

# History and Genealogy

of the

## Hasselbach Family

IN AMERICA



Being a record of John Peter; John Phillip; Regina Elizabeth; and Elizabeth Margaret; four children of John Jacob Hasselbach, and of their descendants.

### 1781-1910

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*"As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."—Psalms 103:15.*

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ter-making machines have been introduced and general progress is shown. The hotel at Berndroth is owned by A. Meyer, a relative of the Meyer family whose history comprises the second chapter of this volume.

Further facts concerning Berndroth and its inhabitants might be given here, but what has been given will no doubt suffice to give the American descendents of the family a faint idea of the German ancestral home of the family. The family name is still perpetuated in Berndroth, as is shown by the following pages of this chapter.

We are not able to say when the first members of the Hasselbach family settled at Berndroth, nor from whence they came, and no effort has been made to trace the family history farther back than to the immediate ancestors, or parents, of the original members of the family in America.

→ area in town of Bern.

The church records of Ackerbach and the civil records of Berndroth both show that the family has been prominently connected with each for at least one hundred and fifty years.

**Henry Peter Hasselbach**, grandfather of the original members of the family in America, was twice married; his first wife was Catherine Sophia Lang, and they had a son, John Henry Hasselbach, born January 5, 1772. From this date we could infer that Henry Peter was born at least as early as 1750; and it is from this son of the first marriage, that the Hasselbach families still living in Berndroth are descendants, and a brief outline of this branch of the family in Germany is herewith given.

The above named John Henry Hasselbach, son of Henry Peter and his wife Catherine Sophia nee Lang, was born in Berndroth, January 5, 1772, and married Catherine Elizabeth Schmidt of Nieterdiefenbach, February 3, 1801; they had two sons and at least one daughter. He died at Berndroth January 6, 1848.

Their children were: John Peter, born January 21, 1809, John Peter born March 13, 1814, and a daughter who married a Mr. Brod, some of whose descendants are still living at Berndroth. On account of the similarity of the names of the two sons above mentioned we will call the older one Peter and the younger one John.

**Peter** married Anna Catherine Meyer in 1832. She was born in Berndroth September 17, 1809. He was financial secretary of Berndroth for many years and died there August 26, 1882. They had two sons, Jacob and Carl William.

**Jacob** is still living at Berndroth and holds the same position that his father filled faithfully for years; he also has a son and grandson living there.

**Carl William** was a farmer and resided at Berndroth where he died several years ago leaving a son Henry, called "Ecke Heinrich," a farmer and miner, who has a son fourteen years old and no doubt resides in the old "Ecke Heinrich" house formerly the home of Henry Peter, the first Hasselbach included in our records.

**John**, the younger son of Henry Peter and his first wife, Catherine Sophia Lang, was born in Bendroth March 13, 1814, and married in 1837, Elizabeth Mar-

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garet Sattler, of Berndroth: they had two sons, John Phillip, and Peter Carl.

**John Phillip** was born in 1846 and the John Phillip, born in 1820, whose history and descendants are given in the last chapter of this volume, was his God-father. He is still living unmarried at Berndroth, a very intelligent, earnest and able man, a carpenter by trade, and highly respected by all who know him.

**Peter Carl**, the second son of John and Elizabeth Margaret (Sattler) Hasselbach was also a carpenter and resided at Berndroth where he died March 23, 1899, a man of noble character and highly respected in the community. He had two sons, Henry and William, who are still living in Berndroth. Thus it is shown that the name is still perpetuated in Berndroth through descendants of John Henry Hasselbach, son of Henry Peter by his first marriage.

Henry Peter married the second time May 16, 1780, Mary Magdalan Woell of Bettendorf. They had a son, **John Jacob Hasselbach**, born in Berndroth March 6, 1781, and baptized two days later. His sponsor was John Jacob Woell, an unmarried man of Bettendorf. He grew to manhood at Berndroth, was confirmed in the church at Ackerbach, and married Marie Anna Sophia Schmidt July 27, 1806. This couple became the parents of the original members of the Hasselbach family in America, thus occupying a very important position in the annals of the family as here given. She was born at Niederteifenbach, a small town northwest of Berndroth, January 16, 1777, daughter of John Philip and Mary Catherine (Spiesterbach) Schmidt. Her father

← next town  
over.

was a wagonmaker and also served as court bailiff, and elder in the church.

John Jacob Hasselbach was therefore past twenty-five years of age and his wife more than four years his senior when they started on life's journey together; they resided at Berndroth and engaged in farming and gardening.

