



# BRANCHES of our Family Tree

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## Chapter One

### OUR IMLER BRANCH

This is the family history of my father's line. His surname is Imler. The earliest ancestor that I have found on this line is Wilhelm Imler, the immigrant. Other spellings of his name have been Emler, Embler, Imbler, Immler and Immel. Tom Imler, who lives in the area in which the first Imlers settled gave us much information about them.<sup>1</sup>

#### #768 WILHELM<sup>1</sup> IMLER (ca. 1678 to ca. 1733)

Wilhelm was 55 years old when he left Bavaria, Germany, and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to join his son in America. In 1733 he landed in Pennsylvania with the rest of his family, one year after his son, George, had arrived. Wilhelm Imler is listed as a 55 year old passenger who is sick on the ship, "Charming Betty", on October 11, 1733. Other passengers included in the list were: Anna Imler, 20 yrs., (her full name was Esther Anna Imler, and she was the wife of the son who had immigrated in 1732<sup>1</sup>); Catherina Imler, 20 yrs.; Sabina Imler, 18 yrs.; Ludwig Imler, 11; and Johan Imler, 7 yrs.. On the next day, at the Courthouse of Philadelphia, the Minutes of the Provincial Council recorded that "Fifteen Palatines, who with their families, making in all Sixty-two persons, were imported here in Ship Charming Betty, John Ball, Master, from London, were this day qualified as usual." <sup>2</sup> Wilhelm died soon after arriving in America. It appears that his wife died in Germany, since she did not come with him. The remaining "Imler" passengers are his children.<sup>2</sup>

The "Palatines" came principally from the German Palatinate States along the Rhine River. They fled to the Palatinate from their homes in Germany, France, Switzerland, Saxony, and other parts of Europe.

About 65 ships of Germans arrived at Philadelphia between 1730 and 1740. The "religious fanatacism of Louis desolated the low countries ... broke in upon the Palatine in one of the most desolating wars in history." There were many different religious groups, including Mennonites, Dunkards, German Reformed, Lutherans, German Calvinists, Separatists (Seventh Day Baptists), Moravians, and others.

By 1790 there were 145,000 Germans out of a total population of about 435,000 in Pennsylvania. This number includes Hessian soldiers, who were taken prisoner by Washington's army, and who preferred not to be exchanged after the Revolutionary War.<sup>3</sup>

Wilhelm's (or William, the American version), son, Johan, may be the John Imler "who paid taxes in Bedford County, Pa., in 1771, 1772, and 1773 for land on top of Snake-Spring Mt." Tom wrote "John lived there very early, having built a cabin and cleared a few acres of land, for he was a trapper and hunter. One day when he returned from his hunting, he found his wife and two children murdered and scalped, his cabin burned. For days he wandered over the mountains, in a daze over his loss. When he got over this shock, he was in the vicinity of Lancaster. Going in to Lancaster to recuperate, he had a double-barreled rifle made. With much practice he soon was able to

hit a squirrel at a hundred paces. When he returned to his former home, he spent most of his time venting his ire on the Indians. His fame and his rifle were soon known for many miles around. When offered a great price for his rifle he answered 'How many Indians will I kill without it?' This was probably the same person who was called "Black Jack" who was an Indian hunter in that region, and who was feared by the Indians.<sup>5</sup>

Tom found a J. Imel on a record in Franklin Co., Pa., whom he thought might also be the same man. However these could also be the John Wm. Imler who was the son of "George Mark Imbler" and "Esther", and who was christened in the First Reformed Church of Lancaster, Pa., on 13 April 1740.<sup>6</sup> Whoever he was, this story reveals the dangers of living in the frontier.

Nothing is known about Wilhelm's daughters, Catherina and Sabina. However, Conrad Samuel's first wife was a Sabina.

