The LEHR Family

Descendents of Philipp Löhr

who came to America

September 14, 1749
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The Descendants of Philipp Lohr

Who Came to America

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Prepared by the grandson of
Dr. Henry Solomon Lehr

[Signature]

19 Donna Road
Needham Heights
Massachusetts 02194

1978
ANTECEDENTS OF HENRY SOLOMON LEHR

Johann Peter Lehr = Maria Katherine
Philipp Lehr = Anna Christina Mundhauser
b. Jan. 12, 1741
b. Feb. 12, 1711
b. Nov. 12, 1752
n. Jan. 12, 1741
bapt. Apr. 21, 1723
d. Nov. 12, 1752

Jeremias Bongerger = Amelia Hunsch
John Ulrich Bongerger = Anna Barbara
b. Apr. 27, 1756
b. Jan. 13, 1729
bapt. Apr. 27, 1756
n. Aug. 2, 1753

John Hubert Lehr = Anna Barbara Bongerger
b. May 6, 1774
n. Sept. 19, 1778
d. Dec. 8, 1825

Mary Catherine
b. Jul. 16, 1779
n. July 5, 1818
d. Sep. 24, 1793
d. Jul. 2, 1794

John George = Tappe Leesig
b. Apr. 30, 1794
n. Nov. 3, 1799
d. 1872

Mary Buryam
b. Apr. 30, 1794

Rebecca
b. Sep. 27, 1818
b. Mar. 7, 1820
b. Oct. 18, 1821
b. Oct. 1, 1823

Henry William
b. Apr. 27, 1824
b. Nov. 13, 1835

Mary Ann
b. Mar. 15, 1823

Sarah Amanda
b. Mar. 30, 1866

Annabella
b. Jan. 19, 1851

Henry Solomon = Albina Johnson Hoover
m. Oct. 30, 1866
b. Jan. 29, 1823
d. Aug. 12, 1934

Edward Adam
b. Oct. 1, 1827
b. Jan. 12, 1829
d. Dec. 4, 1867

Isabella
b. Jan. 12, 1829

George
b. Nov. 13, 1835

Jeanna Catherine
b. Mar. 15, 1823

Anna Barbara

The ancestral line of the Lehr family traces back to three "old country" lines: to Philipp Lohr in Germany; to Hans Ulrich Sonderegger of Switzerland; and to a Graf family which apparently came also from Switzerland, although it probably had other roots also.

The Lehr and Sonderegger lines came together when Hubert Lehr, the son of Philipp Lohr, in 1778 married Anna Barthe Sonderegger, the widow of Nicholas Goebel. Her mother was a Graf, who had married her father in Philadelphia in 1723.

We have documents on both the Lehr and the Sonderegger families, tracing them back to the places of their origin in Germany and Switzerland respectively. Also during the middle thirties the author of this family history made investigations in both areas and much information as could be obtained is included here.

There are differences in the spelling of family names, principally that of Lohr, Loehr, and Lehr. Where the spelling, Lehr, is given, the usual has been omitted in this writing. Otherwise the spelling is that of the documents or sources.

**Phillip Lohr**

The Lehr family came from Germany, from Freibach (now Brühlbach), church community of Ulenbach (now Altenbach), "one hour distant from the district town of Altenkirchen in the Westerwald (District of Odenwald-Rhineländ)." (Quoted from letter of Pastor R. Schacht, January 8,1939.)

The town is approximately 25 miles east and slightly south of Bonn. At the time of migration of Philipp Lohr to America in 1749 this was one of the petty princely provinces of 15th century Germany, and was identified as "Brandenburg-Čopolnářbáck" - not to be confused with the province of Brandenburg in east Germany, although it may have been related in some way to it. It borders on the province of Hessen on the east.

Early in 1749 Philipp Lohr applied for permission to emigrate to America with his wife and three children; and also to be absolved from his obligations as a subject of the ruling prince, together with a character reference - a statement of his good conduct.

He received the certificate of permission to leave the country from the chancery in Altenkirchen under the date of March 11, 1749. (The original of the certificate is reproduced in Plate I, and a translation accompanies it.) Under date of May 23, 1749 he was issued a release from his duties to his prince, together with a statement of good conduct by "the esteemed and adjutant of His Highness of Brandenburg Ulenbach." (Plate II) (There is an untranslatable word "layningh" in these documents.) It is not clear why he needed the second document, as it is repetitive of the first, but it has a higher signature,
and in a more formal paper, carrying the royal seal affixed to it.

In 1926 the writer of this history endeavored to trace Philipp Lohr's ancestors and wrote over to Germany. Ultimately I was placed in touch with the pastor of the church in the village of Almersbach. He went over to the little village of Brebach and looked up the records. Copies of three of his letters are included in the Appendix.

From these letters we learn that Philipp Lohr's father was Johann Peter Lohr of Brebach, and that he was dead when Philipp married Anna Christina Hundhaeuser on January 12, 1741, also that his wife's father, Peter Hundhaeuser, also of Brebach, was dead at that time. Philipp was of the Evangelical Reformed faith, his wife of the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

This couple had four children, of whom the third apparently died in infancy, as the application for permission to emigrate mentioned only three children:

Eva Catharina Lohr, born November 14, 1741
Johann Peter Lohr, born June 20, 1743
A son, name not recorded, born September 15, 1745
Anna Margaretha Lohr, born February 12, 1748

There is also a record of children of a Johann Peter Lohr in Pastor Schacht's letter, whose wife was Maria Katherina. They are recorded as from Trimhausen, which apparently was a neighboring village, as they were also in the church community of Almersbach. They had a son born March 20, 1725, name not recorded and a daughter born June 9, 1731. Pastor Schacht thinks that the unnamed son and daughter were brother and sister to Philipp Lohr.

We know from the record in the Lehigh County Historical Society that he was born on February 12, 1711. Since Pastor Samacht has said that the church records only started with the year 1705, it is probable that the records were incomplete insofar as this family is concerned, as they do not list Philipp's birth. John Hubert Lohr, our ancestor, was born in 1754, six years after they came to America. His parents may have had other children after they came to America.

Our next information about Philipp Lohr was obtained by the writer from the Register of Sailing Vessel Lasting, in the New York Public Library. The ship "Two Brothers", out of Rotterdam, and having stopped at Cowes, England, arrived in Philadelphia on September 14, 1749 with 312 passengers, many from the Palatinate in Germany. In its passenger list were the following names:

Philippus Lohr
Hans Peter Lohr
John Haubrich Lohr

It is unlikely that the "Hans Peter Lohr" was Philipp's eleven year old son; more likely these were brothers or cousins.

We have no further record on Philipp Lohr until he died. From the Lehigh County Historical Society it was learned that he died on November 10, 1762 in Salfords Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. He was buried by the Reformed pastor of Zion Church, Allentown, the Rev. Abraham Blumer, who wrote in his private record:

[Text in Latin script]

Plate I
CERTIFICATE OF PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO AMERICA

As Philip Lohr of Frybach has informed the Brandenburg Onoldbach Laynish Chancery that he intends to emigrate from here to America with his wife and three children and therefore politely asks for a certificate of permission to leave and also for a certificate of being absolved from his duties as a subject of the ruling prince. He requests, too, a certificate of his conduct while here, for his better success.

We have found no hesitation in granting his request, because the petitioner thinks that he can prosper better elsewhere than in this princely Laynish country. Therefore it is attested by this chancery that he has always acted as a faithful subject to his prince and also has otherwise been honest. The certificate of permission to leave is granted to him and he is herewith freed from his duties to the prince.

Signed and sealed in the chancery, Altenkirchen, the 11th of March, 1749

Princely Brandenburg Onoldbach Laynish Chancery
Chancellors Dirche and Vail
CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OF DUTIES TO HIS PRINCE

After the bearer of this, Philipp Jöhr, till now a subject of the principality Brandenburg-Odoldbach Laynisch and inhabitant of Fry-
back, church community of Ulmenbach, jurisdiction of Altenkirchen,
has been identified through a certificate of permission to leave,
written in a chancery here the 11th of March, 1749, that he is freed
from duties as a subject and has received permission to emigrate to
America with his family.

It is granted to him on his modest request and by the power of
this certificate, that he has not only always acted as a faithful
and honest subject, but has also fulfilled his duties towards his
princely master and nobody will begrudge him, if respect and good will
are shown to him and his family by everybody.

This certificate has been written in this princely chancery and
has been corroborated with my signature and seal.

So done in Altenkirchen the 21st of May 1749.
The steward and adjunctus of His Highness of Brandenburg-Odoldbach.

M. W. Rohalsz

George Ludwig Billing
"Buried, Nov. 12, 1762, Philip Lehr, aged 73 years, 8 months, and 28 days." There is no record of the death of his wife, Anna Christiana.

The family lived in Bucks County before moving to Northampton County.

John Hubert (Hubertus, Hubrich, Ulrich) Lehr (Lohr)

Hubert Lehr was born May 6, 1754. He was baptized July 7, 1754 at Tocicken Church in Dinicum Township, Bucks County. His sponsors were John Hubert Leehr (probably the brother who came over to America with him) and Anellas, wife of Arnold Schum.

When he was 24 years old, during the Revolutionary War in which he was fighting, he married, and a few months later he had a baptismal and birth certificate prepared by Hans Ulrich Sonderregger, his father-in-law. We have this certificate, and it is included here as Plate III.

This baptismal and birth certificate was apparently made as a matter of record for the family. Mr. Sonderregger had prepared a similar one for his daughter, Anna Barbara, five years before, possibly when she was married to John Nicholas Kochel. Both certificates are also confirmations of the Christian faith, and use the same expression in the statement of faith contained in them. Apparently Mr. Sonderregger was a deeply religious man. Hubert Lehr signed the certificate on the inside of the fly leaf, saying that he had been married on September 25, 1778 to Anna Barbara Sonderregger, and he gave her mother's name as Cloveas Craft.

It will be noted in this baptismal and birth certificate that Hubert has dropped his first name, John, and goes by the name of Hubertus. Since in the records his name also shows up as Hubrich or Haubrich, and as Ulrich, I am quoting a statement here from Mr. Charles R. Roberts' letter to me of September 10, 1939:

"I am sending you what I have found on the Lehr family by a further research, which is more than I expected to find. This is undoubtedly your ancestor, Hubertus Lehr, whose name was at times written Hubrich, similar to Ulrich. The records state that his son George was born July 2, 1779, while your letter states 1799. There would seem to be no doubt that this is the right man as Mountainville is in Salisbury Township."

The following statement was made to Dr. Henry Soconon Lehr by his father, George Lehr. It was preserved in a scrap book of newspaper clippings belonging to the family.

"Ulrich Lehr fought in the Revolutionary War in the battles of Princeton, Red Bank, Trenton and Monmouth. He enlisted three times at first enlistment he was in the battle of Trenton, and was detailed after the battle to take prisoners into the interior of Pennsylvania. At second enlistment he carried the flag. At third enlistment he was drummer (fall of 1780-81). In all he served over five years. He was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth."
Einfluß und Geburt

Am 3. Mai 18...

... der Teilbarkeit des Schicksals

... zum Christentum...
Tauf- und Geburts
Schein füf:

Hubertus Lehr: Er ist von Christlichen Eltern
Und der Reforment Religion zugesten Gesezegot
von Philip Lehr gehoben von seiner Mutter Christiana.
Er ist auf diesem Welt geboren noch Christi geburt im Jahr
Anno 1754. den 6. Meyern: Herrn ist er nach Christlichen
Gebräuch zum hl. Tauf gebraucht werden und getauft
wurden in der Christlichen Kirchen in Jimmiea Township
in Bensalem und von Herr Pfäfer Jacob Th. Nitsch.
Getauft werden; und ist ihm einen Christlichen Namen gegeben
Werdem Emelich Hubertus und sind Taufzeugen gewesen:
Namlich Hubertus Lehr und Anna Mills Schmuck.
Herrn ist er Nach der Reforment Religion Konfermit
und zum hl. Abendmaahl zugelassen worden von
Herr Pfäfer Daniel Gross im 17. Jahr seines Alters 1767

Jesus’ Blut hat sich erkannt: in seinem Tod bin ich
getauft. Jesus wuvordnet allein soll meiner süßen
Lindelgung sein Amen

Das Blut Jesus Christi den obern Cotten macht uns rein

Solli Deo gloria dass ist: Gott allein die Ehr

Baptismal and birth certificate for

Hubertus Lehr
He is born of Christian parents and a member of the reformed religion.
His father is Philip Lehr, his mother the late Emelie wife Christiana.
He was born into this world in 1754 A.D., on May 6.
Thereafter he was baptized according to Christian custom,
at the Church of Jimmiea township in Bucks County.
He was baptized by the Reverend Jacob Th. Nitsch.
He received a Christian name, to wit: Hubertus.
Witnesses were: Robertus Lehr and Anna Mills Schmuck.
He later was confirmed and admitted to Holy Communion
by the Reverend Daniel Gross
in the 17th year of his life, in 1767.

Jesus’ blood redeemed me: in his death am I baptized
Jesus’ sole merit shall be the reason for my sins
Amen.
The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, cleanseth us
of every sin.
Amen. So be it Amen.

Solli Deo gloria that is to say: To God alone be Honor.
Tauf und geburts
Zeksa
fur Hubertus Lehr in Ealsburg
Township Northampton County
geschreiben den 27. December
Anno 1778
Von der Han Ulrich
Sonderegger

Baptismal and birth certificate for
Hubertus Lehr
of Ealsburg township, Northampton County
written on 27 December 1778
By me, Han Ulrich Sonderegger

Im Jahr Christi 1778
den 27. September
Bin ich Hubertus Lehr
In dem Stand der Ehe getreten
mit Anna Barbaer mit den
Verstorbenen Johan Nicolaimus geboren
Hinterlassener Witwe Keiner geborenen
Sonderegger von dem
Johan Ulrich Sonderegger
Ihre Mutter heisst Anna
Cl...ana Einge geborenen
Orkftin

In 1778 A.D., on September 27, I, Hubertus Lehr, entered
the State of holy matrimony
With Anna Barbara, widow of the late Johan Nicolaimus Gebel,
Whose maiden name was Sonderegger, a daughter of Johan
Ulrich Sonderegger. Her mother's name was Ann Cl...ana
Maiden name was Was Grant.
The flag which was carried by Hubert Lehr was made for him by his mother. There are thirteen hand cut and sewn stars on the blue field.

This flag was handed down by Hubert to his son, George Lehr. He in turn gave it to his youngest son, Hiram, who later gave it to his brother, Dr. Henry S. Lehr, founder of Ohio Northern University. On September 29, 1905, at a special chapel service, Dr. Lehr presented this flag to the university along with other memorabilia. It has since come back into the possession of the family. In 1950 it was repaired and mounted on linen by the flag factory of the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, where it was on display for several years.

We have also Hubert Lehr's furlough, which reads as follows:

Northampton Town, Feb. 4, 1779

"It is permitted by me that Hulrich Lehr may go home and appear here again by the seventh of this month."

