

The Bresslers/Presslers of Niederhochstadt
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The children of Hans Georg Pressler, baptized at Niederhochstadt. came to the colonies on the ship Lydia, arriving in Philadelphia on October 19, 1749. Their Pennsylvania records are easily confused with the issue of Johannes Veltin Pressler. also of Niederhochstadt. who are not recorded in the ship's lists, but are registered in the church records of Niederhochstadt, and who brought with them a family Bible, still extant.

Hans Georg Pressler's children, who came on the Lydia, settled in the Tulpehocken region of Berks County, later migrating north to the Pine Grove area and northern Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

The children of Hans Valentlin Pressler settled in Lancaster County upon arrival, staying in that area until well after Revolutionary War. Each family used many of the same given names, and it is difficult to untangle their histories. I hope to alleviate the confusion about these family groups by presenting a four-generation account of the descendants of the Valentin Presslers of Niederhochstadt who arrived in Philadelphia in 1749 and are not found in the aforementioned ship's list.

I will spell the family name as I found it in the records, realizing the name was/is spelled variously, in all times. I understand that the B-P confusion is caused primarily by the Germanic nearly-identical pi enunciation of those consonants. The names are one and the same name-Bressler and Pressler. spelled with a single "s", a double "s", or with a dropped "l" or an added "ch" to read Breschler.

Niederhochstadt and Oberhochstadt (today combined as 674 Hochstadt) are small villages in West Germany's wine country. They are about eleven miles southwest of Speyer and the Rhine River, thirty miles southeast of Kaiserslautern, and three miles northeast of Landau. Presslers live there today-just as they did when the first tax accounts were recorded.

In 1590, the first extant tax list names Harms Pressler. Other tax lists enumerates Neidercochstadters during the Thirty Years Wars: Georg Pressler and Georg Prasler der Junge in 1619; Lorenz Presler, 1619-1626; and Valtin Pressler, 1619-1628, are among them.

In 1688, the listing includes the widow of Lorenz Presler, Hannes, Hannes Jerg, Valtin. Hannes Stoffel, and Philipp Pressler, each named separately.

The church registers of the Reformed Church at Niederhochstadt begin in 1708 and have large gaps; marriages are listed from 1708 to 1716 and then jump to 1730; deaths are recorded after 1729.

Emigration to the colonies was large in proportion to the population of the villages, starting about 1732 and continuing for twenty years. The Hochstadt emigrants often settled near one another. Host Church (St. John;s Reformed), the earliest Reformed Church in Berks County, was formed by a congregation of immigrants, many of whom came from the Hochstadt area. They probably took the name Host, from the dialectical name for Hochstadt. It was also served early by the Rev. Philip Boehm, a native son of Hochstadt.

Hans Valentin Pressler

The burial record for Valentin Bressler on February 16, 1736, gives his age as sixty-seven years, his birth therefore being about 1669/70. He had died by the time his son Johannes married in 1738, as the Kirchenbuch speaks of Johannes as the relict legitimate son of the late Valetin Bressler. late of this place.

In 1712 and 1717, the baptismal records of Maria Elisabetha and Johannes, children of Valentin and Anna Catharina Pressler. were recorded. Catharina Pressler was buried September 8, 1743, age sixty-six years, disclosing her birth as 1676/77.

In the Bressler Bible there is a marginal notation on the left of the first page which reads only, Hans Velten Bressler.

Hans Valentin and Anna Catherina Pressler had issue:

1 . i. Maria Elisabetha babt. Sept. 22, 1712

2. ii. Johannes, bapt. Aug. 22, 1717. Sponsors were Johann and Anna Barbara Best Mez.

3. iii. Jacobus, b. Sept. 20, 1728.

2. Johannes Bressler, "the relict legitimate son of Valentin Pressler, former citizen and inhabitant of this place," married Eva Maria Ohli, July 29, 1738. Eva Maria is named as the legitimate daughter of Nicolaus Ohli, citizen of this place. Children of Johannes and Eva Maria Bressler were:

4. i. Johann Georg, b. Sept. 4, 1738, bapt. Sept. 5, 1738; sponsors: Joh. Georg and Anna Elisabetha Bressler.