Children of Wilhelm Imler:

- 1 Isack or Jak Marcus Imler, who later changed his name to George Mark Imler b 1705 Germany d 1788 York Co., Pa.
- 2 Catherina b 1713 Germany
- 3 Sabina b 1715 Germany
- 4 Ludwig b 1722 Germany
- 5 Johan b 1726 Germany

#384 GEORGE<sup>2</sup> MARK IMLER (1705 to 1788)

Jak or George was born in Germany in 1704 or 1705. When he was "27" years old, he sailed to America on the ship, "Mary", and landed in Philadelphia. There were three lists of passengers. The English Captain or Master of the ship, John Gray, wrote our immigrant's name on the Captain's passenger list as Erreck Mens Emler on September 26, 1732. But our ancestor signed his own name as Jak Markus Imler on the signers of oath of Allegiance" list. His signature was interpreted as Isack Marcus Imler on the list of "signers of oath of abjuration".<sup>2</sup> All of these three lists had the same date. The German "J" and "I" were very similar. Both signatures stood for the same name and person. I think it was most likely to have been a "J" at the beginning of both signatures since that sounds more similar to George, the name he later assumed. I was happy to see reproductions of his actual signatures in the latter lists! (See pages 84,85, and 86, Vol. II, Pennsylvania German Pioneers .)<sup>2</sup>

There is only one Imler or Emler passenger in each of these lists, and each list is for the same group of people. Therefore there must have been only one Imler passenger aboard the ship, Mary. Tom said that Jak was a brother of Isack or Erreck. He found that a Jak Imler died at 26 years of age in Lancaster Co., Pa.. When I hired a genealogist in Lancaster Co. to look for this record in 1983, she couldn't find it. The immigrants, (Jak, and those who came with Wilhelm the following year), are the only passengers with the name of Imler or Emler that are recorded, until 1804. So I have no evidence that our ancestor had a brother named Jak. I believe "Jak", "Isack", or "Erreck" are one and the same person: our ancestor. I believe most people who look at the 3 lists and read the explanations in the book Pennsylvania German Pioneers, would agree. It is apparently more accurate than Names of 30,000 Immigrants to Pennsylvania.

The minutes recorded: "At the Courthouse aforesaid, Sept. 26, 1732, Sixty-one Palatines, who with their Families, making in all 191 Persons, were imported in the Ship 'Mary', of London, John Gray, Master, from Rotterdam, but last from Cowes, as by clearance thence."<sup>2</sup>

Many immigrants "americanized" their names after arriving in America, and that is evidently why Jak Markus was later called George Mark. He settled in York County, Pa., with his wife, Esther Anna, and children. Esther Anna was also born in Germany, about 1713.

George Mark Imler bought land in Paradise Township. When he bought it the land was in Chester Providence, Pa.; that became Chester County, then Lancaster County, next York Co., and finally, from 1800 until now, it has been Adams County. When George died in 1788, Paradise Twp. was in York County. Esther died sometime after George. Both of their graves are in the "Two Church Cemetary" which is between Gettysburg and Dillsburg, in Adams Co., This was passed down by word of mouth. If there were any gravestones, they are gone now .<sup>1</sup>

Their first child, Barbara, was born in Germany. She wasn't even counted on the passenger list. She died in 1814.<sup>1</sup>

Eve was their first child who was born in America, and also the most famous one. She was called "Indian Eve", and a book has been written about her and her descendants: Indian Eve and Her Descendents, by Anna A.M. Replogle, published by Messiah Lutheran Church, 1911, and reprinted in 1975. Ethel Imler has a copy of this book. Eve's first husband was Adam Henry Earnest. He brought Eve and their children from York County to Bedford County in 1773. "Early one morning in 1777 as Adam Earnest and two friends were sipping coffee in preparation of building a fence around his newly cleared land, they heard what they believed to be owls hooting. One of the men said we will not get much fence made today, as it will rain; the owls are calling for rain. But it was not owls hooting, for some Indians burst in the door, killing the three men. Eve, with the two youngest boys, were also on the first floor; but George, Mary, Jacob and Johannas were on the second floor. They were able to escape through a hole in the roof, running and hiding in the tall grass. The Indians, after scalping the three men started hunting the others." But they didn't find them. Then the Indians took Eve and the two youngest sons to Canada for about 2½ years. After that, they took them to Detroit and sold them to the English. "Nine years after being taken prisoners they were released. Eve had earned enough money to buy a small horse for their return to Bedford County. Her sons were then eleven and fourteen years of age".

