubery
Howard	Jackson	Leach	Maloney
Houser	Jenkins	Long	Mallory
Haddox	Johnson	Lamb	McDowell
Hunt	Jefferson	Lightner	
Hopkins	Jacob	Linton	Newcomer
Huntington	Jiant	Lester	Noe
Hershery	Jennings		Nun
Hauhn		Manning	Nichodemus
Harsh	Keyser	Massey	Null
Herrington	Kemp	McNeil	Nevins
Houck	Kennedy	Martyn	Needy

Nelson	Russell	Smyser	Thorpe
Newkirk	Rout	Swingley	Talbert
	Rogers	Saxon	Thurman
Orrick	Ryan	Sevedge	Tilford
O'Dell	Rohrer	Sneed	
Ogden	Roach	Stratton	Upton
	Robertson	Schwartz	
Potter	Rouse	Snavely	Van Swearingen
Pugh	Richardson	Stout	Van Deventer
Pitts	Rahauser	Seymour	Vaughn
Patton	Rice	Stockton	
Pool	Riley	Stonebraker	Wood
Phreaner	Roth	Spurrier	Weller
Prince	Ransom	Stevens	Wagner
Proctor	Ream	Secrist	Wise
Porter	Rentch	Sherman	Wiles
Price	Rupley	Stone	Williams
Powers	Rush	Snayne	Wright
Perry	Rizer	Stephenson	Wenebenner
Powell	Reinhart	Slifer	White
Patterson		Snivley	Wilkins
Preston	Stille	Schmidt	Warren
Parker	Shepherd	Spielman	Willis
Pitswyle	Sherrick	Sparren	Welty
Peugh	Smith	Shriver	Wiggins
Paisley	Soloman	Sifford	West
	Speas	Shield	Waldon
Quigley	Shaw	Snyder	Wilcox
	Schneider	Studivan	Warder
Richter	Stover		Withers
Ramsey	Stowell	Tarking	Walters
Reagan	Schaeffer	Tefft	Wilson
Renner	Shafer	Tisdale	Walker
Reid	Schindel	Thomas	
Robards	Sigler	Townsend	Yost
Ramsburg	Simms	Templer	Young
Reamer	Stice	Tarbal	Younger
Reno	Sharp	Taylor	
Roherback	Saunders	Trauber	Zimmerman
Reatz	Sinsabaugh	Tabler	
Robinson	Swinger	Tyson	

NOTES ON THE TEXT

CHAPTER I

¹ Christian Orndorff, II, who plays the leading role in the Maryland chapter, was born in Prussia, November 15, 1726. Little is known concerning his father except for the references quoted in the text.

² Kuhns, Oscar, *The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennsylvania* (New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1901), 4.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 74-75.

⁴ Strassburger, Ralph B., *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* — A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727-1808. Three volumes (Norristown, Pa., 1934: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934) I, xxvi-xxvii.

⁵ Interviews with Helen Margaret Stover, Hanover, Pa., descended from Margaret Orndorff, Christian II's oldest child; James V. Orndorff, Oakville, Kentucky, and Mrs. H. M. Wood, Delavan, Illinois, descendants of Christopher.

⁶ Hermanus Orendorff arrived on the ship, *Charming Nancy*, October 8, 1737. Charles Stedman, Master from Rotterdam, but late from Plymouth. List 49 c. At the Courthouse of Phila. October 8, 1737, Strassburger, I, 188-193.

⁷ A partial list of the marriages and baptisms of Rev. John Casper Stoeber has been preserved in Egle, W. H., *Notes and Queries*, 1896 volume. On page 89 is this marriage: John Herman Eckel & Ann Margaretha Ohrendorf — Oct. 23, 1743 — Lebanon.

⁸ Strassburger, *op. cit.*, I, 188-193.

⁹ As a college student nearly fifty years ago, Mr. J. R. Orndorff of Baltimore spent a Christmas vacation in Pa. studying old German manuscript material. He distinctly remembers finding an old manuscript which gave the list of cattle, farming implements, and indentured servants which Christian Ohrendorff brought on the boat. He was listed as the head of a small family. This record has since been lost.

¹⁰ Rupp, Israel D., *Thirty Thousand Immigrants* (Philadelphia, 1876), Appendix xv, 468-469.

¹¹ These land patents for Herman Orendorff are preserved in the Dept. of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Pa. His land lay in the limestone region. Kuhns says: "The best soil in Pennsylvania for farming purposes is limestone, and it is a singular fact that almost every acre of this soil is in the possession of German farmers."

Eckley B. Coxe quoted his grandfather as saying that in Pennsylvania, if you open your mouth in Pennsylvania Dutch on limestone soil you get a response every time. *Proceedings of Pa. Ger. Soc.*, v, 102.