5. ii. Stephan, b. Apr. 17, 1740, bapt. Apr. 21, 1740; sponsors: Stephan Franck, school teacher at Mertzheim and wife Eve Catharina.

6. iii. Elizabetha, b. Apr. 4, 1743; only a Bible record, no extant church record.

7. iv. Johannes, b. Oct. 30, 1744, bapt. Nov 1, 1744; sponsors: Ulrich Guth and Anna Barbara.

8. v. Barbara, b. Jan. 13, 1748, bapt. Jan. 14, 1748; sponsors: Hieronymus Kornmann and Barbara.

9. vi. Eva Catharina, b. Jan. 1, 1749, bapt. in Germantown, Pa., by Michael Haderdt.

It is reported that Johannes married Eve Emelia Kendig after his arrival in the Colonies. and fathered two more sons. There is also a daughter's birth and baptism recorded to Johannes and Eve Emelia Bressler.

10. vii Johann Nicholas, b. June 1752; tombstone gives b. Apr. 6, 1751.

11. viii Johann Peter, b. Mar. 1, 1757.

12. ix. Mary Margareta, b. Dec. 9, 1759, bapt. Dec. 16, 1759.

3. Jacobus Bressler, as a son of Valentin of Niederhochstadt is evidenced on the first page of the Bressler Bible. Three dates are listed—1723, 1724, and Sept. 29, 1728. The last date notes the birth of Jacobus. He is probably the Jacob Brescher who married Margaret Kramer on Jan. 4, 1771, and who took the Oath of Allegiance in Lancaster Co., on June 13, 1777.

Jacob and Margaret Brescher (Presser, Bressler) had issue:

13. i. John, b. Feb. 23, 1772. bapt. Apr. 12, 1772.
14. ii. Jacob, b. Dec. 2, 1773. bapt. Jan. 16, 1774.
15. iii. Elizabeth, b. July 22, 1775. bapt. Aug. 12, 1775.
16. iv. Catherine, b. Dec. 31, 1776. bapt. Feb. 9, 1777.
17. v. Anna Margaret, b. June 13, 1778. bapt. July 12, 1778.

They also had issue:

18. vi. Anna Barbara, b. Jan. 31, 1789. bapt. Apr. 17, 1780.
19. vii. William, b. Oct. 19, 1781, bapt. May 5, 1782. Letters of administration for Jacob Bressler are dated 1784.

4. Georg Bressler. b. Sept. 4, 1738, married May 26, 1767, Veronica Herr, who was the daughter of Christian Herr and Mary Kendig of Willow Street, Lancaster Co., and named in C. Herr's will of 1772 as the wife of George Bressler. George Bressler enrolled in the Lancaster Co. Militia. 1783.

He was listed as an "innkeeper in Leacock Twp." when he acquired land in Lancaster County, either by purchase or in the acquisition of Herr properties through his marriage. He owned land in Lampeter and Leacock Townships and Strasburg, Pa. and in 1796 he purchased of Grederick Richards, 200 acres with a gristmill on Fishing Creek, Lower Bald Eagle Twp., Centre Co., building another mill nearby in 1800. In 1801, he is listed as an inhabitant of Lower Bald Eagle Twp., having two gristmills and two sawmills.

He died at home in Strasburg on Oct. 10, 1806, leaving a will in which he names his wife Veronica, an only son George, and daughters Fanny, Elizabeth, Mary (deceased), Catherine, Rebecca, and Harriet. He left all his Strasburg, Pa. property to his wife Veronica (Freny), his Centre Co. property was given outright to his son George, and provisions were made for his daughter to acquire and further share in his estate.

He named his wife and his brother "Peter Bressler of Leacock Twp." as executors, signing his will July 24, 1806, and attaching a clarifying codicil the following August 1 st. It was probated Oct. 16, 1806. He is buried in the Strasburg Mennonite Cemetery, Strasburg, Pa. His wife Veronica (Herr) died Oct. 22, 1826, in Mill Hall, Pa.

