

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Genealogy, Family History, Biography, Containing Historical Sketches of Old Families and of Representatives and Prominent Citizens Past and Present. In Two Volumes – Illustrated, Volume I, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1916

Albert S. Kistler is now devoting his attention to agriculture on the farm in West Penn Township operated for many years by his father, the late **John Kistler**. For seventeen years he was engaged in educational work in the county, where he bears a high reputation for character and intelligence. He belongs to a family which as a race has been noted for solid qualities, thrift and good judgment in business, unselfish public service and loyalty to church and family obligations, and in his individual career has maintained the high standards which have come to be associated with the name.

On the records of Jerusalem Church in Albany Township, Berks Co., Pa., known in the eighteenth century as the Allemangel Church, there are recorded the baptisms of hundreds of **Kistler** children, while in the cemetery under the shadow of the church are many graves marked with the same name. Near the center of the oldest part of the cemetery lies a slate stone (which is now being replaced by the descendants with a marble slab) bearing the inscription "**I. G. K.** 1767." This is supposed to be the stone that marked the burial place of the progenitor of the American **Kistlers**, who was legally known as **Johannes**, but was called **Joerg** or **George** by Pastor Schumacher in his record and **Hanjoerg** or **John George** by his neighbors.

Johannes Kistler was a native of the Palatinate, in Germany. On Oct. 5, 1737, he came in the ship "Townshead" from Amsterdam to Philadelphia, and soon after to Falkner Swamp, or Goshenhoppen, in what is now Montgomery County, Pa. It is supposed he was accompanied by his wife, **Anna Dorothea**, and his oldest children. In 1747 he took out a warrant for land and moved to Albany Township, Berks County, where he made his permanent home, although the territory was then wild and barren. The vicinity was named "Allemangel" or "All Wants." **Johannes Kistler** was taxed in 1756 in Albany, and was naturalized in 1761, on Sept. 10th of which year he and his neighbor, **Michael Brobst**, appeared before the Supreme court of Philadelphia, and there received the papers which made them citizens of Pennsylvania. He was a Lutheran and served for a number of years as elder of the Allemangel Church, where his children were baptized and confirmed. His children were: (1) **Jacob** left seven children, **Philip**, **Jacob**, **Michael**, **Solomon**, **Daniel**, **Catharine** and **Magdalene**. **Samuel Kistler Brobst**, a teacher of **James A. Garfield**, was a grandson of **Philip**; and so was **Michael Kistler**, the tanner, whose son **Stephen** had at one time the most extensive tanning business in eastern Pennsylvania. (2) **John** remained on the homestead after his father's death. The name **John** runs through at least five generations, and the trade of blacksmith follows it. **John's** children were: **John William**, born May 29, 1757; and **Abraham**, born Dec. 20, 1761, who is the ancestor of the Perry County **Kistlers**, for whom the **Kistler** post office was named. A descendant, **Rev. Dr. John Kistler**, has for many years been professor at the oldest Lutheran Theological Seminary in America, located at Hartwick, N. Y. (3) **George** remained in Berks County. In 1779 he was the owner of 248 acres of land and a gristmill. In 1778 he was elected elder of the Allemangel Church, and as he was referred to as **George Kistler, Sr.**, he doubtless had a son **George**. The archives of Pennsylvania show that a **George Kistler** served in the Continental army during the Revolution. (4) **Philip**, born Oct. 19, 1745, is next in the line we are tracing. (5) **Michael** moved to Ohio, and is the ancestor of the large **Kistler** settlements in Indiana. His family consisted of **John**,

Michael, Joseph, Nathan, Monroe, Salome and Judith. (6) **Samuel**, the youngest son of his father, married **Elizabeth Ladich** and **Catherine Brobst**, and had three children by the first marriage and twelve by the second. (7) **Barbara** married (first) a **Brobst** and (second) **Michael Mosser**, of Lowhill. (8) **Dorothea** married **Michael Reinhart**. (9) **Elizabeth** married a **Mr. Keller**, near Hamburg, Pennsylvania.

Philip Kistler, son of **George**, above, was born Oct. 19, 1745, and died Aug. 28, 1809. He had nine children: **Jacob, John, Ferdinand, Philip, Jonathan, Barbara, Maria, Catherine** and **Elizabeth**. Of these, **Jacob** was a lieutenant in the war of 1812.

