

# THE GENEALOGY OF THE GROFF FAMILY

- I. Sebastian Groff, b April 20, 1711; m Eva Weber;  
d. October 8, 1863. *m 1763*

His will was probated January 9, 1771. He left a wife  
Eva, and children ; Michael, Sebastian, Andrew , Mary Magdalene,  
Catharine Margaret.

- II. Andrew Groff. b, September 15, 1740 ; m. January 10,  
1762, Catharine Crawford (daughter Christopher Crawford of Lan-  
caster County), d. February 6, 1811; They had seven sons  
and nine daughters.

Margaret m Tressler. d. April 4, 1882.

Elizabeth, b. Dec. 25, 1778; m. Nov. 23, 1800 William  
Moore; d. April 21, 1845.

Catharine, m. Stoy, Wm. G. (?) d. Oct, 10, 1844

Mary Magdalene m. Conrad Doll. *Nov. 18, 1804*

John; Henry, d. May 29, 1835; George M. ; d. May 29, 1835;  
and others.

- III. Mary Magdalene Groff

*b Aug. 6, 1776*

*b. Mar. 6, 1772*  
m. Conrad Doll. *Nov. 18, 1804*

d. June <sup>27</sup> (28) 1813. The children of Conrad and Mary Magdalene Doll  
were:

- IV. Catharine Elizabeth, b. Oct. <sup>1st</sup> 2, 1809; d. Oct, 8, 1858;  
m. Simon Guilford, May 6, 1830.

- V. Mary Ann, b. Aug, 2, 1809; d. (?) m. Dr. William Moore. *Apr. 21, 1840*  
*1811 Feb. 8, 1860*

HANS GROFF.

Page 822.

The first settler in what is now West Earl Tp. was Hans Groff. He was a refugee from Switzerland, and about 1696 emigrated to Germantown, where he remained several years and removed in 1717 to the Pequea Valley, and while hunting for stray horses found his way into the vale since known as Groff's Dale. The spot pleased him so he removed his family to the place, and soon after purchased a large tract of land containing fourteen hundred and nineteen (1419) acres. He built a small house within twenty yards of the old and present mansion. He died in 1746, leaving six sons and three daughters- Peter, Samuel, Mark, Daniel, Hans, David, Anna (wife of Peter Good), Mary and Veronica (wife of Henry Landis) David built the old mansion house.

West Earl boasts of having had within her bounds one of the first and perhaps the first mill erected in Lancaster County. This stood on the south side of the Conestoga, right at the point where the Cocalico unites its waters with that stream. It was made a corner of Warwick township when that district was organized in 1727, and only through that fact has its existence been preserved from oblivion. How long it was there prior to that date is not known. A visit to the spot (Aug. 29, 1876) resulted in a verification of the record; the mill race still exists as plainly as it did one hundred and fifty-four years ago, although no memory or tradition of it has survived among those who live near the spot. An ancient deed covering the spot, was found, and mentions it as a mill-site, and speaks of the mill-race, but the mill had even then disappeared. Hans Groff, the first settler in these townships was the builder and owner of this early mill.

Henry Landis, one of the sons-in-law of Hans Groff, on Jan. 17, 1775, gave one acre of land for the purpose of a burying place to certain persons, in trust, for their use and that of the neighborhood forever. This is the grave-yard in Groff's Dale, and was so used many years prior to its conveyance by deed of trust.

Page 925

The Groff Family. The whole eastern part of this -Upper Leacock-Township was included in a warrant of land granted to Hans Groff, who afterwards disposed of it to different settlers. Hans Groff, with one of his brothers, was among the persecuted Christians who fled from Switzerland to Alsace, then a province of France, about the year 1695-6. He came to Germantown where he remained for a short time only; afterwards he settled in Pequea Valley, but not being content there, he then settled in Graff's Dale (Graff's Thal), which was named in honor of him, and by which the settlement is known to this day.

The following is the circumstance which led Mr. Graff to settle in Graff's Dale. His horses having strayed from Pequea while in pursuit of them.