In a letter dated Feb. 12, 1929, Mr. H. M. M. Richards, then President of the Lebanon Co. Historical Society, says:

"I have searched all records in my possession. The data is from Egle. Dr. W. H. Egle was then State Librarian and his history is authentic. There

are two names given — Herman and Christian who lived near each other."

Under Warrantee of Land in Lebanon Township is named Herman Orndorff — 100 acres — Feb. 15, 1753. Also in Heidelberg Township named for 1752. Again in Bethel Township: Herman Orndorff — 50 acres, Oct. 19, 1756.

Among the taxables in Lebanon Township are 1759 — Herman Orndorff — 15 shillings. 1780 — Orndorff's widow.

Marriages in Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, Berks Co.: Dec. 28, 1784, Henry Ohrendorf and Maria Elizabeth Albert; April 22, 1792, John Ohrendorf and Elizabeth Oxenreuter.

Wills, Berks Co. John Eck, Rockland Township, Will made March 25, 1801, proved June 20, 1821 — Daughter Maria Eva wife of Christian Ohrendorff. The only Dauphin Co. Will for a Christian Orndorff probated Oct. 30, 1878.

¹² Faris, John T., *Old Roads Out of Philadelphia* (J. B. Lippincott Company, Phila. 1917), 113-118.

¹³ Shenk, H. H., *A History of the Lebanon Valley in Pennsylvania* (Nat. Hist. Assoc., Harrisburg, 1930), Chapter I.

¹⁴ Ehrhart, B. O., Hanover, Pa.

¹⁵ Faris, *op. cit.*, 110-146.

¹⁶ Egle, W., *Notes and Queries*, 1896 vol., 47.

¹⁷ Lebanon Co. Hist. Soc. Lebanon Co. Pa., *Early and Historic Churches in Lebanon Valley Prior to 1800*.

¹⁸ Albright, S. C. "Graves That Tell a Tale," Lebanon County Historical Society, 51.

¹⁹ Quoted from *Creative Youth*, 196, Courtesy of the publisher (Doubleday Doran and Company, Garden City, N. Y.), Permission of the author, Hughes Mearns.

²⁰ Egle, W. H., *History of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, Pa.* (Everts & Peck, Phila., 1883), 128-129.

²¹ Strouss, B. Morris, *The Founding of Fredericksburg*, Leb. Co. Hist. Soc., 1912, edited by E. Grumbine, 105.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Dauphin Co. Pa., Deeds, Book I, vol. 1, 194.

²⁴ Land Office, Harrisburg, Pa.

In 1752 the eastern section of the Lebanon Valley was divided into two border provinces, Tulpehocken on the east, and Lebanon on the west. In 1767, Heidelberg Township was erected and included a small part of Lebanon Township and the southeastern part of Tulpehocken.

As the counties of Dauphin, Lebanon and Berks were carved out of Lancaster County, the earlier township lines were greatly changed and reduced. Surveyors sometimes gave the wrong name of the township in making the return, thus making it almost impossible to locate land in this section. The survey of this fifty-acre tract names the township as Lebanon, although the index gives it as Heidelberg.

Landowners adjoining Christian on the 218 acre tract were Martin Imhoff, John Smith, Peter Slusher and a "John." This might suggest that John Christian held land adjoining his father or vice versa.

²⁵ Pa. Archives, Second Series, II, 341. "One Christian Orndorff was naturalized Sept. 26, 1758."

²⁶ Schlesinger, A. M., *New Viewpoints in American History*, (Macmillan Company, 1923), 5.

CHAPTER II

¹ Nutting, Wallace, *Pennsylvania Beautiful* (Farmingham, Mass., 1924, Old America Company), 19-20. Permission of the author.

² Omwake, John, *The Conestoga Six Horse Bell Teams of Eastern Pa.* (Cincinnati, Ebbert & Richardson, 1930), 15 ff. Permission of the author.

Omwake says that the Conestoga Six Horse Bell Teams were as characteristic of Pennsylvania as the great barns with stone ends, overhanging fronts, and double doors.

³ Baptismal Records, Host Church, Historical Society of Berks Co. Pa.

⁴ D. E. Lick, Chart of Cemetery from old Moravian records and visit to cemetery.

⁵ Shenk, H. H., *A History of the Lebanon Valley in Pennsylvania*, *op. cit.*, 18 ff.

⁶ Egle, *Notes and Queries*, 1896 vol., 57-58.

⁷ *Founding of Fredericksburg*, 105.

⁸ D. E. Lick.

⁹ *Founding of Fredericksburg*, 109.