Jonathan Kistler, son of **Philip**, was born Nov. 10, 1799, in Berks County, and was raised on the place where his grandson **Charles S. Kistler** now lives. He was reared by **Jacob Wehr**, worked among farmers while young, and after he was married started out for himself. In 1829 he built a gristmill which still stands and is known as the **Kistler** mill. He also became the owner of about two hundred acres of land, a great deal of which he cleared and cultivated, and followed milling and fanning on this place until his death, which occurred when he was about seventy-nine years of age. His wife, **Sarah (Shellhammer)**, born Aug. 4, 1800, a daughter of **Simon** and **Catherine (Long) Shellhammer**, died aged eighty-one years. They were the parents of children as follows: **Polly** married **Michael Houser**; **Rebecca** married **Jacob Wertman**; **Hannah** married **Joseph Shaeffer**; **Daniel** married **Rebecca Sechler**; **David**, who resides in West Penn Township, married **Mary Hagenbuch**, now deceased; **John** is mentioned below; **William**, who was a school teacher, never married; **Nathan** never married; **Jonathan K.** married **Lydia Shellhammer**; **Elizabeth** married **Timothy Zehner**. The father retired some years before his death. He took an active part in politics as a member of the Democratic Party, and was a justice of the peace for forty-four years, and a leader in Zion's Lutheran Church, in West Penn Township, serving as elder, deacon and trustee. He and his wife are buried at that church.

John Kistler, son of **Jonathan**, was born March 24, 1832, in West Penn Township, and was educated there. He assisted with the work on his father's farm while young, and later bought the farm of about seventy-five acres where **Ambrose Lechleitner** now resides. He operated that farm for a number of years, sold it, and bought the farm of ninety acres which is now owned by his son **Albert S.** Of this farm, about eighty acres are cleared. **Mr. Kistler** carried on general farming, and for many years also followed the stonemason's trade, which he learned when he was a young man. He attended market at Tamaqua. **Mr. Kistler** was an active man up to the time of his death, which occurred Nov. 23, 1909. He is buried in the cemetery of Zion's Lutheran Church in West Penn township, of which church he was a devout member and faithful officer, serving as elder and deacon. He held the township office of school director, and was a Democrat in politics.

Mr. Kistler's first wife, **Caroline (Hagenbuch)**, was born March 4, 1836, daughter of **Amos** and **Sarah (Bailey) Hagenbuch**, and died Jan. 19, 1856, the mother of one child, **Jonathan**, born July 6, 1855. He is married to **Alvina Mantz**, and they reside in Allentown, Pa. **Mrs. Kistler** is buried at Zion's Church in West Penn Township. For his second wife **Mr. Kistler** married **Cordelia Hagenbuch**, who was born March 10, 1839, a sister of his first wife, and a large family was born to this union: **William**, born July 15, 1858, married **Ella Meyerhoff**, and their children are **Rosie, Bert** and **Raymond**; **Mary**, born Nov. 18, 1859, died Feb. 22, 1860;

Sarah, born Dec. 27, 1860, married **Uriah Reber**, of Neffs (P. O.), Lehigh Co., Pa., and has children, **William, Charles, Ralph, Jennie, Francis** and **Harvey**; **Amanda**, born June 1, 1863, died Feb. 4, 1884, the wife of **Mahlon Lutz** and mother of one child, **Laura**, who is deceased; **Alice** was born April 28, 1865; **Ida**, born March 26, 1868, married **William Brobst**, of Owl Creek, Schuylkill Co., Pa., and has had three children, **Charles, Mabel** (deceased) and **Alice**; **Oliver** was born Jan. 4, 1870; **Franklin**, born Dec. 8, 1871, died aged forty years; **Amandus**, born Aug. 18, 1873, lives in Missouri; **Rosa**, born Jan. 9, 1876, is married to **John Nester**, of Tamaqua, and has had two children, **Mary** (deceased) and **Herbert**, born Aug. 18, 1897; **Albert S.** is next in the family; **Alvin**, born May 11, 1881, now living at Reynolds, this county, married **Sadie A. Gerber**, and their children are **Percy A., Edward L., Myrtle H., John W.**; and **Frank F.** The mother of this family is now living at the home of **David K. Kistler**, in West Penn Township.

Albert S. Kistler was born March 9, 1878, on the place in West Penn Township he now owns and occupies. After attending public school in the township he had four spring terms at the Keystone State Normal School, Kutztown, and then took up teaching, which he followed for seventeen years in different schools in West Penn Township. In March, 1912, he bought the place he now operates from his father's estate, and is engaged in general farming. He carries his produce to Tamaqua. **Mr. Kistler** is a Democrat, but not specially identified with politics or other public affairs. He is a member of Washington Camp No. 615, P. O. S. of A., at Andreas, in West Penn Township, and of Pocahontas Council, No. 406, Order of Independent Americans, at Chain, this county. Like a number of the **Kistlers** he belongs to Zion's Lutheran Church in West Penn Township, and he has taken a special interest in the Sunday school, of which he was superintendent for about nine years.