Frantz Roth, Capt.

Mr. Roberts has this further information about Hubert Lehr:

"Hubertus Lehr was a drummer in Capt. Felix Good's company of the Fourth Battalion of Northampton County, Pa. Militia on April 29, 1782, and his name, written "Hulrich Lehr" appears in a petition of soldiers to the supreme Executive Council, no date, probably 1777. Frantz Roth signed this petition, who was the captain who signed his furlough in 1779. (See Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Volume 6, pages 338 and 94 for these references.)"

He has this further information:

"Hubertus Lehr, as we find his name written most frequently, but at times spelled Hübriah, was a weaver by occupation, as were many of the Lehrs, and lived in Salisbury Township, Northampton County, where he was taxed as a weaver, owning one cow, but no land, in 1785, 1786 and 1788. Ulrich Sonderger was also taxed there on 23 acres of land."

On September 19, 1778 Hubert Lehr married Anna Barbara Goebel, the widow of John Nicholas Goebel. She was 22 at the time and he was 24. From the records of Zion Reformed Church, Allentown their children are listed as follows:

John, born July 18, 1779. Sponsors, George Dayly and Eva Leiter
Mary Catherine, born Feb. 5, 1781. Sponsors, Maria, Magdalena Leiter
Anna Barbara, born April 30, 1786. Sponsors, Ulrich and Anna Cleopha Sonderger
Magdalena, born Nov. 3, 1789. Sponsors, Peter and Christina Leiter
John George, born July 2, 1794. Sponsors, George and Margarett Goebel

John Lehr, the eldest son, died September 24, 1793, aged 14 years, 2 months and 6 days. He was buried by Rev. Abraham Blum of Zion Reformed Church, Allentown, who received one dollar for his services. It will be noted that a son the following year was named John George.
THE AMERICAN FLAG CARRIED BY THOMAS LEHR

IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
Other items reported by Mr. Hubertus are the following:

"In the Census of 1790 in Salisbury Township in Hoprich Letter, with two males over 16, one male under 16 and 7 females.

"In Peter Roops' ledgers of a store in Allentown, Ledger B, account No. 135, is Peter Lehr, from 1770 to 1779, and on June 16, 1789 is '¥ 1.4.10, paid by his brother John.'

"Hubertus Lehr purchased goods there from 1778 to 1812, and in Ledger C, Page 15, is the entry, 'Jan. 6, 1809, by weaving 30 yards carpeting, one pound,' and on Feb. 12, 1812, 'by weaving 31 yards carpeting, 11 shillings and 8 pence.' On Jan. 6, 1809, 6 shillings and one penny, from Ulrich Sundericker's account was transferred to Hubertus Lehr's account, from which it would appear that Sundericker died about that time and indicating relationship.'"

"From Matthews and Hungerford, 'History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon,' I found the following:

"Hubert Lehr was on the list for tax assessment for Salisbury Township, Lehigh County. (The area now comprising Lehigh County was separated from Northampton County in 1812. This explains the location of this family in Northampton County when they settled in Mountainville)"

"The Lehr was in Allentown at least as early as 1795. John Lehr was living at that time in a log house which stood near where the Pennsylvania Rail Road depot is now. He had 10 children. There are now many of the family in the city." My note reads "1804."

"From the Register of Sailing Vessels I found that a Henrich Lehr arrived in Philadelphia October 16, 1727. If he was in any way related to Philipp Lehr, or from near where he lived, this could explain Philipp's coming to America 22 years later. This is pure conjecture, however, as I have no further information about this Henrich Lehr."

Before going on to George Lehr, the sole surviving son of Hubert Lehr, and the ancestor of so many Lehrs, it would be desirable to consider the Sonneregger line which came through George Lehr's mother, Anna Sarbach."
The Sonderegger family came into our family line when Hubert Lehr married Anne Barbara Speckel, see Sonderegger, 1797. There is the possibility that her husband, John Nicolaus Speckel, had been killed in the Revolutionary War, but this, of course, is conjecture.

Hans Ulrich Sonderegger

The first of the Sondereggers we knew about was Hans Ulrich Sonderegger who emigrated to America in 1747, two years ahead of Philip Lehr. He married Elinor Utz in Philadelphia in 1749 but whether he had lived in Philadelphia up to that time, or had already moved to the Allentown area where he met Philip Lehr cannot be determined.

We have two documents on Hans Ulrich Sonderegger, a certificate of baptism from the minister of the Reformed Lutheran Church in Ballock, Switzerland, dated July 21, 1747, which he had apparently taken with him when he emigrated to America in 1747 when he was 26 years old, and what appears to be a character reference from the Clerk of the Court in Ballock, which he wrote back for about the time he got married.

The baptismal certificate gives the names of his parents, Jeremias Sonderegger and Amalia Nundlich, which certifies his baptism date of April 21, 1721. However, the certificate from the Clerk of the Court in Ballock speaks of Nicholas Kuster as being the duly appointed administrator of Hans Ulrich Sonderegger, and Hans was "the waid (minister)" which would seem to indicate that Hans had been orphaned as a boy and that Nicholas Kuster had been his guardian. Also the clerk of the Court refers to having called upon "those trustworthy persons of this place to report what they knew of their (the parents') affairs and character." The fact that young Sonderegger was not able to provide his future bride and her parents with much contact with his parents may have raised some questions, hence his writing over about the time of his marriage for a character reference from the town. As a matter of fact, it did not arrive until well after he was married. The baptismal certificate is reproduced here as Plate IV, and the character reference as Plate V.

There is a third document on Hans Ulrich Sonderegger, dated May 9, 1754, which refers to the appearance of Nicholas Kuster before the court in Ballock, in which a letter from Sonderegger is presenting where he asks that his rent be sent to him in America. It would appear that the decision was that the court wished him to address the court directly. Apparently he had some land in or around Ballock, or had inherited some which was being held under court control for reasons undisclosed. The actual import of this document is not clear, assuming that our translation is correct. (Plate VI)

The marriage certificate, reproduced here as Plate VII speaks of both Sonderegger and Speckel only as being from Switzerland.
With respect to the Graf family - John Ulrich Sonderegger married eighteen Graf - my mother's notebook contains the following information:

"Grandfather Lehr's (George Lehr) grandmother on his mother's side was an English woman. Her father was a descendent of the family of Graf, which had been titled "Count" by the court of the Netherlands by reason of their great wealth acquired by a certain member of the family who was a merchant and had private vessels of his own between Holland and New Amsterdam. This one was captured by the English during their war with the Dutch, and was held prisoner sometime. (The two English-Dutch wars were 1652-1654 during the time of Cromwell, and from 1665-1667 under Charles II which ended with the Peace of Breda.)"

In a letter written to me in 1936 she said:

"The vast fortune of this family was lost, owing to carelessness on the part of the Graf family of the 18th century. Some time during Cleveland's administration the Graf heir in the United States banded together to attempt to get the Graf fortune - estimated at $60,000,000. Father (Dr. Lehr) wrote to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Hayard, who investigated and later informed father that the government of Holland refused to acknowledge any claim on fortunes of over forty years' standing."

In her notebook is a reference to her grandfather's grandfather Lehr, which from the study of the documents and what else we know, should have been to her grandfather's mother's father, Hans Ulrich Sonderegger. In any case, here is what she wrote:

"Grandfather's grandfather was a Swiss silk spinner (we know from the records that the grandfather Lehr was a weaver, and that the grandfather Sonderegger was a tailor, so it may have referred to an earlier generation, as indicated in what follows) living on the border of France. (That would fit the Sondereggers, but not the Lehr's) He spoke French as well as German. Being devout believers in the Reformation they were obliged to flee from Germany in the early part of the Thirty Years' War. (1618-1648 - one hundred years before our earliest date on either side of the house) The Catholic soldiers had come to great, great, great grandfather's house (that would have been Amalia Runshin) and had asked for the Bible, and being refused, they prickled her with hot pins until she gave it up. They burned it, and took all they had to eat. Her husband was in the Protestant army at the time. (Actually I think there are at least two generations missing in this story since the generation she speaks of could not have been born far enough back to have been in the Thirty Years War. However, the story was strongly spoken of by both my grandmother and grandfather, so there is validity in the tradition.)"

In 1936 the writer of this history attempted to trace the Sonderegger family in Switzerland through a friend, Rudi Wissmann whom I had known at Columbia University, but who had returned to Switzerland. His correspondence relating to his efforts on my behalf is included in the Appendix. It shows that there is little likelihood of a search there being fruitful.

The records in the civil office in Balgenach, the present name of the community, go back only to 1867. Any documents which might tell of the family prior to the period of Hans Ulrich Sonderegger would have to be found in the files of the church there, and according
to the letter from the pastor there dated 29 September 1935, there is no record that Anna Ulrich Sonderagger was baptized there, although from his baptismal certificate we are quite sure he was. When I sent over a copy of the baptismal certificate, the pastor acknowledged that he must have existed, but he had no record there to which he could go without a detailed search. I did not feel at the time that further search was warranted.

Anna Barbara Sonderagger

We know really nothing about Anna Barbara Sonderagger other than what has been indicated above. We do have a birth and baptismal certificate which her father prepared for her which in form is almost identical with that which he made for Hubert Lehr at the time the two were married. She was seventeen years old at the time, and it might have been drawn up when she became engaged or married to her first husband.

It states that she is of the Reformed faith, and also says that both of her parents were of Swiss origin. This coincides with what our family has to say about the Graf family, but since we know nothing about her parents, there may be no real conflict. She, Claus, might have been Swiss on her mother's side, or that branch of the family might have come from Switzerland to America.

An interesting point in her birth-baptismal certificate is that she was admitted to communion at the age of four years after being examined by her pastor. The strong Calvinist sentiment which appears in the Sonderagger family is in keeping with their Swiss origin.
Certificate of Baptism

Success and Prosperity from the source of happiness, Jesus

Bearer of this, Hans Ulrich Sonderegger, by trade a tailor, has concluded to go abroad according to the customs of the country, to seek his fortune. Therefore he asked me, his minister in ordinary, to furnish him a certificate of baptism, of which to make use by all incidents, especially by administration of His Excellency. Requested certificate I hereby furnish him, as to my dear parishioner and testify it, as taken from the records of baptism.

Hans Ulrich Sonderegger was born a legitimate child of respectable parents, members of the reformed Lutheran church namely of Jeremiah Sonderegger and Amalia Hunsch, being baptised the 21st of April, 1721.

He became a member of said church in this town. As witnesses were present: Mr. Ulrich Oehler and Catherine Tissin.

May the Lord bless him on his travels and have mercy upon him.
I also place him under the protection of all men, especially of the reader of the above certificate.

Balgisich, 21st, July 1747

John Henry Dumaier
Clergyman of the place and dean
Character Reference for Hans Ulrich Sondregerger

Know all men in the country of the Rhine by these presents, that on the date given below there has come and appeared before us, the honest and modest Nicholas Kuster, courtier, as lawful and duly appointed administrator of Hans Ulrich Sondregerger, a tailor, of this place and announced to the Honorable Court: that his ward (above) had the intention, for the sake of his success and better subsistence, to settle down in the State of Pennsylvania and that he was already there married.

Since he needed for his purpose, a certificate and attestation of his honorable birth, honorable father and mother and good descent, he asks of us, to call upon some trustworthy persons of this place, who knew his parents well, and have these persons to report what they know of their (the parents') affair and character, and asks us to furnish him this testimony with our seal. We deem his request just and fair, and nobody refuses to give evidence according to truth and willingly: that Hans Ulrich Sondregerger is the legitimate child of honorable father and mother, that his parents brought him up piously, as it becomes good and honest parents, and that he himself has shown himself upright and true to everyone, so that it can not be spoken ill of him in any way. Since then we do not know otherwise either, we furnish him this testimony with our seal and moreover testify that he is not a subject of unworthy longer, but set free entirely.

Given, April the 2nd, 1754

Andrew Grench

 Clerk of the Court
COUNCIL DECISION OF THE NOT OF BALLACK

There has appeared before the above Nicholas Kuster, as the representative of Hans Ulrich Sonneregger, tailor, and made known by means of a letter received from the tailor, from Pennsylvania, that he should transfer his rent (?) from here to there.

In reply thereto the membrane Council has decided that for the present nothing was to be transmitted or released; unless he were to show, by letter under seal, issued by his (present) authorities, that he together with his wife, children, and descendents wanted the authorities of our Hof to act.

Satisfied with the approval of our higher and lower authorities.

Examined on the 9th of March, 1754

by Andreas Coebeh

Eng-Scribe

Note: the term Hof may mean a court of law, but also "manor" or "homestead", which seems more likely here.
I hereby certify that John Ulric Sondereker and Cleoza Graf Ziegler, both out of Switzerland, are lawfully married and have together in Holy Matrimony this Second day of October in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three.

Under my Hand and Seal, 
Philadelphia 
this Second day of October 1753.

By Michael Pollet, 
Minister of the Gospel
Philadelphia
Kaufbuch für Anna

Barbara Londeregger

Am 26. Mai 1789

1.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

2.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

3.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

4.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

5.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

6.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

7.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

8.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

9.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

10.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

11.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

12.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

13.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

14.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

15.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

16.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

17.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

18.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

19.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

20.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

21.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

22.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

23.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

24.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

25.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

26.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

27.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

28.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

29.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

30.1. Alt. 3.5. Reichsducat

Gott meint, finde Löffel für die Welt

PLATE VIII
Geburtscrd und Tauf Sc'chel
fur Anna Barbara Sondersregger
geschrieben den 4 January
Am 1773
von mir Hans Ulrich Sondersregger

Tauffsc'chel fru Anna
Barbara sondersregger:

Sie ist den 28 Abril es Anna 1756 in disse welt gebohren;
und ist nach Christlichen gebrauch
getauft worden den 26 Mayes 1756
von den Erbtdtigen Hr. Pfarrer
Rudolph als Reformirter Pfarrer
in der Schmaltgass und sind Tauf Zeugen
gewesenen Rudolph Schmid und sein Freu
Anna Barbara Reformirter Helyon und ist
Ihr Christlicher Name gegeben worden Anna
Barbara: und Ihr Vatter ist Hans Ulrich
Sonderregger und Ihr Mutter Anna Clovosa
Reformirter Helyon beyde aus der Schwetys
Geburtig und messhaft in Salzbug Thorinopf Nortum
Then Conti. sie ist Anna 1760 von dem Pfarrer
Herr Pfarrer Daniel Bromm ge Emaanirt und
zu Mt. Abend Mahl gelassen worden 1760.
Jesus Blut hat sich einwirkt in sein Tod
Bin ich getauft Jesus wolverlinst allein
Soll seine münden Llenguart sein

Baptismal certificate for
Anna Barbara Sondersregger.

