

Michael Hörner of Bethel Township-Revolutionary War Soldier

The family name of Harner comes from the German name Hörner. In America it was transposed into Harner due to its pronunciation. The name Horner was spelled with two dots (umlauts) above the letter o giving it the sound as in Herner or Harner. The Harner/Hörner name is prevalent in the counties of: Berks, Centre, Dauphin, Lancaster, Leigh, Lebanon, Montgomery, Northampton and Northumberland in Pennsylvania. It is spelled there as Herner, Harner, Harnor and when written in German as Hoerner or Hörner, which may be miscopied as Horner.

The books in the *Pennsylvania Archives Series*, Third Series, includes early entries for land records and taxes for the counties of Pennsylvania. As early as 1772 you can find a "Mich'l Herner in Bethel Township, of what was then Lancaster County, where he was taxed on 60 acres. In 1773 there is a "Mich'll Harner" taxed in Bethel Township on 80 acres. There was also an "And'w Harner" in Bethel Township in 1773 and he was taxed on 130 acres. In 1779 and 1782, in Bethel Township, "Michael Herner was taxed on 60 acres.

The census records show: "Micael Harner" in 1790 in Dauphin County his household included: two males over 16 years of age and eight females. Bethel Township was in Dauphin County in 1790. The 1790 census also includes in Dauphin County a "Casper Harner" and in his household there was one male and one female. The 1800 census of Bethel Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania includes the Michael "Harner" household, which included: one male under 10 years of age, one male 16-25 years of age, one male over 45 years of age, 2 females under 10 years of age, one female 10-15 years of age and one female over 45 years of age. Michael Harner/Hörner died in 1806 in Bethel Township. In 1813 Bethel Township became part of Lebanon County, where it remains today.

Michael Harner (Sr.) was born on 16 Nov 1746. The year 1746 comes from the age at time of death given in church records. He was born in Germany and came to America when he was seven years old in 1753. Michael married Margaretha Loesch on 24 Apr 1770 in Zoar's Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The marriage ceremony was performed by Johann Casper Stöver. Margaretha Loesch was born on 08 Apr 1753 in Bethel Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania and was the daughter of Jacob Loesch. In the book *Early Pennsylvania Baptisms And Marriages In Southeastern Pennsylvania* you can find the birth record for Margaretha and their marriage record. This book was published by the Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. Baltimore in 1982. In the baptism section you can find on page 44 under the name Jacob Loesch (Bethel) Margaretha Loesch b. 08 Apr 1753 and baptized 22 Apr 1753 and her sister Maria Barbara Loesch b. 21 Mar 1755 and baptized 13 Apr 1755. Their marriage record, in this same work, is included on page 74, 24 Apr 1770 "Michael Hoerner and Margaretha Loesh, Bethel". Margret is buried in Zoar's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Mt. Zion, PA next to her husband. Margret died on 07 Jul 1804. Some of Michael and Margret (Loesch) Harner's children are believed to be:

Michael Hörner (Jr.) b. about 1775 who married Christina Stöver on 04 Jul 1802 in the Salem Church in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Margaret Harner who married George Tobias on 16 Dec 1800

Catarina Harner who married George Vogt on 29 Mar 1802

Anna Maria Harner who married John Noll on 19 Apr 1802

According to the Zoar's Evangelical Lutheran Church records Michael (Sr.) was married when he was 25 years of age (1770/71). The Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church is located in Mount Zion, Bethel Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Michael (Sr.) is said to have had eleven children and ten survived him. There was an inventory of his goods dated 1807. These Church records state that Michael Hörner (Sr.) was "buried in August of 1806 and was born on 15 Nov 1746 to Christian parents in Germany, he was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He came to America in his 7th year and married in his 25th year (1753). Michael had 11 children, 10 still living at the time of his death. His wife died 4 years ago (1802). His age, at the time of his death, was 59 years, 9 months less 9 days old. He was sick with abdominal obstruction and blockage." Michael's birth date is seen as 16 Nov 1746 on his tombstone. If his age at the time of death is used to calculate his birth year it would appear to be that the 1746 date is correct. Michael Hörner died on 07 Aug 1806.

The Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Volume VII shows a Michael Herner in Capt. Stoever's Company, 3rd Co., 2nd Battalion of the Lancaster Co. Militia. The Fourth Series of this same publication includes a Michael Harner as a Lieutenant in the 3rd Co., 2nd Battalion of the Lancaster Co. Militia in the year 1782. The Third Series of this same publication includes a Lt. Michael Hernner in the 6th Co. of the 8th Battalion under Capt. Stoever in the year 1777 and a Lt. Michael Harner in the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Company of the Lancaster County Militia in under Capt. Casper "Steover" in 1782. It is not clear if these are one in the same.

Compiled by William Brackett in July 2009

E-mail: brackettwilliam@yahoo.com