Mr. Kistler married **Bessie Gerber**, a daughter of **Frank** and **Angelma (Eckert) Gerber**, and they had three children; **Evelyn L.**, born April 29, 1909; **Oswille G.**, Aug. 4, 1912; **Bessie R.**, Oct. 21, 1913. **Mrs. Kistler** was born Sept. 8, 1887, and died Nov. 23, 1913. She is buried at Zion's Church in West Penn Township. **Mr. Kistler** has since married **Mrs. Katie Louisa Minnich**, the widow of **Joseph Minnich** and daughter of **John** and **Catherine (Guldner) Wert**. They have one child, **Sela C.**, born Aug. 16, 1915. **Mrs. Kistler** was born June 13, 1876, in Walnutport, Northampton Co., Pa., received her education in the schools of Cherryville, that county, and remained at home until her first marriage.

Joseph Minnich, son of **Irvin** and **Elmira (Steinmetz) Minnich**, was born Oct. 16, 1877, at Howersville, Pa., and was educated there. He first learned the trade of millwright, later taking up carpentry, which he followed for the last six years of his life. He was employed at the cement works at Copley, Pa., and meantime resided in Siegfried, Pa., later moving to Cherryville, where he died Oct. 30, 1910. He was a Republican in politics; socially a member of the Jr. O. U. A. M. at Siegfried, Pa.; and belonged to St. Paul's Reformed Church near Cherryville, which he served officially as deacon. He is buried there. To **Mr. and Mrs. Minnich** were born three children: (1) **Harold John**, born Sept. 5, 1898, died April 23, 1899. (2) **Marian Irene**, born Sept. 10, 1899, attended Cherryville grammar and Berlinsville high schools, in Northampton County, Pa. (3) **Sallie Elmira**, born Sept. 5, 1902, attends school in West Penn Township.

Jacob Wert, Mrs. Kistler's grandfather, was a farmer all his life, living at Heidelberg, Lehigh Co., Pa., where he had a tract of sixty acres. He married **Hannah Frederick**, and to them were born the following children: **Maria** is the widow of **William Beers**; **Eliza** married **Conrad Kern** and after his death **John Long**; **Rosie** married **John Hartline**; **John** is the father of **Mrs. Kistler**; **Benjamin** married **Sarah German**; **Hiram** married **Emma Kern**, and both are deceased; **Wilson**, deceased, married **Flora Kern**; **Alvin** has been twice married, first to **Kate Remaly**. The father was a Republican in politics. He is buried at the German Reformed Church in Heidelberg, Lehigh County, where he was a very active member, serving as elder and in other offices. His widow remarried, becoming the wife of **Carl Myers**; they are buried at Slatington, Pennsylvania.

John Wert, father of **Mrs. Kistler**, was born at Heidelberg, Lehigh Co., Pa., March 21, 1850, and there received his schooling. He learned the carpenter's trade with **Benneville Bloss**, and followed it for a number of years, principally in Northampton County. He rented a farm of seventy-two acres near Cherryville, which he operated for nineteen years, when he moved to Cherryville, and has been following his trade to the present time. He married **Catherine Guldner**, who was born Nov. 27, 1852, in West Penn Township, a daughter of **Reuben** and **Sallie (Kuntz) Guldner**, and they had children as follows: **Sallie Ann**, born Sept. 8, 1873, lives at home in Cherryville; **Katie Louisa** is **Mrs. Albert S. Kistler**; **Annie Messina**, born March 31, 1880, married **Robert Stoudt** and resides at Palmerton, Carbon Co., Pa., and their children are **Elda Esther** and **Irene Elizabeth**. **Mr. Wert** is a Republican, a member of the Order of Independent Americans at Cherryville, and belongs to St. Paul's Reformed Church near Cherryville, which he has served as elder and deacon, and superintendent of the Sunday school.

Mrs. Bessie (Gerber) Kistler was born and educated in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County, where her father, **Frank Gerber**, is a prosperous farmer, residing near Reynolds. He owns about four hundred acres of land. He married **Angelina Eckert**, and they have had children as follows: **Bessie** married **Albert S. Kistler**; **Leon M.** married **Minnie Balliet**; **Frank C.** married **Lulu Zehner**; **Hattie**, unmarried, is at home; **Willard C.** married **Emma Zehner**. **Mr. Gerber** is a Democrat, and has been elected school director. He is a member of Pocahontas Council, No. 406, Order of Independent Americans. at Chain, this county, and a past councilor of Washington Camp No. 132, P. O. S. of A.; and holds membership in Zion's Reformed Church in West Penn Township, which he has served officially as elder and deacon.

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