Children of George Bressler and Veronica nee Herr:

20. i. Mary, b. Sept. 14, 1768; d. before father in 1806 m. Joel Ferree.
21. ii. Catherine, b. Nov. 11, 1770; d. 1853, Salona, Pa. m. Samuel Wilson.
22. iii. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 12, 1775; d. 1829, Salona, Pa. m. Sept. 25, 1794. Jacob Hartman.
23. iv. Rebecca, b. Feb. 6, 1778; d. 1873, Salona, Pa. m. Jan. 9, 1800. Daniel Herr (Preschler).
24. v. Fannie, b. Sept. 30, 1782; d. 1866, Salona, Pa. m. Joel Herr.

25. vi. Charlotte, b. Apr. 6, 1785; d. 1877, Lancaster Co., Pa. m. Henry Barnett.

26. vii. George, b. Mar. 17, 1788; d. 1864, Mill Hall, Pa.

27. viii. Harriet, b. Oct. 10, 1791; d. 1869 m. Samuel Miller.

26. George Bressler, only son of George and Veronica (Herr) Bressler. was born in Lancaster Co., Mar. 17, 1788. He married 1.) Elizabeth Huston who died in 1812 without issue, and married 2.) Ann Elizabeth Domeck of Lancaster Boro, by whom his ten children were born.

He inherited all his father's lands in BaJd Eagle Twp., Centre Co., acquiring more in his own name and building an additional mill, as well as a furnace at Mill Hall. PA. An old portrait of him was painted by Jacob Eicholtz.

George Bressler was the first schoolteacher in Clinton Co., a retailer of foreign merchandise, wine, and spirit. President of the Bald Eagle, Nittany and Brush Valley Turnpike Co. in 1834, Justice of the Peace for Bald Eagle and Lamar Townships of Clinton Co., and Associate Judge of Clinton County Courts Feb. 12, 1850.

George Bressler died Mar. 14, 1864, in Mill Hall, Pa., and Ann Elizabeth (Dorneck) Bressler died Jan. 31, 1853; they are among the first burials at the new Cedar Hill Cemetery, one mile south of Salona, Pa.

Children of George and Ann Elizabeth nee Domeck"

28. i. Elizabeth Frances, b. 1814; died 1816, Mill Hall.

29. ii Sarah Anne, b. Feb. 9, 1816; died July 8, 1879, Mill Hall; m. Sept. 15, 1840, John D. McCormick.

30. iii. George Bressler, b. June 8, 1818; d. Jan. 28, 1901; m. 1.) ca. 1845, Phoebe A.

(1823-1850); ml.) Elizabeth Hendershott, d. 1852; bu. at sea on way to gold fields; m.3.) Josephine Vanatta (1843-1875), 8 children:

31. iv. Charles Huston, b. Feb. 4, 1821; d. Feb. 22. 1894, York, Pa.; m. Sarah A. Toner.

32. v. Henry Clay, b. Apr. 4, 1824, Mill Hall; d. May 15, 1873, m. Isabella Henderson.

33. vi. John Jay, b. Nov. 8, 1826. Mill Halljd. July 8, 1879, Flemington; m Rebecca Slenker.

34. vii. Catherine Wilson, b. 1829; d. 1841, Mill Hall.

35. viii. Daniel Webster, b. Jan. 19, 1832, Mill Hall; d. 1914, Chattanooga, Tena.m Harriet F. Hartman.

36. ix. Huston, b. Jan. 18, 1836; d. 1905, Mill Hall.

37. x. Charlotte, b. Feb. 7, 1839; d. 1916, Mill Hall.

10. Nicholas Bressler, first son of Johannes and Eva Kendig, born 1752, Lancaster Co., married Mar. 29. 1785, to Magdalena Stoner. He enrolled in the Lancaster County Militia in 1783 and paid taxes in Lampeter Twp. 1779 and 1783, when classed as a Freeman.

The 1790 census lists him residing in Lampeter Twp. among a family of two females, two males under sixteen, and three males over sixteen. He was listed as a blacksmith when deeded land by his brother George in Lampeter Twp., Lancaster Co., May 4, 1789.

On Jan. 12, 1791, he deeded 104 acres in Leacock Twp. to his brother and sister-in-law. Peter and Elizabeth Bressler. Nicholas had received 162 acres in Leacock and Lampeter Twps. on Dec. 8, 1789, as an heir of Jacob Stoner, who had died leaving seven daughters, among whom Magdalena the eldest had married Nicholas Bressler, Ann married Daniel Eby, Elizabeth had married Peter Bressler, and four others as yet single.

