

History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
William Henry Egle, M.D., M.M., Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1883

The Zehring Family.

The history of the **Zehring** family, it is claimed, dates back to the fifth century. It is stated that one of the early German emperors who had been engaged in a war with the Romans was defeated, and the sovereign took refuge in the Kaiserstuhl Mountain, in Breisgan, and was there secreted by a charcoal-burner. For assistance and the discovery of a silver-mine in the Black Forest, when the fortunes of war changed, the emperor created the charcoal-burner duke of the Province of Baden, and named him **Zaehringen**. Tradition further states that the **Zaehrings** or **Zehring**s of America are descendants of the house of **Zaehringen** of Baden. The name in America is variously written **Zaehring**, **Zehring**, **Zearing**, **Zeyring**, etc. As in the case of other families, this is due to carelessness in orthography.

I. **Ludwig Zehring**, the first emigrant, a native of Baden, came to America about 1725, and shortly after his arrival located on a tract of land two miles east of Jonestown, now Lebanon County. This tract of land originally contained acres, and has been in continuous possession of the descendants of **Ludwig Zehring**. The ancestor was a man of strong force of character, well educated, and of considerable influence on the frontiers. For many years he acted as a kind of agent for his countrymen, and transacted business for them, not only in this but in the Fatherland. "He was faithful to every trust committed to his care," is the estimate of him which has come down to us. About the year 1773, accompanied by his son **Matthias**, he made a voyage to Europe, but taking ill, died at sea and there buried. He was thrice married. There was issue:

i. **Henry**, b. April 5, 1737; m. and had issue.

ii. **Ludwig**, b. December, 1738; took an active part in the war for independence, and was one of the representatives from Col. Curtis Grubb's battalion at the Lancaster Convention of July 4, 1776. At the close of the Revolution he settled at or near Pittsburgh. Nothing further is known of him.

iii. **Matthias**, b.; d. May 13, 1817, near Woodstock, Shenandoah Co., Va., where he settled after the Revolution; m. **Rebecca Yeager**, and left a large family.

iv. **Christian**, b. Oct. 5, 1755; m. 1st, **Dinberger**; 2d, **Anna Maria Rauch**.

II. **Henry Zehring (Ludwig)**, b. April 5, 1737, in Bethel Township, Lancaster County, now Swatara Township, Lebanon Co., Penna.; d. April 19, 1819, at Jonestown; m. and had issue:

i. **Henry**, b. March 20, 1760; m. **Maria Elizabeth Rupp**.

ii. **Ludwig**, m. **Miss Boeshore**; purchased a large tract of land northwest of Jonestown, following farming, and died there. Had six sons: **Ludwig**, **John**, **Peter**, **George**, **Adam**, and **Christian**. **Ludwig** and **John** died unmarried on the old homestead; the others went to the West.

iii. **John Jacob** secured the old homestead of his father and grandfather, where he lived and died. His son **John** became the owner, and after his death his son **William** became the possessor, and now resides thereon.

iv. **John**, usually called **Hannes**, resided at Quitopahilla; m. and left a large family, whose descendants are scattered over the West.

v. **Barbara**, m. **Jacob** Decker; after her death **Mr. Decker** married her sister **Catharine**.

vi. **Catharine**, m. **Jacob Decker**; their descendants are in the Western country.

vii. **Margaretta**, m. **Jacob Rauch**; they lived and died in Hanover Township, Dauphin County, Penna.

III. **Christian Zehring (Ludwig)**, b. Oct. 5, 1755, in Bethel Township, Lancaster County, now Swatara Township, Lebanon County, Penna.; d. June 5, 1832, in Warren County, Ohio, and is buried at Springboro, that county (see biographical sketch); m. 1st, **Miss Umberger**, and had issue, all b. in East Hanover (now Union) Township, Lebanon Co., Penna.:

i. **Henry**, m. and removed to Montgomery Co., O.

ii. **Elizabeth**, d. 1831, in Union Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; m. **John Walmer**.

iii. **Catharine**, m. **Peter Fisher**; removed to Perry Co., Penn., thence to the State of Indiana.

Christian Zehring, m. 2d, **Anna Maria Rauch**, b. April 11, 1762, in Hanover Township, Lancaster Co., Penna.; d. June 22, 1839, at Germantown, Montgomery Co, O. They had issue:

iv. **Christian**, m. and removed to Warren County, O., and d. at Franklin, O.

v. **John**, b. Jan. 10, 1790; m. **Eve Barbara Decker**.

vi. **Philip**, d. March 26, 1838; removed to Montgomery Co., O.

vii. **William**, d. Sept. 10, 1870, in Montgomery Co, O.

viii. **Jacob**, d. in Montgomery Co., O.

ix. **David**, d. June 6, 1863, in Montgomery Co, O.

x. **Bernhard**, d. Sept. 18, 1877, in Montgomery Co, O.

xi. **Peter**, d. May 14, 1863; settled in Franklin Co., Ind.

xii. **Anna Maria**, d. May 9, 1880 ; m. **Lewis Mease**; they removed to Montgomery Co., Ohio

xiii. **Susan**, m. Rev. **John Crider**; they reside in Montgomery Co., O.

xiv. Martha, d. in Warren Co., O.; m. **Mr. Fry**.

