

Diehl Families of York and Adams Co.PA.

NICHOLAS DIEHL A6

A5. Nicholas Diehl b. ca 1724 near Homberg, Landkreis of Kusel, Palatinate of Germany. d. May 1790¹ York Twp. York Co. PA. He m. ca 1759 Mary Catherine Hantz 3 Feb 1734 Sponheim, Germany. the dof. John Nicholas and Anna Barbara (Burkhart) Hantz². Died Oct 1817³ York, PA. They only had one son who died as infant and therefore have no descendants.

Children Surname Diehl.

A51. Peter Diehl b. 23 Feb 1760⁴ d. as infant.

Biographical:

Nicholas Diehl arrived with the family in 1739 and worked for his father in the mill enterprise. When his father died in 1755 he was given 230 acres of land and the instructions to continue to operate the mill with brother Peter for at least 6 years. He was overseer of the poor for York twp. in 1757⁵. He married rather late at age 35 and attempts to have a family resulted in one son who died as an infant and there were no others.

He was close to his family and Church as revealed in his will. On 8 Oct 1767 a warrant was obtained for land in York twp. adjoining land given to him by his father and he had a survey done which appears to have included the land given to him and some additional for 260.27 acres which he named "Diehlburg"⁶. He was tax accessor for York twp. in 1769. He was especially close to brother Peter as they lived next to each other and had married the Hantz sisters. Nicholas and wife sponsored three children of Peter Diehl at Christ Lutheran Church. As an Vestryman of the church he sponsored many other children of fellow church members. Being a prosperous farmer and no family to support Nicholas became active in loaning money for his brothers and nieces and nephews and neighbors as they tried to improve their economic conditions.

The 1783 tax list shows Nicholas as 1 male 1 female 245 acres 1 horse 2 horned cattle value 541 L 10 s. Nicholas and wife Catherine in 1771 built a new home next to the Little Codorus and adjoining his brother Peter.

The will and inventory¹⁰ of Nicholas Diehl again reveal the basic character of the John Adam Diehl family previously discussed. His executors were brother Peter and his son Nicholas Diehl Jr. Witnesses were Rudolph Spangler, Adam Lebert, and George Lewis Lefler who all signed in German. He starts by providing for his widow showing wisdom again by having the farm managed for the widow for six years. Then a house is to be purchased for her in Freystown or York and she is to have income from 200 L which in case executors should die before her the Elders of the German Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches should administer. On her death the funds are to be used to educate the poor children of the Lutheran Church.

He then shows his love for his family. He not having children of his own he provides for his brothers and their children. His sisters are not mentioned. Two were deceased by then and the third lived in Washington Co. PA and he may have lost contact. After the estate was sold, and the inheritances provided for, the residue if any was to go to the poor of the Lutheran and Presbyterian Church (Reformed).

The inventory further shows the strong business sense as bonds were out to 15 different people and relatives. The account of the widow Catherine shows the continuation of some of these loans and others which his executors had set up.