She was born into this world on April 28, 1756
and, according to Christian custom, was baptised
on May 26, 1756 by the Reverend Rudolph,
minister of the Reformed Religion, in the Schmaltgass.
Witnesses were: Rudolph Schmid and his wife Anna Barbara,
both of the Reformed Religion.
She received the Christian name Anna Barbara.
Her father in Hans Ulrich Sondersregger,
his mother Anna Clovosa, of the Reformd Religion.
Both are of Swiss origin and residing in
Salzburg Township, Northampton County.
In 1760 she was examined by the Reverend Daniel Bromm
and admitted to holy communion.

Jesus blood has redeemed me,
In his death I am baptized,
Jesus next all alone shall be
the reason for my sina.
George Lehr was the sole surviving son of Hubert Lehr. His name is Anglicised to "Lehr", and there is no reference to his first name, John, in his later life.

We have a birth and baptismal certificate, with art work done in red and gold color, which is reproduced above. It states that he was the son of Hubertus Lehr and Anna Barba, nee Sondrevokker, and that he was born 2 July at 11:00 a.m. in 1798. He was baptized Johann George by Mr. Blumer of the Evangelical Reformed Church, and the witnesses were Johann George Garnet and his wife Margaretha, on 7 August, 1798. He was born and baptized in Salisbury Township, Northampton County "in the Free State of Pennsylvania." (Plate IX) His birth and baptismal record are also carried in the records of the Zion Reformed Church, Allentown.

This birth and baptismal certificate carries at the top in a later handwriting the record of his marriage to Salome Leoniug on 5 July, 1818. (The date looks like 1858, but that is not correct.)

George Lehr was a weaver like his father. My mother told me once that he made blankets, coverlets and dress goods. When Henry Lehr was eight years old he started to help his father as a good boy and by making quilts.

The family spoke German. Dr. Lehr said in his dictation to my mother for the notebook that "until he was eight years old he spoke German only, knowing not a word of English." He learned his first English while helping his father in the making of cloth. As will be noted in the latter quoted below which George Lehr wrote from Ohio in 1839, he wrote in German.

He was also a farmer, for, in fact, everyone farmed in those days in addition to whatever else they did. He attended school but a short time. My mother's note says, "Schools were few, money scarce, and work plenty. But the few months he attended were well improved; he learned to read and write both English and German, this together with his keen intellect, sound judgment and honesty made him a respected citizen." She speaks of him as having been a teacher, though this must have been some kind of informal teaching.

He served in the War of 1812. His name appears as a private in Captain Abraham Gangewere's company of Riflemen of the First Brigade, Second Division of Pennsylvania Militia, September 23, 1814 to October 31, 1814. (Penna Archives, Sixth Series, Volume 5, page 710) In the notebook it is said that he often spoke of having been at Washington when it was attacked and burned by the British in August 1814, and also at Baltimore during the bombardment by the British in September 1814 when the Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key. The family tradition is that when war broke out in 1812, he enlisted, but we have no other record than the above of his military involvement.

There is no further record of him until his marriage in 1818. In 1829 his father died, and in 1839, his mother, and it appears that he took over the management of the family farm and the weaving business, as he was still engaged in weaving after he had moved to Ohio.
Platte IX
Georg Lehr entered the state of holy matrimony with Salome Lenzig on July 5th, 1818.

To these witnesses: Robertas Lehr and his wife Anna Barbara, his Sondercker, a new was given and born on July 2nd, in the forenoon at 11 o'clock, 1794, who received the name of Johan Georg in holy Baptism, which was (performed) by the Reverend Mr. Blümer, a preacher of the Evangelical Reformed Church and servant of the word of God. The witnesses at this holy ceremony were the honorable Johan Georg Serret and his wife Margareths.

The above-mentioned Johann Georg Lehr was born and baptized in Salisbury Township, Northampton County, in the Free State of Pennsylvania. The day of his baptism was the 7th of August 1794.
He apparently continued to have interest in the military, as on October 30, 1821 he was commissioned Captain of the Fifth Company of the Sixth Eighth Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia. (Plate X) The roster of persons subject to military duty residing within the boundaries of the Fifth Company, Sixth Eighth Regiment, Second Brigade, Seventh Division of the Pennsylvania Militia on the 10th of April, 1822 (Plate XI) carries the name of George Lehr as Captain, and the names of three others by the name of Leh: Joseph Lehr, age 28 (Dunner and Fisher); John Lehr, age 23; and William Lehr, age 18. It also has the name of Adam Smith, age 18. This list is classified as to age, residence, tour of duty, and number, and covers a six year period, 1822-26. The other Lehns may well have been cousins, as there were other Lehr families in the area, and it will be remembered that there was a John Peter Lehr and a John Haushort Lehr who came over with Phillipus Lehr on the ship "Two Brothers" in 1749.

On July 4, 1826 both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died. In the Borough of Northampton a special commemoration to show respect to their memories was planned for July 22nd. Captain Lehr was requested to assemble his company for a procession to be held as part of the ceremonies. (Plate XII)

We have one more record of George Lehr's activities in the Allentown area, a record of his having served as constable in 1826. He was ordered to imprison a George Haney for a debt of seventy-five cents, together with a charge of seventy one cents for the cost of the lawsuit. He was to seize the goods and chattels of the said George Haney, or if that could not be done to take him in custody and take him to the "Caul of the County, there to be kept until the debt and the costs aforesaid be fully paid." (Plate XIII) It may be noted that George Haney was a member of the Fifth Company.

The most important aspect of George Lehr's Allentown years was his involvement with the Lenzig's. He married Selma Lenzig on July 5, 1818, and his sister, Magdalena, who was five years his senior, married her brother, Solomon. Solomon and Magdalena went west to Illinois, settling near Hazel Creek in the southeastern part of the state on the Wabash River, sometime prior to 1837, for in that year he wrote back and spoke of working for his brother-in-law - not a Lehr.

In my mother's notebook there is this entry: 'The Lenzigs were of English decent. They (had) owned a large tract of land near Chambersburg, Pa. After the Revolutionary War some English lord brought against them an eminent claim granted by the King and the property was lost to the Lenzigs, who were left bankrupt thereby." Also in her notes in the statement that Selma Lenzig's mother's name was Ruth. An inquiry to the Franklin County Historical Society in Chambersburg proved fruitful.

We do know that there was an Anna Lenzig as the history of the Western Salisbury Church records that she married Adam Smith on November 19, 1826. We also know that there was a Joseph Lenzig, my mother's patr's son. "The old homestead fell to his (George - after the war of 1812) and also the care of his aged parents. After their death (1825 and 1829) he went security for his brother-in-law, Joseph, who was a speculator in western lands in the territory of Illinois, and thereby lost his home." My mother used to say that he took the money and went west to buy land for George Lehr to move out to Illinois (apparently to join Solomon Lenzig), but he was never heard from again. It was presumed he was killed by robbers or by Indians.
Borough of Northampton, July 18, 1826.

SIRs:

Agreeably to the instructions of a meeting of the Citizens of the Borough of Northampton, assembled for the purpose of making arrangements for testifying proper respect in memory of the deceased THOMAS JEFFERSON and JOHN ADAMS, signers of the Declaration of Independence and Ex. Presidents of the United States.

YOU are hereby politely requested to join a select Procession and attend General Oration to take place in the Borough of Northampton, on Saturday the 24th of July, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon.


COMMITTEE:
The Commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA,

To the Councillor of the Township of
in the said County, or in the said County, as the case may be

Know all men by these presents, that I, the defendant, Greetings,

have obtained judgment against

in the said County, for a debt of

seven pounds

forgether with

seven pounds

and the said

Gough

having neglected to comply with

the said judgment, the command of the

George

you are hereby

and for the want of sufficient security, that you take the

of the said

and convey him to the

of the said

Lord one thousand eight hundred and

in the year of our

May 30, 1808

PLATE III

A writ to George Lahr, constable, to apprehend
George Lahr for a debt of
seventy-five cents. The court
put the said debt at seventy-one
cents. Issue listed.

Northampton Borough, Pa.
May 30, 1808
The above pictures are of the portraits of George and Salome (Lessig) Lehr which were painted for Henry S. Lehr, their son, when he was president of Ohio Northern University. The painter owed Dr. Lehr some money which he was unable to pay, and in payment of the debt he painted these pictures. Since Salome Lehr died in 1861 and George Lehr in 1872, these portraits must have been made from daguerreotypes or other pictures of these parents of Dr. Lehr.
We know, then, about three Lebeling children, Solomon, Abram, and Solomon, plus the stepson Joseph. But there were more. We have a most interesting letter from Solomon Lebeling to Adam Smith, Jr., in Allentown, written in 1837, a year after George Lehr had left for Illinois. This letter, reproduced in Plate XIV, contains greetings to his mother, his father (his father may have been dead), his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, as well as to the addressers, and to friends and relatives.

In this letter he refers to hard times in the Allentown area (this letter coincided with the Panic of 1837), and then goes on to tell about how prosperous they all are out in Wabash County, coming with the wish and hope that they will all move out there and join him. Interestingly enough he says that "There has been an increase in my household, for since last fall I have a young boy." Apparently it was all his work, his wife did not figure in. He named him Benjamin Franklin Lebeling, which was the same name that Adam Smith gave to his son born the next year.

This Adam Smith was also a friend of George Lehr, as will be seen from the letter George Lehr wrote to him in 1839, which we also have. (There is no indication as to how these letters to Adam Smith came into our family's possession.) The records of Zion Reformed Church carry this record, that "an Adam Schadt and wife Maria had a daughter, Elizabeth, born December 22, 1809 and baptized January 28, 1810. This may be the first record on this family as Adam Smith, Jr. would have been born in 1806. Adam Smith, Jr., had a daughter, Elizabeth born on November 21, 1835, and then the son, Benjamin Franklin Smith, born April 19, 1837 and baptized May 29, 1838. His sponsors were Samuel Schadt and Anna Lewiston.

To return now to George Lehr. After the note was foreclosed and he had lost his eighty acre farm in Mountainville, where he had been born, George Lehr gathered up his family and a few possessions into a covered wagon and crossed the Alleghany Mountains to take up land in the Western Reserve in 1837.

It will be remembered that under the Ordinance of 1787 the land between the Ohio River and Lake Erie, as far west as the Mississippi River, which had been relinquished by the states claiming it, to the Congress, was opened up to settlers who could buy it at a very nominal price as a way of paying them for their military service. George Lehr, accordingly, was going out to reap his fortune by taking advantage of this provision of the law. He was one of the many who went west and settled that land comprising the five states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, providing a source of funds to the government by their purchase of land, and settling an obligation of their country's which could not be met by payment in dollars.

They settled in Weathersfield Township, Mahoning County, and there near a small town which has been variously called Chilhowee and Chilhowee, Henry Solomon Lehr was born in a log cabin on March 9, 1836. That site is now covered by Meander Lake, which was formed about 1925 by damming Meander Creek, and which covers parts of Truth and Mahoning Counties. The site of the original Chilhowee, founded in 1825 by Michael Ohl, is beneath the lake. Some of the homes were removed at that time and relocated further south, and the community is now known as Ohlton. (Route 89 crosses Meander lake just west of Youngstown very close to the site of Chilhowee, about a mile west of the crossing of State Route 46.)
Greetings and best wishes for good health from me, Salmon Leming, to you, mother, and to my husband and sisters, brother-in-law, and to all my friends and relatives.

Well, I have seen in that letter which I received on April 1, that all of you are so far in good health and spirits; and I wish that God may grant you all good health in the future, if it be his gracious will.

However, I have also seen in those few lines that you are having hard times; but I am sure that you are getting along. And I am sure that you will get through it. In other words, that your area is hard for your people; therefore I believe it is better here for your people; and especially for you, Adam Smith: for I can tell you as much as these few lines that you would do very well in your profession here in this area. For the work in carpentry and cabinet making is flourishing fairly well, since the little town of Scott Carrol is greatly expanding and there is much building going on. The daily rate for skilled laborers is a dollar a day. And another thing, the people here who work on improvements are getting 1.5 to 2.0 to 3.0 dollars a month. So much can I report to you from this area, if you(5,114),(991,984) want to try your trade here. And the price of corn is two and one-half dollars a bushel, 25 cents a bushel, and 10 cents a bushel is the highest. That I believe that you, Adam Smith, together with my brothers and sisters, and mother ought to have here, and that you could make a much better life for yourselves here. But I want to leave it up to your own decision, you may do as you wish. Again, land here is pretty good, and homesteads still inexpensive. Public land is being quickly bought up, and occupied and planted land is rising in price every year.

Now my hand does not want to conclude this letter on this page But one more thing I have to tell you about my life in this area. Last fall I moved to the property of my brother-in-law, and I plant it as a small holder. Also I have a small stand of livestock: I have four head of cattle and twenty hogs. And no man I believe if I am happy. I was build up one livestock. But this is all the news that I can send you this time. But now it is my wish and hope to see all of you being yet... if it is to be, with God's will. For the heavenly rules everywhere! thus every human being ought to say! Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father of light.

Also, there has been an increase in my household: since last fall I have a young boy. This is in the page I gave to his name Franklin.

Now I send this letter with my wishes for your good health, and I sincerely hope it will find you in good health and spirits, such as it left me and my friends.

So much from me, Salmon Leming

P.S: And another thing I forgot to write. You want to know whether there are any deer and turkey to be had. There are enough of each around. Last fall I shot eight deer and eight turkeys. Katie is as much as you said. Kindest greetings from me, Magdalene kindly, to mother and the friends and relatives.

PLATE XXV (1)
The site of Chilton on the 1874 map will be seen to be now under the Meander Creek Reservoir. Since the Lehr farm was stated to have been in Mahoning County, it was probably south of Chilton and could well have been in the area now covered by the water.
After staying at Oilton for three years, the Lehr family in 1839 moved about thirty miles further west and south, to an area west of Alliance, Ohio, variously reported as near New Baltimore or near Marlboro, in Stark County. (The two towns are about three miles apart) Here they lived in a log cabin for another four and a half years, until 1843 and then moved to Wayne County, in an area then identified as Cedar Valley, now as Overton, where they built another log cabin and where they remained. Here Henry Solomon Lehr grew up, near Wooster, Ohio.

The log cabin where they lived is still standing, and can be visited across a field from a farm. I visited it some years ago and the pictures are shown on the accompanying page. It is now used as a cattle shed, but the soundness of its construction is witnessed by the fact that it still stands after 30 years. There is a little ravine a short distance in front of it, which would seem to indicate that there was a spring there in years past.

We have a very interesting letter from George Lehr to Adam Smith back in Allentown written March 27, 1859, just after the family had moved to New Baltimore. It is written in German, but it shows an optimistic spirit and hope for the future of the family. It stresses the availability of public land which can be taken up by just clearing it and building on it. The "hally" referred to might have been a sister of Adam Smith who came with them to help look after all the children, but this can be only a conjecture.

George and Salome Lehr had twelve children. Ten were born in Pennsylvania, Henry Solomon was born near Oilton, Mahoning County, and Nima, the youngest was born on the New Baltimore farm.

