

Jacob A. Hepner

Jacob A. Hepner, a farmer of Perry township, and a grandson of one of the original pioneers of Montgomery county, springs from German ancestry. His great-grandfather, George Hepner, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1731, and came to this country a young man, accompanied by a brother, in 1757. He settled in Lancaster county, Pa., and in 1760 married Nellie Kline. Their children were Henry and Catherine. Later he removed to Rockingham county, Va., where he settled on a farm. Still later he came to Ohio with his son Henry, who settled in Jackson township in 1806. Here the old man died in 1808, when he was seventy-seven years of age. He was a member of the Lutheran church, a man of strong character, and the founder of the Hepner family in America.

He was buried in the woods one and a quarter mile southwest of New Lebanon, his last resting place being on what is now the farm of Henry Schoenfeld, but formerly the farm of Henry Hepner.

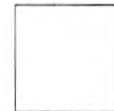
Henry Hepner, the grandfather of Jacob A., was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1762, was reared a farmer and learned the blacksmith trade. In his native county he married Mary Hyser, and by this marriage he became the father of the following children: George and Polly, twins; John; Sophia; Lydia and Leona, twins; the first four being born in Virginia, and the last two in Ohio. Henry Hepner brought his family to America in 1806, and located on the line between Jefferson and Jackson townships, entering 160 acres of land in the latter township and forty acres in the former township. Selecting a huge oak tree, he cut it down and built his cabin round the stump. This stump trimmed and dressed to bring it into proper shape, served for a table for a number of years. Mr. Hepner was well known among the pioneers in all that region as a man of safe and reliable judgment and was unusually influential in his neighborhood. Being a vigorous and energetic worker, he prospered and became a substantial farmer. He was a member of the German Baptist Church.

John Hepner, father of Jacob A., was born in Rockingham county, Va., in 1797, and was therefore but nine years old when brought to Ohio by his father. Educated principally in the German tongue, yet he acquired a sufficient knowledge of the English to enable him to read and converse in this language. His father being a blacksmith as well as a farmer, young Hepner was trained in both callings. He married Elizabeth Diehl, who was born November 29, 1800, in Bedford county, Pa., and was a daughter of Jacob Diehl, for fuller mention of whom the reader is referred to the biography of the Diehl family, published elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Hepner settled on section 34, Perry township, on 110 acres of land in the woods, which had been entered by Jacob Diehl. This land Mr. Hepner cleared and upon it built his home. In his earlier life, in this then wild country, he was accustomed to do a great deal of hunting, killing many deer, wolves and wild turkeys, wildcats and panthers. He was a most industrious man on his farm, and by thrift and careful management of his affairs he came to own 271 acres of excellent land in Montgomery county, and also 150 acres in Lake county, Ind. Religiously he was a member of the German Baptist church, and was noted for his strong, upright, Christian character. Politically he was an old-line whig. Mr. Hepner lived to be forty-four years of age, and died on his farm. His children were George, Jacob A., Elizabeth, Rosanna, John and Lydia. His wife died when she was forty-nine years of age, a member of the German Baptist church.

Jacob A. Hepner was born May 24, 1828, on his father's farm. Obtaining the common school education of his day, he was reared a farmer, and on September 19, 1852, married Miss Eve Neff, who was born February 6, 1830, in Perry township, and was a daughter of Michael and Barbara (Floro) Neff. For fuller mention of Miss Eve Neff the reader is referred to the biography of Abraham Neff.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hepner settled on the homestead farm, on which they lived until 1857, when they removed to their present farm of 107 acres. Of this Mr. Hepner cleared about forty acres, which he materially improved. Adding other acres to its original number, he at length became possessed of 136 acres of good farming land. He and his wife reared the following children: Mary C., born August 22, 1853, died March 26, 1854; Minerva, born September 23, 1854; Sarah A., born April 22, 1856; Amanda, born October 9, 1858; Elizabeth, born December 23, 1860, died a married woman; Emma, born April 2, 1862, died in April, 1893; Clara, born March 22, 1863; George W., born January 4, 1867; Jacob A., born April 12, 1870; William A., born January 14, 1872; Morris, born January 3, 1876, and died January 10, 1876; and Omar V., born February 27, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Hepner are members of the German Baptist church, and Mr. Hepner has been an active politician for many years, being an excellent speaker and an efficient worker. Politically he was in early life an old-line whig, but has been a member of the republican party since its organization. He has always taken an active interest in educational matters, and exercises his influence in the direction of good schools. He has for this reason served as a member of the school board for many years.

Media Objects for Jacob A Hepner



Marriage

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 **Jacob A Hepner**
1828 - 1898

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hepner married as follows: Minerva married John H. Wehrly, of Dayton, Ohio, and has one son; Sarah A. married Samuel Fasnacht, a farmer of Sumner county, Kans., and has one child; Amanda R. married Martin B. Fasnacht, a farmer of Sumner county, Kans., and has five children; Elizabeth married James L. Weaver, of Boulder county, Colo., had three children, and is now deceased; Emma married David C. Cloppart, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio, and has one child; Clara married for her first husband Lucien Berk, by whom she had one child, and after the death of her first husband Mrs. Berk married William T. Nininger, of Johnson county, Mo.. George W. married Clara Bowser, of Montgomery county, and has two children; Jacob A. married Hattie Bowser, is living on the home farm and has one child, and William A. married Bessie Snyder, is a farmer of Montgomery county, and has one child. The Hepner family is one of the most respected in Montgomery county, and comes from good, old pioneer stock.

Centennial Biographical Record of Dayton and Montgomery County

 appaloosalane added this on 13 Mar 2012

 AClassicShane originally submitted this to

[Conley/Thomas/Gee/Roe/King/Dixon/Brandenburg](#) on 14 Nov 2011