
OUR HERITAGE

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The Samuel Ensminger Family of Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Part II compiled by Janet Atkinson Strauss



The paper box pictured above is completely hand-decorated, top and sides. In the center area of the lid is the name CHRISTINA ENSMINGER IN *Anno Domini 1791*. The box measures 14½" x 9" by 4" tall. Based on Janet's research, Christina was Samuel Ensminger's aunt.

This page, which first appeared in the Oct. 2013 issue of Our Heritage, is added here to provide background information on the Ensmingers in America.

The first Ensminger to migrate to America was Peter Ensminger, age 39, who landed August 17, 1733, on the ship "Samuel" at Philadelphia, Pa.

With him was his wife Catherine, age 32; his sons, Henry, age 10; Philip, age 6; Nicholas, age 1, and his daughter, age 8, (named Catherine).

Many of these immigrants are listed as Palatines, meaning that they came from the Palatinate Province along the Rhine River.

These early Ensmingers were Lutherans in their homeland and when they settled in the Cocalico area of Lancaster County, Pa they became Members of the Muddy Creek Lutheran Church.

Two more children were born into this family in America. Their baptisms are recorded in Muddy Creek Church records. Michael in 1735 and Margaret in 1739.

On March 29, 1735 the Assembly of Pennsylvania passed an Act to Naturalize recent German immigrants, so they could own land and have privileges the same as native-born. Among those from Lancaster County were Peter Ensminger and John Casper Stover, Lutheran Minister, who performed numerous marriages of the Ensminger children.

In the year 1738 Peter Ensminger applied for 200 acres of land along the Muddy Creek.

Peter's dream to own land in America was short-lived. One year later, in the fall of 1739, Peter died at the age of 45 years. In November 1739, papers were issued in his estate to his widow. His estate lists three horses, a colt, four cows, three calves, six sheep, a set of blacksmith tools, farming tools, a Bible, two guns, household utensils and misc. items. In 1748 his widow sold the "Plantation of her late husband" for £300.

His widow (Maria) Catherine married Jacob Schmidt on 24 Oct. 1748.

The following is a brief summary of what is known about the six children of Peter and Catherine:

1. Henry Ensminger was born in 1723 and died Dec. 17, 1789 in Newberry Twp, York Co., Pa. He was a blacksmith. He married Christina Orner, Oct. 19, 1742. They had seven children.

2. Catherine Ensminger - born 1725, died – unknown, Married Martin Frey, Apr. 29, 1742
3. Philip Ensminger was born 1727 and died 1807 near Wolf Creek, Monroe Co., West Virginia. He married Catherine Kessinger. They had lived in Frederick Co., Md. in the 1770's. They had ten children.
4. Nicholas Ensminger was born July 25, 1732 and died April 28, 1781 near Lebanon, Pa. He was a blacksmith and a farmer. He married Elizabeth Philippi May 18, 1754 They had five children.
5. Michael Ensminger was born Nov. 8, 1735 and died May 1822 in Manheim, Pa. He married Mary Holbrin, Oct. 22, 1756
6. Margaret Ensminger born June 22, 1739 and died - unknown

Michael Ensminger came to Manheim sometime after 1790. He was in Cocalico Twp at the time the census was taken in 1790.

According to records of the Manheim Reformed Church, the following was found:

"Michael Ensminger's wife died Feb. 6, 1810.

She was born Feb 25, 1737, was married Oct. 22, 1756 and had eight children."

Michael and his wife are both buried in the cemetery of the Zion Lutheran Church, Manheim.

Of their eight children, only three have been found at this time. They are Samuel, born 1763, Michael, born 1774 and Henry, born 1776.

I have no further information on the last two sons.

The oldest son, Samuel Ensminger, was married three times and was the father of a large family. His first wife was Anna Elizabeth Schindel. This marriage turned out to be very brief because she died Feb. 26, 1795 at the age of twenty two. She was the mother of three children: Henrietta, born 1791-died 1817; (married to Jacob Schwarr); John Philip, born 1793-1797 and George, 1794.

This is the end of the first part of the Ensminger family. The second part will start with the second marriage of Samuel Ensminger to Anna Maria Schindel, the sister of his first wife.

The more complete and detailed Samuel Ensminger genealogy can be found in HMPF's Ensminger Library.

Samuel Ensminger Family (1763-1840) (first marriage)

Samuel Ensminger

Birth Date: 13 Aug. 1763
Birthplace: (unknown)
Death Date: 27 Apr. 1840
Death Place: Manheim, Pa.
Burial Place: Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim

Anna Elizabeth Schindel (wife)

Birth Date: 1 Mar. 1772
Birthplace: (unknown)
Death Date: 26 Feb. 1795
Death Place: Manheim, Pa.
Burial Place: Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim
Her father: Peter Schindel
Samuel's 2nd wife was Anna Maria Schindel, sister of Anna Elizabeth.

Samuel and Anna Elizabeth had three children: Henrietta, born 1791, died 1817; John Philip, born 1793, died 1797, and George Ensminger, his dates unknown. All burials at Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim.

