

## PREFACE

This book has been published as part of the Casper Glatfelter Association of America's observance of the 250th anniversary of the Glatfelter family in America. It is based on three brief reports on the early history of the family which the undersigned prepared for the association between 1967 and 1971, and which were subsequently distributed in typewritten form. Dr. Millard E. Gladfelter, senior director of the association, suggested that the reports should be revised and published. We are pleased to dedicate this book to him.

The present work is a major revision of the typewritten reports. It contains much new material, some of which has only recently been found, and corrects a number of errors in the earlier reports.

As is always the case, I have benefited greatly from the wholehearted assistance of the staff of the Historical Society of York County, the office of Register of Wills and Clerk of Courts of York County, the York County Archives, and the Pennsylvania State Archives.

Although appointed historian of the Casper Glatfelter Association of America in 1949, I began investigating Glatfelter family history even before that. In such a long

period of time, one incurs debts not all of which can be paid, even remembered. The list which follows, then, is no more than a sample of those who have contributed in some way to my knowledge of the Glattfelder family. It is not complete: Ruth C. Camenisch, Ross C. Durst, Armand Gladfelder, Dr. Millard E. Gladfelder, the late Dr. Edward A. Glatfelder, Dr. Hans Glattfelder, Dr. Neal O. Hively, the late Nell W. Reeser, Dr. Howard S. Rhyne, Susan C. Rudnik, Rev. Frederick S. Weiser, Brian Wenning, Dr. Henry J. Young, and Janet L. Zemanek.

My colleagues on the 250th anniversary committee have been helpful and supportive throughout: Philip H. Glatfelder, chairman; Rev. J. Richard Glattfelder, secretary; and Arthur J. Glattfelder. Since they left me a free hand to determine what went into this work, the responsibility for it is mine.

June 21, 1993

Charles H. Glatfelder

### **Casper Glattfelder (1709-1775)**

Among the many thousands of German and Swiss immigrants who came to America in the eighteenth century was Casper Glattfelder, the ancestor of most of the members of his family in the United States today, no matter how they might spell their names. Casper was a native of Glattfelden, a small town located about twelve miles north of Zurich, Switzerland, and where his family had lived for generations.

Although attempts have been made to trace the Glattfelder family far back into the Middle Ages, one should not expect to find much, if any, reliable evidence of its existence until people began taking family names and until, much later than that, keeping parish records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths became common. Few, if any, such records were kept until the Protestant Reformation occurred in the sixteenth century, when first the Protestants and later the Catholics began the practice.

In a letter which he wrote to Samuel F. Glatfelder (1858-1927) in York, Pennsylvania, in 1906, Emil Glattfelder (1876-1941), a Zurich schoolmaster, reported on the findings of his careful search of the Swiss Reformed records of the parish of Glattfelden. The information concerning Casper's forbears which follows is taken from the data which he sent to York. It preserves his spelling of names and assumes that the number of children in the families on which he reported was the same as the number whose baptisms he found in the records.

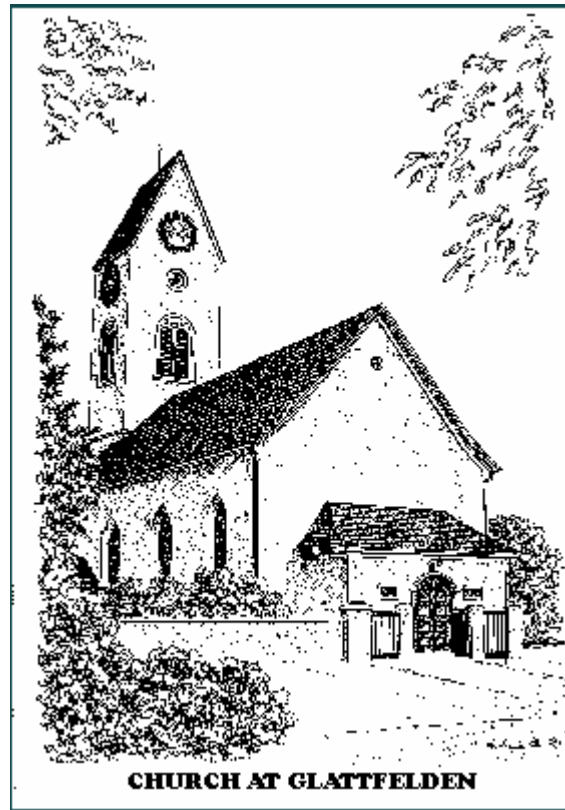


Illustration 1  
CHURCH AT GLATTFELDEN

Although the date of construction of this church is not known, it was built many years ago and has been remodeled on a number of occasions. It was within the walls of this edifice that Casper Glattfelder and his family worshiped before they left for America in 1743. Drawing by Tom Anderson.

The first reliable evidence of the Glattfelder family which Professor Emil located was the marriage on July 29, 1570 of Adam Glattfelder and Verena Sigi (not Legi, as most accounts have it). It is probable that this couple were the great-great-great grandparents of Casper, the emigrant to America. A man who was probably their son, Hans, identified in the parish records as a cooper, or maker of barrels, married Margret Bernhart on November 28, 1596. Professor Emil could not be certain of the relationship between Adam and Hans because the Glattfelden baptismal records do not begin until 1577.

Hans and Margret Glattfelder, great-great-grandparents of Casper, had four children, born between 1597 and 1606. The oldest, Joachim, married Anna Foster (d.1657). He was the first of at least three generations in his family to be identified in the church records as deacon. Joachim and Anna were the great

grandparents of Casper. They had three children, born between 1626 and 1637. Their second son, Felix (1632-1709), married Barbara Glattfelder (d.1694) on November 30 (Professor Emil wrote 31), 1662. The blood relationship between Felix and Barbara is not known, but it does illustrate the fact that there were then several branches of the Glattfelder family in the Glattfelden community.

Felix and Barbara were the grandparents of Casper. They had four children: Elisabetha (d.1664), Hans (c.1667-1734), Felix (1669-1724), and Hans Heinrich (1671-1734). Hans married Dorothea Gorius; they were the forbears of Professor Emil. Felix married Barbara Gorius on January 22, 1695. Felix and Barbara (Gorius) Glattfelder were the parents of Casper. They had eight children: Elisabetha (1698), Hans Peter (1700-1742), Felix (1702-1702), Felix (1704-1705), Barbara (1706), Anna Margaretha (1708-1708), Kaspar (1709), and Hans Georg (1711-1714). At least four of these children died in infancy. Hans Peter and Kaspar were the only sons to reach adulthood. As were his father and grandfather before him, this Felix is identified in the parish records as a deacon.

Casper Glattfelder (1709-1775), to use the more common later spelling of his first name, was baptized on July 25, 1709. We do not know the exact date of his birth. He attended the parish schools and, as far as we know, became a small farmer. On April 3, 1731 he married Elisabetha Laufer (this is the way her family name was spelled, with one f, in the parish record). Before leaving Switzerland, this couple had seven children.

Note that in each instance the first date given below is that of baptism, not birth:

Felix	baptized February 2, 1732 died February 6, 1732
Anna Margaretha	baptized January 13, 1733 died February 23, 1733
Margaretha	baptized January 17, 1734
Salomon	baptized September 16, 1736 died March 20, 1737
Salomon	baptized February 23, 1738
Anna	baptized July 5, 1740
Johannes	baptized October 8, 1742

We simply do not know why Casper and Elizabeth Glattfelder decided to leave their old homes or how long it took them to make up their minds to go. Probably both of them were

influenced by the same conviction which motivated most other eighteenth-century Germans and Swiss to emigrate: the belief that sooner or later things would be better for them and their children in the New World. They may have caught what some contemporaries called the emigration fever from others who had already made up their minds and departed. There is a family tradition that Elizabeth was ready and willing to go because she did not want her sons conscripted some day and sent, as were many thousands of other Swiss in the eighteenth century, as mercenary soldiers to foreign lands.