¹⁰ Grumbine, E., *Stories of Old Stumpstown* (Leb. Co. Hist. Soc., 1910), vol. v, No. 3, 159.

CHAPTER III

¹ Williams, Thomas, J. C., *History of Washington County, Maryland* (Runk & Titsworth, Baltimore, 1906), I, 20.

² Liber H, Folio 244, etc., Frederick Co., Md.

³ Williams, I, 158.

⁴ Gambrill, J. M., *Leading Facts of Maryland History* (Baltimore, 1903), 81.

⁵ The stone house of the miller was visited in 1936. It had five rooms besides the attic and cellar. The kitchen with its open fireplace is 12 by 15 feet. The rooms like those of Mt. Pleasant have 7 foot ceilings. Judge Williams who spent his childhood near Sharpsburg has narrated for us some of his personal experiences.

⁶ Scharf, II, 978, 981, 1058. On Feb. 4, 1763, Articles of Agreement were drawn up for the Antietam Iron Works at the request of Joseph Chapline, Samuel Beall, David Rose, and Richard Henderson.

⁷ Deeds, Frederick Co., Md.

⁸ Scharf, II, 1205.

⁹ Deeds, Frederick Co., Md.

¹⁰ Scharf, II, 1209.

¹¹ Circuit Court Records, Frederick, Md.

¹² Scharf, II, 1208-1209.

¹³ Williams, I, 61.

¹⁴ Hall, C. C., *History of Baltimore* (New York, 1912).

¹⁵ *Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, Illinois* (Chicago, 1894), 657.

¹⁶ Washington, George, *Journal of My Journey Over the Mountains* (Tonner, J. M., Editor, Albany, 1892), 30-33.

On March 21, 1748, George Washington wrote in his *Journal*: "We went over in a Canoe & Travell'd up Maryland side all y. day in a Continued Rain and y. Freshes Kept us at Cresaps."

Correspondence, Dr. E. Douglas Branch; J. Forney Young.

- ¹⁷ Williams, I, 225.
- ¹⁸ *Biographical Record*, 476.
- ¹⁹ Williams, I, 475.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, 476.
- ²¹ D. E. Lick.

CHAPTER IV

- ¹ Williams, I, 73-74.
- ² *Ibid.*
- ³ *Ibid.*, 27-28.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 74-75.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, 75.
- ⁶ Scharf, I, 132-133.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ Williams, I, 75.
- ⁹ Land records, Frederick Co. Md., Scharf, II, 984.
- ¹⁰ Scharf, II, 987-988.
- ¹¹ Williams, I, 76-77.
- ¹² D. A. R. Lineage Book, XXX, 86-87.
- ¹³ Scharf II, 1304.

✓ John Reynolds, Sr., and his sons John and Joseph are engaged in various patriotic activities during the American Revolution. In the list of returns for those who signed the "Patriot's Oath of Allegiance" in March, 1778, for the Sharpsburgh Hundred are Joseph Reynolds, son of John, and John Reynolds, Jr. Others who signed were Francis Reynolds, Moses Chapline, James Chapline, George Smith, Richard Hoffman, Jacob Piper, Abraham Lingenfelter, George Kifer and Conrad Hybarger. Those on the list of "Joseph Chapline's Returns," April 17, 1779, were Christian Orendorff, Thomas Cramphin, Joseph Reynolds, Thomas Hogg, Christopher Ornduff, John Reynolds, Sr. The spelling here, as in other Revolutionary documents, is not regular. Brumbaugh and Hodges, *Revolutionary Records of Maryland* (Annapolis, 1924), Part I, 12, 14.

- ¹⁴ Williams, I, 80-81.
- ¹⁵ *Archives of Maryland*, XI, 356.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, XII, 4-5; 5; 556; 524.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, XXI, 145; XLV, 619; XLV, 620.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, XI, 545.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, XVIII, 29.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, XVIII, 48.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, XVIII, 50.
- ²² *Ibid.*, XII, 179-180.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, XII, 180.
- ²⁴ Heitman, T. B., *Historical Register of Officers in the Continental Army* (Baltimore, 1893), 420. Ridpath, J. C., *History of the United States* (Jones Brothers Publishing Co., Cincinnati, 1883), 311-314.
- ²⁵ *Archives of Maryland*, XLV, 469-470; XLVIII, 1781, 298, 328-330.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, XVIII, 362; XLV, 467, XLVIII, 211.
- ²⁷ War Office and Pension Office, Washington, D. C.
- ²⁸ *Archives of Maryland*, XLV, 272.

CHAPTER V

- ¹ *Archives of Md.*, xlv, 620.
- ² *Biographical Record of Tazewell and Mason Counties, op. cit.*, 656.

