

THE GRIESEMER

Origins of the Family in Europe, also the history of John Valentine Griesemer and his family, Colonial Pioneers in Pennsylvania in 1730, and their descendants. In addition, other Griesemer Families who came to the New World.

BY
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MARTINDALE
of the Eighth Generation
in America.

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GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

JACOB HOCH GRIESEMER, born Sept. 24, 1796, died May 3, 1845 aged 46, youngest child of Peter and Esther Hoch Griesemer, married (1st) Rebecca Van Reed, born June 14, 1800, died March 22, 1834, on Dec. 10, 1820. Their home in Oley is marked by a stone "Jacob and Rebecca Griesemer-1821". Their children were: Emma (1821-1851) married John Lorah, Feb. 6, 1842; Rebecca (1823-) married (1st) John Leiss, (2nd) V.R. Moore.

The second wife of Jacob Hoch Griesemer was Susannah Zacharias, eighth child of Daniel Zacharias and wife, Elizabeth Reiff, born in Alsace Township, Berks County, Penna on Aug. 11, 1805, baptized in infancy by Rev. Philip Pauli, First Reformed Church, Reading, Penna., sponsors, Peter Althous and wife, Susanna. She was confirmed in the First Reformed Church, Reading, Penna. and married Jacob H. Griesemer on Jan. 25, 1825. She died Feb. 6, 1890 and was buried Feb. 12, 1890 at the Oley Church.

Jacob Hoch Griesemer was christened Nov. 20, 1796 by Rev. Boos, according to the records of family information he personally wrote in German in the Family Bible. He lived with his parents, Peter and Esther Hoch Griesemer, until 1811. His father died on Aug. 2nd of that year, and in the Fall, at the age of fifteen, he started going to English School. In the Spring of 1812, he took preparatory instruction, and his first communion was administered by the Rev. T.L. Herman in the Oley Reformed Church.

He wrote in German in the family Bible:

"On December 10, 1820, I was married to Rebecca Van Reed in my 24th year and her 20th. She was born June 14, 1800, a child of John and Rebecca Griesemer Van Reed. On August 27, 1821, our daughter Emma was born [about 11 p.m.], and christened on February 10, 1822, by the Rev. [Jacob William] Dechant. Witness: her parents."

"On October 23, 1823, our daughter Rebecca was born, between 7 and 8 o'clock a.m. and was christened May 23, 1824, by Rev. Leinbach Witness: Henry and Hanna Leiss."

"On March 22, 1824, Rebecca Griesemer [my wife] died and was buried on the 24th, age 23 years, 9 months, 8 days. Text: Solomon 4:1 [Behold, Thou art fair, my love; behold Thou are fair..."]

"I, Jacob Griesemer, married Susanna Zacharias (born August 17, 1805) on January 23, 1825, in my 28th year, by Rev.

Christened Feb. 10, 1822 by the Rev. J.W. Dechant, she married John Lorah on Feb. 6, 1842, Rev. Bossler performing the ceremony. Their children were: Rebecca Lorah, married Franklin B. Rhoads, and they had nine children, George L. Rhoads, Lottie Rhoads, John Rhoads, Susan (John R.) Guldin, Daniel Rhoads, Mary (Frank) Sailor, Chauncey Rhoads, William L. Rhoads, Maud (Llewellyn) Leinhart; Mary Lorah (James B.) McLean. She was the second child of Emma Griesemer Lorah. The McLean children were: William L. McLean and the Rev. Eugene L. McLean.

REBECCA GRIESEMER LEISS, second child of Jacob Hoch Griesemer and his first wife, Rebecca Van Reed Griesemer, was born Oct. 12, 1823 and christened on March 23, 1824, the day her young mother was buried at the age of 23. When the baby Rebecca was 18, she was married to John S. Leiss by the Rev. T. Leinbach at Boyertown, on the morning of May 4, 1841. They had no children. John Leiss died March 29, 1857 aged 39 years, 8 months, 25 days, Rebecca's second husband was V.R. Moore.

EZRA ZACHARIAS GRIESEMER, born Jan. 1, 1826, died Tues. Sept. 21, 1897 in the house in Oley where he was born, and was buried in the Oley Church Cemetery. He was the eldest child of Jacob Hoch and Susanna Zacharias Griesemer, and married Hannah Landis, born July 14, 1824, died March 3, 1907, on Jan. 30, 1846. They lived to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1896.

Ezra Griesemer's farm was located at the extreme southwestern end of the original Casper Griesemer tract, adjoining the De Benneville land. He was a squire, noted for his hospitality, and "his farm was one of the most complete establishments in the locality." It contained 112 acres of fine farming land of limestone formation, and there was a fine limestone quarry on the farm, also a lime kiln. "The land is in a high state of cultivation, and there are fine buildings of stone erected thereon," said the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County Pennsylvania 1876-Berks Co. Business Notices. (See also map of Oley Township in the Atlas, p 70.)

Prominent in the affairs of the Oley Reformed Church (Salem), he was elected president of the consistory on March 26, 1883. He was a progressive man, one of the organizers of the first Farmer's Grange in Berks County, Wilkerson Grange #5, at Oley, and was its first Master. In 1873, he was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the State Grange. He was a speaker on agricultural subjects. A staunch