So many persons left certain parts of Switzerland, especially in the 1730s and 1740s, that a number of cantonal governments, fearing depopulation, issued decrees intended to discourage further emigration and imposing penalties both on those leaving and on the purchasers of the property they were trying to sell. In 1744 the government of the canton of Zurich requested the pastors of each parish to list the names and ages of each person who during the preceding decade had left for Pennsylvania or the Carolinas. The pastoral reports which have survived list 2,300 emigrants from this one canton between 1734 and 1744. A total of 53 persons left the parish of Glattfelden during this decade.

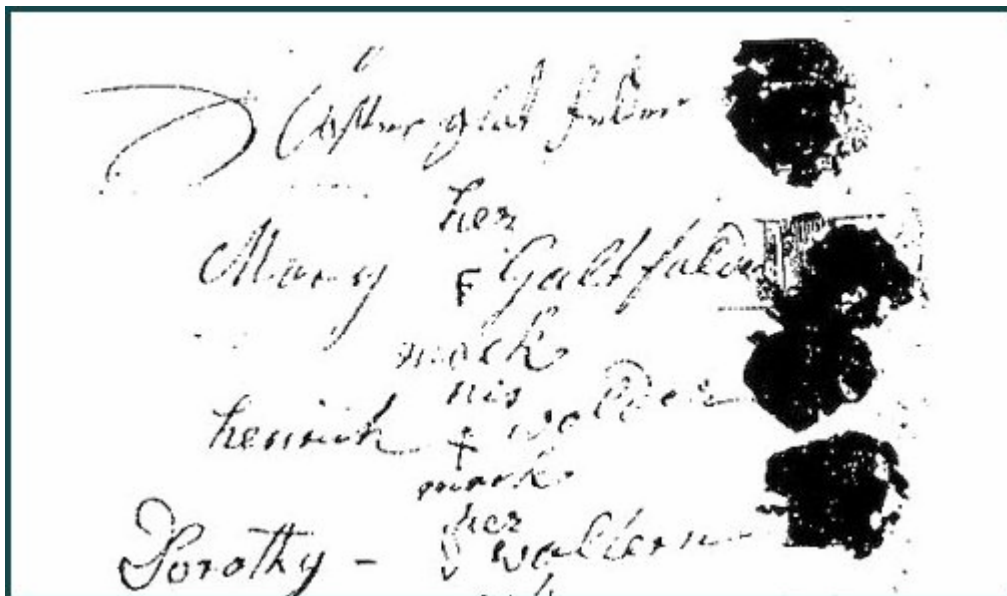
In the spring of 1743, a year before the pastor submitted his report, six families from Glattfelden prepared to cut themselves loose from the world they knew so well in favor of one three thousand miles away, about which they knew next to nothing. One of these families consisted of Casper, Elizabeth, their four surviving children (Margaret, Solomon, Anna, and John), and Hans Jacob Lauffer, Elizabeth's seventy-year old father. With them were Elizabeth's sister, Dorothy, and her husband, Henry Walter (1713-1781). Also in the company were the widow and six children of Casper's elder brother, Hans (or John) Peter Glattfelder (1700-1742), who had started for America a year earlier but died before crossing the Swiss border. His family, and any others who might have been with them, had then returned to Glattfelden with his body.

Although the Glattfelden pastor undoubtedly had the parish register close at hand while he was preparing his report of emigrants in 1744, he appears not to have consulted it, at least not carefully. He assigned erroneous ages to the Glattfelders. For example, Casper was not thirty-six years old in 1743, Solomon was not nine, and baby John was not seven. Also, he listed John Peter as being among those leaving in 1743, when in fact the parish register gives his date of death as April 21, 1742.

The six families of Glattfelden made their way down the Rhine river to Rotterdam, where they boarded the ship Francis

and Elizabeth for the perilous ocean crossing. After a voyage which customarily took between seven and twelve weeks they reached Philadelphia in August 1743. Provincial regulations in force since 1727 required that entering foreign males sixteen years and older take an oath of allegiance to the King of Great Britain and one of fidelity to the proprietors of Pennsylvania. Among those who took the oath on August 30, 1743 were the five male heads of families who had left Glattfelden together, including "Gasper Gladfelter." He was described in the records as being sick on this day. Since his father-in-law is not on record as having taken the oath, we can assume that, like many others who attempted it, Hans Jacob Lauffer had died during the long ocean crossing. As we shall see, other members of the party may also have died on the way.

Some immigrants coming into eighteenth-century Pennsylvania took months, even years, before they reached the place in which they settled more or less permanently. This was definitely not the case with the brothers-in-law Casper Glattfelder and Henry Walter. On September 13, 1743, just two weeks after having first set foot on American soil, together they bought from William Coleman, a Philadelphia merchant and land speculator, a tract of 224 acres of land along the Conewago creek in what is now Newberry township, York county. In payment, they signed a mortgage for 66 pounds, 10 shillings in favor of William Parsons of Philadelphia, presumably the man who was then surveyor general of the province. The Glattfelders and Walters lived along the Conewago, possibly with the fatherless family of John Peter, for about three years. On August 20, 1746 they sold the property to George Smyser. The sale price was 67 pounds, only a few shillings more than the original amount of the mortgage, which was then satisfied.



## Illustration 2 FOUR SIGNATURES ON DEED

Four signatures were required to execute the deed by which Casper Glatfelder and Henry Walter sold their Newberry township property in August 1746. Note that Casper was the only one to actually affix his signature; the other three made their marks. Note also that Casper wrote his last name with one t, not two. The scribe who wrote Mary's last name spelled it the same way in the body of the deed. Courtesy Historical Society of York County.

According to a family tradition, Casper and Henry left their first American homestead so soon after they acquired it because they wanted to find a place which reminded them more of the hills of home than did the big bend in the Conewago creek. A related tradition has it that after selling out they moved south and first squatted on some unclaimed lands near the later site of Hoke's mill, a few miles southwest of York. The timber there proving to be too large or heavy to suit them, so the tradition goes, the two men continued up the south branch of the Codorus creek until they came to a place in a bend of the valley which seemed just right for them. The year was probably 1747, but it could have been a year earlier or a year or so later. Casper chose some unclaimed land on the west side of the creek, while Henry Walter established himself on the east side. About a century later, when the railroad from Baltimore to York was constructed through this area and a stop set up, it was named Glatfelder's Station. The station is long gone, but detailed maps of York county still identify the little village there as Glatfelters.

Both brothers-in-law spent the remaining years of their lives here along the south branch of the Codorus creek, Casper in what became Codorus township in 1749 (it is now North Codorus) and Henry in what became Shrewsbury township in the same year, and is now Springfield. Casper lived on his farm without making any formal claim to it until he purchased two warrants, which were simply orders to surveyors to make a survey, one on April 3, 1770 for one hundred acres and the other on October 4, 1771 for fifty acres. Henry Walter waited to obtain his warrants until December 20, 1769 and June 3, 1773.

Both men died without ever obtaining a clear title, in the form of a patent deed, to the lands which were eventually surveyed to them. This failure could not be attributed to the high cost of purchasing unclaimed land. Between 1732 and 1765 the base price which the Penn proprietors charged for land in Pennsylvania was 15 pounds 10 shillings for each hundred acres, very much less than Casper and Henry had paid for the land which William Coleman sold them in 1743.

In 1765 the price was reduced to 5 pounds for each one hundred acres. Many of the contemporaries of Casper and Henry were as satisfied as they were with having the results of a survey in their possession and, until pressed by the authorities, were slow in paying the additional charges required to obtain an actual deed.