³ "Spring of 1774 justice of the peace for Berkeley County," Horatio Gates. Dandridge, D., *Historic Shepherdstown*, 73.

⁴ Williams, I, 93.

⁵ Scharf, II, 1013.

⁶ Williams, I, 59-60, 66-70, 88.

Five hundred acres of the fourteen hundred conferred to Gen. Daniel Heister lay between Hagerstown and Jerusalem, adjoining the land of Jacob Rohrer. Rosanna and the General lived diagonally across the square from Jonathan. Mrs. Heister had a colorful flower garden with an imposing gateway on Washington Street. The General was elected to Congress in 1802 and died the following year.

Robert J. Brent erected a small blue marble shaft near the Zion Reformed Church in Hagerstown, with the following inscriptions: "Capt. Jonathan Hager, founder of Hagerstown, Md. born 1719, died Nov. 6, 1775; Jonathan Hager, Jr. born Dec. 13, 1763, died Dec. 18, 1798; Mary Magdalena Ohrendorff, wife of Jonathan Hager, Jr. born Oct. 20, 1767, died June 8, 1845."

Jonathan Hager enlisted July 19, 1776. *Archives of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1900), xviii, 51.

⁷ Scharf, II, 1059-1060.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*, 1015-1016. The late Wm. Keyser of Baltimore was one of these descendants.

¹⁰ Three Thomas brothers bought land in Frederick county, Maryland, in early Colonial days. Successful business men of today in western Maryland represent this family.

¹¹ Examined in the summer of 1936.

¹² Clipping preserved by Helen M. Stover.

¹³ See Appendix.

¹⁴ Book F, 398, Hagerstown, Md.; Logan County, Ky., records.

¹⁵ County records, Hagerstown, Md.

¹⁶ *Biographical Record*, op. cit., 659.

¹⁷ United States Census, Maryland, 1790.

¹⁸ Scharf, II, 1206.

¹⁹ Williams, I, 161.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Deeds, Washington Co., Md., D, 246.

²² *Ibid.*, G, 472.

²³ G, 470.

²⁴ G, 473. Wm. Good and Thomas Crampton are witnesses for several of these deeds.

²⁵ Land records, Annapolis, Md.

²⁶ Washington Co., G, 468.

CHAPTER VI

¹ Hulbert, A. B. *Washington and the West, or George Washington's Diary of September 1784* (Cleveland, 1911), 32-33.

² Williams, op. cit., I, 94.

³ Scharf, op. cit., II, 60.

⁴ United States Census, Manufactures, 1810.

⁵ Williams, op. cit., I, 110.

⁶ Hall, C. C., *History of Baltimore* (New York, 1912), I, 72-73.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 63.

⁸ Williams, I, 92.

⁹ Scharf, II, 1002.

Peter Orndorff does not seem to be directly related to Christian Orndorff. The United States Census, Md., 1790, thus lists Peter: 2 males over 16, 3 under 16, 4 females. A Johannes Peter Orndorff, age 19, arrived in Philadelphia, Oct. 2, 1753, with John Conrad Ohrendorff. Darius Orendorff wrote in his booklet, *American Orendorff Families*: Peter Orendorff's brother Conrad, died in 1795, aged 93. Peter died in 1786. Peter had three children: Peter, Abraham and Maria who m. Jacob Smith. Peter, Sr., Peter, Jr., and Abraham were all buried on the old home place in Carroll County, Md.

¹⁰ The *Washington Spy*, August 26, 1790, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

¹¹ Williams, II, 963. For Will of Jacob Rohrer, see Appendix.

¹² *Ibid.*, I, 93.

¹³ Bound File, Md. Historical Society, Baltimore.

¹⁴ Scharf, II, 1302-1303.

¹⁵ Interview, June, 1928.

¹⁶ Scharf, I, 164.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, I, 165.

¹⁸ *Washington Spy*, No. 215, Wed., Sept. 3, 1794.

¹⁹ Jacob Orndorff born March 3, 1770, died Nov. 6, 1803.

²⁰ Susan sold her Dower Right on March 11, 1806.

Newspaper Files, Hagerstown, Md. The complete name of the paper was the *Maryland Herald and Hagerstown Weekly Advertiser*.

²¹ County records, Hagerstown, Md.

Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore: "In memory of Susan Orndorff who died Sept. 19, 1832, age 56 years. John H. Orndorff died March 31, 1849."

²² Maryland Historical Society. On March 12, 1831, John H. Orndorff buys a lot in Smithburgh. Liber MM, 331.

