

An Analysis of the AAMG Listing of the Assumed Sons of Isaac Kauffman (KF) by S. Duane Kauffman

Of the five assumed sons, documentation linking them to Isaac Kauffman KF is found only for the first two, John KF1 and Isaac KF3. The listings of passengers with their ages on the Virtuous Grace arriving September 24, 1737, and the birth/baptism records provided by CFK on page xvii of his introduction make this association quite clear. For the other three, probability is based on geographical proximity, dates of events, names of descendants, and the logical elimination of other possibilities. In each case, except for the first,

determining the names of spouses, sons, and daughters has been facilitated by probate instruments. However establishing the connecting link with the next generation has been more difficult because of the duplication of given names. Isaac KF3 had five sons with the same names as Stephen KF4 and Christian KF5 had three repeaters.

KF1 John Kauffman

Though John Kauffman arrived in 1737, documentation concerning his early Berks County years is sparse and inconclusive. From the early 1750s through 1790 a John Kauffman is found in Tulpehocken and Bethel township tax assessment lists. A John Kauffman is also found in Lutheran church records in this area including the marriage of widower John Kauffman to a widow Barbara Petry. These records cast a doubt on the assumption that this is the 1737 immigrant or if they do refer to the same, he did not remain a part of the Amish community of faith. (For further details see earlier article "Was it an H or a K...")

A key discovery is contained in a October 19, 1743 land warrant application for Christian Yoder of Lancaster County. In it he "requested 100 acres of land situated in Bearne (sic) Township in Lancaster County adjoining lands of John Kauffman and Benjamin Kauffman on a branch of the Schuylkill known as Kauffman Creek." (D-22-43) The name Benjamin is puzzling since that name does not appear in any other records for Berks County. Most likely the person making the request, or the clerk should have said Isaac instead of Benjamin. On the other hand it is possible Benjamin was another son of Isaac KF and both John and he migrated from Berks County by

the 1750s. (No good candidates for such have been found elsewhere.)

Perhaps John remained Amish until his second marriage in 1769. In that case he may well have had sons and daughters who remained Amish and brought up their children in the Amish faith. AAMG identifies three possible sons: Jacob KF11 who married Elizabeth Zook and raised a family in Chester County, John KF12 who married Veronica Hertzler and eventually ended up in Montgomery County, Ohio and Christian KF13 who married a daughter of Ulrich Gindlesperger and raised a large family in Somerset County. A daughter Anna who might have been the wife of Jacob

Blough of Somerset County was also listed as a probable daughter of John KF1. There is no documentation for making the connection between John KF1 and any of these four. However the proposed Jacob, John, and Christian were considered a part of the Berks County Amish network and since no other father for them was found, by the process of elimination, John KF1 was identified as the probable subject.

KF3 Isaac Kauffman

Isaac's will written February 21, 1798 and probated January 2, 1802 listed his children in order as Barbara, Magdalena, Jacob, John, Isaac, Christian, Stephen, David, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Abraham. Abraham was noted as being the youngest, not yet of age, and Elizabeth and Catherine were designated as his youngest daughters. His sons Stephen and Christian were designated as executors. Though the name of his wife was given as Anna, a will of Barbara Shirk (nee Yoder) stating that her late sister Barbara had been married to Isaac Kauffman established the fact that Isaac had been married twice. This discovery helped to

explain the wide age span between the earlier siblings and Abraham who could not have been born before 1776. Since no married names were given for any of the daughters, their identity or that of their progeny has not been established. (CFK does speculate that the oldest daughter Barbara was Joseph Hochstetler's second wife.)

According to a persisting oral tradition, a number of Berks County Amish were imprisoned during the American Revolution because of noncompliance. However, the only authenticated case involved Isaac Kauffman KF3 who was found guilty of treason and sentenced to relinquish half his personal property and imprisonment for the duration of

the conflict. (It seems his crime was the refusal to yield to the demand to give a horse to the American cause and some words that offended the foraging troops.) The earliest land record involving an Isaac Kauffman was a warrant granting 248 acres on October 17, 1748. This tract includes the present day village of Jalappa in Tilden Township.

In attempting to make further connections with the next generation, the AAMG listings for sons Isaac, David, and Abraham seem to be correct . Comparing Berks County land records with later such instruments in Mifflin County for Isaac and Juniata County for David and Abraham

provides confirmation. Census records show Stephen in Bern Township in 1790 and 1800, but beyond that not much additional information has not been found. The identities of the spouses and children of sons Jacob and Christian may be correct as given. However, it is possible they could well be interchanged with the sons Jacob and Christian of Christian KF5. (See the comments in the discussion about Christian KF5.)

It is assumed that the John Kauffman who moved to Mifflin County and died there c. 1820 was in fact. KF34. Berks County tax records have helped to distinguish him from his cousin KF41 with helpful notations occasionally such

as "John of Stephen" and "John of Isaac." The listings make it clear that the older of the two Johns was the son of Stephen. A complete listing of the descendants of John KF34 has not been compiled. A death record of Christian Kauffman KF341 does give a John Kauffman as the father but no name is given for his mother. Oral tradition for Christian's ancestry was that both his father and grandfather were a John and the grandfather came from Chester County. However probate records in Berks show a John with wife Mary selling property and soon after that making purchases in Juniata and even later in Mifflin counties which seem to validate the AAMG arrangement.