The fact that, for more than twenty years, Casper Glattfelder and Henry Walter elected to be pure-and-simple squatters on their properties, without paying the price necessary to secure even an initial formal claim to them, suggests another possible reason why they might have left their first home on the Conewago. Earning the money necessary to reduce the mortgage to their and William Parsons' satisfaction may have proved too burdensome for them. By 1746, if not before, they certainly knew that there was much cheaper land not far away on which they could live, perhaps indefinitely, without paying either purchase price or rent. In addition, by relocating to the south they would have something almost entirely lacking in Newberry township: German and Swiss neighbors. Interestingly enough, John Hildebrand (1715-1783), who married Casper's niece and who settled on land to the south and east of her uncle, obtained his first warrant on December 7, 1749, twenty years before Casper and Henry took similar steps. The Hildebrand warrant identifies Henry Walter as occupying an adjoining property at that time.

Casper Glattfelder was a farmer, as the inventory of his estate, made in 1775, testifies. Apparently, he was also something of a carpenter or cabinetmaker, since in 1767 he made the coffin for Peter Ness, who was married to his niece, the daughter of Henry and Dorothy Walter. It is probable that if he made one coffin, he was called upon to make others, of which we have thus far found no record.

In the spring of 1763 Casper and Henry Walter, together with several of their close neighbors, returned to Philadelphia where on April 11 of that year they became naturalized British citizens. This step, which among other things entitled them to vote, was one which most of their fellow-Germans and Swiss in colonial York county never took. Even before being naturalized, Casper had begun doing his duty as a good citizen, accepting, however reluctantly might have been the case, the assignments which the county court from time to time gave him. In 1757 and again in 1771 he was road supervisor for Codorus township and in 1766 he was constable. The terms were one year. Few, if any, ever sought these responsibilities, but in a province where there was significant local government and widespread participation in it was expected, such tasks had to be assumed and discharged.



Casper Glattfelder was baptized into the Swiss Reformed church and there is every reason to believe that he adhered to its tenets during his lifetime. For many years after the Glattfelders came to York county there was only one German Reformed minister west of the Susquehanna river in Pennsylvania. He was Jacob Lischy (1719-1780), himself of Swiss birth and a 1742 immigrant. Casper took at least three of his children to Lischy for baptism and stood as sponsor for at least six others whom the latter is known to have baptized. For some years the Glattfelders probably considered themselves members of the Reformed congregation in York. In the 1760s they may have had a hand in organizing the Reformed congregation at Shuster's church. This congregation is now represented by St. Peter's, or Yellow, United Church of Christ.

The evidence points clearly to the fact that Elizabeth Lauffer Glattfelder and her youngest son John, who was less than one year old when they left Glattfelden, died either before the rest of the family reached America or very shortly thereafter. As already noted, the name of her father does not appear on the list of those taking the required oaths in August 1743, which means that he had died during the ocean crossing. Casper remarried. The name of the wife who joined him in the deed disposing of the Newberry township property in August 1746 is Mary, and in more than six subsequent references she is called Anna Maria. Her maiden name remains unknown. Casper and Anna Maria had at least six sons: Felix (c.1747-1815); John (1751-1811); his twin, Jacob (1751-died young); Henry (1752-1833); Michael (d.1824); and Casper (c.1758-1823).

There is no record of daughters born to Casper's second marriage, but the implication in his will is that there were. In more than a century of interest in the history of the Glattfelder family, no reliable evidence of how many daughters Casper had and what became of them has yet been found. In the 1910 supplement to his family history, Dr. Noah Glatfelter (1837-1911) reported that some family members then believed that daughter Margaret married Peter Klinefelter and Anna married Conrad Swartz. One must still agree with his conclusion that "the evidence is not sufficient." Peter Kinefelter's wife was named Elizabeth and Conrad Swartz's first wife was named Dorothy. In the graveyard at Bupp's Union, there is a tombstone for a Margaret Glatfelter who died in 1779, but there is no evidence to indicate whether she was a daughter of Casper, an otherwise unknown granddaughter, or some other person.

Casper Glattfelder died in the early spring of 1775, in his sixty-sixth year. Surviving were his widow, six sons, and at least two daughters. Because he had fathered his American family when he was in his late thirties and forties, one and

possibly two of his sons (Casper and possibly Michael) were minors at the time of his death. There is no eighteenth-century tombstone marking his grave, and probably there never was one. In all probability he was buried in the little graveyard on the hill at what is now known as Bupp's Union. There are tombstones in this graveyard for Henry Walter, John and Barbara Hildebrand, and other early members of the Glattfelder family. Neither Casper Glattfelder, Henry Walter, nor John Hildebrand ever owned the land on which this graveyard is located. Why these pioneers were buried there instead of on their own farms or at Shuster's church we do not know. In 1954 the Casper Glattfelder Association of America placed a stone at Bupp's Union in memory of Casper, Elizabeth, and Anna Maria Glattfelder. How long Anna Maria survived her husband is not known.

The correct German-Swiss spelling of the family name was Glattfelder, although neither Casper himself nor his sons always spelled it that way; they sometimes omitted one of the t's. Others who wrote it into the public records of one kind or another spelled it in a great variety of ways, as it sounded to them. Anyone looking for members of the family in York county tax and similar records in the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries should look among the C's and K's, as well as the G's. While in Pennsylvania Glattfelder and Gladfelder were becoming the most usual spellings, elsewhere Glotfelty, Clodfelder, and Clotfelder were common.

Casper died about a month before the battles of Lexington and Concord, the opening guns of the American Revolution. All of his six sons were well within the eighteen to fifty-three year age limits of the militia laws which the revolutionary Pennsylvania legislature passed beginning in March 1777. These laws required all able-bodied males, with only a few exceptions, to be enrolled in the militia, drill regularly each

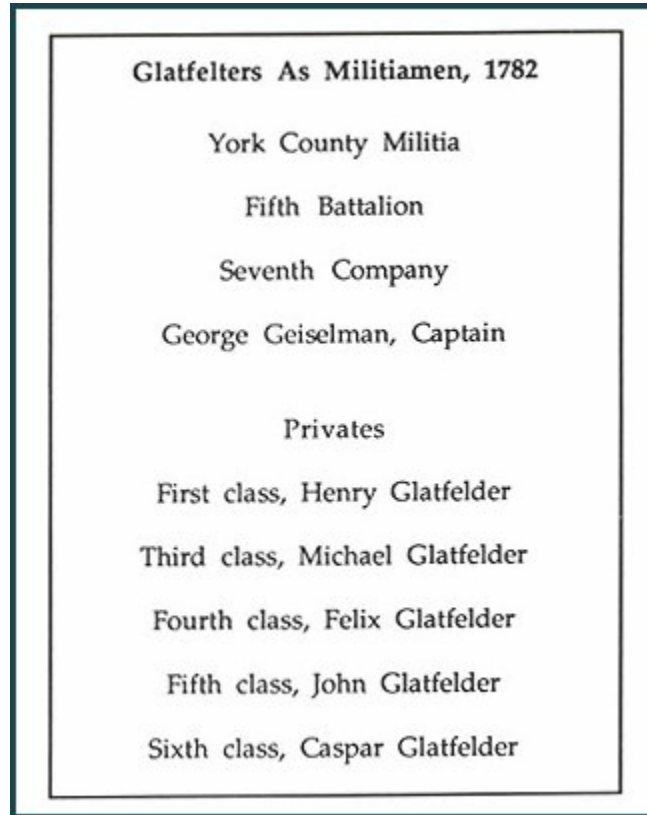


Illustration 3  
MILITIA ROSTER, 1782

Most militia lists from the American Revolution have not survived. This one is from the year after the British surrender at Yorktown. There were about ten men in each class and about eighty in the Geiselman company. If a county militia was called to active duty, it was usually by class and not by an entire company or battalion. Thus only in the direst of circumstances would all of Casper's sons have been called at the same time. Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series, Volume 2: 673-676.

month, and be subject to call in order to defend the Commonwealth. Although the surviving military records are incomplete, it is reasonable to assume that all six sons were militiamen; Solomon was thirty-nine in 1777 and the younger Casper was nineteen. Probably none of these men ever actually engaged in battle against the British.