²³ On Nov. 14, 1826, the Baltimore *Torch Light* announced that the firm of "Orndorff and Wilson" had been dissolved by mutual consent. The business was continued in the name of John H. Orndorff until his death in 1849 when it was taken over by his son, William Wellmore Orndorff.

CHAPTER VII

¹ Prepared by Brainard H. Warner, E. F. Faeltz, and F. W. Pratt (Gibson Brothers, Printers, 1874).

² Liber AA, No. 2, folio 398. Funk purchased the land in fee simple from Thomas Johns in 1765. Liber BB, folio 2227.

³ *Washington in Embryo*, 7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 16, 17, 19, 48, 54, 56.

⁵ Newspaper Files, Hagerstown, Md.

On July 11, 1896, nearly 400 heirs had signed their rights away to "quiet a title to a part of Lot Three (3) Square fifty-nine (59), Washington, District of Columbia. . . .

Chas. G. Cole, Assc. Justice."

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, Walter R. Wilcox *vs.* Louisa Price, et al, Equity No. 17, 151, Docket 40.

CHAPTER VIII

¹ Register of Wills, Hagerstown, Md.

² Deeds, Hagerstown.

³ Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

⁴ Newspaper Files, Hagerstown, Md.

⁵ Liber R, 74, Elizabeth; Liber S, 37, Susannah.

⁶ "At the request of Elizabeth Orndorff and others the following Bill of Sale recorded Sept. 22, 1823. . .

"David Schnebly Stands indebted to Elizabeth Orndorff on three several notes — Oct. 14, 1820 — \$76.36 (2) May 10, 1823 — \$750 (3) Aug. 11, 1823 — \$30. Also indebted to Susannah Orndorff two notes.

"Both bargain and sell unto Elizabeth and Susannah Orndorff and John Newkirk — Negroes, chairs, clock . . . to pay debt." Hagerstown, Washington, Co. records.

⁷ *Descendants of Elizabeth and Richard Talbott*, West River, Anne Arundel Co., Md. (Ida Morison Murphy Shirk), Md. Hist. Soc. Baltimore, 1927, 88.

⁸ Newspaper Files, Hagerstown.

CHAPTER IX

¹ Liber H, Folio 244, etc., Frederick Co., Md.

² Newspaper Files, Hagerstown.

³ Williams, I, 335.

CHAPTER X

¹ Dandridge, D., *Historic Shepherdstown* (Michie Company, Printers, Charlottesville, Va., 1910), 5-22.

² Liber No. 3, Folio 459, Circuit Court Records, Frederick Co., Md.

³ Berkeley Co. records, Martinsburg, W. Va. Deed Book 12, 279. Deed Book 13, 232.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Deed Book 13, 232.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Deed Book 18, 366.

⁶ Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C.

The *Maryland Herald and Hager's-Town Weekly Advertiser*, Dec. 16, 1818 — "Report from the Legislature at Annapolis — A petition was presented from Captain Christian Orndorff, a Revolutionary officer praying for his commutation money."

⁷ Dandridge, *op. cit.*, 246.

⁸ Newspaper Files, 1824.

⁹ *Biographical Record, op. cit.*, 657-658.

¹⁰ Deed Book 13, 218, Berkeley Co., W. Va.

¹¹ Auditor's Office, Charleston, W. Va.

¹² Berkeley Co. records.

¹³ Thomas Carney & Barbary his wife sold to Henry Orndorff — farmer of Washington County, Md., for 500 Pounds current money of Va. — 343 acres, Oct. 16, 1793. Deed Book 11. 367.

¹⁴ Deed Book 12, 535.

The same year Henry Orndorff sold part of his plantation on the Potomac to John Rohrer. Deed Book 13, 16. June 27, 1796.

CHAPTER XI

¹ Permission of the author, John Randolph Stidman, Courtesy of *Classmate*, Church School Publications, Methodist Episcopal Church.

² Maryland Historical Society, Maryland. Scharf, *op cit.*, II, 1002.

³ Clayton, W., *History of Davidson County, Tennessee* (Philadelphia, 1880), 212.

⁴ *Marriage Bonds*, Book II, 165, Berkeley Co., W. Va.

⁵ Hulbert, A. B., *Historic Highways*, "Boone's Wilderness Road" (Cleveland, 1903), vi, 197, 201. Korr, C., Editor, *History of Kentucky* (Chicago, 1922).

⁶ *Diary*, Captain John Orndorff, 1805, permission of Mrs. H. M. Wood. This diary was written in a small hand sewed book, made of light brown paper about six by seven inches. The cover page reads thus:

John
Jonathan Orndorff
Started from
County State of(blurred)
To Cumberland County
State of Kentucky
Christopher Orndorff
Photostat copy, University of Texas.