The records of the Zion Reformed Church give the following information:

Rebecca - born September 27, 1818, baptized November 22, 1818
Maria Anna - born March 7, 1820, baptized May 28, 1820
Sarah Amelia - born October 10, 1821, baptized November 18, 1823
Henry William - born April 27, 1824, baptized May 5, 1824
Henrietta Elisabeth - born October 1, 1825, baptized November 13, 1825
Edward Adam - born October 1, 1827, baptized November 11, 1827
Isabella - born January 12, 1829, baptized March 29, 1829

In addition to the seven listed above, the following were born in Pennsylvania:

George
Anna Catherine
Anna Barbara - born November 13, 1835

My mother once told me that four of their children died in infancy.

The only one for which this means probable in George, since there is no record at Zion Reformed Church, and we have no other reference to him. In my mother's notebook she wrote that when Henry Solomon went off to school for the first time, his clothes had been made for him by his sisters, Rebecca and Anna. As to Anna Barbara, we have a lot of information about her. She married a Mr. Call and moved to Ada where she lived and rented rooms to and boarded students at Ohio Normal School. She died March 18, 1893 and is buried at Ada.
The Lehr family home near Cedar Valley (Opton) Ohio. Pictures taken in 1968. It was then being used as a cattle shed. It is located on the Harry and Dale Hower farm.
The Lehr farm is shown here on this 1873 map as owned by Mrs. E. Lehr. On the corresponding 1877 map the farm is shown as the property of the "E. Lehr heirs. It is probable that the farm extended into Wayne Township.
Dear friend Adam Smith: kindest greetings to you and all the others. All of us are in good health, as long as God permits, and we hope this letter will find you in good health. I have to tell you that I moved from Trumbull County, and that I now live in Stark County, about a mile and a half from George Schneider's place. I would have written to you long ago, but I did not know what I was to do. I want to let you know that people who do not have any money stand a good chance of getting public land. One can get 60 acres of land for ten or fifteen years, as long as one will build an inexpensive house on it. However, one has to clear 10 acres of the land. But one may clear more if one wishes. In that case one may keep whatever grows on it. One need not take any trees from it that are above 10 inches thick, the rest in merely destroyed. One can clear a good deal in very little time, and it is the best fruit-land. But it is being taken up very quickly. Now I ask you, I want to take up 80 acres for myself, and if you think that you too might come here, do write me a letter as quickly as you can, so I can take up 80 acres for you also. It is very fine land and lies right next to George Schneider's land, about 13 miles from Canton, a mile and a half from a small city by the name of New Baltimore. It is the best opportunity one could get. I would not wish to go back. We are now busy cooking sugar and molasses and always have sweets about our mouths. Sally is cooking sugar right now and away and very much wishes she could give some of it to all of you. She is much better off here than with you and does not want to go back any more. I rented a house and some land for two and a half years. I am paying $12.00 rent a year. It is only half a mile from the public land, which is very handy for me. If you write me a letter, write to this address: New Baltimore Post Office, Stark County. You may write the address in German script. Sally sends her very best to you and to her mother and her brothers and sisters and would like to see all of you join us here. That is the only thing she still lacks here. I would also buy still more land, about ten miles from where we are, for one dollar an acre; but right now I can't longer know what I should do. Sally does not want to move any farther—Sally would like to know whether (name illegible) is still unmarried. Always your friend and wishing you the best! George Lehr

Don't forget to write. Write soon and much.
Just who those were who died young is not clear. My notes from my mother indicate that one might have been Sarah Arabella, after whom my mother was named. She indicated that "William Henry" had eight children. Edward had nine children. Hemmets lived until at least 1892 when Henry Soloman was twelve. Isabella is shown on my notes to have died young. Isaacs Catherine died at age 24. Maria Anna moved to Indiana and I believe was married. Minna Walter, the youngest died relatively young. In 1891 she wrote that seven were then dead.

In her notes she says, "George Lehr was a German Reform in religion, and in politics a Democrat until the breaking out of the Civil War. He then became a Republican. Grandmother was a German Lutheran. In later years they united with the Presbyterians. Both were earnest and devout Christians and had the most firm faith in the power of prayer. They were always frugal, industrious people."

The children lived themselves out to other farmers on farm work. Henry Solomon at 12 years old worked in the fields, "riding half after a chadle", or half a man's work.

"The family was so poor at this time that they rarely had white bread, but usually ate corn bread."

"On New Year's Eve, according to the ancient Dutch custom, hunters, hunting till midnight, then surrounded some house whose occupants they wished to honor, and after saluting them with a joint volley from their guns, expected to be admitted, and served to the best in the larder. That night when the children had gone to bed, dreaming of tomorrow's feast, the hunters came there for their "Scheissen fest." How the hearts of the children sank and the mother's heart was sad, as she went out to invite them in, telling them that her husband was ill, which was only too true. On hearing that the news left. The next day they had for their New Year's feast - potatoes (a great delicacy), wheat bread, sausage, butter (very rarely served), apple butter, coffee and apple pie."

Also found among the German papers of the family is an interesting document, which seems to have been an exorcism against gout, cramps and ague (PLATE XVI). The source of the document is unknown and who it belonged to must be a matter of conjecture, though it would appear to have belonged to George Lehr.

Salome Lehr died in 1863. George Lehr died in 1872 in Wayne County, Ohio.
EKORGIK OF GOUT, CRAMPS, AND AGUE

Against Gout

Gout! Gout! how you torment me!
I accuse you before God of it, and before the highest name of Him
Who mercifully had to suffer death on the tree of the cross.
(insert name of the afflicted).

Gout and pain is Death, as a green gaster.
He is met by St. Anne and Our Blessed Lady.
St. Anne says: "Where are you going?"
The gout says: "We are going to (insert name),
to strike that person's body.
To run into his flesh and blood.
Then holy St. Anne said: "Gout and gout, I command you
by the power of God and by the highest name:
You running gout, you twisted gout, you raising gout,
you clinging gout, you cold gout, you feverish gout,
you bracing gout, you head gout, you flesh gout,
you blood gout, you arrow gout, you spotted gout,
you above all, cold gout and gout.
I COMMAND you both by the power of God and by the highest name
into the wild cramp from which you come,
there you shall again return,
that I declare to be your punishment.+++}

A solemn appeal against cramps

TODA TO SAJ 5 3 G A R C A
This is to be long ( ), until the cramp is gone.
Is this not a blessed hour when Jesus Christ was born?
Is this not a blessed hour when Jesus Christ died?
Is this not a blessed hour when Jesus Christ rose from the dead?
These have not been given to me to strike your blood (and) (beal);
your wounds, that they will not swell nor fester
and be healed again in 3 days or in nine+++.

Christ the Lord walked across the land,
along the way He encountered two.

Christ the Lord said: "Where are you going, Apostles?"

Apostles answered: "We want to strike (insert name).

Christ the Lord said: "What do you want to do to that person?"

To break his bones, to set his flesh, to strike his blood.

Christ the Lord said: "Avenge, that you shall not do!

Habits you shall eat,
( ) you must track.
From a well you must drink,
and into it you must pour yourself.+++.
The Edward Adam Lehr Family

As already indicated, Edward Adam Lehr was the sixth child of George and Salome Lehr. The following information is from a page in the family Bible of Bernard Campbell of Upper Arlington, Ohio, and was furnished to me by James A. Stewart of Forest Park, Illinois.

The Bible shows Edward Lehr to have been born on October 1, 1821. That date is incorrect, as the record of Zion Reformed Church shows him to have been born on October 1, 1827. (Sarah Annabella was born in October 1821)

Edward married Mary Ann Gramer on October 22, 1846. She was sixteen at the time, having been born December 7, 1830. He died December 4, 1867, age 40 years, and she died April 18, 1921, age 80 years and four months.

Their children were:

Rebecca - born September 21, 1847; died September 21, 1926
  married John Bowman, December 9, 1869

William J. - born November 14, 1849; died September 30, 1937
  married Sarah Ann Bowman, December 18, 1872

Sarah Jane (Jennie) - born July 26, 1851; died October 27, 1941
  in Elkhart, Indiana. Married Simeon Rutter, November 13, 1873

Mary Ellen - born January 7, 1853
  married John Kintner, June 6, 1875

Annada Catherine - born October 8, 1854; died February 8, 1935
  married John B. Campbell, January 23, 1873

Reva Alice - born May 29, 1856; died January 18, 1940
  married Jacob Harmon, August 30, 1877

Ida Ann - born January 23, 1858; died June 24, 1916
  married James Lewis Hampton, September 29, 1880
  son - Prices Hampton

George Howard - born January 3, 1860; died August 17, 1930

Harvey Benton - born September 4, 1862; died October 22, 1867

Charlie Lehr - born November 18, 1864; died November 22, 1864

Clara Belle - born December 6, 1865; died February 5, 1939
  married James Lewis Hampton in the 1920's
Anna Barbara Caud

Anna Barbara Lehr, named for her aunt and grandmother, was the last child of George Lehr born in Pennsylvania. She was only a baby of a few months old when they made the trip to Ohio. In 1960-62 she attended college at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

We have her "Philosophia Album", a book in which her friends recorded sentiments for her, like a memory book, in which poetry of the time was written and also notes of remembrance. The style was florid and stilted, by our standards. There were several of these notes of special interest which are reproduced here.

There is one by her brother, Henry (Solomon), written at home on April 22nd, 1861, ten days after the attack on Fort Sumter which started the Civil War. Undoubtedly he was thinking about the possibility of having to join in the conflict, although actually he was rejected the first two times he tried to enlist because of a frail constitution. The text of the letter was as follows:

Sister Anna:

"Life is a dress" in which all are actors. The scenes are as varied as fancy can paint in human imagination.

And these scenes all are to prepare for future. Our present life determines our future. If no, let virtue, piety, charity and benevolence be the watchword of my sister.

1st. Life's a dark and dreary desert, We the victims of its care, Many its storms, few its comforts, Yet let no one ever despair.

2nd. Now dear sister I must leave thee, For a while we'll have to part, And if never again you'll see me, Let memory store me in thy heart.

Brother Henry

There is another note of special interest, signed with great flourish by S. E. Lehr, and addressed to "Connin Ann", with a date line "Illinois." Just who this cousin was, since it could not be a first cousin with the name of "Lehr", would be of interest. Possibly none of the other Lehr families around Mount Union had gone to Illinois with Solomon Lemsig, and this could have been one from that side of the family.
When速度 slower than what
are not writing? The story ever-red granted
as free, poor poet, pampered imagination
about these scenes, all gave it 
for patience, God's patience, His patience,
and patience of gentle, sweet poverty.
and patience to the soul behind of my
silent life in sweet, inland, clear lake,
like the crickets of its earth, 
like the animals far, far, far.
and set one soul, and I am adept.
and then about I reach steamer tike
from the earth, we'll have the trust,
and if many years, we'll see you
that morning after in the sound.

Deduction of us 1928

Death to my friend
who are my friends today
with his poor, tribulation,
without our friends.
And some way keep from him
Long life and bade the friends, 
Come when they fain away.
Now we grant a tender, far,
Remember the long...
The story of the life of my grandfather, Henry Solomon Lehr, has been told in the book written by my mother in 1930, "H. S. Lehr and His School - A Story of the Private Normal School," by Sarah Lehr Kennedy. It was published by the Ada Herald, Ada, Ohio, but is now out of print. What is told here is intended to give some of the significant facts about his life and work, and is drawn from my mother's notes and from her book.

As already noted above, Henry Solomon Lehr was born on March 8, 1836, the first of the Lehr children to be born in Ohio. He was two years old when they moved from Mahoning County to near New Baltimore in Stark County, and five years old when they moved from there to Wayne County, to the farm near Cedar Valley where he grew up.

He was able to go to school only about one year by the time he was sixteen, and had managed to learn to speak English and to read. He had also studied arithmetic, and was a good speller. He said that he had never scribbled over a dozen sheets of paper in learning to write before he began teaching school in the fall of 1854 when he was sixteen.

He had worked as a farm-hand when he was fifteen, receiving five dollars a month for twenty-six days work, but in the winter of 1854 he received twelve dollars for the summer north, binding wheat and cutting and stealing corn. In the spring of that year he had gone to school for a month, and one day a book agent had given him a circular about a school at Marlborough, a town near their former farm in Stark County, which was taught by Alfred Holbrook. It told how much could be done there in ten weeks. With a loan of twenty-five dollars from a brother, plus his twelve dollar earnings, he would be able to attend for one term.

This was his first time away from home. His clothes were home-made: the wool came from their own sheep, his mother had spun and dyed the wool, his father wove the cloth, and his mother and sisters had fitted and made the clothes. When time came for him to leave home, his mother had placed the Bible on the table and asked him to put his hand on it and to promise that he would never play cards. One of his brothers drove him to Wooster where he took the train for Louisville, a small town about eight miles from Mahoning. When he arrived there he learned that there was an epidemic of cholera in the town. He walked to Marlborough, found a room and lived on bread and butter and water. He did well in school, being put in the advanced class in arithmetic and geography, but he grew very homesick.

The term closed about the middle of October and he left to take the examination for teachers at Wooster on Saturday. Here is how he told that experience:

"I walked to Canton, a distance of about sixteen miles, and by visiting orchards along the way had apples for my dinner. For my supper I bought three cents worth of crackers. About one o'clock in the morning I took the train for Wooster and arrived there at three o'clock. In the morning I went to a brook nearby to wash, took a stick and knocked the dust off my trousers as well as I could. My toilet completed, I went to a grocery to purchase my breakfast. I had just five cents three of them I spent for crackers. Then I inquired about the examination and found it would be held in School House No. 4."
There were fifty-two applicants for certificates. We were scattered on benches about the room, with no desks in front of us, and we were allowed to hold no books. I remember several of the questions. The question, "What is ratio?" started near the head of the class. It passed over forty of the applicants before it reached me. Luckily I had looked up the definition a few days before and readily answered. I observed that my definitions in grammar attracted some attention. Professor Holbrook had introduced Cowell's Grammar the term I was in school and the definitions were out of the ordinary.

In the evening the president of the Board of Directors lectured the applicants for not making greater advancement in their profession. He said there were applicants who had taught twenty years or more, but pointing to a youthful applicant, said, "That boy will carry home the best certificates given today." "That boy" had only two cents to pay for crackers for his dinner. After the examination I walked home, a distance of six miles, without supper.

"About a week after I got home I went to see the directors of the school district nearby. My brother and I went after dark so they could not see how little I was. I was employed for three months at fourteen dollars a month, twenty-six days a month, and was to 'board around' with the scholars. The people would furnish the wood for fuel, but I had to start the fires and sweep the schoolhouse. This was the Dutch Flat School, later called Hickory Grove, about six miles away. The schoolhouse was built of logs, with one chair for the teacher. There were little benches placed around the stove for the smaller children; they had no desks. For the older children there were desks fashioned of boards or heavy slabs resting on wooden pegs driven into the walls. The pupils sat on benches arranged beside the desks; when writing or working problems in arithmetic the pupils faced the wall. There was no blackboard in the room.