After their arrival, they found Eve's son, George, and his family living in the old homestead. "What a joyful reunion that must have been," for none of them knew whether the others were living! Soon afterwards Eve married Conrad Samuel, whose first wife had died. She was buried by the Messiah Lutheran Church<sup>5</sup> Her large monument briefly tells her story, and calls her "Indian Eve" as she was known after her return, and gives her date of birth and death as: 1740-1815.

George Mark Imler's son, George Michael, was the first of the children to move to Cumberland County in 1763. The next one in the family to arrive in Cumberland was Maria Barbara (Imler) Gottfried, in 1766. (Bedford County was formed from Cumberland in 1771). William Abraham Imler came in 1772. Eve came next. All of George and Esther's children, except one daughter, eventually moved from York Co. to the Bedford Co. area. The name of the one who stayed at the old home in York Co. is unknown.

Both George Michael and William Abraham are our ancestors because George's daughter married William's son. It was quite common in those days for first cousins to intermarry. George's story is next, followed by his brother, William's, and then the son of William.

Children of George Mark and Esther Anna Imler:

- 1 Barbara b 1732 Germany d 1814 mar Matthias Walter
- 2 Eve b 1734 (Tom) or 1740 (monument) Pa. d 1815 Bedford Co., Pa. mar 1st: Adam Henry Ernest mar 2nd: Conrad Samuels
- 3 Maria Barbara b 1735 Pa. d 1821 mar Johannes Gottfried Reighart
- 4 George Michael b 1739 Pa. d 1816 Bedford Co., Pa. (had a will) mar Catharine Walter
- 5 John William b 1740 Pa.
- 6 William Abraham b perhaps after 1740 d 1815 Huntingdon Co., Pa. mar Eve Sprinkler
- 7 Susan Catharine b not known d not known
- 8 a daughter whose name is unknown; probably born and died in York County

#194 GEORGE<sup>3</sup> MICHAEL IMLER (1739 to 1816)

George was born in 1739 to George Mark and Esther Imler in York County, Pa.. He and all of his brothers and sisters were probably born in Paradise Township. According to the history that was handed down in the family, George Michael married Catharine Walter in 1761. This was said to have been in George's family Bible.<sup>1</sup>

In 1763 he moved to Bedford County and settled near the place that is now called Imler, Pa. His first child, Catharine, was born that year, also. The town of Imler was named after the sons of Conrad and John, who were George's sons. "Imler Cross Roads" was named after the sons of Peter, who was George's oldest son.<sup>5</sup>

There is a record of a marriage of "Geo. Michl. Imler" to "Maria Cath. Christman" on June 26, 1764 at a Lutheran Church in York County, Pa..<sup>6</sup> I think this has to be our George, but I don't know whether this is a second wife to George, the same person as his first and only wife, with a mistake somewhere, or whether there is some other explanation. I hope someone will be able to solve this mystery some day.

Later on, George moved his family, except his son Peter, to Dutch Corner in Bedford Township, where he stayed until he died in 1816. He is listed in Bedford County on the first United States Census in 1790. The family consists of 2 males who are 16 yrs. or older, 3 males under 16, and 4 females. His son, Peter, is also listed as a head of a household. There are no other Imlers in Bedford County, in the census. Maybe Wm. Abraham's place was too difficult to find!<sup>7</sup>

George was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He received 200 acres of Bounty Land as part of his salary for his service. This was where he first settled in Bedford County. Tom Imler has the original deed for this land. An Imler Reunion is held every year on a part of that land which is called Imler Grove. The Reunion is on the last Saturday of every July. Peter, the oldest son of George, received the Bounty Land plus 360 more acres in Greenfield Township, which he lived on!