CHAPTER XII

¹ Address, First Annual Orndorff Reunion, Bloomington, Illinois, Oct. 14, 1886, by John G. Orndorff, Russellville, Ky. Original manuscript owned by James V. Orndorff, Oakville, Ky. Permission of the owner.

John Orndorff had sold this tract of land on May 24, 1803, to Peter Palmore for one thousand pounds. "Tract of Land called Piles Delight . . . to the River Potomack then Down with said River." 138 acres. Susanna, wife of John, relinquished claim.

John returned to Md. for a while. On May 5, 1806, he signs a Certificate in Washington County for a slave:

"I have brought into the State a Negro Girl a Slave aged about 16 years named Mille that I have a bona fide intention of residing in the State of Md. that I removed her from the state of Virginia and that she has resided in Virginia for 3 years." Book S, 183.

John died in Russellville and his estate was settled by his brother, Christopher, in Logan Co. Ky., in 1807. The following notices in the *Maryland Herald* refer to his wife and daughter:

"April 25, 1810—Died on Wednesday morning the 18th inst. at Col. David Schebleys after a lingering illness Mrs. Susanna Orndorff in the 39th year of her age. She has left behind her four small children."

"Sept. 7, 1819. On Tuesday evening August 31st at the residence of Col. Schnebly by Rev. Helfensteior of Fredericktown—the Rev. J. R. Reily, Pastor of the German Reformed Church in and near Hagerstown, to the amiable Miss Mary Orndorff of Washington Co. Md."

² Surveyor's Book C, 111; Deed Book A, 341, Logan Co., Ky.

³ Deed Book: B, 540; O, 322; W, 282; W, 88.

⁴ D, 156; E, 13; M, 207-212.

Maulding was the first visitor to the site of Russellville. He stopped at Barclay's Spring in the year 1780, and soon procured large grants of land.

In the first tax list of 1795, Maulding is listed among the largest landowners. *Louisville Courier Journal*, April 15, 1925.

⁵ *Address*, John G. Orndorff.

CHAPTER XIII

¹ Arthur, J. P., *Western North Carolina*, 38-41.

² United States Census, N. C., 1790.

Drake, Julia A., "The Lost Joseph McDowell" *Historical and Genealogical Record*, Forest City, N. C., Oct. 1932, 132-138.

Rankin, S. M., *History of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Her People* (Greensboro, N. C., 1934), 189. Rev. Rankin says: "Every man of Buffalo congregation of military age was in the service". . . "Joseph McDowell moved to that part of Tennessee reserved for the North Carolina soldiers. He must have been in the war." "No roster of the Guilford soldiers has been preserved and only a few of their names appear in the Colonial Records. It is by the merest accident we find the name of some of these men." 183, 196.

For many years a medal awarded Joseph McDowell for service in the Revolutionary Army and signed by George Washington was preserved by his descendants.

³ Foote, W. H., *Sketches of North Carolina* (New York, 1846), 367-77. McDonnold, B. W., *History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church* (Nashville, 1899). Interview with Dr. Rankin.

⁴ Rankin, *op. cit.*, 196.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 49.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 146.

⁷ McDonnold, B. W., *op. cit.*

⁸ Bible records.

⁹ Roosevelt, Theodore, *The Winning of the West* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, the Knickerbocker Press, New York, 1917), I, 138-139:

"They were a sturdy race, enterprising and intelligent, fond of strong excitement inherent in the adventurous frontier life . . . as a whole they were a God-fearing race, as was but natural in those who sprang from the loins of the Irish Calvinists.

¹⁰ Mrs. H. P. Anderson, a granddaughter of Rev. James McDowell, has a number of old deeds and manuscripts of the McDowell family.

¹¹ County records, Springfield, Tenn.

CHAPTER XIV

¹ Deed Book D, 177, Logan Co. Ky.

² Mrs. H. M. Wood.

³ Will Book C, 25, Russellville, Ky.

⁴ Newspaper Files.

⁵ Reprinted from *Stories of Old Stumpstown*, Lebanon Co. Hist. Soc., Pa. Vol. v, No. 5.

⁶ M. McClure Bicket

CHAPTER XV

¹ Dandridge, D., *George Michael Bedinger, A Kentucky Pioneer* (The Mitchie Company, Printers, Charlottsville, Va.), 1909, Dandridge, D., *Historic Shepherdstown*, 17-42, 73, 200.

² Morgan, W. H., Nashville, Tenn.

³ *Diary*, Abel M. Morgan, 1808-1833, Permission of Mrs. B. A. Hodges, Waxachachie, Tex.

⁴ *Ibid.*, County records, Logan Co., Ky.