"After I had taught three months the directors employed me for another month. They gave me fifty-six cents a day.

"At the close of the term I went to Salem, Ohio, to continue my studies with Professor Holbrook, who had left Marlborough to be superintendent of schools at Salem. In addition to the public school work, he was conducting a 'select school' which was devoted to the training of teachers. (Here it was that the idea of the school at Ada was born.

I remained at home that fall and worked as a hired hand. In September I took a day off, borrowed a horse, and went out in search of a school. I went to the directors of the district adjoining the one where I had taught the winter before. The first director I met was smiling. In a rather gruff manner he asked me my name. On learning it, he said, 'Are you the boy who taught in Dutch Flat last winter?' I replied in the affirmative. He stopped his walk and asked me if I had ever studied the Western Calculator. I replied in the negative. He said he had some sums he wanted me to work. I solved them mentally and gave him the answers. He was satisfied and said, 'As far as I am concerned you may have the school.' The directors engaged me for five months at eighteen dollars a month, twenty-four days a month. My salary was to board around with the scholars and to be my own junior. That winter of 1855-56 was one of the most pleasant terms I ever taught. What especially pleased me was that some of the boys from the school where I had taught the winter before—my first school—walked four or five miles to be under my instruction."
About the middle of March, 1857, his teaching term expired and he went at once to enter Mt. Union Seminary, now Mount Union College, in Alliance, Ohio. For the next three years he alternated between attending college and teaching, working on the farm in between. During his school year he carried college studies for examination, so that by spring 1861 he had completed the two year preparatory course at Mount Union and more than three years of the regular course.

In those days, those who earned their way through college by teaching district school in winter met almost insurmountable difficulties. The college curriculum was inflexible. The student either had to have enough money in hand to stay in college the entire year, or carry the regular work at home and take examination on re-enrollment. Even teaching at Golden Corners, Ohio, during 1858-59 he had been exceptionally successful, students living more than ten miles away having applied for admission. He was asked to start an academy, but being only twenty years old and not through college, he refused. But as time went on he thought of the possibility of an institution of learning that would admit its curriculum to the specific needs of such students as himself. Must it ever be that a student must accommodate himself to classes beyond his experience and progress? Why should not the school accommodate itself to the student rather than the student to the school? Would it be possible for a college to present the most important major subjects every term?

Henry Lehr's school work was interrupted by the attack on Fort Sumter in April, 1861, and the beginning of the Civil War. He at once enlisted, but was rejected. By the time he received notification that he was rejected the term at Mount Union was too far advanced for him to enter, so he went to Vassalboro Institute at Mayville, where he spent a most profitable term. A second time he tried to enlist, and was again rejected. A year or so later he made another attempt to enlist and was accepted. He was assigned to Company G of the 56th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but after four months on service was discharged for constitutional reasons. Then followed a winter of teaching, and again in the spring he went to Mount Union to continue his college work.

In August 1862 he again enlisted and was assigned to Company F in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the battle of Nashville he spent several months in the hospital and after his recuperation, was made chief nurse of Ward 2, Nashville Post Hospital. He continued in that capacity until his discharge from the army, May 20, 1865.

After the war was over Henry Lehr wanted to find a way to start a "select school" of the type he had dreamed about. He considered going to Missouri where he had an uncle (no indication who he was) who had promised to assist him in this project. He was ready to leave for Missouri when he received a letter from a doctor in Alliance, Ohio, asking him to read medicine with him. He accepted that position but after a few weeks left after a disagreement with the doctor over his falling so low as to get a broken leg of a boy or very poor family. He taught school that winter at Perryville, near Alliance, but the next spring was determined to start on his project.

With a letter from a soldier friend in Enfield, Ohio, he started west to find a community which would welcome him. That fall through and he went on further on the railroad - what is now the Pennsylvania Railroad main line (Penn Central) until he reached the small town of Johnstown.
Here is how he told of his arrival in Johnstown, later to
be renamed Ada, after Mr. Johnston's daughter:

"I arrived there at nine o'clock in the morning. On inquiry
I was given the name of the school directors. I called at the residence
of one of them and was informed that he was in Chicago on business
connected with his store mill and would not be home for two or three
days. I then went to the residence of Mr. S. W. Johnston, the president
of the Board of Education. It had been snowing and raining for several
days. There was only one street open to travel north and south, and it
was a mess of mud. The water was so deep in some places that I had to
climb along the wall fence."

"I found Mr. Johnston in his barns, and told him my purpose,
what I proposed to do, and what I felt could be done in time. I discussed
with him the fact that there were no seminaries, academies, normal schools,
or colleges in western Ohio - that the nearest college to the
northeast was Heidelberg College in Tiffin, the nearest Normal School
was at Lebanon in Warren County, that the nearest colleges to the
southeast were at Springfield and Delaware. I explained that after the
marshes in northeastern Ohio were drained, the people would become
wealthy and would want to educate their children; that Johnstown, located on the Pennsylvania railroad midway between the junctions
at Forest City and Mina, would be easily accessible from all directions
and would be a good place to establish a great school."

"Mr. Johnston said that they were looking for just such projects
to build up the town and suggested that I start the school at once.
I replied that I had not the money to do so, that it would take some
years to advertise and build up a clientele, and that there would need
to be much labor and sacrifice. I explained to him that my plan was
to teach in the public schools of some town until I was known as a
teacher; that during the period when the public school was not
in session, I would use the use of the school building for a
'select' or private tuition school to which non-resident students
would be invited. Later, when my reputation as a teacher was sufficiently
well-established, and the select school an assured success, I would
make the citizens to help me to put up a suitable building for a
Normal School."

"After discussion with the other members of the School Board
an agreement was reached. Though the building was in poor condition
but Mrs. Lehr was granted the use of it rent free for use in the winter
for the select school, providing he would repair it at his own expense.
School was to begin April 9, 1866."

The town of Johnstown was at that time full of lumber
in the forests of the region. The tracks of the railroad were lined
for miles with firewood for the engines, and about ten miles the
trains would stop to take on wood and water. The railroad had just come
through fourteen years before, and the town was a typical frontier town,
with two sawmills, a stove-mill and barrel factory, a grist mill, a
planning mill, a sawmill and an ashery. There were no sidewalks except
where occasional railroad sites were laid down for the purpose. Bills
were paid by trading walnut logs, staves, skins or other produce. Deer
were plentiful in the woods. Thousands of barrels were shipped out
for use by the oil industry; then just getting under way. (Drake's well
in Titusville, Pa., had started producing oil in 1859)
Mr. Lehr had to obtain a county certificate to teach, as there were no state certificates then. This he obtained at the county seat in Kenton. On Monday, April 9, 1866 Mr. Lehr went to the little frame schoolhouse to start his life's work in East Little town in northwestern Ohio. He found there three rods of different length. He was informed that the slips corresponded to the heights of the pupils. His first act was to carry out the plows.

There were about 127 students enrolled, with an average attendance of 87. To accommodate all the pupils there were recitations before school, at recess, at noon, and after school, and on into the night. The first quarter term lasted 16 weeks, and after a month's vacation the second term began.

At this point some personal notes about Henry Lehr are in order. He had had a religious awakening when he was sixteen and a student at Professor Holbrook's school. It was there he had heard Harrison Jones, a Disciple of Christ evangelist, and had been greatly impressed with the basic teaching that "where the scriptures speak, we speak; where the scriptures are silent, we are silent." He had been baptized by a minister of the Disciple Church at Jerzeeville, Ashland County, in February, 1856. The pond was frozen over and the ice had to be cut away. His parents, one a Lutheran and the other a German Reformed, disapproved of his being baptized by immersion, since he had been baptized in infancy by a Lutheran minister.

In Johnstown he taught a Sunday School class at the Baptist church at nine o'clock Sunday morning, another at the Presbyterian church at noon, and at the Methodist church at two o'clock in the afternoon. Later, in 1868 he found people in Johnstown and in the surrounding country who had at one time belonged to the Disciple Church, and he organized them into a church, in which for many years he was the guiding spirit.

While at Mount Union College he had met a girl in whom he had become interested, but nothing came of it. The year during the war, however, when he was teaching in earlysville, he fell in love with one of his pupils, and now that he had started out on his life's work he wanted a helper. So on October 30, 1866 he married this beautiful and charming young girl, then not yet sixteen. The story about the ancestor of Albina Johnson Hoover will be told in another journal, but this should be said here was from a family of Quakers. Her ancestor, John Sharples came over to Chester, Pennsylvania, in August, 1662, from Norwich, England, and was there in the year 1668. This was on her mother's side. The Hoover family records are not complete, but according to my mother, they were Pennsylvania Dutch.

When they arrived in Johnstown after their marriage, they had to leave at once for the county seat, Kenton, as Mr. Lehr was on the program at the Teacher's Institute. Their return trip of sixteen miles was in a pouring rain. The country roads were full of deep holes and they had to drive slowly, so they were thoroughly soaked long before the five hour drive was ended. They were staying that night at Mr. Johnson's farmhouse, which was located about a hundred yards from the road. As there was no place to tie the team, Mr. Lehr helped his little bride out of the buggy and went on to the livery barn, leaving Mr. Lehr to go on alone through the tall trees to find the path to the house she had seen for the first time that
morning, and that for only a few minutes. When she alarmed from the buggy she dropped into water a foot deep. Through this, aided by the light Mrs. Johnson had placed on the stand, she waded to the fence and then crept cautiously along the wet rail to the house. As a result of this exposure she took a deep cold, which developed into pneumonia and which left her in frail health the rest of her life.

In April 1867 they moved into a house of their own, but it was not until 1875 that they moved into the little house at 310 S. Main Street where they lived for thirteen years, and where my sister now lives. At their first meal together in their home, after being married for just five months, they had three prospective students from the town who had come to make arrangements to attend the select school. That first meal, with student guests, was a forecast of one type or service which Mr. Lehr was to render to her husband in the building up of his life's work in the school. For days on end, the doors of the Lehr home swung open night and day. The home was hotel, reception room, hospital, dietician's kitchen, banquet hall. Quietly, kindly, gently this frail woman attended to her duties with a carelessness and dispatch that kept even pace with the growth of her husband's work.

Mr. Lehr started his select school that year on November 12. The tuition was six dollars a term and the enrollment fifty-six. It closed on March first, and on the following Monday the regular term of the public school began and was in session for six months. The second term of the select school opened on August 12 and continued till October 18. The enrollment was thirty-eight, most of the students being country-school teachers who then left for their own schools, their winter terms opening about that time. Mr. Lehr received the tuition payments for those attending his select school, in addition to his salary for teaching the public school, which in 1869 was eighty dollars a month, but any students from outside the district who attended the public school sessions paid their tuition to the town.

In considering the founding of the Northwestern Ohio Normal School in 1871, which later became Ohio Northern University, it would be well to remember that it had been only thirty-two years since Amasa nan had started the first Normal School for the training of teachers, in Lexington, Massachusetts. In the Northwest Territory, opened up after the passage of the Ordinance of 1787, educational opportunities were sharply limited. There were colleges, but their curricula were not oriented to the training of the teachers needed to be needed for the teaching of children in local communities. Public school education partook both of the frontier conditions of the region and of that other frontier in education which was just being explored then by the great educators of the nineteenth century.

A college education was beyond the financial means of most of the teachers in the small towns in northeastern Ohio in the post-Civil War years, as this area was beginning to develop and settlement was on the increase. The lack of training for these towns and growing cities was largely to the private academies and the public Normal Schools, such as Mr. Lehr was starting in Johnstown, now changed to Ada.
By 1869 Mr. Lehr's reputation had spread beyond the little village. The public school had one hundred and twenty students from outside the Ada area, and Mr. Lehr was offering other positions in other places—in Sedalia, Missouri where former students were urging him to come; in Neihart, Montana, and Findlay. Mrs. Lehr was strongly opposed to his going so far out to Missouri, and finally he decided to stay in Ada, provided the town would agree to put up a new school building which could be used for his normal school.

On his return from a trip to Findlay, on which he considered going there, the townpeople of Ada met with him and agreed to raise the money to put up a building for the school. The building was to be superintended, controlled and owned by Mr. Lehr. It was to be free of all sectarian and political bias; the citizens of Ada were to raise $3,000 towards the building, which was to be refunded to them without interest starting in five years, except that subscriptions of twenty dollars or less were to be considered contributions. The stockholders were to have one vote for each twenty dollars subscribed, and they were to elect trustees who would select a site. The site finally selected, on Main Street, was not Mr. Lehr's choice. He wanted five acres of land to the east of Ada, on higher ground, free from the bogginess of most of the town.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lehr in addition to his teaching and other duties, was finishing his college work, preparatory to taking examinations in order to receive his Bachelor's degree. He should have graduated with his class in 1864, but the war had interrupted. He was permitted to do his studying at home and to take examinations, and thus he was able to graduate with the class of 1867.

Construction of the building got under way, and Mr. Lehr prepared his first catalog for the year 1870-71. The school term was scheduled to accommodate the teachers of the nearby communities. The fall term from August 14 to November 17 was designed especially to suit the country school teachers who would need to prepare for the winter school term. It may be noted that few district school teachers of that period in that area had more than an elementary school education, and many were poorly equipped to teach even in the common subjects. The winter term was intended to appeal to sons and daughters of farmers. The spring term was intended to attract those who would teach in summer schools in the country. Then there was the "summer school" from June 15 to July 27 for more advanced students. And it was hoped that some students would remain throughout the entire year.

The first term of the Normal School began on August 14, 1871. The building was not yet completed and teaching was commenced in the Methodist Church and other buildings around town. It started with an enrollment of 147. Classes started at five in the morning and continued until eight at night. The teaching force consisted of six, one of whom was Theodore Fresner, who later became a leading figure in American music, the editor of "Etude" magazine. It might be noted that the catalog carried the statement, "No regular classes formed for less than three members, unless under peculiar circumstances." The circumstances were, however, often peculiar, and classes were formed often for two or even only one student.
During this period the school was the property of H.S. Lehr & Co., the subscribers being the owners. Mr. Lehr had had to sell a considerable part of his interest to meet a debt incurred when he signed a note for a friend, in addition to mortgaging his home. It was a long time before he was able to liquidate this interest and the company was dissolved and the owners were thereafter named "The Faculty." They were not the teachers, however, who were always referred to as "Professors."

Any story of Henry Lehr's work as an educator would be incomplete without reference to the literary societies, which comprised one of the most important aspects of the student life at the school.

When he first came to Ada he determined to make as part of his educational program the training of his students in expressing their ideas in public. He had formed the Ciceroian Literary Society which excited great interest in the community and the surrounding area. Now with the Normal School in being he discontinued that society and formed two new societies: the Franklin Society and the Philomathean Society. These would provide opportunities for literary expression and friendly competition they would form the basis of an important element of school life. Students were assigned to them alternately alphabetically. This system was later changed, and members competed for new members such as fraternities and sororities compete today for pledges.