KF4 Stephen Kauffman

Though there is no documentation that Stephen Kauffman KF4 was a son of Isaac Kauffman KF, the probability is quite strong. His property was contiguous to Isaac's and the repetition of the name Isaac in later generations is very suggestive. On page 725 CFK lists his sons and daughters and provides information for the next two generations. The listing in AAMG is the same except that the order is different. It shows John, Mary, Jacob, Isaac, Veronica, Anna, Barbara, Christian, and Stephen. This is the same order that is found in a land transaction of April 19, 1800 in which "Widow Barbara Kauffman et al" sold a tract. (B-19, P-70). (AAMG gives the

probability that Barbara was a Yoder but no documentation to that effect has been located.) In footnotes on pages 183 and 184 in the Mast Family History, the author related the story that on one occasion in the midst of Indian attacks her husband Stephen took his horses to Baltimore and she was left to defend herself by using an axe against the attackers. A 1836 settlement of the large estate of single son Isaac (KF44) which gave names of his siblings or their heirs was very helpful in establishing a fairly accurate picture of the generations that followed. This was especially beneficial in light of the duplication of names with those of Isaac's sons. Though Isaac (KF44) died in Berks County, he

and his sister Mary who married Peter Kaup were the only ones to do so. John raised his family in Juniata County, Barbara who married Henry Yoder lived in Mifflin County, Stephen was found in Lancaster County, while Jacob, Veronica who married Joseph Gundy, Anna, who married Jacob Good, and Christian made their ways to Somerset County.

In the 1779 tax lists Stephen (KF4) and Isaac (KF3) were both identified as "Tories" with the added notation "4 fold." (Stephen has been listed with those supposedly imprisoned in Reading during the Revolution but no evidence for that has been found.

Christian Kauffman (KF5)

Christian Kauffman's identity as one of Isaac Kauffman's KF sons seems less certain. Aside from the fact that no other prospective father is found, it is based on the assumption that Jacob KF6 was also Isaac's son. This seems to be based on a notation found in a Plank family Bible that was in the hands of the father-in-law Jacob Kauffman at some point. It stated that "mein Vetter" Christian Kauffman died February 23, 1764. This coincided with 1764 Berks County probate records of a Christian Kauffman. (The translation of the German word *Vetter* is not exact, but implies an older male relative.)

Christian's will written February 18, 1764 provided the listing found in AAMG. It mentions he was married twice, first to a Mary who had living children Barbara, Anna, and Jacob and second to a Margaret who had Abraham, Veronica, Christian, and Joseph. The will does not give a clue about the last name of either of his wives. The second wife in AAMG was identified as a Snavelly. This apparently came from a marriage conducted by Lutheran Pastor Stoever in Bethel Township in Berks County January 13, 1755 in which a Christian Kauffman married a Magdalena (sic) Snavelly. (Note - this name does not fit either of the two wives mentioned in Christian's will.) In the Montgomery

History of Berks County an account about the Jacob Kauffman of Saint Michaels Lutheran Church in Bern Township, states that Jacob Kauffman's brother Christian and his brother-in-law Snavely were killed by Indians in 1758. Since Christian Kauffman (KF) died in 1764 it seems there were two contemporary Berks County Christian Kauffmans. To further complicate things, on the same date that Jacob Kauffman and Stephen Kauffman received their warrants, a Christian Kauffman received his as well. Since this was in 1765 it could not have been either the one killed by the Indians in 1758 or the one mentioned in the Plank Bible who died in 1764.

The next generation connection for Christian's sons Abraham and Joseph seem to be valid. Abraham can be traced by the name of his wife on land transactions in Berks County and then later in Juniata County. Joseph's line is established in his Berks County will and other probate records.

However, in the case of his sons Christian and Jacob there is less certainty. It may be possible that it was Jacob KF33 who married Catherine Miller and settled in Somerset County and it was Jacob KF53 who married Elizabeth Rupp and settled in Juniata County. In regards to his son Christian it seems there would be a stronger case that the Christian who married

Elizabeth Miller and settled in Mifflin County would have been Isaac's son KF36 instead of Christian's son KF56 since Elizabeth Miller had several siblings who moved there and four of Isaac's sons also lived in Mifflin and neighboring Juniata county. The switch would mean that it was Christian KF56 who married Magdalena Gerber and remained in Berks County and died there as was the case with Joseph KF57.

Jacob Kauffman (KF6)

As stated before this designation comes from the Plank Bible notation. It seems quite safe to believe Peter Plank's older relative was a Christian Kauffman who died in 1764 but that in itself does not make him a son of Isaac KF. His will written August 14, 1785 and proved March 16, 1787 mentions only his daughter Veronica who was married to Bishop Peter Plank. In the September 1978 issue of ***The Diary*** Amish historian Joe Beiler made reference to a Chester County deed (B-P, P-445) in which Jacob Kauffman who had purchased a property in West Nantmeal Township, sold it to his son Jacob Kauffman, Jr. who then proceeded him in death. If Jacob's only

living heir at the time of his death was his daughter Veronica, it means he left no descendants bearing the Kauffman name.

It is interesting to note that Beiler did not associate this Jacob Kauffman with Isaac KF, but made the assumption that the Jacob Kauffman who married Anna Mast KFB was Isaac's son instead. This is one of the few places where Beiler and AAMG were not in agreement.