⁵ Mrs. C. M. Brown, Adairville, Ky., has William Morgan's Bible, 1831. She writes that the Bible was a safety vault for many of the old keepsakes of the family: a braid of Leah's red hair; a leaf torn from a school copy book with the admonition: "Man must obey the laws of God and he will be happy," on the back of which was written: Mollie Morgan born March 10-1827 now 14. etc.

⁶ Beginning about 1878, George D. Blakey wrote 62 articles on prominent men of southern Kentucky for the *Bowling Green Messenger*. A number of these articles were pasted in a store ledger used by George Blakey, Sr., as early as 1807. Mrs. L. A. Cress of Caldwell, Idaho, has given permission to use this material.

CHAPTER XVI

¹ *Ledger*, *op. cit.*, Mrs. L. A. Cress.

² Deed Book B, 304.

³ Mrs. C. M. Brown.

⁴ H. E. Orndorff.

⁵ Book G, 513, Russellville, Ky.

⁶ *History of Tennessee*, State Publication (Nashville, 1886), 275.

⁷ Mrs. H. M. Wood.

⁸ J. V. Orndorff.

⁹ Land records, Logan Co., Ky.; Springfield, Tenn.

¹⁰ Orndorff, John G., *Address*, 1886, Orendorff Reunion.

¹¹ Johnson, *History of Kentucky and Tennessee* (Chicago, 1912), 1432.

H. E. Orndorff's obituary says: "He was numbered among south Logan's most prominent and influential families. He was the owner and operator of one of the largest farms on the North Prong of Red River, and also operated a large flour mill and saw mill near his home. In 1907 he assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Adairville and was elected the first president of its Board of Directors, which position he has held continuously since that time. He also assisted and was a director from this district in the Dark Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. At one time he represented this Magistral District in the Logan County Fiscal Court."

CHAPTER XVII

¹ Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

² Mrs. H. M. Wood.

³ *McCormick Papers*, H. A. Kellar, McCormick Historical Library, Chicago.

⁴ J. V. Orndorff.

⁵ Mrs. Edna O. Macpherson, *U. G. Orendorff Papers*.

⁶ Mrs. H. M. Wood.

⁷ Will Book H, 170, Russellville, Ky. Probated Mar. 26, 1852.

CHAPTER XVIII

¹ By permission of Corinne Garner, Courtesy of the "Classmate," Church School Publications, Methodist Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

² This was a 460 acre farm that Aaron waited until 1836 to sell. Doubtless it was managed by his brother John after Aaron went to Illinois.

³ Stringer, Lawrence B., *History of Logan County, Illinois* (Chicago, 1911), I, 45-49.

⁴ Cartwright, Peter *Autobiography*, edited by W. P. Strickland (New York, 1857), 249-250, 261, 281-282.

⁵ *Biographical Record*, *op. cit.*, 261-262.

⁶ Governor Edward Coles was a Virginian. Shortly after his father's death he became private secretary of President Madison. While he was in the national capital Jefferson opened up his heart to the young man on the question of slavery. In 1815 Coles traveled through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, driving with horse and buggy, accompanied by a servant and a saddle horse. In 1816 he was sent by the President to Russia on a special mission, where he served with distinction. He returned by way of France and was presented at the Court of Louis XVIII. In London Coles met many prominent Englishmen, among whom was Morris Birkbeck, who became a founder of the English Prairie settlements. On his return to America, Coles again visited Illinois. He was in Kaskaskia when the constitutional convention was in session and used his influence to prevent the insertion of a clause permitting slavery. On April 1, 1819, he started from his Va. home to Ill. At Brownsville, Pa., he bought two flat boats and embarked with his 26 slaves. The second morning from Pittsburgh he called all his slaves around him and informed them that he was freeing them. If they went with him he promised each head of a family 160 acres and additional assistance. Near Louisville he sold his boats and went on land to Edwardsville, Ill. President Monroe appointed him as register of the land office here, and he held this post until his election as Governor in 1822. In his inaugural address he recommended the freeing of the slaves in the state. Smith, George W., *A Student's History of Illinois* (Carbondale, Ill., 1907), 208-212.

⁷ Reynolds, John, *My Own Times, A History of Illinois* (Belleville, 1855), 239-243.

⁸ Cartwright, *op. cit.*, 261-262.

⁹ Turner, F. T., *Rise of the New West* (Harper and Brothers New York, 1906), 76-77.

¹⁰ Christopher and his son Benjamin were the first listed for entering land in Eminence Township, Oct. 25, 1827, but they had been living on Sugar Creek for some time previously. Land records, Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois.

¹¹ *Lincoln Evening Courier*, Historical Edition, Lincoln, Illinois, Aug. 7, 1936, p. 6.