Casper's sons continued in the Reformed faith of their father. Except for Solomon, who left York county before the revolution, they were members of the Reformed congregation at Shuster's church. The baptisms of thirty-six of Casper's known fifty-five grandchildren were recorded in the Lutheran and Reformed registers of that church. There still exists a document from the erection of a union church at Shuster's in

1783, in which are recorded the pledges of Felix, John, and Michael for the new building. Only after the second generation did members of the family, for one reason or another, begin to go into Lutheran or other churches.

Of Casper's known fifty-five grandchildren, only five or six were born before he died in 1775. The oldest, a daughter of Solomon, was born in 1767. The youngest, a son of the younger Casper, was born about 1805 or 1806. Fully half of them were born between 1777 and 1791. Catharine Glatfelter Heilman, a daughter of the younger Casper, who was buried in Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, in 1887 was probably the last surviving of Casper's grandchildren. She was ninety-two years old when she died.

As was their father, Casper's sons were called upon from time to time to take a one-year term performing necessary township duties. For example, Felix was overseer of the poor in 1790 and tax collector in 1797, both in Codorus township. In neighboring Shrewsbury township, John was overseer of the poor in 1783, supervisor of highways seven years later, and tax collector in 1803. Henry served as overseer of the poor in 1792 and supervisor of highways in 1798. The younger Casper was tax collector in 1810 and 1812.

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### **The family of John Peter Glattfelder (1700-1742)**

As already noted, the Glattfelder-Walter party when it left Switzerland included the family of John Peter Glattfelder. In the absence of any evidence, we simply do not know whether his widow, who before her marriage on November 23, 1721 was Salomea Amberg, or am Berg, survived the ocean crossing. If she did, we do not know where she lived in Pennsylvania or whether she might have remarried. The fact is that Salomea does not appear as a sponsor, or godmother, for any of the more than twelve of her grandchildren whose baptisms were recorded in York county parish registers, beginning in 1750. If she were alive, one would expect her to have been chosen to act in that important capacity on at least several occasions.

In making his report of emigrants in 1744, the Glattfelden pastor wrote that six children, whose names and ages he gave, accompanied Salomea to America. Unfortunately, neither the names nor the ages which he listed correspond with those contained in a letter which a later pastor of the same congregation wrote to Samuel F. Glatfelter on January 16, 1901. Regrettably, the only copy of this letter in the Casper

Glattfelder Association archives is a typescript of what was probably an English translation of the original German version. It contains a number of evident errors. In the case of John Peter's six children, it purports to give birth dates from the parish register, but they may well have been baptismal dates instead. The children named and their dates, of either birth or baptism, were as follows: Elizabeth, June 14, 1723; Barbara, August 12, 1725; Felix, February 2, 1727; Hans Rudolf, March 25, 1731; Magdalena, November 29, 1733; and Casper, July 17, 1740.

There are records of at least four of these six children in America. First, Elizabeth married Jacob Rein (1726-1794) on November 18, 1750. A few months later he obtained a warrant for fifty acres of land south and east of Shuster's church. As late as 1762, Jacob Rein was a taxable in Shrewsbury township. Soon thereafter, he and Elizabeth took their family to North Carolina, where they spent the rest of their lives. In his will he called himself a resident of Lincoln county in that state. Second, Barbara (1725-1794) married John Hildebrand, who has already been identified as having taken up land south and east of Casper in Shrewsbury township, where they reared a large family. Third, Felix (1727-1814) married Sarah Meyer (1731-1813) on October 24, 1750. Their marriage, as well as that of Jacob and Elizabeth Rein, was recorded in the register of Christ Lutheran church, York. The baptisms of six of their children were recorded in York county Lutheran and Reformed parochial records. There is no evidence that this Felix ever took up land in York county and his name does not appear on the 1762 tax list, the earliest for the county which has survived, but the baptism of his sixth child was recorded in the York Reformed register in April 1763. Soon thereafter Felix and his family went to what was then Rowan county, North Carolina. He and Sarah were buried in Bethany Reformed cemetery, then Rowan but now Davidson county, North Carolina. Fourth, the register of the Reformed church in Lancaster records the marriage on March 21, 1767 of "Rudolph Glattfelder" and Veronica Hetzberger. Presumably the groom was the son of Peter and Salomea, but there is no evidence to indicate why the marriage took place in Lancaster county or why the groom was already in his midthirties when it occurred. Rudolph, or Rudolf, and his family moved into western Virginia and then North Carolina, where he died, apparently in 1804.

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### **The Estate of Casper Glattfelder**

Properly mindful of the impermanence of man's life, Casper Glattfelder at length made a will. At his request, three friends

and neighbors came to witness the signing of this important document. They were Henry Walter; John Hildebrand; and Jacob Krout (d.1775), who lived north of Shuster's church and had come the greatest distance.

The will of Casper Glatfelder was written in the German

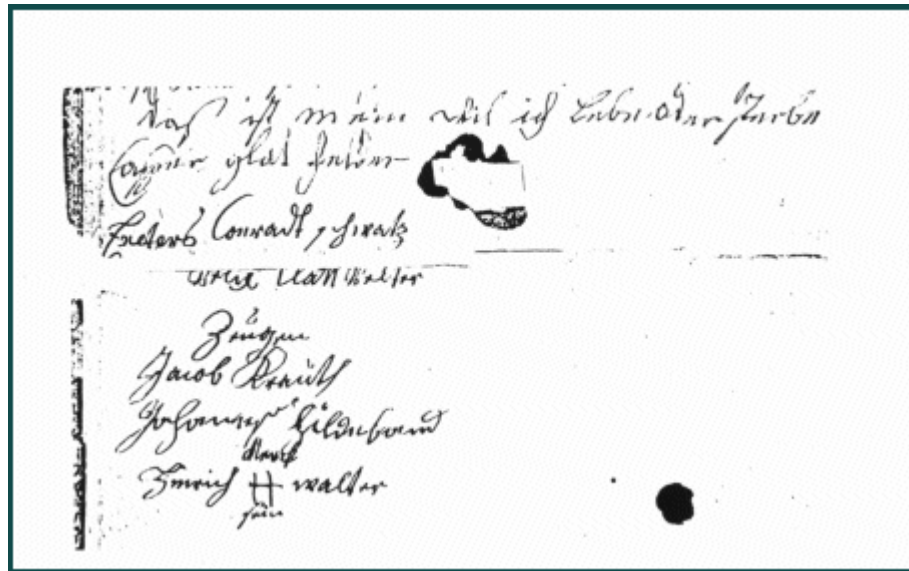


Illustration 4  
SIGNATURES ON CASPER'S WILL

In signing his will, Casper wrote his last name exactly as he had on the 1746 deed. The other signatures are those of the three witnesses. Someone also entered the names of the executors.

language. Before it could be entered for probate there had to be a translation, a task which John Morris performed in York on March 30, 1775. Three days later letters were granted to the executors, Felix Glatfelder and Conrad Swartz (1744-1831), a friend and neighbor. Both the original German version of the will and the translation have but one paragraph. Morris corrected a number of misspellings of proper names in the original and changed the different spellings of the family name there to Glatfelder. He translated the German word Platz as plantation, a term then frequently used to refer to one's farm. The text of the will as John Morris translated it is given in Appendix 1.