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The following is the circumstance which led Mr. Graff to settle in Graff's Dale. His horses having strayed from Pequea, while in pursuit of them in a northern direction from the inhabited parts he discovered a fine spring in a heavily-timbered spot, the head of Grove's Run. In this Elysian dale, "said he", I will fix my permanent abode." He reverted to his horses till he found

them, and returned to Pequea. A short time afterwards he disposed of his effects, when he returned to the spring, and about half a mile down, on the north side, he erected a cabin under a large white-oak, in which his wife and an only child remained during that winter. "In the spring of the next year, having secured by a warrant date Nov. 22, 1717, a large tract of land, he erected a house near the cabin ; the spot where he erected the house is still pointed out by his descendents. He had six sons,--Peter, David, John, Daniel, Marous and Samuel-- and was known as "Graaf the Hunter" (Graaf der Jager).

Hans Graff, after serving his day and generation, the public on several occasions, and having divided his land among his sons, died, leaving a large family connection. "Perhaps there is no family in Upper Leacock more respectable and more useful citizens than the Graffs.

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#### SEBASTIAN GRAFF.

Sebastian Graff, the first ancestor of whom we have any record, was born April 20, 1711; died, October 6, 1763; married Eva Weber. He was probably from Switzerland and a member of the Moravian Church as the records regarding him are found in the Moravian Church records, in Lancaster, Pa. His will is dated February 15, 1763, but was not probated until January 9, 1771. He left a wife Eva, and children; Michael, Sebastian, Andrew, Mary Magdalene, and Catharine Margaret.

In the year 1722, Henry Neff, (Dr. Hans) received a patent for three hundred acres of land where he was then settled-- at the southeast corner of Lanheim Township, on the west side of the big Conestoga-- from the English Land Company, who had five thousand, five hundred and fifty-three acres, most of which lay in Lampeter Township. In the year 1738, Dr. Neff and his wife, Franca, sold 150 acres to Sebastian Groff, shopkeeper in Lancaster township. The homestead farm, grist-mill, saw-and oil-mills, Dr. Neff gave to his son Abraham, who also sold to Sebastian Groff, in 1750.

(See Hist. of Lanc. Co. by Ellis and Evans, page 905)

Sebastian Groff moved into Lancaster several years prior to the incorporation of the borough, in 1742, and was the first burgess, his term covering the years 1742 and 1743. For many years he was prominent in the management of borough affairs. He owned and lived on the land where now in the Lancaster Cemetery. In his will, he provided that his executors should lay out a portion of his land into fourteen building lots. The house, still standing on the corner of North Queen and Orange Sts., now Shobers Hotel, was built by the Groffs in 1757, as a stone in front of the building testifies.

(See Hist. of Lanc. Co. Ellis and Evans, page 362.)

In Penna. Archives, 2nd series, vol. XVII p. there is a record of one Bastian Graff, aged 25, who arrived in this country

into fourteen building lots. The house, still standing at the corner of North Queen and Orange Sts., now Shobers Hotel, was built by the Groffs in 1757, as a stone in front of the building testifies.

(See Hist. of Lanc. Co. Ellis and Evans, page 362.)

In Penna. Archives, 2nd series, vol. XVII p. there is a record of one Bastian Graff, aged 25, who arrived in this country on the ship, Princess Augustus, Samuel Merchant, Master, from Rotterdam, qualified September 16, 1736. Though there is no direct evidence to connect this Bastian with our Sebastian, yet I am convinced it was one and the same man, for the names are similar and the ages exactly correspond. At the time of his arrival in Person there were Graffs living in Lanc. Co., who were probably relatives of his, and to whom he may have gone immediately upon his arrival. The records of the Phila., port were kept by English clerks who

spelled the name to suit themselves. Hence Bastian instead of Sebastian. Graff is also spelled in records- Groff, Grove, Grab, Graab, Groof.

II. Andrew (Andreas) Graff, son of Sebastian Graff and wife Eva, Born September 15, 1740, died January 15, 1816; married January 10, 1762, Catharine Crawford and had seven sons and nine daughters. (See Moravian Church records.)

Among the children were:

Margaret , b

m, Tressler ; d. April 4, 1822.

Elizabeth; b. Dec. 25, 1778 ; m. Nov. 23, 1800, to William Moore ;  
d. April 21, 1845.

Catharine ; b.

m. Stoy, d. Oct. 10, 1844.

Mary Magdalene ; b

m. Conrad Doll

died

John Henry, died Feby. 22, 1822.

George M. died May 29, 1835 and others.

