

### Diehl Families of York and Adams Co.PA.

twp. adjoining the other property on 29 Apr 1773 from brother Charles. It is uncertain whether Peter physically operated this mill. It is more likely that Frederick Shinleber, the husband of Christiana Diehl and dof. Charles operated the mill in this period. In any case <sup>13</sup> on 18 June 1798 Peter and wife Margaret sold the property to Charles Shinleber.

In <sup>11</sup>1774 Peter returned to York Co. and repurchased the mill property from Adam Leitner. He rebuilt <sup>14</sup>the mill for the first time in 1774/5 and subsequently it was operated by son Jacob. It is likely that he enlarged the basic house of J. Adam Diehl at this time. This mill was run by the Diehl family until July 1889 when it was sold by executors of Daniel Diehl to Enos F. and William C. Hively for \$3,500. It was therefore operated by the Diehls for 150 years except for the 12 years that Peter spent in Lancaster Co. and was finally torn down in 1948 for the stones. Shortly after returning to York, Peter served as supervisor of Highways for York twp. <sup>18</sup>He was naturalized in Philadelphia while a resident of Lancaster Co. <sup>15</sup>on 16 May 1769.

Peter is listed in various tax and census lists <sup>16</sup>for York Co. In 1783, 5 males, 3 females, 145 acres, 4 horses, 4 cattle, 8 sheep, 1 outhouse, 2 mills value 998L Tax 18L 15s 3d. He apparently had erected the second mill by this time which was further south of the Little Codorus. A full history of this mill is not available. He is listed in 1790 census showing 2 males over 16 yrs; 1 male under 10 yrs; and 2 females.

The community miller was an important person in colonial times. Peter Diehl was an active member of Christ Lutheran Church where he and brother Nicholas were vestrymen and he was frequently called upon to be executor for a number of persons or witnessed their wills. He was old in <sup>17</sup>1808 when York's noted folk artist drew a caricature of "Der Alte Peter Diehl". During the period 1785- 1799 Peter Diehl <sup>18</sup>provided mortgages for Peter Wolf, Charles Spengler, John Kitch, and George Miller. He also picked up additional land adjoining the original mill property. In 1785 another 100 acres on the Little Codorus from Mathias Sitler and in 1789 from Peter Wittrecht unknown acreage and 12.53 from Stephen Landis in 1794. <sup>18</sup>On 21 May 1796 he bought 160.27 acres (part of his brother Nicholas's Diehlburg) from the estate of Nicholas Diehl adjoining the mill property. In 1795 Peter owned 400 acres in York twp with a grist and saw mill and a lot in York Boro.

His wife was apparently deceased when he wrote his will so she died 1795/1801. His daughter Elizabeth who had m. Henry King had died and he provided for her son Henry. Each of his four surviving sons were given land to be charged at a given value for which they were to pay the estate the balance less their share in yearly installments. Son Peter got 154 acres of the Nicholas Diehl tract. Son Nicholas got 148 acres of the SW. section of the mill tract. Son Jacob got 66 acres 65 perches containing the mill. Son Daniel was given land to the west of Jacob 43 a 47 p. which was bought of Jacob Spengler. Surviving daughter Catherine got 1600 L less 200 L already advanced her.

One hundred L was to be held in trust for grandson Henry King. Sons Nicholas, Jacob and Daniel were to share two small parcels of purchased land and the hill Land where George Miller lives. (Diehl's Hill). Properties in York on Beaver St. and in Frystown were to be sold and the money used to Patent 160 acre of a 420 acre tract (not identified). The will written by an English clerk was signed by Peter and witnessed by Peter Kurtz and Abraham Grafius, dated 6 Jan 1801 probated 4 June 1813. Because a partition petition was filed in the Orphans Court 15 Dec 1812 we know he died Dec 1812. <sup>19</sup>

He was likely buried in the original Christ Lutheran Churchyard but when the stones were moved to Prospect Hill no recognizable stone had survived. The original estate papers for Peter Diehl are no longer at the York Co Court House when they were refiled in the late 1970's. It must be concluded that some lawyer or H.A.Diehl 1989 page 94.