¹² Will of Christopher Orndorff published in the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society, April-July, 1921. In 1840 the Illinois Legislature detached Eminence township from Tazewell County. It is now a northern township of Logan Co.

John Morgan executed the Will of Christopher. The Morgans continued the milling business until the mill was blown down in a storm. The sons of John Morgan removed to Oregon.

¹³ Stringer, *op. cit.*, I, 73.

¹⁴ *History of Tazewell County, Illinois* (J. W. Franks & Sons Printers, Peoria, Ill., 1879), 208-209.

¹⁵ *Historical Souvenir of Tazewell County* (Pekin, Ill., 1916), 7. Reynolds, *op. cit.*, 236-237.

¹⁶ Deeds, Springfield, Tenn.

¹⁷ Elias Ogden took out additional land in 1832, 1833, and 1835.

¹⁸ Book K, 156-158, Deeds, Springfield, Tenn.

¹⁹ Book P, 56, 285.

²⁰ Will Book 4, 959-961.

²¹ The *Bloomington Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 21, 1921. Darius had written his obituary before his death, and in this he told of his father's migration.

²² Stringer, L. B., *op. cit.*, 70. Robert McClure born in Hopkinsville, Ky., in 1792, moved to Posey Co., Ind., and on to Ill. about 1824. He was Captain in the Indian Wars.

²³ *Historical Souvenir*, *op. cit.*, 8.

CHAPTER XIX

¹ *History of Tazewell County, Illinois* (Chas. C. Chapman & Co., Chicago, 1879), 207-208.

² *Historical Souvenir*, Dedication New Tazewell County Court House, Pekin, Illinois, June, 1916, 7.

³ *Ibid.*, 11.

⁴ Pease, T. C., *The Frontier State* (Springfield, Illinois, 1919), 176-177.

⁵ Land Entry Book, 1827, State Land Office, Springfield, Illinois, 60.

⁶ Letter of Oct. 10, 1928.

CHAPTER XX

¹ *Tazewell County Atlas*, Illinois (Davenport, Iowa, 1873), 88. *Advertiser Times*, *op. cit.*, 8.

² Rankin, *op. cit.*, 45, 86.

³ Mrs. H. P. Anderson.

⁴ Stringer, Lawrence B., *op. cit.*, I, 89-91.

CHAPTER XXI

¹ *Tazewell County Atlas*, *op. cit.*, 90.

² A call for soldiers was made in the *Sangamo Journal* of April 21, 1832. Lincoln was inspected and mustered into service at Beardstown a week later. Facts in the story given by Mathias Mount's daughter, Ida Mount Evans.

³ *Tazewell County Atlas*, *op. cit.*, 71.

⁴ Section 36, Deer Creek Township, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ Oct. 22, 1832. Tazewell Co. Records, Pekin, Ill.

⁵ This painting is in the possession of Julia A. Drake. A portrait of his wife, Abigail C. Orendorff Mount, made at the same time, is owned by another descendant.

CHAPTER XXII

¹ Mrs. H. M. Woods.

² *Advertiser-Times*, Delavan, Illinois, June 21, 1923; Eugene Orendorff.

³ Deeds, Pekin, Illinois.

⁴ *Orendorff Letters*, Photostat Copies, University of Texas.

CHAPTER XXIII

¹ *Orendorff Letters*.

CHAPTER XXIV

¹ *Historical Souvenir of Tazewell Co., Illinois*, 11.

² Pease, *The Frontier State*, *op. cit.*, II, 190-191.

³ *Illinois State Journal Files*, Springfield, Illinois.

⁴ Pease, *op. cit.*, 389.

⁵ Eugene Orendorff.

⁶ U. G. Orendorff, correspondence.

⁷ *Canton Daily Ledger*, Canton, Illinois, Nov. 17, 1936, pages 4 and 6.

CHAPTER XXV

¹ Historical Edition, *Rushville Times*, May 8, 1935. Peck, J. M., *A Gazetteer of Illinois*, Jacksonville, Ill.

² Deeds, Rushville, Illinois.

³ Permission of S. W. McDowell.

⁴ Bone, W. P., *A History of Cumberland University* (Published by the author, Lebanon, Tenn., 1935), 37.

⁵ College catalogues examined at the home of Dr. Bone.

CHAPTER XXVI

¹ Will Book B, 13-15, Pekin, Illinois.

² *Tazewell County Atlas*, *op. cit.*, 90.

³ *Ibid.*, 74.

CHAPTER XXVII

¹ Permission of P. R. Hayward. Courtesy of the "Classmate."

² See Appendix.

³ J. V. Orndorff.

⁴ *Ibid.*

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