

## HORNING FAMILY HISTORY: FIRST GENERATION

### LUDWIG HORNING (HORNUNG)

Ludwig Horning was born 26 December, 1707 and died 4 June 1802, according to the inscription and dates in German on his tombstone in Lower Skippack Cemetery, Montgomery, PA. He may be the Georg Ludwig Horning, aged 20, arrived 11 August, 1732 among 279 Palatines imported in the ship, *Samuel*, of London, Hugh Percy, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes to Pennsylvania (references in books by Israel Rupp; Ralph Strassburger). Georg Ludwig 'signed his name in German'. In that time period Georg would have been this individual's "church name" and "Ludwig" his designated name. However, moving into America, this did not always apply.

Further research indicates Leimen as one area where Hornings lived in Germany. The province of Selicia is another (origin of Christian Horning). Other Hornings were inhabitants of Mechlenburg prior to emigration to the U.S.A. in the 1870's. "Horning" comes from the German: "descendant of Harno". Most German names are derived from occupations, colours, or locations.

As the British colonies were becoming alarmed at the large influx of immigrants of other nationalities (notably German) who were seeking refuge from religious persecution in their native land, laws were passed requiring non British subjects to renounce their allegiance to their previous "Protectors" and swear allegiance to the King of England before being allowed to depart ship. Most of these immigrants, especially Palatines, didn't have ship's passage money and were bound out as 'indentured servants' for seven years to pay whatever they owed the captain of the ship.

A Ludowich Harnong took his oath of allegiance to acquire Naturalization September 25, 26, 27, 1740 in the Philadelphia Court House. This second oath was part of the process of gaining citizenship.

'By the provisions of King George II, C7 (1740) entitled *An Act for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned, as are settled or shall settle in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America*, the status of a natural born Englishman was conferred upon foreign Protestants and others residing seven years in America who shall take the oath of adjuration, make declaration of fidelity and receive the sacrament.' In return for proofs (testimony of two witnesses and a minister's certificate of receipt of the sacraments within the previous three months), and a record fee of two shillings, the petitioner received a certificate which served as a complete Naturalization paper. This law remained in force in the colonies up to the time of the revolt, and subsequently was modified in administration and broadened in scope.

Early land records show our Ludwig (wife Katharine) 'signed in German' documents to do with the settlement of property in Van Bebber Township, Philadelphia County (later called Skippack and Perkiomen, Montgomery County, PA) inherited from his wife's father, Pieter Dirk Keyser (died 12 September 1724 in Germantown, PA); transfer sworn 22 December 1743, recorded 24 January 1756 (verified by photocopy).

Catharine Keyser, tombstone dates 17 September 1718 – 6 March 1799, was the granddaughter of Dirk Keyser, Mennonite and silk merchant, who arrived in PA in 1688. The family came from Holland where the Keyzers had lived for four generations. Ancestors left Bavaria after Leonard Keyser was burned at the stake in 1527 (said to be in the book of Mennonite martyrs). *The Keyser Family, Descendents of Dirk Keyser of Amsterdam*, compiled by Charles S. Keyser, Philadelphia, 1899, contains proofs – cemetery, property, businesses, church records, pictures, signatures in Holland and America. From 1708 until his death in 1714, Catharine's grandfather, Dirk Keyser, was the first minister in the old log meeting house – the First Mennonite Church of Germantown, on the outskirts of Philadelphia.

Tax records for 1756 list seven children in Ludwig's family. His will, signed with printed initials LH, 30 January 1790 probated 10 June 1802, lists his living children. Their wills or administration of estates name grandchildren. Note the time span between Ludwig's first and last grandchildren: first cousins Sylvilla Hall born 1758 and John Horning born 1810.

The Seattle Genealogical Society has 28 volumes of Abstracts of Wills and Administration for the early years in Pennsylvania. Montgomery County 2 Vol. 1784-1823; 1824 –. Ludwig Horning's will is recorded on page 154.

Ludwig Horning, Skippack and Perkiomen Twp. Will Jan. 13, 1797, Probate Jan. 30, 1802. Bk. 2, p. 266. To wife Catherine household goods, maintenance and L300. To son Peter 1 s. Son John had received farm valuation of L800, remainder he is to keep [and carpenter tools]. To dau. Margaret Creator L100. To dau. Barbara Hall L100. To dau. Elizabeth Heffilfinger L100. Remainder to be divided among seven children: Michael, John, Eli, Jacob, Margaret, Barbara, Elizabeth. Exrs. Sons John and Jacob. Wits. Henry Hunsicker, Isaac Hunsicker, Fred Conrad.

Son Peter only received one shilling. Ludwig's will states that Peter "has heretofore received from me a considerable sum of money". Was this to enable his son to journey to Upper Canada and start a new life?

Ludwig Horning and Catharine (Katheline, Cateleynte) Keyser's known family:

1. Barbara married Johannes Haal (Hall), shoemaker, tanner. His probate 31 January 1810, Lower Providence Township, PA, children named (a) Sylvilla born 5 June 1758, (b) Ann, (c) Elizabeth, (d) Henry....(one date for children per family given here)
2. Peter, wife Isabella – continued at end of this list)
3. Michael 3 April 1744 – 17 February 1836, married Hannah Roberts, lived Oaks, Skippack and Perkiomen, next his father's mill at Indian Head, Providence Township, then McVeytown, Mifflin County PA until 1821 but appears to have returned to Montgomery County. Known children (a) Lewis born 6 April 1769 (b) Catharine (c) Elizabeth (d) Samuel (e) Hannah (f) John.
4. Margaret married John Grater; his probate 27 March 1818 Montgomery County PA. Children listed (a) Mary (b) John (c) Abraham (d) Ludwig (Lewis) born 5 January 1775 (e) Catharine (f) Elizabeth.
5. Elizabeth married Jacob Heffelfinger; his probate 20 March 1818 Vincent Township Chester County PA. Children named (a) John (b) Lewis (c) Catharine Ralston.
6. John 5 September 1755 – 8 December 1803, of Providence Township buried Lower Skippack Mennonite Cemetery. He inherited his father's carpenter tools and the home place. John married Elizabeth Hall. Administration of his estate-children (a) Jacob born 27 May 1781 (b) Ludwich called Lewis (c) Catharine (d) John (e) Mary (f) Nancy or Ann (g) William (h) Henry (i) Isaac (j) Samuel. Unidentified Hornings appear in Barton Township, Ontario in 1842 and 1851 census and later in Guelph and Palmerston, Ontario. They may belong to John's line. ('one of seven brothers')
7. Elias 1761-18 May 1826 married 7 November 1784 Esther (Heather) Weyerman and moved in 1798 to Juniata County PA. Nine children indicated in their wills: (a) Jacob born circa 1785 (b) John (c) Samuel (d) Joseph (e) Elias (f) William (g) Catharine (h) Eliza (i) Harriet. The Crowell Smith Papers name Elias' offspring as Lewis, Henry, (? 1842 Barton), William, John.
8. Jacob October 1761-16 October 1821 wife Ann (Nancy) Jacobs. Administration of his estate shows five children: (a) Jesse born 9 June 1794 (b) Nathan to Wisconsin (c) Catherine Bergstresser (d) Jeremiah to Glanford Township, Ontario (e) John