George looked ahead enough to leave a will for his family, and we can learn so much about him and his family through this. It states that he was a farmer, and mentions all 12 of his children including one who had died, plus the spouses of those who had "intermarried". It names his daughter, "Elizabeth who is intermarried with Peter Imler my Brother's Son"\_\_who are both our ancestors.

The will is several pages long. It begins with: "In the name of God amen. I George Imler of Bedford Township and Bedford County, Farmer, being weak in Body but of Sound Memory and Understanding, knowing the uncertainty of life and that it is appointed for all men once to die, and that it is the Duty of Every person when in full enjoyment of Health so to dispose of his real and personal Estate, that when Death puts an end to his own enjoyment of it that every person most dear to him may know to a certainty what was intended by me to him or them\_\_ (word I can't read)

I will, devise and bequeath to my beloved wife, Catharine Imler, to be paid to her yearly, while She lives, by my Executor, hereafter named, out of the income of My Estate which I calculate to be equal to the one third of the rents, (fines?), and profits thereof. Viz. fifteen bushels of wheat, fifteen bushels of Rye, five bushels of Corn, five bushels of Buckwheat, fifteen pounds of Clean Flax, ten bushels of potatoes, as much hay and grain as she may want to feed two Cows, and all the wood She may want, is to be cut and hauled to her house. I will to her also the one third of all my personal property, Viz. my household furniture and Farming Utentials, horses and Cattle of every kind and her choice of either of the two houses that Jacob and John lives in if She makes choice of either; if not She may live in the old mansion house while she lives, provided my land is not sold by My Executor."

The will bequeathed the plantation of "about 300 acres" on which George was living to his two sons, Jacob and John, provided that they agreed to make specified payments within a year of George's decease, to his executor. In a later addition to his will, he decided that it would be "out of their power" to pay that amount in a year, so he changed the terms to two hundred dollars to be paid each year by both Jacob and John to his son, Conrad, whom he named as his executor. The four hundred dollars a year was to be equally divided among his children, until the land was paid for. The total amount was "three thousand and eight hundred dollars" for the land "containing about three hundred and fifty acres." If Jacob and John did not agree to these terms, then it was to be sold and the money divided equally among all the children, except that his sons were to receive fifty dollars more than his daughters, and Michael and Mary were to receive fifty dollars more than any of the others because of their poor health.

Two thirds of his money and personal property were to be divided among his children and the remaining one third was to be given to his wife.

He willed to Peter the tract of land which he was living on in Greenfield Township, "containing about three hundred acres". His son, Henry, received the land he was living on in Ohio "over and above their equal shares" of the estate.

The rest of his children were named: Catharine, who was married to Daniel Croyle, Conrad, Hetty, who married John Heltzel, Rebecca, who married Peter Dill, and Eve, who was deceased and who had married Philip Croyle. The names of the latter couple's children were given: Henry, Mary, and Eve Croyle.

The will was signed on the 23rd of February, 1816. George had to make a "mark" because he could not write. His father had been able to sign his own name. The pioneer life left little time for education. This document is in Bedford County's Will Book #1, page 465. The wills were so interesting to read and they reveal so much about the testators and their families.

Children of George Michael and Catharine (Walter) Imler:

- 1 Catharine b 1763 Bedford Co. Pa. d 1842 probably Bedford Co. mar Daniel Croyle
- 2 Peter b 1765 Bedford Co. Pa. d 1842 bur in Greenfield Cem. Bedford Co. mar Elizabeth Lingenfelter
- 3 Eve b 1766 Bedford Co. Pa. d before 1797 Bedford Co. mar Philip Croyle
- 4 Conrad b 1768 Bedford Co. Pa. d 1848 Bedford Co. mar Susan Sill
- 5 Henry b 1 Nov. 1770 Bedford Co. Pa. d 9 Feb. 1842 Ohio mar (1st): Elizabeth Saltsgaver 15 Mar. 1796 (2nd): Rachel Pressell 22 Nov. 1816 Bedford Co. (This data was on a Family Group Sheet at the Mormon's library in Salt Lake City.)
- 6 Hettie b 1770 Bedford Co. Pa. d before 1842 mar John Tobias Heltzel
- 7 Rebecca b 1773 Bedford Co. Pa. mar Peter Dill
- 8 Elizabeth b 1775 Bedford Co. Pa. d after 1850 mar Peter Emler
- 9 Mary b 1781 Bedford Co. Pa. never married
- 10 Michael b 1783 Bedford Co. Pa. never married
- 11 John b 1786(?) Bedford Co. Pa. d 1842 mar Margaret Snyder
- 12 Jacob b 1788 Bedford Co. Pa. d 1863 mar Christina Claycomb

Most of this information was from Tom Imler.<sup>1</sup>



William, as his brother, George Michael, was the third generation from the progenitor, Wilhem, whom he was probably named after. In some countries and religious groups it was the custom to name the first boy after the paternal grandfather and the first girl after the maternal grandmother. Therefore William may have been the first son. By this custom the second son was named after the maternal grandfather, and the second daughter was named after the paternal grandmother. The third boy was named after his father, and the third girl was named after her mother. William was probably born between 1737 and 1745 in Paradise Twp. which was in Lancaster County at that time. In 1749 that part of Lancaster Co. became York Co., in 1800 it was changed to Adams County. Therefore one should hunt for William's birth record in all three counties. William was one of three known sons of George Mark and Esther Anna.

William bought land from his parents in 1771 in Paradise Twp. York Co.. He sold his land in 1773. Tom believes he sold it to his sister and her husband. He moved to Bedford County about 1772, and settled in Hopewell Twp. near Shy Beaver Creek.<sup>1</sup> That part of Bedford Co. became Huntingdon Co. in 1787.

William's family were German Lutheran and Reformed. William married Eve Sprinkler (or Sprenkel)<sup>6</sup>, who was a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian. This caused a rift between William and the rest of his family. No wonder they often married cousins! I don't imagine it was easy on the sparsely settled frontier to find someone near your age with the same faith, language, and culture as yourself! Some time after the rift William dropped his first name and went by his middle name, Abraham. He also changed the "I" in his last name to an "E".<sup>1</sup>

"Abraham and Eva Immler" baptized their son, John William Immler, on June 25, 1775 at the Christ Lutheran Church in the town of York, York Co.. This is probably very close to the baby's birthdate because in those days and in those churches they believed that babies must be baptized as soon as possible after they were born. The witnesses were "William Sprenkel and wife".<sup>9</sup> I wonder if these were Eva's (or Eve's) parents. I wasn't able to find any other birth records for children of Abraham and Eve. When these church records were translated from the original German in 1933, it was written that "This is believed to be the oldest church record west of the Susquehanna."

Abraham was a miller since he had learned the milling trade. He built a feed mill at Shy Beaver. It was run by water power. His son, Daniel, helped him operate it.

On Feb. 22, 1807 "Abraham Emler of Hopewell Township, bought from Martin Mikesell and wife, Elizabeth, a tract of land located in Woodcock Valley of Hopewell Township, for the sum of \$601.04."

(Huntingdon Co. Deed Book L - 1, page 402)

On April 8, 1814 "Abraham Emler and wife, Eve, sold to Christian Shontz (all of Hopewell Township) for the sum of \$600.00, the same tract of land that he had bought from Martin Mikesell." (Huntingdon Co. Deed Book 0-1, page 38)

In 1800 Abraham Emler was on the census in Hopewell Township, Huntingdon Co.. He had one son at home between 10 and 16 years of age, and he was over 44 years old. He had 7 daughters at home between ages 10 and 44, and his wife was over 44. Abraham's son Peter, lived by him.