Andrew Groff, owned and lived on property about a mile from Lancaster City, northeast, on the Conestoga. The house is still standing and stones built in the wall bearing the inscription "Andreas- Catharine Groff, 1767" testify to the date of erection. On the property was a grist mill.

In the year 1812 Abraham Witmer and John Groff (a descendent of Hans Groff, one of the first purchasers in the Condon Tract in 1722) purchased one hundred and forty-two acres and laid out the village of Groffstown, adjoining the eastern boundary of Lancaster city; and also ninety-two acres of land on the east side of Conestoga Creek, and opposite the first mentioned tract, from Andrew Graff, Esq., son of Sebastian Graff, for fifty thousand pounds. The latter plot of ground was a portion of Andrew Graff's homestead. (See Hist. of Lanc. Co., Ellis and Evans, p 907).

On July 15, 1776 the Committee of Safety directed Robert Towers Commissary, to deliver a certain number of rifles to Col. Geo. Toss "for the use of his Battalion of Associators". Mention is made of the company of Captain Andrew Graff. (Hist. Lanc. Co. p 52; and also "Capt. Andrew Graff, Penna. Archives, 2nd series, Vol. # XLI, p. 346)

Capt. Andrew Graff was on the Committee of Correspondence. (See Penna. Archives, 2nd. Series, Vol. XIII. pp 294, 295, 296).

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Capt. Andrew Groff was a delegate to the Provincial Conference held in Carpenters Hall, Phila., on June 18, 1775, and on June 18, 1776. (See Archives 2nd Series, Vol. III, pp 636 and 678..)

The Provincial Conference of June 1775, threw off the authority of the Proprietary Government, and was vested with fine power to provide generally for the defense of the Province, Benj. Franklin was chairman.

The convention of June 1776, assumed supreme political control of the Province and erected it into an independent state.  
Thus Andrew Groff was a founder of the State of Penna.

nessian prisoners taken at Trenton, N.J. The prisoners at one time numbered over twelve hundred.

The council of Safety appointed a sub-committee to make arrangements for sheltering these prisoners and among the twelve men appointed for this service were Capt. Andrew Groff, and his brother Sebastian Groff.

(See Hist. of Lanc. Co., Ellis and Evans p.61)

The companies of soldiers detailed to guard the prisoners were known as the "Standing Guard of Lancaster". Capt. Andrew Groff was "officer of the day" Jan, 16, 1776 and Feby. 13, 1776.

(See Hist. Lancaster Co. p. 61)

Andrew Groff was appointed Justice of the Peace for the district of Lancaster, Hempfield and Manheim, March 5, 1787.

He was elected Associate Law Judge of Lancaster Co., September 13, 1792, and continued in that office nineteen years, resigning January 5, 1811. (Hist Lanc. Co., Ellis and Evans, pp 218 and 225.)

The Moravian records say "His end was sudden."

Catharine Crawford, wife of Andrew Groff, was the daughter of Christopher Crawford, Christopher Crawford was Captain Lieutenant of Standing Guard of Lancaster, in 1776.

( See Hist. Penna., Archives 2nd, Series, Vol.XIII p.349) also see will of Christopher Crawford.

Sebastian Groff, (son of Sebastian 1st and brother of Andrew) b. March 22, 1744 d. July 2nd, 1791; m. March 11, 1766 Catharine Young. They had nine children. (Moravian Church record.)

Sebastian Groff was a farmer by occupation. He represented Lancaster County at the Provincial Convention for the province of Penna., held at Philadelphia, Jan, 23, 1775, and continued by adjournment from day to day to the 28th. (Penna. Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. III, p. 626)

The Continental Congress, which sat in Carpenters Hall, Phila. , from September 4, to Oct, 25, formed and adopted as Association, the articles of which were signed October 20th, 1774, by all the members present. The object of the Association was mutually to promote the safety and success of the several colonies in their resistance of the British ministry ; and by one of the articles it was required that a Committee of Observation be chosen in every county, city or town, The Committee of Observation for Lancaster Co., met at the Court House in Lancaster Jan, 14, 1775, and among the eight men elected to represent the county at the Provincial Convention was, as noted above, Sebastian Groff.

He was County Commissioner in 1786, and was State Senator from Lancaster County at the first meeting of the Penna. Legislature in 1790.

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(See Hist. Lanc. Co., Ellis and Evans, pp 213 & 216.)