These societies provided the social activities of the school, as well as fulfilling their major purpose. The programs included pantomimes, dramas, debates, orations, essays, recitations and music in choirs, quartets and solos. The value of these literary societies to those young men and women from the area of those days cannot be overemphasized. Here was a chance for uncommon individuals with no prior exposure to culture now being given a chance to learn and to experience some of the things of life which had been totally foreign to their prior lives.

By the time the first class of eleven students graduated in the spring of 1907, enthusiasm in the literary societies had reached a peak. Every student in the school was an active and enthusiastic member of one society or the other. The zeal of each member for the welfare and growth of his society was so intense that the members took on inducing prospective students to come to Ada to school so as to be a member of their society. It was comparable to getting candidates for athletic teams today. Each society had its own library consisting of several thousand volumes.

Many years later a former student wrote Mr. Lehr:

"This is the first time I have made a state-wide campaign. Not only did I find Ada boys and girls located in every part of the State, but they are leaders in their communities. The wider my observation the more I am impressed with the remarkable influence of the group of men and women taught under your direction. I know no way to term the power exerted by them. It is an abiding wonder that one man could organize such a mental and moral force as you established in the school you established. The wonderful training of the Literary Societies which enabled one to think on his feet was one of the finest things a student could have had. That explains why so many men and women from Ada are in public life today."
In the catalog for 1876 there were listed ten reasons why prospective students should attend the Northwestern Ohio Normal School. Prominent among them was that every person could pursue any study at any time. This had been the idea of Mr. Lehre back in his college days - a school where a student could enter at any time during the year and find classes to suit the state of advancement. Country school teachers could enter in the fall for advanced work. In the spring after their schools closed they could return and take up their work where they had left off in the autumn. The farmer's sons and daughters who had to help at home during planting and harvesting time could find from one winter to another just the schedule of classes they needed. In the summer school or "Summer Term" there were classes for advanced students and for beginners, for any who came.

The enrollment of 1877 had become so large that it was impossible for growth to continue without additional facilities. The Normal building which had been built to accommodate about four hundred students was filled to overflowing. Other towns offered to construct facilities if Mr. Lehre would move the school to their town. In the face of this possibility a plan was drawn up to find the construction of the new building.

The plan involved the following: The school would need to the town part of their land on which the building was to be constructed. The town would then agree to put up $16,000 to build the new building, under an agreement by which the school would agree that for thirty years the school would teach free of tuition the students of the Ada school district who were qualified for admission. To make this agreement possible, an act of the legislature was required, which was obtained. Construction of the building then got under way and was completed in 1878. The literary societies occupied the third floor of the new building, per agreement with the town.

Ohio Normal University

In 1865 the name of the school was changed to Ohio Normal University, since students were now coming from all parts of the state, and even beyond the borders of the state. In the preceding year they had enrolled students from twenty-one states and two foreign countries. It was a university now, with what amounted to ten colleges - besides the literary, Commercial, Engineering, Music, Fine Arts, Telegraphic, Steeplechase, Law, Military, and Pharmacetical. The latter school was established in anticipation of legislation that would require all pharmacists to be examined by a state board. In 1874 a new building was constructed for the sole use of this new school.

The school was reincorporated in that year as an institution not for profit. This was necessary to confer degrees. But now no one of the owners could sell his property. There were five incorporators, of which Henry Lehre was one. Each owned one eighth at the time of incorporation. They then became the trustees.

The school grew. The advertisement used in 1891 gives a capsule picture of the school at its peak.
"OHI0 NORMAL UNIVERSITY"

"Do you want an education - Chemical, Scientific, Business, Stenographic, Legal, Military, Pharmaceutical, Musical, or Fine Arts? Do you want to be a teacher or an engineer, civil or electrical? Do you want to educate your children?"

"If so need for the catalogue of the Ohio Normal University, Ada, Ohio, one of the largest and best schools in the country. Last annual enrollment 3,945; 36 states represented; also several foreign countries. Advantages unexcelled, expenses low.

"Will furnish room, good board in private families, and tuition 10 weeks $75.00. Has University power and confers all degrees. Teachers thorough and experienced. Students can enter at any time to advantage. Classes in every grade including advanced classes in Mathematics, the Sciences, Latin, Greek, German and French are maintained every term. If things are not found as represented will pay travelling expenses. Send for catalogue.

H. S. LEHR, President, Ada, Ohio.

In 1892 the school entered exhibits at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in English and Mathematics. The Ohio Normal University received a blue ribbon and a medal for the exhibit prepared by students in mathematics. A facsimile of the official blue ribbon was used on the front of the catalogue that year and for a number of years following.

As a result of this publicity and the reputation of the school attendance was greatly increased, especially in the Department of Engineering.

In 1898 the Lehr built a new home on the corner of Gilbert and King Streets in Ada, one in which they could provide the hospitality which the growing school required. It was a large house, the first in Ada with a furnace and running water and one of the first to be lighted by electric lights. On February 11, 1899 the mayor of Ada presented the Lehr family with a twelve piece set of Haviland china in the Harvest pattern, a silver tea set and the walnut roll top desk which still remains in the family. There was a buffet supper given by the Lehr family. In preparing for it, 40 chickens were used and 24 white cakes were baked. Chocolate candy which came in large wooden buckets was served during the evening.

On Founder's Day, 1897 - just 31 years after Mr. Lehr had come to Ada unknown, a special convocation was held. Hundreds of former students came back to greet the hand of the man whose ingenuity and perseverance had made it possible for them to secure an education, to enter a profession, and to achieve success. There were short addresses by the presidents of neighboring colleges and by other distinguished men and women who had come to do honor to the president of this unique institution.
Dr. Sylvester R. Scootz, President of the College of Wooster, said: "This occasion is a colonial compliment to President Lehr who was neither born great nor did he have greatness thrust upon him; but, far better, he acquired greatness. Napoleon said a great man is he who is able to do great things. We have in President Lehr that American pluck which makes him succeed whether others wish it or not."

Pouting in his address he announced that the College of Wooster at its last commencement had conferred upon President Lehr the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, with the understanding that it was not to be made public until this occasion. The audience went wild with enthusiasm.

By the 1890's many changes were occurring in the field of education. State supported normal schools were coming into being; laws were being passed with respect to education; standards were changing, and it was clear that the days of the private normal schools were numbered. Ohio Normal University needed new buildings, expanded facilities, an endowment. None of these things were possible with the school under private ownership. It was only a matter of time until some new structure came into being if the school was to continue.

A proposal to appoint trustees from the state, which would permit the school to become a state normal school encouraged, and Bowling Green University was set up a short distance away to fulfill that need.

Finally in 1898 negotiations were entered into with the Central Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church to purchase the school, and the transfer in ownership was made in 1900. With the Conference the center of Methodism in the United States at the time, and with a large number of the children of Methodist church members attending Ohio Normal University rather than the Methodist colleges of the state, it was a natural move to take over this university. Mr. Lehr had hoped to continue as president, feeling that he would have a great deal to offer for years to come, both because of his reputation and because of record of outstanding success as a university administrator. But it was not to be. He was confronted with the necessity of either becoming a Methodist or giving up hopes of continuing as president. Mr. Lehr continued an vice-president, but after two years, the problem of working with the new president, who was not an educator, proved beyond solution. He resigned and thus severed all connections with the institution which he had founded and led so well for over a quarter of a century. In the process of change, the name of the school was changed to Ohio Northern University, which it continues up to the present time.
Sarah, Harriet, and Albina Lehr
In 1918 construction of a new building was begun on the campus as a replacement for the old Normal building, to be erected as a memorial to Dr. Lehr. A feature of this new building was a large auditorium in which a number of stained glass windows were placed. One of them, dedicated to Dr. Lehr and given by the J. W. Halfhill family carries this inscription:

In Honor of the Founder, Dr. Henry B. Lehr
Patriot, Soldier, Renowned Educator and Distinguished Citizen
His Work was the Enrichment of Many Lives
His Fame is with the Ages
It would be futile to attempt to list the many illustrious men
and women who went from Henry S. Lehr’s school to make a name for
themselves and to make significant contributions in the fields of
politics, business and education. Four graduates went to be United
States Senators: Frank S. Willis, Elmore D. Fess, Arthur R. Robinson,
and John H. Pottenger. There were Congressmen, justices of the Ohio
Supreme Court, leaders in industry, to say nothing of the many teachers
who carried with them Henry Lehr’s vision and example of what it meant
to serve one’s fellow men and women.

One example may serve to indicate what the opportunity to
attend this unique school meant to so many. In 1879 George F. Getty
graduated from Northwestern Ohio Normal School. It was here he met
his future wife, Sarah Catherine Bisher, whom he married after gradu-
ation. Mother knew them both very well. George Franklin Getty’s
father died when he was six and the family was impoverished. An
uncle brought him to Ohlawa when he was twelve years old to get an
education. After some limited schooling he came to Northwestern Ohio
Normal School at Ada where he worked his way through, by teaching in
local schools in the winter so that he could attend the Normal School
for the rest of the year.

When he came to Ada as a penniless farm boy, Mr. Lehr found
a room for him where he could board himself, let his own firewood for
his stove on the Lehr farm woods, and helped him through school
with encouragement and inspiration. His son, J. Paul Getty made
numerous contributions to Ohio Northern University in the years before
his death, and the College of Liberal Arts has been named after
George Franklin and Sarah Catherine Getty.

In his Founder’s Day address in 1977, Dr. Samuel R. Meyer,
the retiring president of Ohio Northern University included these
comments:

“Although I am six months in the succession since his presidency,
I cannot truly imagine, nor fully understand, the compulsion of
competence nor the scope of imagination that drove this predecessor of
cours to such an Herculean task in this pioneer settlement. It must have
been akin to the vision of those other pioneers who gathered in wagon
trains heading west — to the builders of the continent-spanning railroads
— to the earliest aviators — and to the astronauts — a vision of that
which was new — and better, and a step beyond that which had ever
been done before.

“Such was the vision of Dr. Henry Solomon Lehr — and much is
our inheritance on this day set aside to do him honor — each of us —
by our own determination and, yes, by our own dedication, will be our
own personal tribute to the man who first opened the door of higher
educational opportunity in the village of Ada, on Hardin County,
in Ohio.”
Six children were born into this family, two girls and two sets of twin boys. Both sets of twins died in infancy.

- Harriet May Lehr: born August 20, 1872; died August 16, 1961
- Sarah Benora Lehr: born November 19, 1874; died June 24, 1970
- Willie M.: born May 30, 1877; died February 24, 1878
- Eddie H.: born May 30, 1877; died August 5, 1877
- Harry and Harvey: born November 7, 1881; died November 7, 1881

The driving energy of Henry Lehr and the demands placed upon him by the need to meet the goals he had set for his school laid a heavy burden upon his family. Their contribution to his success is beyond any reckoning.

While the girls were still students in their father's Normal School, they were called to work in their father's office, serving in many clerical and secretarial capacities. This required them to be at the school office with their father at seven in the morning, and the days were long.

After graduating in 1893, Sarah taught English Composition and Greek, while continuing to work in the school office. My sister Mary tells this about our mother:

"After retiring at midnight or later, mother would be up at five, and on the wood stove bake the pie or cake for the day - the hired girl wouldn't and grandmother and Aunt Harriet couldn't, so mother did it. She packed the hired man's lunch, ate breakfast and then left to be at the office at seven and then to teach her classes."

"On Sundays she was superintendent of the Primary and Junior Departments at Sunday School in which there were ninety children. In the afternoons she taught a large Bible Class at Chapel Hall. There was never any chance to rest."

"When grandfather had students with speech problems or learning problems, he turned them over to mother. Once she had thirteen at one time - all with different problems, and she got them all straightened out without any previous special training of her own. At times she also taught Latin and public speaking, besides Greek."

The pressure of work of this kind upon all three of the women in the family eventually took its toll. After seven years of working in the office, in addition to their other responsibilities of entertaining and for Sarah, teaching, both Harriet and Sarah were in serious physical condition. Harriet had suffered a spinal injury when a horse ran away she had fallen out of a buggy. Sarah suffered a back injury when serving as a pallbearer at a friend's funeral, carrying the casket down steps.
Grandmother Lehr had never been strong. An operation on Mrs. Lehr was not successful, and her life was despaired of.

It was at that time that Sarah underwent a remarkable spiritual experience, and in answer to prayer, all three of them were soon on the road to a complete recovery. It is to be remembered that medical science and surgery were far different in the 1890's from what they are today. Lister had discovered antisepsis only thirty years before, and Koch, the tubercle bacillus only thirteen years before. Pasteur's work on rabies had been done only in the previous decade.

In response to this miraculous change in her life and that of her sister and mother, Sarah Lehr committed her life to Christian work, and in 1900 married Edward Ridgwell Kennedy, a graduate of the College of Wooster and the Midwestern Theological Seminary, and a former Presbyterian missionary. In 1901 they went to China as missionaries, taking with them their infant son, Edward Lehr Kennedy, and in Shanghai, their two children, Mary Gertrude and Stephen John, were born. A fourth child, Theodore Daniel, died in infancy of whooping cough.

Shortly after her father left the school, Harriet Lehr contracted an illness which was prolonged and left her an invalid for many years. Later she recovered and lived a useful life in Ads until her death in 1961.

Sarah Lehr Kennedy lived to be 95 years of age, passing on to the greater life on June 24, 1970.
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DEAR SIR,

YOUR LETTER NOV. 9TH, WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTS OF YOUR ANCESTORS ATTACHED HAS FINALLY REACHED ME.

THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF BREIBACH BELONGED TO THE COMMUNITY OF ALMERSBACH. 1 HOUR DISTANT FROM THE DISTRICT TOWN OF ALTENKRICHERN IN RESTERMALD (DISTRICT OF COBLENZ-RHEINELAND) BREIBACH IS SITUATED NEAR THE BORDERLINE OF THE TERRITORY THAT WAS OCCUPIED BY THE AMERICAN TROOPS AFTER THE WORLD WAR, HOWEVER, IT WAS NEVER OCCUPIED ITSELF.

I HAVE INVESTIGATED THE RESPECTIVE CHURCH RECORDS AND FOUND THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES.

THE WEDDING OF PHILIPP LOEHR AND ANNA CHRISTINA HUBHAEUSER TOOK PLACE ON JAN. 12, 1946 - ALSO RECORDED ARE THE BIRTH-DATES AND CHRISTENING DATES OF 4 CHILDREN OF ABOVE COUPLE.