In 1810 "E. Emler" was listed again in Hopewell Twp.; he and his wife were over 44. They had no sons and 2 daughters between 16 and 44 at home. I guess the census taker made a mistake on Abraham's initial. His son, "Daniel Emler" lived next to him and evidently was over 44 also. There were no other Emlers or Imlers in the Hopewell Twp. census. I found the censuses at the Multnomah County Library, Mormon branch libraries, and the National Archives branch near Seattle, Washington.

Abraham died in 1815, the year after he sold the land mentioned above. He died "intestate", which meant that he did not leave a will. The Huntingdon Co. Will Book 2, page 175, states that "Letters of Administration, in common form were this day granted to William Emler and Daniel Emler of the Estate of Abraham Emler, late of Hopewell Township in the County of Huntingdon, dec'd.

Inventory to be exhibited on or before the twenty-fifth day of September, next. And a Just and true account calculation and reckoning of their Said Administration on or before the twenty-fifth day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen or when thereunto legally required. Given under Seal of Office the 25th day of August 1815. James Steel, depy. register".

Abraham's widow, Eve Emler, renounced her right to settle his estate on the same date. She signed this with her "mark", so she was unable to write.

Evidently William and Daniel still hadn't settled the estate in 1828, because Abraham's daughter, Molly Duncan, filed a citation that year, directing the administrators to file an account. In April 1828 it was finally settled. "The Administration account of Daniel Emler acting Administrator of Abraham Emler, dec'd. was presented to the Court for confirmation and allowance-- Whereupon it is considered by the Court and ordered that the same be confirmed. (fees Paid)". This was found in Orphan's Court Records, Docket C, page 303, by Polly Wheland. Polly also copied some of the other records above. She is a distant cousin through our Kurtz and Bookwalter Lines. I found the estate records on microfilm #854231 at the Mormon library in Portland.

The date of Eve's death is not known. Their graves were marked only by fieldstones. Abraham's had simply "W. A. E." carved on it. Eve's had "E. S. E." on it. There were no dates. Tom used to be able to walk to the hill where the graves are, but now one could only get there by boat, since they built a dam.

We do not know of any complete list of Abraham's and Eve's children, nor do we know most of their birthdates or order of births. Two children married Imler relatives.

Mollie Emler married Morgan Duncan. They had a son, Peter Duncan, whose wife was Sarah, daughter of a great steel man of early days, who started U. S. Steel Co.. When Tom was a boy, he saw the "Sarah Furnace" many times in Blair County. It was named after Sarah Duncan.<sup>1</sup>

It is said that William Emler and Abraham Lane and their families migrated to Muskingum Co., Ohio about 1810,<sup>8</sup> which was near Coshocton and West Lafayette in Sandusky Township, according to Tom. Arthur<sup>8</sup> sent a list of the children of both families. Abraham Lane was the son of Samuel Lane, a Methodist Minister. William Emler's brother, Daniel, also bought land near them. However Daniel is still in Hopewell Twp. in the censuses of 1820 and 1830. In 1840 "Daniel Emler" is in Franklin Twp., Richland Co., Ohio. In 1830 he is between 50 and 60; but in 1840 he is between 70 and 80 yrs.; so one of these is probably wrong. At least he was born between 1760 and 1780!

The story of Abraham's son, Peter, follows this one, since he is our ancestor.

Children of William Abraham and Eve (Sprinkler) Imler:

- 1 Daniel b 30 Oct. 1769 Pa. d 1841<sup>1</sup> wife not known
- 2 Peter b before 1773 Pa. d before 1850 probably mar Elizabeth Imler, dau. of Geo. Mich.
- 3 John William christened 29 May 1775 York Co. Pa.
- 4 William G. b 1776 Pa. d date unknown mar Mary (Polly) Lane, dau. of Rev. Samuel Lane, in 1843
- 5 Abraham Jr. b and d unknown mar Catharine Imler, dau of Peter Imler, son of Geo. Mich.
- 6 Mollie (or Polly) b and d unknown mar Morgan Duncan

There were at least 6 other daughters, according to the 1800 Census.