Elizabeth Groff, daughter of Andrew and Catharine Groff, b. Dec, 25, 1778; d. April 21, 1845; m. Nov, 23, 1800 to William Moore. They had no children.

William Moore was the son of James (d 22nd Feb. 1824) and Francis Moore. Born in Londonderry, Ireland, of Protestant parentage, Dec, 1, 1772; d. May 9, 1841.

Emigrated to America and located at Lebanon, Pa., where he engaged in the mercantile business at the corner of Fifth and Center streets, on the site now occupied by the Lebanon National Bank. He was one of the organizers of the Lebanon National Bank and its

~~first president~~, an office he held for many years. was chief burgess of Lebanon in the year 1732. Also a director of the Berks and Dauphin Turnpike at the Harrisburg Bank and of the Tide Water Canal.

In his family bible are found records of other members of his family who emigrated to America. Mrs. J. (?) Moore, cousin, d. Aug, 8th, 1822; John (?) Moore, uncle d. April 6, 1822; Mrs. Jas. (?) Moore, aunt d. Sept, 1, 1822; Ann Moore, aunt d. Sept, 11, 1822; Mrs. W. Moore, aunt, d. Aug, 27, 1816; W. Moore, uncle, d. April 1823; James Moore, father. d. Feb, 22, 1824; John Moore, brother, Oct 31, 1830; Rosann Moore, sister, d. July 10, 1829; John Moore, 2nd cousin, d. April 9, 1834; John Moore, first cousin, Lewisburg, Pa., d. Sept, 20, 1835; Eliza (Moore) Love, sister, d. 1822. "Rachael Moore, d. 1823; Lydia Moore, sister, d. Jan, 29, 1839; 12 o'clock night; Ann (Moore) Gray, sister, d. July 29, 1843; Catharine (Moore) Henderson, sister, d. Aug, 7, 1843; John Henderson, d. July 28, 1840."

Mrs. and Mr. William Moore are buried in the Tabor (old) German Reformed Graveyard, corner 10th and Walnut Streets, Lebanon, Pa.

Mary Magdalene Groff, b., d.  
Conrad Doll.

The children of Conrad and Mary Magdalene Doll were,

Catharine Elizabeth, b. Oct. 2, 1809; d. Oct, 8, 1858, m. May 6, 1830 Simeon Guilford, C. R.

Mary Ann, b. Aug, 2, 1809; d.  
m. William Moore, M. D. of Womelsdorf, Pa.

Catharine Elizabeth was named for her aunts Catharine (Groff) Stoy, and Elizabeth (Groff) Moore.

Owing to the death of their parents the daughters became orphans at a very early age. The elder Catharine Elizabeth, was only three and one-half years old when her mother died, and about two and one-quarter years of age at the time of the death of her father. Consequently, the children were taken care of by their relatives, the elder daughter, Catharine, lived for some years with her aunt, Mrs. Tressler, afterwards with her aunt Mrs. Stoy, and upon completing her education, with her aunt Mrs. Wm. Moore, of Lebanon, Pa. until her marriage to Simeon Guilford.

The younger daughter, Mary Ann, lived with her aunt Mrs. Moore, of Lebanon, from infancy to the time of her marriage to Dr. Wm. Moore, of Womelsdorf, Pa.

Both daughters attended Linden Hall Seminary, Lititz, Pa., for seven years, and subsequently became students at Mrs. Braizley's a fashionable finishing school in Philadelphia.

The younger daughter, Mary Ann, lived with her aunt Mrs. Moore, of Lebanon, from infancy to the time of her marriage to Dr. Wm. Moore, of Womelsdorf, Pa.

Both daughters attended Linden Hall Seminary, Lititz, Pa., for seven years, and subsequently became students at Mrs. Braizley's a fashionable finishing school in Phila., where they remained for several years.

From old accounts of Wm. Moore, we find that they were instructed in vocal and instrumental music, drawing and painting, dancing and embroidering, in addition to the regular course of studies. Both were active members of the Reformed church.

Mrs. Catharine Doll Guilford resided in Lebanon after her marriage, and is buried at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Mrs. Mary Ann Doll Moore lived and is buried in Womelsdorf, Pa.

For the record of the children of Simeon and Catharine Guilford, see, "Geneology of the Guilford Family."