IV. **Henry Zehring (Henry, Ludwig)**, b. March 20, 1760, in Bethel Township, Lancaster Co., now Swatara Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; d. Jan. 24, 1798, in East Hanover Township, Dauphin Co., now Union Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; m. 1781, **Maria Elizabeth Rupp**, b. Oct. 15, 1762, in Lebanon Township, then Lancaster County, Pa.; d. May 11, 1836, at Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Co., Pa. They had issue:

i. **Henry**, b. Sept. 26, 1783; d. Feb. 21, 1830, at Shiremanstown, Cumberland Co., Pa.; m. **Margaret Ely**, b. March 1, 1781; d. July 28, 1865; and had **Henry**, m. **Eliz. Eichelberger**; **John H.**, m. **Sarah Krall**; **Elizabeth**, m. **John Maunesmith**; **Jacob**, m. **Eliza Swiler**.

ii. **Jonas**, b. May 4, 1785; d. Dec. 20, 1831; m. **Anna Barbara Evers**, b. 1785; d. Sept. 26, 1860; and had issue.

iii. **Lewis**, b. Jan. 15, 1787; d. May 8, 1845; m. **Elizabeth Bobb**, b. Jan. 10, 1792; d. March 24, 1849; and had issue.

iv. **Elizabeth**, b. Dec. 13, 1789; d. June 4, 1859; m. **Joseph Mitchell**, b. Oct. 22, 1783; d. Feb. 12, 1832 (see **Mitchell** record).

v. **Jacob**, b. Nov. 6, 1790; m. Susan Peterman.

vi. **John**, b. Sept. 20, 1792; d. Oct. 5, 1846; m. **Margaret Herman**, b. Aug. 28, 1793; d. Oct. 17, 1859 (see biographical sketch).

vii. **Martin**, b. July 4, 1794; d. July 24, 1855, at Berlin, Bureau Co., Ill.; m. **Sarah Shafer**, b. May 9, 1797; d. Feb. 11, 1869; and had issue.

viii. **David**, b. May 7, 1796; d. s. p.

ix. **Anna Maria**, b. March 17, 1798; d. s. p. After the death of **Mr. Zehring** his widow m. secondly **Michael Stroh**, b. Dec. 7, 1743; d. Jan. 21, 1803; and left issue; m. third, **Rev. Christian Ludwig**, b. Jan. 16, 1762; d. Nov. 15, 1827; and had issue.

V. **John Zehring (Christian, Ludwig)**, b. Jan. 10, 1790, in Union Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; d. May 23, 1867; m. **Eve Barbara Decker**, b. Jan. 1, 1795, in East Hanover Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; d. Aug. 10, 1868, in Union Township; daughter of **Jacob Decker**, a soldier of the Revolution, who died Feb. 24, 1843, in East Hanover Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; all buried in Walmer's Church Cemetery. They had issue:

i. **John Decker**, b. Jan. 16, 1815; resides at Jonestown.

ii. **Jacob Decker**, b. July 25, 1817; now a minister of the Reformed Church, residing at Codorus, York Co., Pa.

iii. **Christian**, b. Oct. 13, 1820; resides at Jonestown, a surveyor, scrivener, and justice of the peace.

iv. **Anna Maria**, b. April 24, 1824.

VI. **Jacob Zehring (Henry, Henry, Ludwig)**, b. Nov. 6, 1790, in East Hanover Township, Dauphin Co., now Union Township, Lebanon Co., Pa.; d. Oct. 16, 1861, in Powell's Valley, Dauphin Co., Pa.; married first, on Dec. 25, 1810, **Susan Peterman**, b. March 27, 1789, near the Trappe, Montgomery Co., Pa.; d. March 7, 1838, in Powell's Valley; daughter of **Jacob Peterman** and **Susan De Haven**. They had issue:

i. **Elizabeth**, born May 7, 1812, at Jonestown ; married **Henry Rauch**, born April 16, 1801; and had **Mary Ann, Jacques W., Henry, John M., Margaretta Rebecca, Win. M., and Jesse Jacob**.

ii. **Isaac**, born Sept. 7, 1814; married **Mary McCall Johnson**, of Powell's Valley; removed to Virginia.

iii. **John**, born March 13, 1816; died Oct. 1, 1863 (drowned in the Susquehanna); married **Maria Frank**, and had issue.

iv. **Jacob**, b. Jan. 18, 1819; d. March 27, 1874, at Stockton, Cal.

v. **Susan**, b. Sept. 30, 1820; m. **John Ettien**, son of **Philip Ettien** and **Mary Sellers**, of Halifax; removed in 1849 to Iowa and had a large family.

vi. **Mary Ann**, b. Nov. 25, 1824; m. **Matthias Mitchell**; removed to Madison County, Iowa.

vii. **Henry**, b. Nov. 10, 1826; m. **Rebecca Charles**, of Perry County, Pa; removed to Madison County, Iowa.

Jacob Zehring married secondly, **Mrs. Mary Frank**, a widow, whose first husband was **Benjamin Mayer**, printer, of Harrisburg, her maiden name **Mary Bressler**, b. June 17, 1785; d. April 16, 1861.