

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County, Chambersburg, Pa., J. M. Runk and Company, 1896.

The Cochrans of Paxtang.

I. **John Cochran**, of the house of **Dundonald**, crossed over from Paisley in Scotland to the Province of Ulster, Ireland, about 1570, perhaps a little earlier. From him descended **James Cochran**, whose second son was **Robert** and fourth son **John**. **Robert Cochran** had a son **Robert**, called "Deaf Robert." From **John** we have **James** and in the subsequent generation **Robert** called "Honest Robert." He had **James**, **Stephen**, and **David** of the sixth generation, who came to Pennsylvania and settled on the Octoraro, in Chester County. Concerning **Stephen** and **David** we have meager information. **James Cochran** married his kinswoman, **Isabella**, daughter of "**Deaf Robert**." **James Cochran** died in 1766, his wife some years later. They had issue:

- i. **Ann**, b. 1724; m., 1st, **Alex. Leckey**; 2d, **Rev. John Roan**.
- ii. **Robert**, b. 1726; left a daughter, **Isabella**.
- iii. **James**, b. 1728; d. in April, 1768.
- iv. **John**, b. September 1, 1730; was **Dr. John Cochran**, surgeon general of the Revolution, and an intimate friend of Washington; d. April 6, 1807; m., December 4, 1760, **Gertrude Schuyler**, sister to **Gen. Philip Schuyler**, of the Revolution.
- v. **Stephen**, b. 1732.
- vi. **Jane**, b. 1784; m. **Rev. Alexander Mitchell**.
2. vii. **George**, b. 1736.

II. **George Cochran** (**James, Robert, James, John, James, John**), the youngest son of **James** and **Isabella Cochran**, was born about 1736, on the Octoraro, Chester County, Pa. He settled on the Swatara, where he died about 1770. He married **Annie Henry**, daughter of **Rev. James Henry**, a Presbyterian minister, who came from the north of Ireland and settled at Pomoco, Md., about 1739. She died on the Swatara. They had issue:

- i. **Israel**, m. **Isabel Hammel**, and left one daughter, **Jean**; she married _____ **Reaznor**, of Erie County, in 1808, and died a few years after her marriage. **Mr. Hammel**, after his wife's death, removed to Ohio, leaving his daughter **Jean** with her uncle, **John Cochran**.
- ii. **Sarah**, m. **William Robertson**; removed to Danville, Montour County, Pa., where they died, leaving issue: **John, Isabella, James, William, Samuel, Jane**, and Mary.
- iii. **Jean**, m. **William Thompson**, and removed to Buffalo Valley, where they lived until their death. They had **Nancy, James**, and **Ruth**. **James** became a Presbyterian clergyman, and was connected with the Huntingdon Presbytery.
- iv. **John**, b. 1761; spent his earliest years in Chester County, among his father's friends, where he received a good education and studied surveying. In 1792 he removed to Northumberland County, now Union County; from thence to Erie County in 1796 as deputy surveyor under **Thomas Rees**, who was the first State surveyor appointed by

the Land Department of the Commonwealth for that county. **Mr. Cochran** surveyed and laid out the Erie and Waterford Reservations with tracts and farms in 1796-7. He purchased tracts 30 and 70 of the Erie reserve, and removed his family there in 1799. In 1800 he built a rude saw and grist mill on Mill Creek, where is Dinsmore's mill, now Stewart's. Gov. McKean appointed **Mr. Cochran** deputy surveyor of Erie County, July 9, 1801, and subsequently, July 5, 1803, one of the associate judges of the county. He was appointed by Governor Snyder secretary of the Land Office in 1809; removed to Lancaster with his family, and afterwards to Harrisburg. He held the office nine years, when he returned to his home in Mill Creek, near Erie. He lived on this farm until his death, May 1, 1836. **Judge Cochran's** wife was **Sarah Lattimore**; she died about 1840. They had two sons: **George**, who died in December, 1827, unmarried, and **Robert**, who married, about 1820, **Eliza Justice**, by whom he had nine children. **Robert Cochran** was appointed by President Jackson, postmaster of Erie, February 26, 1833, filled it seven years; and was again appointed by President Polk, July 23, 1845, holding the office four years. He died on the old **Cochran** farm, in South Erie, December 9, 1869, aged seventy years.