In common with many men of his own and other times, Casper in making his will was primarily concerned with two related things. First, he wanted to provide for his widow during the remainder of her lifetime. Second, he wanted to keep the plantation in the family. The proportion of space which he devoted to the manner in which his widow was to be

cared for is not unusual when compared with that in other early Pennsylvania German or Swiss wills.

There are several features of the form of Casper's will which make it an unusual document and, in the absence of additional evidence, a somewhat incomprehensible one. For example, there are signs that it was either hurriedly drawn or prepared by someone not familiar with the then customary form for such documents. It lacks the opening sentences which were almost universal in wills at the time. Words such as Codorus, township, York, and Felix were misspelled, although not as noted above, in the translation. The executors were not specifically designated in the text of the will itself, but their names were appended at the end, almost as an afterthought. Finally, and perhaps most strangely of all, the will was not dated.

In addition to the form of the will, there are certain of its provisions which leave us perplexed. What is the whole story of the sixth provision, regarding eldest son Solomon? Why in the seventh is the limit of twenty pounds placed on the inheritance of eldest daughter Anna? Was she single or married? Why, after stating that Felix "shall Have the Plantation forever," presumably only after his father's death, does Casper find it necessary or desirable to add that "if I Should Recover again I can do with the Land as I Please." Was that not something which everyone took for granted? Finally, whatever prompted him to add his own postscript to the will: "I Live or Die this is my Last Will and Testament."

The inventory of Casper's personal property, exclusive of the real estate, is given in Appendix 2 exactly as it was presented to the Register of Wills on May 20, 1775. One of the appraisers was Barnet Ziegler (1738-1797), whose property adjoined the recently organized Ziegler's church and who in his time prepared dozens of wills and deeds, although he did not write Casper's will. The other appraiser was Charles Diehl, part of whose property is included within the present limits of Seven Valleys borough. The inventory gives a good idea of the household goods, farming implements, livestock, and book credit which a typical, well-established York county German or Swiss farmer of the 1770s would have.

The last document in the estate proceedings, given in Appendix 3, is the account of their activities which the executors rendered on March 24, 1780, almost five years to the day after the will was probated. Why the long wait? Had the American Revolution so disrupted things that it was impossible or inconvenient to render a final accounting any sooner? There was, after all, a considerable length of time during the early years of the revolution when the courts of

York county were not functioning. Or was the account delayed until Felix paid off his brothers and sisters for the farm? Was it possibly held up until Casper's widow died? There are no present answers to these questions and there may never be any.

One thing does stand out very clearly in the account which the executors rendered in 1780. Wartime inflation had gone to such lengths that the court costs at that time, exclusive of the executor's fees, consumed about eighteen percent of the assets of the estate. The clerk's fee for preparing the account was alone equal to the value of one of Casper's mares five years before. The register's fees simply for approving and filing the account came within five shillings of the value of ninety bushels of wheat in 1775.

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## **Casper Glattfelder's Six Sons**

### **1. Solomon Glatfelter/Glotfelty (1738-1818)**

Baptized on February 23, 1738, Solomon was five years old when he and his parents left Switzerland. Later, in America, his father apprenticed him to a blacksmith to learn the trade. Solomon, who was not yet twenty-one at the time, kept some of the money which his father was supposed to receive for his son's work. At some point, this caused an estrangement between father and son, or perhaps it followed a falling out for some other and unknown reason. In any event, the ill feeling persisted until the father's death. In his will, Casper left Solomon fifteen pounds, but then revoked the bequest in favor of one amounting to one shilling, because "ten pounds he did receive of his master which should belong to his father because he had not his age." Over the years much has been made of this difference between father and son, but the fact is that the full story is simply not known, and in all probability never will be. Perhaps the less said about it the better.

About 1766, when he was twenty-eight years old, Solomon married Maria Eva Freinsch, daughter of John Philip and Maria Magdalena (Sleppy) Freinsch, of Shrewsbury township. She was born on February 25, 1748 and was baptized by the Rev. Jacob Lischy. Philip Freinsch died in 1750; in all of his estate papers his last name is spelled French. His widow later married Henry Gerlach. The baptism on July 26, 1767 of the first child born to Solomon and Eva is recorded in the Wolf's church register; the sponsors were Felix Glatfelter and Maria Magdalena Freinsch, Eva's sister. Shortly thereafter, the new parents and several other families left York county together.



For a time their residence was in Frederick county, Maryland. Solomon and Eva became members of the Frederick Reformed congregation and the baptisms of three of their children, born between 1770 and 1775, are listed in its register.

In the spring of 1777 Solomon purchased land a short distance east of Salisbury, in the southern part of the present Somerset county, near the Mason-Dixon line. A bond accompanying the purchase described him as being late of Frederick county, Maryland. In 1793 and 1801 he acquired warrants for land in Elk Lick township, now in Somerset county. Later, when the time came to obtain a clear title, the deputy surveyor for the area honored Solomon's request that, in order to save him some money, the land covered by the two warrants be included in one patent deed, noting that he is "a poor hard Working man etc." On May 28, 1804 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued this "poor hard Working man" a patent deed for 370 acres 40 perches of land.

Solomon was one of the founders of St. John's Reformed congregation, Salisbury. Until the first church building was erected, his was one of the houses in which religious services were held. Solomon spent the last forty years of his life as a farmer and blacksmith in this area. He died on August 13, 1818 and was buried in the Salisbury cemetery, where until recently

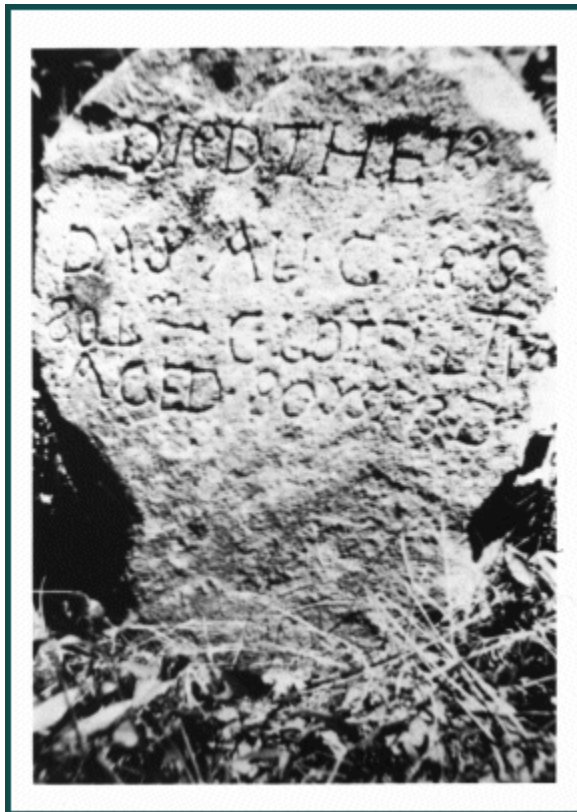


Illustration 5  
SOLOMON'S TOMBSTONE

The tombstone of Solomon which once stood in the Salisbury graveyard.  
*Courtesy Susan Glotfelty Rudnik.*

his tombstone was still standing. Since he had disposed of his assets, or at least most of them, before he died, there was no estate. The date of death of Maria Eva is unknown.

During Solomon's lifetime people began spelling his last name Glodfelty or Glotfelty, and in time the family accepted this spelling as their own. Most of Solomon's descendants in Somerset county; Garrett county, Maryland; and points west are Glotfeltys.