The O.C. refused partition, and valued the land at 1,800L. Nicholas offered to take possession of the land, promising to pay each heir his just share within eighteen months. All heirs were paid and sued a release on Dec. 8, 1789.

Of this parcel, Nicholas sold 104 acres to his brother Peter for 900L on Jan. 17, 1791. The remainder he sold to John Smith on Mar. 1, 1792; to Jacob Mumma, Apr. 1, 1794; and to Henry reider, Apr. 11, 1799.

The Stoner (Steiner) heirs' land is mentioned in a deed description as being contiguous to that which George Bressler bought on May 22, 1784.

Nicholas bought land in 1796 in Lower Paxton Twp., Dauphin Co., and were located there in the Census enumeration of 1810.

In 1813 he purchased land from Hartman Rickert in Lykens Twp., Dauphin Co., Pa. Nicholas signed a will Sept. 15, 1825, naming Magdalena his wife, his sons Abraham, George, Jacob, and his deceased son Johannes, who had children. The will was probated Nov. 21, 1825, by Abraham and George as executors.

Nicholas Bressler was buried at Hoffran's Church (St. Peter's Reformed) near Berrysburg, Pa. Magdalena Bressler. his widow was taxed on 72 acres of first-rate and 100 acres of second-rate land with a wood or log house, one horse and two cows, all valued at \$ 1,752 until the estate was settled after her death by 1847/48. Her son Abraham and his family lived with her until they moved to Jackson Twp., Dauphin Co., having bought land from the Executor of John Freeborn Apr. 10, 1840.

Nicholas and Magdalena (Stoner) Bressler had issue:

38. i. George, d. after 1848 in Muscatine, Iowa; m. Jan. 16, 1817. Harrisburg, Rebecca Camel.

39. ii. Abraham, b. June 19, 1793; d. July 8, 1861, Enterline, Pa.

40. iii. Johannes, d. 1822.

41. iv. Jacob, d. after 1845, Green Co., Ohio.

39. Abraham, son of Nicholas and Magdalena Bressler, bought land in Enterline, Pa., in 1840. He is buried at the Lutheran and Reformed Church Cemetery, Enterline, Pa. His wife, Susanna (surname unknown), born Sept. 10, 1794, and died Mar. 24, 1859, is buried there also. Abraham and Susanna Bressler had issue:

42. i. Susannah, bapt. Mar. 25, 1815; m. Peter Stouch.

43. ii. Jonothan, b. Oct. 29, 1817; d. Apr. 17, 1852.

44. iii. Daniel, b. 1822; d. 1863, Civil War.

45. iv. Jacob, b. Dec. 29, 1824; d. Sept. 22, 1894; m. Anna Maria Sweigert, Jan. 8. 1845.

46. v. Magdalena, b. July 4, 1827; d. Jan 26, 1828.

47. vi. Josiah, b. May 4, 1828; d. Oct. 25, 1897.

48. vii. Elizabeth

49. viii. Henry, b. June 10, 1832; d. Apr. 20, 1862.

50. ix. Adam, b. Nov. 14, 1835; d. Aug. 25, 1863, Civil War.

40. Johannes Bressler, son of Nicholas and Magdalena (Stoner), d. 1822, Washington Twp., Dauphin Co., Pa, and is buried at Hoffmaris Church. He married Magdalena Riegel. John and Magdalena (Riegel) Bressler had issue:

51. i. Susanna, b. Aug. 3, 1813.

52. ii. George, b. Sept. 10, 1815, d. by 1822.

53. iii. Magdalena, b. Feb. 2, 1818; d. by 1822.

54. iv. Nicholas, b. Apr. 7, 1819; d. Jan 2, 1889; unmarried.

55. v. John, b. Feb. 21, 1823.

56. vi. Mary Ana

41. Jacob Bressler, fourth son of Nicholas and Magdalena (Stoner), married Jan. 29, 1811. in Harrisburg, Pa., to Catherine Fischer. In 1840 he and his wife of Greene Co., Ohio, were joined by their son Jacob Jr. in a suit to regain part of their inheritance from brothers Abraham and George Bressler. the executors of their father's estate.

Jacob and Susanna (Fischer) Bressler had children born in Pa.