- v. **Annie**, b. August 16, 1763, in now Dauphin County, Pa., d. April 12, 1857. at Winchester, Tenn.; married in 1787, **Sankey Dixon**, son of **John** and **Arabella Dixon**, born in 1762 in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pa.; died at Knoxville, Tenn., November 11, 1812, at the age of fifty.

In the Paxtang assessment, north end, for 1749, the earliest we have, appear the names of **William**, **Andrew**, **George**, and **John Cochran**. Of **George** and his descendants we have spoken. The others were probably children of **David** or **Stephen**, previously referred to. Later we find the names of **Samuel**, **James**, and **William**.

Andrew Cochran, of Paxtang, died at an advanced age in November, 1775; his estate was bequeathed to his children, his wife having previously deceased:

- i. **Margaret**, m., August 17, 1756, **Thomas Wiley**.
- ii. **Jean**, m. **Campbell**.
- iii. **Mary**, m., November, 1774, **Robert Whitehill**.
- iv. **Sarah**, m. **Chambers**.
- v. **John**.
- vi. **Andrew**
- vii. **William**.

Samuel Cochran, b. in 1732; d. April 8, 1816, in Middle Paxtang. He was a private in Captain Rutherford's company of associators in 1776 and 1777. He left a wife **Margaret**, and had issue as follows:

- i. [A dau.], m. **John Hatfield**, and had **Margaret** and **John**,
- ii. **Margaret**.
- iii. **Jane**,
- iv. **Martha**, m. **William Forster**, and had **Samuel**.

- v. **Isabella**, m. **Philip Reichart**.
- vi. **Rachel**.
- vii. **William**.

James Cochran was probably a son of **Andrew Cochran**, b. in 1742; d. July 16, 1822, and is buried in Paxtang. He was a private in Captain Rutherford's company of associators in 1776. He married, November 22, 1770, **Mary Montgomery**, of Paxtang, b. in 1744; d. August 6, 1803, and is also interred in Paxtang. They had issue, among others:

- i. **John**, b. 1773; d. November 16, 1845; m. **Hannah Cowden**, b. 1778; d. May 81, 1850.
- ii. **Andrew**.
- iii. **Jane**, m. **Henry Peffer**.

John Cochran, a soldier of Captain Murray's company of the Revolution, died in November, 1789; his wife **Caroline** died in April, 1804. They had **John**, who had issue: **Lydia**, **Caroline**, **Ann**, m. **Jeremiah Grain**, and **Jamison**.

We have the following disconnected data:

William Cochran, b. 1780; d. April 26, 1840; m., January 11, 1810, **Rachel**, daughter of **Christian Gross**.

Samuel Cochran, Jr., was a private in Capt. John Rutherford's company of associators in 1776. He married, December 11, 1770, **Mary Sherer**, of Paxtang. His daughter **Margaret** married, October 20, 1803, **David Mitchell**, of Cumberland County.

Jacob Cochran, of Chester County, died prior to 1785. His children, minors, **Jacob**, **David**, **John**, and **Mary**, were then residing in Dauphin County. **David** died January 21, 1809. **John** married, March 3, 1804, **Mary Hart**, of Middle Paxtang.

Samuel Cochran, of Chester County, was surveyor general of Pennsylvania from 1800 to 1809. He died at Cochranville, Chester County, Pa., May 3, 1829. His son Samuel, b. 1797; d. September 5, 1821, at Harrisburg.

Among the Rev. John Roan's marriages are the following:

- Margaret Cochran** and **Thomas Wiley**, August 17, 1756.
- Janet Cochran** and **Robert Whitely**, April 24, 1759.
- Martha Cochran** and **Andrew Caldwell**, October 1, 1771.
- Martha Cochran** and **James Robinson**, September 12, 1769.
- Mary Cochran** and **Robert Whitehill**, November 1, 1774.