Solomon and his relatives in York county lost contact with each other. When Jonathan Glatfelter (1803-1883) dictated a family tree to his son Noah in 1859, he told him that Casper had six sons, but that he did not know anything about one of them, not even his name. Consequently, when Noah published his first history of the family in 1901 he claimed that the Solomon about whom he had learned some information had come to America through the port of Baltimore in 1765 and represented an "entirely distinct" branch of the family. One of the main reasons for the supplement which Noah published in 1910 was to include "Solomon's tribe," whom he now recognized as full-fledged descendants of Casper Glatfelter. The contact reestablished between 1901 and 1910 has been a lasting and rewarding one.

Solomon and Maria Eva had nine children:

Maria Magdalena	1767-	
Eva Margaret	1769-	m. John Durst. Somerset county
John Adam	1770-	m. Elizabeth Newman. Green county, O.
Anna Mary	1773-1838	m. Adam Fadeley
Elizabeth	1775-	m. John Welch. Indiana

Casper	1777-1848	m. Julia Easter. Somerset county
Henry	1779-1837	m. Mary Hare. Somerset county
Jacob	1784-1867	m. Mary Showrnan. Somerset county
Catharine	1789-1861	m. Frederick Deal. Ohio

Note that the family differences which undoubtedly existed did not prevent Solomon from naming his first son born after his father's death after the latter.

## **2. Felix Glatfelter (c.1747-1815)**

Felix was the first son born to his father in America. We do not know the exact date of his birth, but it must have been in or about 1747. The first known reference to him was dated July 26, 1767, when he stood as godfather to his brother Solomon's oldest child. At that time he was probably about twenty-one years old.

By the terms of his father's will Felix was given, and he took, the opportunity to buy the family homestead and pay for it over about fifteen years. In return, he was required to maintain his mother for the remainder of her life. During the forty years of his ownership Felix greatly enlarged the homestead property by acquiring rights to unclaimed land to the north. As a result, at the time of his death in 1815 the plantation included more than 420 acres. Sometime between 1798, when the dwelling house on the homestead was described in the federal direct tax list as a two-story log or frame house, 30 by 25 feet in size, and 1815 Felix built the stone house which still stands there.

Some indication of the repute in which Felix must have been held in the community is given by the fact that on at least four occasions he was named by relatives and friends to serve as an executor of their estate. For example, he served in that capacity for neighbor Andrew Swartz in 1789 and for his son Jacob in 1804. Felix made his own will on March 18, 1815 and it was probated on April 12 of the same year. In it he provided for the division of his real estate between his sons Philip and John. The value of his estate, exclusive of the real estate, was \$4,700, a considerable sum for that time. Felix was probably buried at Bupp's Union, but there is no tombstone. The account of his

estate, filed in 1816, included no reference to the purchase of one to mark his grave.

Felix married Maria Elizabeth Rennoll, the eldest daughter of Daniel (1724-1800) and Elizabeth (1729-1820) Rennoll, who lived in what is now North Codorus township, a few miles north of Jefferson. Rev. Jacob Lischy baptized her on May 19, 1752. Letters of administration on her estate were granted on January 22, 1827 to her son Casper and her son-in-law, Philip Folckommer.

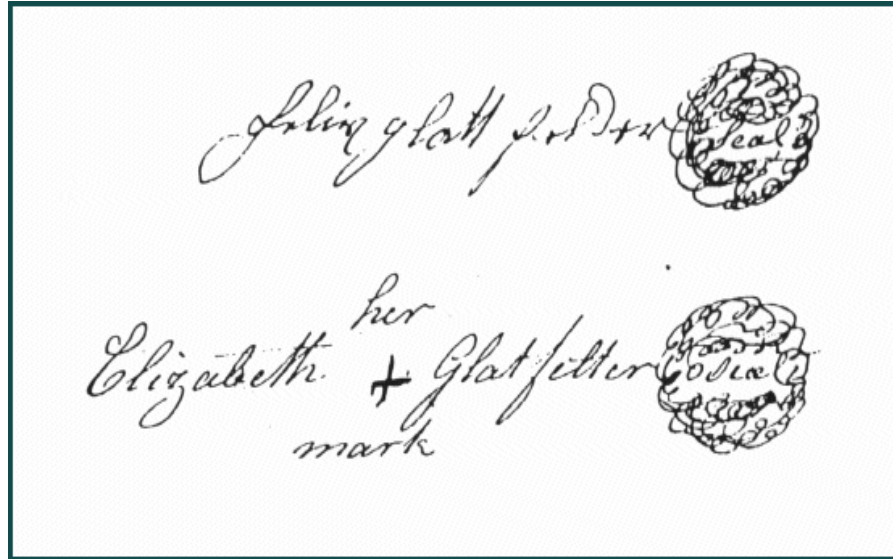


Illustration 6  
FELIX AND ELIZABETH SIGNATURES

On April 1, 1803 Felix sold to Nicholas Wilt a lot in York which he had only recently taken over from his son-in-law, Peter Ness. Note that Felix wrote his last name Glattfelder, instead of the way his father had written his years before. Elizabeth made her mark. *Courtesy Historical Society of York County.*

Felix and Elizabeth had ten children:

Elizabeth		m. Peter Ness.
Casper		m. Mary Emig. Clark county, O
John	1777-1854	m. Barbara Hovis. Codorus township
Anna Mary	1779	m. Tobias Hartman. Near York

Jacob	1780-1867	m. Eva Sadler. Anderson county, Tenn.
Philip	1782-1825	m. Anna Mary Emig. Codorus township
Margaret	1784-1854	m. Philip Folckommer. Shrewsbury town
Daniel	1786-1837/8	m. Margaret Emig. Codorus township
Barbara	1788-1868	m. Jacob Hovis. Codorus township
Frederick	1795-1856	m. Dorothy Swartz. W. Manchester township

\* \* \*

### **3. John Glatfelter (1751-1811)**

On July 30, 1751 the Rev. Jacob Lischy baptized John and Jacob Glatfelter, twin sons of Casper and Anna Maria. Jacob died young, but John survived into manhood. About 1776 or 1777 he purchased a farm in Shrewsbury, now Springfield, township from Nicholas Shuster. The latter, a blacksmith who had lived on this property for more than twenty years, had given his name to the church which had been built in the 1760s, if not earlier, on a tract to the south and east of his land. The church is now known as Friedensaal Lutheran. Here on a 240 acre farm John reared his family. At the time of the federal direct tax of 1798, the house in which they lived was a one-story log or frame house, 24 by 20 feet in size. At the time of this writing (1993), most of John's land is owned by Dorothy Sheffer and by Steven R. and Joyce E. Spine.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT WE *George Glatfelter* of *Shrewsbury Township*, *Jacob Falkenstein* of *Friedensaal*, *John Glatfelter* of *Shrewsbury Township* and all in this County of York.

are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the sum of *Three* Dollars, to be paid to the said Commonwealth, To which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves jointly and severally, for and in the whole our Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, by these presents. Sealed with our seals, dated the *Twenty seventh* day of *December* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and *eleven*. The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above-bounden *George Glatfelter* by *Jacob Falkenstein*

Administrators of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of *John Glatfelter* late of *Shrewsbury Township* deceased, do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of them the said *George Glatfelter* by *Jacob Falkenstein* do set the hands and possession of any other person or persons forth and the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Register's Office, in the county of York, at or before the *Twenty seventh* day of *January* next ensuing; and the same goods, chattels and credits, and all other the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, at the time of his death, which by that time after shall come to the hands, or possession of the said *George Glatfelter* and *Jacob Falkenstein* do set the hands and possession of any other person or persons forth do well and truly administer according to law. And further, do make or cause to be made a true and just account of the said administration at or before the *Twenty seventh* day of *December* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and *eleven* and all the rest and residue of the said goods, chattels, and credits, which shall be found remaining upon the said administration account, the same being first examined and allowed of by the Orphan's Court of the county of York, shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as the said Orphan's Court by their decree or sentence, pursuant to the true intent and meaning of the law now in force in this Commonwealth, shall first and appertain. And if it shall hereafter appear, that any Last Will and Testament was made by the said deceased, and the Executor or Executors therein named, do exhibit the same into the said Register's Office, making request to have allowed and approved accordingly; if the said *George Glatfelter* and *Jacob Falkenstein* these bounden, being thereunto required, do render and deliver the said Letters of Administration, approbation of such Testament being & it had and made in the Register's office, then this obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to be and remain in full force and virtue.