FURTHERMORE, I HAVE TRIED TO TRACE THE BIRTH DATE OF PHILIPP LOEHR BUT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND ANYTHING DEFINITE IN THESE OLD CHURCH RECORDS, 200 YEARS OLD. I COULD SEND YOU CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE RECORDS OF THE WEDDING, THE BIRTHS AND BAPTISMS, BASED ON THE ENTRIES OF THE CHURCH RECORDS. THE NAME OF LOEHR APPEARS QUITE OFTEN IN THIS DISTRICT, IN ALMOST EVERY VILLAGE OF THE DISTRICT OF ALTENKRICHERN THERE ARE LOEHR'S. HOWEVER, I DO NOT THINK IT POSSIBLE TO FIND OUT IF THEY ARE RELATED TO THE PHILIPP LOEHR WHO EMIGRATED. I HAVE ALREADY ASKED ABOUT IT BUT COULDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING BECAUSE IT IS SO LONG AGO.

FEES AND EXPENSES FOR SUCH DOCUMENTS WOULD AMOUNT TO 6 - 7 MARKS WHICH, PLEASE, SEND TO MY POSTAL ACCOUNT # 4020 POSTSCHWEKAMP KOLN-FOR PFAFF (PASTOR) SCHACHT, ALMERSBACH UBER ALTENKRICHERN - RESTERMALD - ANY GERMEN BANK COULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

IN CONCLUSION MAY I ASK OF YOU A FAVOR. I AM A COLLECTOR OF STAMPS AND SHOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ENCLOSED IN YOUR REPLY SOME CANCELLED AMERICAN STAMPS FOR WHICH I SHOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL.

ALWAYS WITH PLEASURE AT YOUR SERVICE, AND WITH WARMEST REGARDS FROM THE HOMELAND OF YOUR ANCESTORS I BEG TO REMAIN YOURS.

H. SCHACHT, PFAFFER

P. S. PLEASE, SEND A GERMAN TRANSLATION OF YOUR ENGLISH ANSWER.
ALMERSBACH NEAR ALTENKIRCHEN (WESTERWALD)
RHEILAND, MARCH 6, 1939

DEAR MR. KENNEDY,

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER FEBRUARY 23RD, WITH ENCLOSED LETTER AND RECEIPT TO THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT AS WELL AS FOR THE STAMPS WHICH HIGHLY DELIGHTED MY HEART OF A PHILATELIST, ESPECIALLY THE AIRMAIL STAMPS, EIGHT OF WHICH I DID NOT HAVE AS YET.

I TRIED TO CASH THE DEBENTURE, SENT ME AT THE BANK AT ALTENKIRCHEN BUT WAS TOLD THAT THOSE OF 1932 WOULD NOT BE REDEEMED ANY LONGER, ALSO THE GERMAN CENTRAL BANK (REICHSBANK) REFUSED ACCEPTANCE OR REDEMPTION OF SAME, AND I SHOULD ASK THE SENDER TO LET ME HAVE OTHER LEGAL TENDER.

THEREFORE I AM EXTREMELY SORRY THAT I HAVE TO RETURN THOSE DEBENTURES BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS TO ME. I AM SURE YOU WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING OUT WHAT KIND OF MONEY CAN BE USED WITH GERMANY, WHICH I WOULD GLADLY ACCEPT. ISN'T IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAKE PAYMENT THROUGH A GERMANY BANK FOR TRANSFER TO MY POSTAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT - POSTSCHEINHABEN KOELN ACCOUNT 4 2405 - FOR PFAFFER SCHACHT, ALMERSBACH UEBER ALTENKIRCHEN, WESTERWALD.

BY THIS SAME MAIL I AM SENDING YOU A PICTURE CARD OF THE OLD COUNTRY. THE CHURCH VISIBLE AT THE HILLTOP IS THE CHURCH OF ALMERSBACH, TO WHICH ALSO YOUR ANCESTORS OF BREIBACH BELONGED.

FURTHER PICTURES AND A LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND DATES OF BAPTISM OF THE CHILDREN OF PHILIPP LOEHR WILL ARRIVE RE SENT LATER.

IN BREIBACH ITSELF THERE IS NO FAMILY BY THE NAME OF LOEHR ANY MORE. IT IS ALSO UNKNOWN IN WHICH HOUSE PHILIPP LOEHR USED TO LIVE. IT IS TOO LONG AGO TO STATE ANYTHING WITH CERTAINTY.

I SHALL GO OVER THE CHURCH RECORDS ONCE MORE AND SEE IF I CAN FIND ANYTHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOUR ANCESTORS. I WILL ALSO GET IN TOUCH WITH FAMILIES BY THE NAME OF LOEHR IN THE NEARBY COMMUNITIES AND SEE IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING. AS MATTERS STAND IT SEEMS AS IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE FAMILY BY THE NAME OF LOEHR THAT EMIGRATED FROM HERE, AT THAT TIME, INASMUCH AS LIVING CONDITIONS WERE EXTREMELY POOR IN THE WESTERWALD IN THOSE DAYS, AND HARDLY ANYBODY HAD THE NECESSARY MEANS FOR THE PASSAGE.

ALWAYS WITH PLEASURE AT YOUR SERVICE, AND WITH KINDEST REGARDS I REMAIN,

SINCERELY YOURS,

W. SCHACHT, PASTOR.
ALMERSBACH BEI ALTENKIRCHEN, JULY 9, 1937.

DEAR MR. KENNEDY,

I REG TO THANK YOU FOR CHECK # 9,94 WHICH YOU SENT ME SOME TIME AGO.

I HERewith enclose a list of the children of PHILIPP LOEHR and wife, regarding relatives of PHILIPP LOEHR in those days I can only mention 2 children of JOHANN PETER LOEHR and wife. IT is not quite certain if they are brothers or sisters PHILIPP LOEHR, but I assume they are. I have thoroughly investigated all records of births, marriages, and deaths but could not find anything referring to it. Our church records start only with the year 1700, and therefore nothing certain can be established regarding the ancestors of PHILIPP LOEHR. The entries also are incomplete, even the first names of the children are not mentioned, and it is obvious that nothing can be traced when those names are missing.

I have also tried to trace the relatives of PHILIPP LOEHR, but have not been able to find anything. It is too long ago.

ON MAKING GOOD MY PROMISE I AM ENCLOSING SNAPSHOTS OF ALTENKIRCHEN, ALSO SNAPSHOTS WHICH MY WIFE HAS TAKEN OF ALMERSBACH AND BREMBACH. YOU WILL SEE FROM SOME THAT EVERYTHING IS SMALL OVER HERE. BREMBACH, ONE HOUR DISTANT FROM HERE, CONSISTS OF ONLY ABOUT 20 HOUSES SCATTERED AROUND IN FORM OF SMALL FARMS; THE HOUSES SURROUNDED BY GARDENS.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULLFILL ALL YOUR WISHES, I AM GLAD THAT I COULD CONTRIBUTE IN A SMALL WAY TO GIVE YOU IDEAS OF THAT PART OF THE OLD COUNTRY FROM WHICH YOUR ANCESTORS CAME.

WITH KINDEREST REGARDS I REG TO REMAIN

SINCERELY YOURS,

H. SCHACHT, PFAFFER.
BASED ON THE CHURCH RECORDS OF ALMERSBACH IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED

THIS 12TH. DAY OF JANUARY 1741 WERE MARRIED ( GEBRÜGT ) AT ALMERSBACH PHILIPP LOEHR, SON OF LATE JOHANN FETER LOEHR OF IRNHAUSEN ( CHURCH CONGREGATION OF ALMERSBACH ) AND ANNA CHRISTINA HUNDHAUER OF DREI BACH, DAUGHTER OF LATE FETER HUNDHAUER OF DREIBACH. THE BRIDEGROOM IS OF EVANG. - REFORMED CHURCH, THE BRIDE EVANGELICAL - LUTHERAN FAITH.

THESE ARE THE CHILDREN OF PHILIPP LOEHR AND ANNA CHRISTINA HUNDHAUER LOEHR, NEE HUNDHAUER

1) EVA CATHARINA LOEHR, BORN NOV., 14TH. 1741 AT DREIBACH, AND CHRISTENED NOVEMBER 19TH. AT DREIBACH IN THE EVANG. REF. FAITH.

2) JOHANN FETER LOEHR, BORN JUNE 20TH. 1743 AT DREIBACH, CHRISTENED JUNE 20TH. 1743 IN THE EVANG. REF. FAITH

3) A SON - NAME NOT RECORDED - BORN SEPT. 15TH. 1745 AT DREIBACH, CHRISTENED SEPT. 19TH. 1745 EV. - REF.

4) ANNA MARGARETHA LOEHR, BORN FEBR. 12TH. 1748 AT DREIBACH, CHRISTENED FEBR. 14TH. 1748 EVANG. - REF.

THESE ARE THE CHILDREN OF JOHANN FETER LOEHR AND MARIA KATHARINA AT IRNHAUSEN ( CONGREGATION OF ALMERSBACH

1) A SON - NAME NOT RECORDED - BORN MARCH 21ST. 1725 AT IRNHAUSEN, CHRISTENED MARCH 25TH. 1725 EV. - REF.

2) A DAUGHTER - NAME NOT RECORDED - BORN JUNE 9TH. 1731 AT IRNHAUSEN, CHRISTENED JUNE 17TH. 1731 EV. - REF.

CORRECTNESS OF FOREGOING EXTRACTS FROM CHURCH RECORDS IS HEREBY CERTIFIED

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION OF ALMERSBACH, JULY 9TH. 1937

H. SCHACHT, FFAHRE
Mr. Stephen Jay Kennedy,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter, I have examined the Allentown Reformed church records and George Lehr's birth is not contained in them, nor is Ulrich Lehr mentioned. This would seem to be the nearest church to where the Lehrs resided.

From the records of the Lehigh church, Philip Lehr had a son John Hubert, baptized in 1754 and daughters Maria Magdalena, born May 4, 1757 and Kne, born Aug. 30, 1759. Also we find John Hubert Lehr married March 10, 1756, Anna Schubman. This must be the one who accompanied Philip to America. I think John and Peter Lehr were also sons of Philip. Philip Lehr's wife was named Anna Christina.

I have not as yet located the German towns. I am awaiting a list of extracts from old German newspapers containing abstracts from advertisements, giving information where first settlers came from. It should come any day now and may contain information on these towns.

The name of John Ulrich Sanderger of Sandericker is familiar to me. The name of his wife was Anna Cleopha. They stood as sponsors to children, but I have not found any child of theirs. I have not found their maiden name nor can I say how Sanderger and Lehr were brothers in law. I have not found any record of George Lehr's marriage nor any of his children. Did they live right in Allentown?

This is about all I can find from records at hand. It is very probable that with a little research, costing about five dollars, I could find more. Let me know and I shall be glad to do what I can. My maternal grandmother was a Neshard and her sister married a Lehr. Their son, Col. S.B. Lehr, a civil war veteran and mayor of Allentown, and civil engineer, was my mother's first cousin.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
520 N. Sixth St.
Allentown, Pa., Sept. 30, 1905

Mr. Stephen J. Kennedy,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am sending you what I have found on the Lehr family by a further research, which is more than I expected to find. This is undoubtedly your ancestor, Hubertus Lehr whose name was at times written Hubrich, similar to Ulrich. The records state that his son George was born July 2, 1794, while your letter states 1795. There would seem to be no doubt that this is the right man as Mountainville is in Salisbury Township.

It is fortunate that we are able to find so many dates. I have not as yet been able to find a clue as to where the Lehrs came from in Europe. My charge for the research is $1.50, as I found so much and it took more time, which I trust you will find satisfactory and a reasonable charge.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Philip Lebr was born February 12, 1711 and died November 10, 1782, in Salisbury Township, Northampton County, Pa. He was buried by the Reformed pastor of Zion Church, Allentown, Rev. Abraham Blumer, who wrote in his private record: "Buried Nov. 12, 1782, Philip Lebr, aged 71 years, 8 months and 26 days." His wife was named Ann Christian, when he married, it is estimated, about 1740. No record has been found of her death or age. The family lived in Bucks County before removing to Northampton County, and a son, John Hubert, was baptized July 7, 1734 at Telforten Church, in Bucks County.

His sponsors were John Hubert Lebr and Amalia, wife of Arnold Schuman.

Hubertus Lebr, as we find his name written most frequently, but at times spelled Hubrich, was a weaver by occupation, as were many of the Lehrs, and lived in Salisbury Township, Northampton County, where he was taxed as a weaver, owning one cow, but no land, in 1755, 1766 and 1768. Ulrich Sonderecker was also taxed there on 25 acres of land. On September 19, 1778, Hubertus Lebr married Anna Barbara Seebel, widow of John Nicholas Seebel. She was born April 27, 1756 and died June 13, 1829. He died December 6, 1825. These dates are from old German newspapers. The account of his death states he died "in a nice age." From the records of Zion Reformed Church, Allentown, we find that Hubertus and Anna Barbara Lebr had children:

John, born July 18, 1779. Sponsors, George Dayly and Eva Lebr
Mary Catharine, born Feb. 5, 1781. Sponsors, Maria Magdalena Lebr
Anna Barbara, born April 30, 1784. Sponsors, Ulrich and Anna Catharine Sonderegger
Magdalena, born Nov. 3, 1789. Sponsors, Peter and Christina Lebr

Hubertus Lebr was a drummer in Capt. Felix God's company of the Fourth Battalion of Northampton County, Pa., Militia on April 29, 1782 and his name, written Hubrich Lebr, appears in a petition of soldiers to the Supreme Executive Council, no date, probably 1777. Frantz Roth signed this petition, who was the Captain who signed his furlough in 1779. See Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Volume 8, Pages 338 and 94 for these references.

John Lebr, the oldest son, died Sept. 24, 1799, aged 14 years, 2 months and 6 days, buried by Rev. Blumer, who received one dollar for his services.
George Lehr's name appears as a private in Capt. Abraham Hengel's company of riflemen of the First Brigade, Second Division of Penna. Militia, Sept. 29, 1814 to Oct. 31, 1814. Penna Archives, Sixth Series, Volume 8, Page 710.

In the Census of 1790 in Salisbury Township is Heuprich Lars, with two males over 16, one male under 16 and 7 females.

In John Rhoads' ledgers of a store in Allentown, from 1774 to 1814, my great-great-grandfather, Ledger B, account No. 135, is Peter Lehr, from 1776 to 1784, and on June 16, 1799, is entered, "3 l. 4. 30, paid by his brother John."

Hubertus Lehr purchased goods there from 1778 to 1812 and in Ledger C, Page 15, is the entry, "Jan. 6, 1809, by weaving 20 yards carpeting, one pound," and on Feb. 12, 1812, "by weaving 11 yards carpeting, 11 shillings and 6 pence."

On Jan. 6, 1809, 6 shillings and one penny, from Ulrich Sundericker's account was transferred to Hubertus Lehr's account, from which it would appear that Sundericker died about that time and indicating relationship.
My dear Stephen,

Referring to my letter of the 22nd of September, I am glad to enclose the correspondence with regard to the investigation concerning your ancestors. As you will note from the last letter (V), it cannot be found that Hans Sonderregger was baptized in 1781. Undoubtedly you are reading and understanding German, so that I can limit myself to very brief remarks with regard to the above-mentioned correspondence:

Letter I: My letter to the Civil Office at Balgach and their reply of 9/22/36, mentioning that their records only date back until 1867 and that I should refer the matter to the Bureau of Archives at St. Gall.