57. i. Jacob. Jr.. living in Clinton Co., Ind., by 1845.

58. ii. Samuel, living in Clinton Co., Ind.. in 1845.

59. iii. Sarah A., b. 1828. Pa.

60. iv. Emmeline. b. 1840, Pa.

11. Peter Bressler. youngest son of Johannes, b. Mar. 1, 1757. died Sept. 17. 1845, in Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co. He served in the Lancaster County Militia in 1783 in the same Battalion, Company, and Class as his brother Nicholas, and took an oath of allegiance on Mar. 4. 1786. Peter deeded his land in Leacock Twp. to his only son Isaac on Apr. 12, 1833, and left a will dated Oct. 1, 1834, naming his wife

Elizabeth; four daughters: Maria. Anna. Lydia, and Elizabeth; his son Isaac; and brother-in-law Henry Landis of Lampeter Township as executor; it was probated Oct. 10, 1843. He is buried in Longnecker's Cemetery.

Peter Bressler married Elizabeth Stoner on Feb. 16, 1786, the sister of his brother Nicholas's wife, Magdalena, both of the women being granddaughters of Hans Steiner, Mennonite preacher from the Emmenthal Valley in Canton Bern, Switzerland.

Elizabeth (Stoner) Bressler, born Aug. 12, 1768. died Feb. 21, 1853, is also buried at Longnecker's Cemetery. The Peter Bressler Bible is owned by descendants in Sterling, Ill.

Peter and Elizabeth (Stoner) Bressler had issue:

61. i. Maria, b. Feb. 19, 1786; m. Sept. 3, 1805, Henry Dieffenbach.

62. ii. Anna (Nannie), b. Oct. 31, 1787; d. Feb. 25, 1852.

63. iii. Polly, d. before father's will written.

64. iv. Catherine, b. Sept. 29, 1791; d. before father's will written.

65. v. Lydia, b. Mar. 20, 1799; m. Apr. 2, 1812, Isaac Weber.

66. vi. Elizabeth, b. Mar. 20, 1799; m. Jacob Frey.

67. vii. Isaac, b. Aug. 1, 1803.

67. Isaac, farmer, only son of Peter and Elizabeth (Stoner) Bressler, born Aug. 1, 1803, Leacock Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., died Mar. 31, 1881, Sterling, Jordan Twp., Whiteside Co., Ill., buried Riverside Cemetery, Sterling, Ill.

On Nov. 29, 1821, he married Frances Neff (Sept. 3, 1800-Nov. 9, 1892). Deeding his land in Upper Leacock and Lampeter Townships on Apr. 1, 1851, to Benjamin Landis, and his land in Manheim Twp. to David Ford on the same date, he removed with a large group of relatives and Mennonites to Illinois, settling in Jordan Twp., Whiteside Co., by 1853. Many of those who resettled were wiped out by a cholera epidemic.

Isaac and Frances (Neff) Bressler had issue:

68. i. Eliza, b. July 10, 1822; m. Henry Bush, Sterling, Ill.

69. ii. Levi, b. Aug. 21, 1823; m. Mar. 26, 1850, Frances Eby.

70. iii. Anna, b. Sept. 16, 1824; m. Nov. 24, 1846, Jacob Myers.

71. iv. Henry, b. May 8, 1826; m. Dec. 21, 1849, Margaret Stauffer.

72. v. Catherine, b. July 2, 1827; d. Sept. 28, 1919; bur. Brethern Cemetery, Roseland, Neb; m. Dec. 14, 1848, John Eby, Stauffer, Lancaster, Pa.

73. vi. Peter. b. Nov. 17, 1828; d. 1911. Seattle, Wah.; m. Sabrina Simonson.

74. vii. Isaac, b. Feb. 11, 1830; m. Aresuthy Smith. Sterling, Ill.

75. viii. Benjamin, b. June 27. 1832; d. 1822; m. Elizabeth Ulner.

76. ix. Lydia. b. Jan. 15. 1834: M. John Buck-waiter.

77. x. Mary Ann. b. Sept. 23. 1835; m. Weidler Grabill, Neb.

78. xi. Veronica, b. Dec. 25. 1837; m. William Echtermacht.

79. xii. Susanna, d. at two years.