*J. Glatfelter* }  
*Jacob Falkenstein* }  
*Frederick Meyer* }  
*John Glatfelter* }

Illustration 7  
 ADMINISTRATORS' BOND FOR JOHN'S ESTATE

John died in 1811, without having made a will. This is a copy of the bond which the administrators signed on December 27, 1811, authorizing them to settle his estate. The two administrators and their two bondsmen all signed their names in German script. Frederick Meyer made John's coffin.

Letters of administration on John's estate were granted on December 27, 1811 to his son George and to neighbor Jacob Falkenstein (1775-1859). His three youngest children were minors when their father died. John was probably buried at Friedensaal, but there is no tombstone. The account of his estate, filed in 1812, makes no reference to the purchase of one.

The maiden name of John's wife, Catharine, is not known. After her husband's death she moved to York, where she made

her will on October 8, 1826. It was probated eighteen days later.

John and Catharine had eight children:

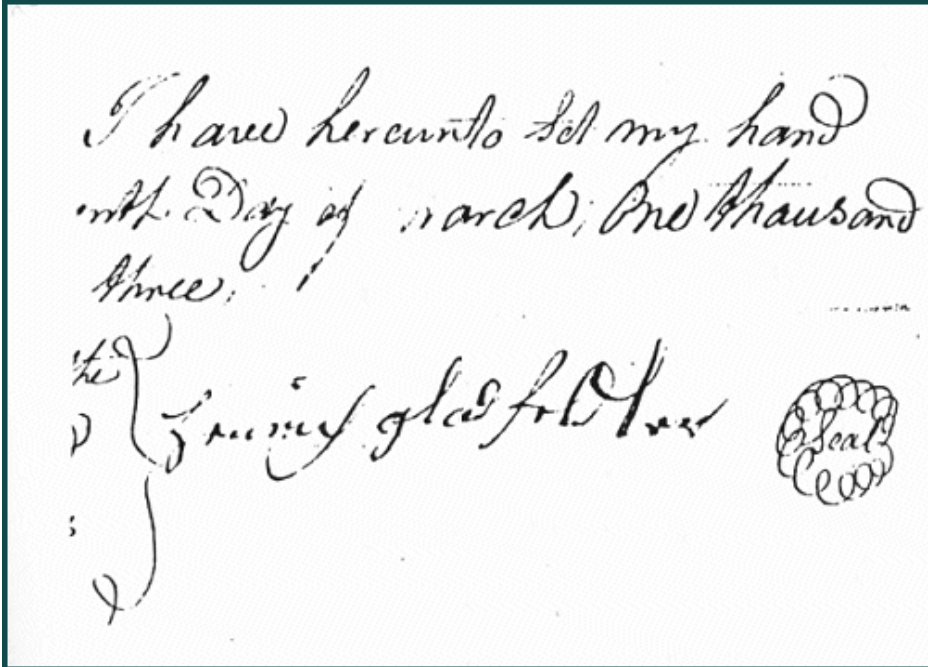
John	1778-1821	m. Dorothy Swartz. Shrewsbury township
Jacob	1780-1827	m. Elizabeth Minnich. Codorus township
Eva	1782-1867	m. Samuel Raver. Shrewsbury township
Daniel	1782-1861	m. Eva Currant. Dover and Conewago townships
George	1788-1868	m. Anna Mary Geiselman. Warrington township m. Eve Free
Catharine	1791-	living in 1811 but predeceased her mother.
Susan	1794-1868	m. Samuel Forscht. York
Rosanna	1797-1857	m. Andrew Ferree. Hellam township

\* \* \*

#### **4. Henry Glatfelter (1752-1833)**

Henry Glatfelter was born on August 13, 1752 and was baptized by the Rev. Jacob Lischy on November 12 of the same year. Three weeks after his marriage in 1782, Henry purchased from Henry Engel a 139 acre farm east of Bupp's Union on the road to Loganville, in what was then Shrewsbury and is now Springfield township. When Henry bought it, this property was at least twenty years old. At the time of the federal direct tax of 1798, the family lived in a one-story log or frame house, 22 by 18 feet in size. Four years later, they moved to what had been the farm of Henry's father-in-law, near Stoverstown,

which he bought from his brother-in-law, Michael Heilman. This was his home until he died, although he continued to own the old place until the spring of 1832. During the last decade of his life, the farm on which he lived was assessed for about 150 acres of land. From 1976 until 1989 Henry's first homestead was owned by Glenn F. and Regina I. Brenneman. The second homestead was broken up after the death of Henry's youngest son, Jacob Glatfelter, in 1872. At the time of this writing (1993), part of it consists of lots in the town of Stoverstown and part of land owned by Marlet E. and Helen A. Naill and by Barry A. and Pauline H. Hess.



I have herewith set my hand  
on the 27th day of March, One thousand  
three hundred and thirty three  
Henry Glatfelter

The circular seal contains the text "Seal of Henry Glatfelter" in a circular arrangement.

Illustration 8  
HENRY'S SIGNATURE

Henry made his will in March 1833. Note how he spelled his last name and also that he wrote it in German script.

Henry Glatfelter, a resident of what was then Codorus township (it is now North Codorus), died on April 16, 1833. He made his will on the preceding March 27 and it was probated on the following April 27. He named his sons Philip and Jacob executors, but Daniel Leese (1800-1875) became administrator with the will annexed. Henry was the last surviving of Casper Glatfelter's sons. He was buried at Wolf's church, where at the time of this writing his tombstone (although considerably weathered) and that of his widow are still standing in the old churchyard. He and Solomon are the only two of Casper's sons who are known to have had tombstones. In the case of Henry, the year of birth carved on his stone, 1753, is obviously incorrect



by one year, as a careful reading of the entire text and the date of his baptism prove.

The register of the old Reformed church in York records the marriage on August 20, 1782 of Henry Glatfelter and Margaret Heilman (January 5, 1760-January 27, 1847), daughter of John (d. 1786) and Anna Mary Heilman, who lived in what was then Codorus township, at and near the present Stoverstown. In his 1901 history of the family, Noah M. Glatfelter credited John Heilman with introducing the Heilman pear from Germany. In the issue of the East Berlin News for August 29, 1906, its editor, Rudolph B. Glatfelter (1847-1910), reported that he had just returned from his sister-in-law's sale in Stoverstown "with a supply of the famous Heilman pears, the two original trees having been brought from Germany by his great-grandfather, Michael Heilman." Unfortunately, the editor seems not to have known that his great-grandfather was named John, not Michael.

Margaret Heilman Glatfelter, then a resident of West Manchester township, made her will on January 30, 1843 and it was probated on February 18, 1847.

Henry and Margaret had eight children:

Philip		moved to Snyder County
Frederick	1785-1845	m. Margaret Hassler. Mary Wilhelm North Codorus township
Michael	1786-1836	m. Elizabeth Boyer. Codorus township
Anna Mary	1789-1822	m. Michael Hassler.
Peter	1791-1792	buried at Bupp's Union
Henry	1793-1864	m. Catharine Krout. North Codorus township
Daniel	1796-1880	m. Catharine Kling. North Codorus township
Jacob	1798-1872	m. Anna Mary Boyer. North Codorus township

\* \* \*

## 5. Michael Glatfelter (d. 1824)

We do not know the date of Michael's birth, although it is all but certain that he was younger than his brother Henry and he was older than his brother Casper. Michael is listed as a single man in the 1778 Codorus township tax list, which means that he was then already twenty-one years of age. Unfortunately, the York county tax lists for the early revolutionary years of 1775-1777 are not known to have survived. If available, they would permit us to determine an approximate year of his birth with some confidence.