Letter II: A letter of the Bureau of archives telling that they have no documents of the town of Balgach, but that the old convent at St. Gall might have some.

Postcard III: A postcard of the above Bureau referring me to Mr. Gesch, an expert on the history of Balgach.

Letter IV: My letter to Mr. Gesch, as well as his answer that the documents in question are held in the ministry's office at Balgach.

Letter V: A letter from the minister at Balgach. He is glad to let you look at the documents, provided you let him know beforehand. He has gone into the records and cannot find that Hans Sonderregger was baptized in 1721.

I doubt that I could do much else for you under the circumstances, unless I am going to Balgach myself and look over all of the old records. Perhaps you prefer to do that yourself on a vacation trip to Switzerland, you can buy more Swiss francs now, than you could a week ago with your dollars.

Sincerely yours,
Herrn, Sie haben mich auf Ihre Anfrage hin zum Bescheid zur Glückwünschen.


Selgach, 23.9.36
Hochachtungsvoll

Dr. R. Wissmann
Meilen, Kanton Zürich
10. September 1926

Tit. Zivilstandsamt

Selgach, Kt. St. Gallen

Herrn Rudolf Wissmann, Meilen.

Geehrtester Herr!


Hochachtungsvollst! Der Staats-Archivar:

[Signature]

Herrn Rudolf Wissmann, Bahnhofplatz, Meilen

Geehrtester Herr!

Im Nachgange zu unserem heutigen Schreiben empfehlen wir Ihnen, sich zu wenden an:

Herrn Gemeinderat Gesch, Direktor der Niegeleien, Sonnenheldenstr. 11, St. Gallen.

Dieser Herr ist der gründlichste und zuverlässige Kenner der Orts- und Personen-Beschichte seiner Heimatgemeinde Balgach.

Hochachtungsvollst! Der Stgall. Staats-Archivar:

[Signature]
Meilen, den 25. September 1936

Sehr geehrter Herr Gemeinderat!


Mit vorauszehrender Hochachtung,

[Unterschrift]

Büchel, 25. September 1936
EVANGEL PFARRAMT
BALGACH

Herrn Rudolf Wimmer, Bahnhofplatz, Keilen.

Sehr geehrter Herr!


Hochachtung.

[Unterschrift]

[Signature]
my dear Stephen,

I have received a letter from Balgach which contains a request to transmit to you:

"The photo of the baptism for Hans Ulrich Sonderagger has solved the riddle. Indeed there exist such a gentleman, born Nov. 14, 1641, but concerning his further relations our records do not show anything. First of all we have to search through our archives, and if that needs time, much, very much time, perhaps your friend could give me further information concerning this descendant and his followers, over whom our records do not show anything. May I keep the photo until I have made my archive studies?

Our records go back until the year 1618, it is possible that we can trace even an older forbearer. In any case I am much interested in this case and I am glad happy to see your friend at Balgach. I wish he would advise me beforehand the time I could expect him.

Yours sincerely,"

I do not know whether it satisfies you that Hans Ulrich Sonderagger was born in Switzerland, or whether you want to come over and continue your studies about your ancestors. In any case please let me know, so that I can advise the minister at Balgach accordingly.

Let me express to you once more my best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

P.S. In case of further research work, I suppose we should ask the minister for a statement of his expenses.
Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Mrs. Stillwell is busy with another project so asked me to check on your family.

In the Church records for Zion Reformed Church I found the following information about the children of George and Salome Lehr:

- Barbara born Sept. 17, 1818, baptism Nov. 12, 1818
- Maria Ann born Nov. 4, 1819, baptism May 27, 1820
- Sarah Isabella born Oct. 17, 1821, baptism Nov. 16, 1821
- Henry William born Apr. 27, 1824, baptism May 1, 1824
- Henriette Elizabeth born Oct. 1, 1825, baptism Nov. 14, 1825

Edward Adam, born Oct. 1, 1827, baptism Nov. 1, 1827
- Isabella born Jan. 3, 1829, baptism Mar. 12, 1829

The records did not include George, Frances, Catherine or Anna Barbara. Perhaps they were baptized at some other church but I had no luck which one.

Charles Roberts to whom you had written is no longer living but he wrote a large 3 vol. History of Lehigh Co. which is practically our Bible. It has a sketch of the Lehr family but it seems to be of another family. He made no mention of your Leher family. Our Zion Church records contain only a few marriages so that did not help. I could find nothing about George Lehr's home in Mountville or the big house near the R.F. at Toms.

If you think of anything else, let me know.

Yours truly,

Mary J. Funk

Librarian
Lehigh County Historical Society
Old Court House, Hamilton at Broad
Allentown, Pa. 18101
Tel. (215) 482-0743

Attent Anderson Tower
Memorial Library

August 4, 1977

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

from Zion Reformed Church records:

Adam Schmidt, daughter Elizabeth
wife Maria b. Feb. 22, 1809 bapt. Jan. 28, 1830
(This was probably Adam Smith Sr.)

Adam Smith, daughter Mary Ann
wife Elizabeth b. Nov. 1, 1825 bapt. Jan. 12, 1828

(Adam Jr. ?) son Benjamin Franklin
b. Apr. 14, 1836 bapt. May 29, 1838
sponsors were Charles Schmidt and Anna Lessig

In History of Western Salisbury Church:

Marriage of Adam Smith and Elizabeth Lessig
Nov. 14, 1828

(I checked this record because the 1850 Census listed two Adam Smith both living in Salisbury Township of Lehigh Co.)

Since Geo. Lehr had married Salome Lessig, Elizabeth Lessig Smith was probably his sister-in-law.

Since the family name was originally Schmidt and they came here from Germany, there is probably no connection with Adam Smith of England.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Mary J. Wink
Library staff.
August 11, 1977

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I suppose our letters crossed in the mail as I wrote to you about what I could find about Adam Smith and his connection with the Lehrs and Lessig.

Since I had found that material in the History of Western Salisbury Church, I went back to it yesterday and looked all through it hoping to find the date of George Leh's marriage to Salome Lessig but no luck. So they must have been married elsewhere. I am slow in answering letters because I work only in the afternoons (a volunteer job)

I also checked about Moundeleinville and it is now within the city limits of Allentown.

If you think of any other information you would like, please let me know.

Yours truly,

Mary A. Mack

[Signature]

Lehigh County Historical Society
Old Court House, Allentown, Pa.

[Address]
Dear Mrs. Sarah Lehr Kennedy,

As I told you it might, it has taken me a long time to write you with these pictures. Since my interesting call with you, for which I will always be grateful, I have had some intriguing "her researchs.

First about Oldtown. I am wondering if it might really have been Oldtown. I am unable to find anything of Oldtown in histories or files of Trumbull or Mahoning counties. As you said of Oldtown, Oldtown was originally in Trumbull County but the part is now Mahoning and Warrenfield Townships in Trumbull County today is adjacent to what was Oldtown. As I noted on the little picture, the original site is under Keenard Lake but some of the buildings were removed and moved to farther south and the section is now known as Oldtown, though residents say it has been called Oldtown and so noted on some maps. I could find no one in the vicinity who had traces of Lehr's living there. A Methodist Church has unusually good records but they do not go back quite far enough to list your grandparents should they ever have been members.

In Cedar Valley, now called Overtown, address R.D. 6, Rooster, I was more successful. I met up with a history minded Mrs. Joe Kyres, related by marriage to Glen Kyres who operated a mill there and lived by marriage to the Lehrs. She took me to see him and together they verified for me the location of the boyhood home of your father. Luckily for me the farmer who now owns the land urged me to visit the home by driving blank to it, over his new corn wheat field. Mrs. Joe Kyres accompanied me at the suggestion of Glen Kyres, she showed me a painting from his home of the Lehr home as it was when it was an attractive home with a lean to and I think a porch. I regret is that I did not try to get a better picture of the painting. Glen Kyres told me he bought there were Lehr graves in the pretty cemetery around the Overton Church of "old Lehr". I found only the one in the little picture and of course, do not know if it is of your family, but took the picture in case it might mean something to you.

The Hoover Farm is only about 5 or 6 miles from us and we pass it often. One of Canton's oldest and finest attorneys, James Amerson and his wife, a cultural and civic minded lady, vice president of our Stark County Historical Society, own the meat farm toward alliance and have the 150 year old home so beautifully restored and furnished, mostly with ancestral pieces and wear.

Tag pictures I send you complete my set of 6 or more pictures except for a real good one of your Lehr's I have taken several years ago. Should you care for one of these I'll gladly look up an negative and have a print made for you.

Meeting you and finding these places has been so enjoyable to me that I may have tired you writing much longer but I hope not.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. B.) Marie Lehr
Oct. 1, 1831 Edward A. Lehr Dec. 4, 1867
Dec. 7, 1830 Mary Ann Lehr Apr. 11, 1918
M.
Sept. 25, 1847 Rebecca (Lehr) Howman Sept. 21, 1863
Nov. 14, 1849 Wm. J. Lehr Sept. 30, 1937
M.
July 26, 1851 Sarah Jane Lehr
M.
Jan. 7, 1853 Mary Ellen Lehr
M.
Oct. 5, 1854 Amanda Catherine (Lehr) Campbell Feb. 8, 1935
M.
May 25, 1856 Emma Alice (Lehr) Harmin Jan. 18, 1940
M.
Jan. 23, 1858 Idy Ann (Lehr) Hampton June 24, 1916
Jan. 3, 1860 George Howard Lehr Aug. 17, 1930
M.
Sept. 14, 1862 Harvey Benton Lehr Oct. 22, 1867
M.
Nov. 19, 1864 Charlie Lehr Nov. 22, 1864
Dec. 9, 1865 Clara Dell (Lehr) Hampton Feb. 5, 1937
M.
April 20, 1871 Rebecca Hart Cramer Jan. 3, 1849
Ellen Kintner
Jennie Lehr Oct. 27, 1941
Died at age 95 in Елгайм, Илл
Descendants: Mary, Harry, Bernice, Richard, Bessie

Marriages
Edward A. Lehr married Mary Ann Cramer Oct. 22, 1856
John Howman married Rebecca Lehr Dec. 9, 1869
William Lehr married Sarah Ann Howman Dec. 18, 1879
John B. Campbell married Amanda Catherine Lehr Jan. 15, 1879 by Rev. A.P. Bell
Serenus Rater married Jennie Lehr Nov. 13, 1879 by Rev. H. Atwood
Joseph Kintner married Mary E. Lehr June 8, 1879 by Rev. Shaw
Jacob Harmen married Emma A. Harmen-Dec. 14, 1917 Elizabeth Lewis
James Lewis Hampton married Ida A. Lehr Sept. 21, 1867 by Rev. Shaw

The Lehr Family Bible from which these dates were taken contains the dates of births and deaths after about 1831 as shown above. The Bible is owned by: Beecher Campbell 3448 Colchester, Upper Arlington, Ohio
Mr. Charles E. Roberts, of the Lehigh County Historical Society, with whom I corresponded in 1935, wrote a history of Lehigh County, in which there is no reference to any of our members of the Lahr family. There is, however, extensive reference to Col. Samuel D. Lahr, who was born in 1836, the same year as Henry Solomon Lahr. His father was Peter Lahr, born January 18, 1777, which would place him between John Hubert Lahr, who was born in 1754 and George Lahr, who was born in 1794. He would have been of the same generation as John Lahr, the first son of John Hubert Lahr, but who died when only 14 years old - he was born in 1799.

The father of Peter Lahr was a John Lahr, who lived in Whitehall Township and was a weaver by occupation. He married Mary Margaret Dornay and had a large number of children... John Lahr died about 1804.

In Mr. Roberts' book he also carries the note about the ship "Two Brothers" which brought to Philadelphia, on September 14, 1769, Philippus Lahr, Hans Peter Lahr and Johann Maurich Lahr, one of which is the ancestor of this line. Whatever one of the aforesaid was the ancestor, had three sons, whose names have come down to us, viz: John, Peter and Phillip. Phillip, according to the Federal census, had one son under 16, and one daughter, in 1790. He resided in Whitehall Township, Ismail Lahr, son of Phillip, residing in Allentown, conducting a shoemaker-shop on North Seventh Street."

Now we know that the ancestor of our line was Philippus Lahr. Since the father of Peter Lahr was a John Lahr who died in 1804, he might have been the John Maurich Lahr who came over in the ship "Two Brothers", or his son. (Phillip Lahr died in 1782, aged 77.)

Since Phillipus Lahr named his son John Hubert Lahr, also spelled Johann Maurich Lahr, as noted above in the text, I think that these two were brothers - in fact I think all three were either brothers or cousins. On this basis, and at that point of time, I believe that all the descendants of these three men are related.

I attempted to prove this by a further search of the records at Allentown, but without success. What Pastor Schacht told me in 1937 precludes our being able to establish that fact, unless there are records elsewhere among the descendants of these men.

One point to note especially: both Philippus Lahr and the John (Johann?) Lahr in the Samuel Lahr line, were weavers.
The following is from a document in my grandfather's notes:

"My church history is as follows:

"My mother belonged to the Lutheran church and my father to the Reformed, but as we lived nearer to a Presbyterian church than Lutheran or Reformed, they united with the Presbyterian church. I was sprinkled as an infant. All my brothers and sisters, twelve in number, were baptized in infancy.

"The first sermon I ever heard preached on baptism was in the fall of 1836, August 10, at Marlboro, Ohio. It was preached by Harrison Jones. He was eloquent and well versed in God's Word. I resolved to read the Word for myself, collect all the passages on baptism, and then decide as to its place and importance and also as to the mode. I could easily give the passages that convinced me of its place and importance in the Christian life, and also as to the mode, but will refrain from doing so. In the winter of 1836 while teaching my first term, I united with the Methodist Episcopal Church on probation. I requested baptism by immersion; but when our pastor, Reverend Parth, learned that I had been sprinkled, he refused to immerse me.

"The next winter I had an opportunity to occasionally attend Disciple preaching at Jeromeville, Ashtabula County. In February, 1836, I was immersed in a mill dam at Jeromeville. The pond was frozen and the ice had to be cut away.

"The next Sunday I went to New Pittsburg to unite with the N. E. church, but no opportunity was given, although I informed some of my friends of my intention. The preacher was cold and indifferent, and few of the members spoke to me or shook me by the hand. I left the church feeling very much hurt.

"That evening I united with the Christian church, although I entered Mount Union Seminary in the spring instead of going to Bible. Had Brother Parth taken me into the church that Sunday morning, doubtless I would have been a member of the N. E. church today, and probably would still be connected with the great University which, through God's grace, I had some part in establishing."