

SECTION II

Ancestors of Samuel & Sarah Elizabeth (Baity) Colclasure

Part 1. COLCLASURE The family name first appeared in America as Kalklieser in the ship Allen's listing of passengers in 1729, all recorded in Philadelphia as List 10-A, 10-B, and 10-C, explained in more detail on the following page. From this original spelling the "Colclasure" name evolved over the first seventy five to one hundred years after going through many recorded changes such as Kalckglassr, Kalckglosser, Kalckglaser, Kalkoser, Kalkloeser, Colglazier, etc. By early 1800's the name came to be commonly known as Colclasure.

One can imagine how burdensome the name must have been for early record keepers in our predominantly English speaking society in America. Aside from possible errors made by official record keepers in listing the family name, there is little doubt that some family members contributed to the confusion, errors and changes in spelling from Kalklieser to Colclasure. Even with all the variations or changes the Colclasure name has maintained much of its Germanic sound and character.

The Colclasure spelling is used throughout this family history except when referring to source information or where taken from established records, in which instance the spelling is given as found.

Like many other families it is unfortunate that the early Colclasures were not good family record keepers. If only such information had been written down for the benefit of later generations, it would make a most fascinating story today. Even so, logically reasoned calculations about early family members along with that which is known is recorded here as a beginning pool of information to which more can be added or corrections made at anytime.

Strong recorded evidence indicates that Alexander Mack, a religious zealot and leader of Baptists ("Dunkers") was the dominant motivating force that influenced many, including our immigrant Colclasures, into leaving or fleeing as refugees from their native homeland for a new and more promising life in America.

One should pause to reflect upon why the first Colclasures in America left their native home land in Germany. The Mennonites had formed the "Frankfort Land Company" in Germany for the purpose of starting a colony in Pennsylvania and in 1683 and 1698 two groups arrived and settled at Germantown, Pennsylvania.

The Baptists in Germany developed in 1708 as a result of the Treaty of Westphalia which divided religion among three churches - Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinistic Reformed. Alexander Mack, a wealthy merchant of Shreishheim on the Bergstrasse, was their leader and teacher. It was under his leadership that two groups of Baptists migrated in 1719 and 1729 from Germany and settled at the Germantown community.¹

On September 11, 1729 John Hendrick Kalklieser, his wife, Agnis, and their four children, Jacob, Ebanuell, Christopher, and Maria arrived at the colonial port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They boarded the English ship "Allen" (referred to by some as "Mack's Refugee Ship") with James Craiges as Ship Master and sailed from Rotterdam by way of England to America. On September 15, 1729 the ship's passenger list #10-A was presented at the courthouse in Philadelphia as required for entry into the colonial records according to existing minutes of the Colonial Council at that time. Two other lists, #10-B and #10-C were also required for other purposes but the #10-A list is considered to be the most complete and authentic. Men, women, and children were listed separately.²

Of the 126 passengers aboard the ship "Allen" in 1729 fifty nine were from the Palatines (separate principalities and dukedoms). The John Hendrick Kalklieser family were among the fifty nine Palatines and were from town of Frankenthal, south of Worms on west side of the Rhine River in the Alsace-Lorraine region where he is believed to have been born in 1678.

It is a noteworthy fact that Alexander Mack is listed first among the passengers on the ship, in list #10-A, with his sons Jonnes, Felte, and Alexander II next in line. Fifth on this list is the name of John Hendrick Kalklieser followed by his three sons, Jacob and Emanuell with Christopher listed twenty second among the men. The wives (mothers in these two family groups) and the daughter of John Hendrick, Maria, are listed among the women passengers. From this it is logical to assume that a close bond of friendship existed between the Mack and Kalklieser families, giving further cause to believe that Alexander Mack exercised considerable influence over the Kalklieser family as well as over most of the other Palatine passengers on board this ship.

The lack of religious freedom and fear of persecution for religious belief was without doubt the main reason for their immigration to America. Another reason was the constant threat of military impressment, where in that day men were grabbed off the streets and byways and thrown into the army against their will without civil recourse, to serve as rented-out soldiers to other countries as so-called "mercenaries" to fill the dwindling coffers of the more or less independent Germanic principalities and dukedoms. Of course, there was the ever alluring hopes and dreams of a better life in America with abundant financial opportunities not found in Europe.

In 1734 John Hendrick Kalklieser owned forty two acres of land in Germantown.³

Alexander Mack died in 1734 and John Hendrick Kalklieser succeeded him as leader of the Germantown Brethren but because of divisions within their religious community some of them decided to join a similar group at Ephrata, Pennsylvania in 1738.⁴

At the Ephrata Cloister Johann Heinrich Kalkglasser was known as "Brother Joel" and his birth date is given as 1678 and death date as December 29, 1748 but it is pointed out that these may be spiritual dates and not calendar dates.

"Die Alt Schwester" d 1759 and it is believed that she was the wife of J. H. Kalkglasser. Both died at Ephrata Cloister and were buried in "God's Acre".⁵

The will of Johann Heinrich Kalkglasser was probated on October 20, 1740 and in it he named two of his sons, Jacob and Emanuell. Later, on April 25, 1749 his wife's (Agnis) will was probated and in it she named their four children - Jacob, Emanuell, John, and Mary Magdalena.⁶

The Ephrata Cloister is located about eleven miles from Lancaster, Pennsylvania on the Cocolico Creek and some of the buildings are still there today and open to public tours. The Cloister was similar to a Catholic Monastery except that both men and women lived there under very rigid rules. All wore white habits. Some lived and worked inside the Cloister walls while others lived and worked nearby outside the walls. It is not known whether the Kalkglassers lived inside the confines but they probably did because he was an Elder. Those on the outside worked in the fields, woods, or at the mill while those on the inside labored at shoemaking, tailoring, weaving cloth and other handcrafts. All that was produced was for use at the Cloister except for items sold on the open market to secure necessary funds.⁷

Proof has not been found that John Hendrick Kalklieser is our ancestor but all evidence seems to point that he was. It is interesting to note that in "Songer Saga - The Legend and Lore of Clay County, Illinois", Part I by Dean Love, 1973 we find "I find the advent of Colclasures into the country goes back as far as Mach's Refugee Ship in 1729 and Johann Henrich Kolckglasser from Germany."