Michael became a landowner in October 1781 when he purchased from John Snyder a 132 acre farm in Shrewsbury, now Springfield, township, a short distance southeast of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. This farm had been occupied and used for about twenty years. At the time of the federal direct tax of 1798, Michael and his family were living in a one-story log or frame house, 25 by 20 feet in size. From 1933 until 1972 Paul and Florence Stump were the owners of this property. Since 1972 it has been owned by Earl Brown Orchards Inc.

Michael and his family lived at this location for twenty-eight years. Here all of the children were born. Then in May 1809 he sold out and moved his family to Somerset township, Washington county, Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh. He made his will on December 10, 1823 and it was probated on June 11, 1824. His estate papers refer to him as Michael Clodfelter.

The register of the old Reformed church in York records the marriage on September 5, 1780 of Michael Glatfelter and Anna Maria Hess, the daughter of Ulrich (c.1713-1789) and Ursula (Schlatter) Hess (c.1726-1795), of Shrewsbury, now Springfield, township. The Rev. Jacob Lischy baptized Anna Maria on August 5, 1759. She and Michael had seven children:

George	1781-	m. Magdalena Zech. In York county in 1833
Mary		m. Andrew Ault. Morgan county, O
Michael	1788-	died young

Margaret	1792-	in Washington county in 1833
John	1797-	in Washington county in 1833
Jacob		in Washington county in 1833
Philip	1802-	in Washington county in 1833

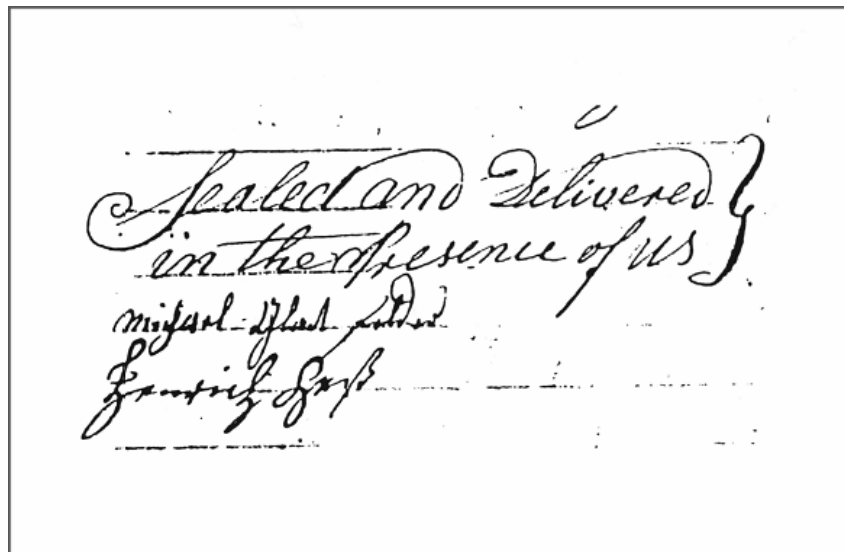


Illustration 9  
SIGNATURES OF MICHAEL AND BROTHER-IN-LAW

The signatures of Michael and brother-in-law Henry Hess, as witnesses, were placed on a 1783 deed signed by Ulrich and Ursula Hess, parents-in-law of Michael. All signatures were in German script. *From a private collection.*

\* \* \*

### 6. Casper Glatfelter (c.1758-1823)

Although we do not know the exact year of the younger Casper's birth, we do know that in his will his father identified him as "my youngest son." Since he does not appear in the 1778 tax lists for either Codorus or Shrewsbury township, but does appear as a single man in the latter township in 1779, we can assume that he was born in or about 1758 and was thus still a minor when his father died in 1775. Old Casper bequeathed

him "the Large Bible exclusive of his other share" in the estate. Unfortunately, this valuable family possession, which might have been brought from Switzerland in 1743, has long since disappeared. One family story traced its ultimate destination to a woodshed or other outbuilding on the property of one of Casper's descendants.

In June 1785 Casper purchased from Jacob Kersh a farm of 140 acres in Shrewsbury, now Springfield, township, south of Larue. Kersh had obtained his first warrant for this land in 1762. At the time of the federal direct tax of 1798, Casper's family was living in a one-story log or frame house, 24 feet by 20 feet in size. By virtue of a warrant in 1785 and a subsequent survey, he added some unclaimed land to his holdings. When he died in the fall of 1823 he owned 174 acres of land. At the time of this writing (1993), Eddie and Vicki M. Rohrbaugh own more than half of this property, including the part on which the early buildings were located.

Letters of administration on Casper's estate were granted on November 22, 1823 to his widow and Jacob Caslow (1783-1861), a neighbor. At least one of the children was a minor when his father died. Casper was probably buried at either Friedensaal or St. Peter's church, but there is no tombstone. The account of his estate, filed in 1825, makes no reference to the purchase of one to mark his grave.

The maiden name of Casper's wife, Maria Eva, is not known. She may have been a daughter of Jacob Kersh, but there is no known evidence to prove that she was. Sometime after her husband's death and the sale of the home place to someone out of the family, she moved to York and on November 12, 1832 married Frederick Geiselman. She died about 1851-1852.

## Public Sale.

In pursuance of an order of the Orphans Court of York County, will be exposed to public sale, the real estate of Casper Glatfelter, deceased, situate in Shrewsbury township, adjoining lands of Frederick Bahn, Dennis Devinny and others, containing 174 acres more or less, on which is erected a two story log dwelling house, a springhouse, the upper part of which is fitted up for a dwelling, a bank barn, and other outbuildings. About 70 acres are cleared, the remainder is good woodland, and 8 acres of meadow are and 6 or 7 acres more good meadow may be made. This place is no where excelled for the variety and quantity of fruit trees. Those wishing to view the property previous to the sale, by applying to Jacob Caslo, living near the same, will have it shewn to them. A stream of water runs through it sufficient for a grist, oilmill, or other waterworks. The sale will be held at one o'clock in the afternoon on the premises, Saturday the 14th day of August next, when and where terms will be made known, by

Eve Glatfelter, } Adm'rs.  
Jacob Caslo, }

June 22, 1824.

Illustration 10  
NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENT, 1824

The administrators settling the estate of the younger Casper inserted this announcement of the sale of his real estate in the York Gazette for June 22, 1824. The careful reader will learn what Eve Glatfelter and Jacob Caslow believed were the attractive features of Casper's real estate.

Casper and Maria Eva Glatfelter had thirteen children, most of whom left York county:

Anna Maria

1783-

m. John Schuman.  
Indiana county

Dorothea	1784-1868	m. John Everhart. Indiana county
Jacob	1786-	m. Elizabeth Bailey. Clinton county
Maria Eva	1788-	died young
Elizabeth	1789-1866	m. Charles Stroman. York
Susanna	1791-	m. Philip Liebhart. Hellam township
John	1793-1864	m. Margaret E. Keiser. Springfield township
Catharine	1795-1887	m. Philip Heilman. Seneca county, O.
Casper	1797-1869	m. Elizabeth Sulzbach. Peoria county, Ill.
Joseph	1799-1855	m. Rebecca Kroh. Baltimore county, Md.
Charles	-1860	Stark county, Ill.
Rosanna	1804-	m. Daniel Boyer. Indiana
Adam		was living in 1823

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