Samuel Ensminger Family (1763-1840) (second marriage)

Anna Maria Schindel (second wife)

Birth Date: 23 Dec. 1777
Birthplace: (unknown)
Death Date: 23 Mar. 1817
Death Place: Manheim, Pa.
Burial Place: Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim

Samuel and Anna Maria had ten children: Samuel, born 1796, died 1796; Samuel, born 1797, died 1797; John, born 1798, died 1829; Samuel, born 1801, died 1866; Elizabeth, born 1803, died (date unknown); Anna Maria, born 1805, died (date unknown); Sophia, born 1808, died (date unknown); Philip Henry, born 1810, died (date unknown); John Emanuel, born 1812, died (date unknown); Frederick, born 1815, died 1865.

All burials at Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim and the Manheim Fair-view Cemetery.

Samuel Ensminger Family (1763-1840) (second marriage)

Tenth Child:

Frederick Ensminger (Miles Keiffer's great, grandfather)

Birth Date: 2 Nov. 1815

Birthplace: Manheim, Pa.

Death Date: 6 Apr. 1865

Death Place: Manheim, Pa.

Burial Place: Manheim Fairview Cemetery

Frederick married Sarah Zimmerman 16 Oct. 1836.

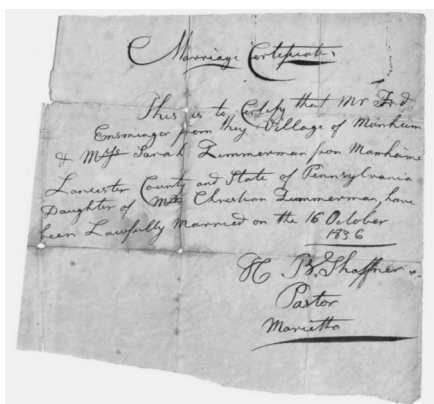
The tintype picture shows Sarah Zimmerman Ensminger with five of her six daughters. Sarah, the sixth daughter, was born in 1852 and died in 1856.



Back row, left to right: Caroline Ensminger 1844-1918, Married Cyrus L. Witmyer (mother) Sarah Zimmerman 1818-1899, Married Frederick Ensminger
Sophia Ensminger 1840-1932, Married Jefferson Keiffer
Front row, left to right: Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ensminger 1857-1952, Married Morris J. Stoner
Annie Ensminger 1837-1885
Mary Ensminger 1854-(date unknown)

Frederick Ensminger and Sarah had thirteen children:

Annie M., John A., Sophia, Wm. Henry, Caroline E., Samuel, Madison J., George W., Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, Frederick Z. and Frederick.
Miles Keiffer's lineage is from Sophia Ensminger.



Frederick and Sarah's 16 Oct. 1836 Marriage Certificate



Sarah Z. Ensminger



Frederick Ensminger

Sophia Ensminger (Miles Keiffer's grandmother)

Birth Date: 9 Mar. 1840
Birthplace: Manheim, Pa.
Death Date: 14 May 1932
Death Place: Manheim, Pa.
Burial Place: Manheim Fairview Cemetery
Sophia married Jefferson Keiffer July 1872
They had one son, Frank E. Keiffer

Sophia Ensminger and Jefferson Keiffer-Miles' grandparents

Jefferson and Sophia were married July 1872.
They had one child: Frank E. Keiffer

Frank E. Keiffer (1874-1958)

Frank E. married Kathryn Harner, 21 Feb. 1897
They had six children: Luther L., born (dates unknown); Emory H., born 1900, died (date unknown); Miles H., born 1902, died 1975; May H., born 1910, died 2003; Frank H., born 1911, died 1985 and Grace H., born 1914.



Jefferson Keiffer



Sophia Ensminger



Frank E. Keiffer, age 38



Kathryn Keiffer

Samuel Ensminger Family (1763-1840) (third marriage)

Elizabeth Boyer Muhlenburg

Birth Date: 26 May 1795
Birthplace: (unknown)
Death Date: 27 May 1830
Death Place: Manheim, Pa.
Burial Place: Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Manheim

Samuel and Elizabeth Boyer Ensminger had two children: William, born 1825, died 1867 and Harriet, born 1826, died 1903. Harriet married Henry Hogen-dobler a tailor. See the April 2005 issue of Our Heritage for more information.

Elizabeth A. Keiffer, wife of Miles H. Keiffer, established the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, Inc. in 2001, in an effort to preserve the early heritage of Manheim. Elizabeth was also concerned with preserving Miles' ancestral heritage, and that's why many photographs and records related to the Ensminger Family are preserved in the archives of Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation.



Miles



Elizabeth

The directors of HMPF are grateful to Janet Atkinson Strauss, as Miles and Elizabeth would be, for the time, research and effort that she devoted to compiling: *The Samuel Ensminger Family of Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*, from which Miles Keiffer's branch of the family history was taken. As mentioned on page two, the more complete and detailed Samuel Ensminger genealogy can be found in HMPF's Ensminger Library.