He is described by those in this country who remember him, as having been a stout-built, broad-shouldered, rather short man, known to have been the strongest man in Berndroth at that time; and many interesting incidents are related of him, showing the feats which he performed, demonstrating the strength which he possessed. It is said that he could lift four hundred pounds; and on one occasion the bully of a crowd of men wanted to wrestle him. Mr. Hasselbach finally proposed to lie flat on his back with one hand under his body, and defied the bully to hold him down. The proposition was accepted and upon the approach of his antagonist, Mr. Hasselbach seized him with the hand he still had free and tossed him bodily away as if he were a toy. On another occasion they were hauling stone with heavy dump-carts, when a heavily loaded cart stood before him he took hold of one wheel and lifting it up, dumped the load out over the other wheel, a feat which two men of ordinary strength could hardly accomplish.

Other incidents showing the strength he possessed are related, so that we know he must have been a man of great muscular ability, a hard working, honest, industrious farmer, quiet in his habits and frugal in his living and quoting words of a disinterested man living at Berndroth written under date of June 11, 1910, "The

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family taken as a whole was an industrious, upright, highly respected family, not wealthy, but honest and conscientious."

The same party also wrote that there are still three men living in Berndroth who were well acquainted with the Hasselbach family before its members emigrated to America; they are Peter Meyer, known as "Dicke" Meyer, Peter Brod, a tailor, each of whom is past 80 years of age, and Philip Hasselbach, a carpenter, 65 years old.

They were members of the Evangelical Protestant Christian church at Ackerbach, which was one of the first congregations in that part of Germany to take up the work of the Reformation as taught and defended by Martin Luther, who began the work in 1512 at Wittenberg in 1521 was cited to appear before the Diet of Worms, and translated the New Testament into the German language in 1522, and the Old Testament in 1534.

The church of Ackerbach became a Protestant church in 1530, the same year in which the Augsburg Confession was read before the Diet at Augsburg and sixteen years before Luther died. The church is situated near the Ackerbach river, or creek, about eighty rods north of Berndroth. Adjoining the church is the old cemetery and the parsonage, which, with five or six other houses, the homes of farmers, comprises what is known as "Ackerbach."

To this estimable couple, John Jacob Hasselbach and his wife, Marie Anna Sophia Schmidt, five children were born, four of whom, after they had grown to young manhood and womanhood and were married, left their

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Fatherland and the home of their youth, with all its surroundings and associations, which naturally attached them to the place of their birth with ties that it seemed cruel to sever, and came to America, determined to establish happy and prosperous homes here, never again to return to the land of their nativity.

The children of the parents above mentioned were as follows:

Regina Elizabeth, born Sept. 5, 1807, baptized Sept. 7; John Peter, born Nov. 26, 1809, baptized Nov. 28; Anna Sophia, born Dec. 20, 1812, baptized Dec. 21; Elizabeth Margarete, born January 16, 1816, baptized January 18; John Philip, born July 1, 1820, baptized July 5.

Anna Sophia married in Germany Jacob Heinrich, had three children, two sons and one daughter, and died there before the others came to this country, hence the biographical histories given in the subsequent chapters of this volume will be confined to the other four children above mentioned, and their descendants, either direct, or by marriage.

Sophia (Schmidt) Hasselbach, the wife of John J. Hasselbach and mother of the above named children, died in Berndroth January 13, 1842, and was buried January 16, at Ackerbach. Her grave was marked with a wooden marker in the shape of a tombstone upon which was carved the inscription "Sophia Hasselbach geborne Schmidt, gestorben 1842."

The old cemetery adjoining the church was used until 1876 when a new cemetery was obtained and no more burials made in the old one. In answer to an inquiry made by the writer concerning her grave, the

whole families  
came to USA.  
1800<sup>14</sup>

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pastor there wrote that it could not be located any more, but Mr. Peter Brot, a tailor 80 years of age and a distant relative of the family, recalled the spot and pointed it out to him and also sent his regards to the descendants of the family.

After her death their son-in-law, Engelhart Meyer, husband of Regina, and their family lived with Mr. Hasselbach in one part of the house, which was built for two families, while his son, Peter Hasselbach and family lived in the other part. In 1852 Engelhart Meyer and family moved to America, after which Mr. Hasselbach made his home with his other children and while at the home of his son John Philip in Muenchenroth, southeast of Nastatten, he was taken ill and died in 1853, aged 72 years. Each "ort" has a cemetery in which to bury its dead, and this seems to be strictly adhered to, and Mr. Hasselbach was buried at Meilingen, where the church and its adjoining cemetery was located to which the people of Muenchenroth belonged. It is said that every family in that community was represented at his funeral and many tokens of the esteem and respect in which he was held were manifested.

In answer to an inquiry by the writer, the pastor of Meilingen wrote under date of June 1, 1910, "that no records of the death and burial of John Jacob Hasselbach can be found in the church records there, owing to the fact that he was not a permanent or regular inhabitant of that place at the time of his death, and the dead from Muenchenroth are buried at Diethart."

The two daughters and their families had gone to America before their father died, the younger son, John Philipp, and his family emigrated in 1854, the next year