

KAUFFMAN—COFFMAN FAMILY

the Isle of Wright or Portsmouth near-by. Then came the long two or more months voyage across the Atlantic. These ships were crowded with passengers whose quarters and food were filthy. Sickness and death too often cut the load of passengers to half the number who set out. Later, laws became more severe, giving the passengers some protection from the inhuman greed of the shipowners.

RHINELAND TO AMERICA

For years the Rhine provinces of Germany permitted Swiss Mennonites its use as an asylum from the severe tribulations which had been their lot in Switzerland. While freedom of worship was permitted, the economic struggle was such that constant aid was supplied from the Mennonite congregations in Holland. Hardships multiplied with increasing numbers coming from Switzerland, especially in 1671 and 1711, when thousands were exiled. Friedelheim, Friesheim, Brachweilerhof, Erpolzheim, Ober Sultzheim, Tribbach, Ibersheim, Manheim and other communities in the Palatinate had quotas of Swiss Mennonite families.

As early as 1683 a few venturesome Mennonites had gone to Pennsylvania where they founded Germantown. In 1690 Hans Milan is said to have erected the most pretentious house in Germantown. In 1696 Hans Graff and Henry Zimmerman came to Germantown. On June 24, 1710, Hans and Christian Herr, Martin Milan, Hans Funk, Jacob Miller, and Martin Kindig, Swiss Palatines, left London and arrived in Philadelphia in September. In October, 1710, they took up land in what is now Pequea Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa. After houses had been erected and the crops set out in the spring of 1711, Martin Kindig returned to Europe with bright reports. However, it was not finally adopted by the Mennonite elders until Feb. 1717, at the conference at Manheim that mass settlement be made in Lancaster County. It was decided to solicit the Holland congregations for financial aid to assist in the project. Benedict Brechbill was able to collect 4000 guilders. June, 1717, the vessels set sail from Rotterdam, spending twelve weeks at sea coming by way of London to Philadelphia. Sept. 8, 1717, Captains Eyres, Tower, and Richards appeared before the Council of Pennsylvania with a total list of 363 Palatines brought over in their three vessels (see Vol. 3, Col. Rec., p. 29). The names of the ships and passengers are lacking.

Without a doubt we have the names of some of these recent passengers (from "Land Warrants and Surveys,") ; viz., on Sept. 27, 1717, land warrants were issued to recent arrivals: Isaac Kauffman, Melchoir Erisman, Hans Tuber, Hans Brubaker, Christian Hershey, and others situated along the Little Conestoga Creek. A blanket warrant was made out to Martin Kindig and Hans Herr at the same time for 5,000 additional acres in the same vicinity. On Oct. 14, 1717, a total of 675 acres was surveyed to Isaac Kauffman, Melchoir Erisman, and Hans Tuber; 1000 for Hans Brubacker and Christian Herschi. The blanket warrant of Herr and Kindig was cut up into smaller parcels, a portion of which were surveyed as follows: May 28, 1718, Michael Bachman, 280 acres; Hans Shank, 200 acres; Jacob Kryter, 200 acres; May 30, 1718, Hans Snyder, 200 acres; Henry Baer, 300 acres; May 31, 1718, Andrew Kauffman 200 acres; John Witmer, 200 acres; Michael Miller 300 acres; Monday, June 2, 1718, Henry Musselman 200 acres; and heirs of Michael Kauffman, 500 acres.

Andrew Kauffman in 1718 was assessed for twelve shillings; Isaac Kauffman, for fifteen shillings, while in 1719-20, Andrew Kauffman's assessment was twenty-one shillings, and Isaac Kauffman's was nineteen.