

JOHN CHARLES AND PHILIP H. HELTZEL
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS
1974

Introduction--

John Charles and Philip H. Heltzel (earlier, Holtzel) were descended from immigrants from the German Palatinate. Their father may have been Nicholas who married a Hoover, although no written record has been found regarding this. Both brothers lived in Hardy County, West Virginia, where a record of the 1820 census indicates a John Helsley with seven members in his family. (Judy, History of Grant and Hardy Counties, p. 31.) Ship landing records indicate Heltzels or Holtzels arriving in 1733 on the Palatine ship, Charming Betsy, and in 1748 on the Hampshire. (Strassburger and Hinke, Pennsylvania German Pioneers, pp. 134-36, and Rupp, 30,000 Names of Immigrants, p. 164. Also other pages in both sources give further information of Heltzels landing on these and other ships, including the Bennet Gally, in 1750, and the Peggy, in 1793.)

Descendants of the two brothers are spread throughout the United States. Most are found in Rockingham County, Virginia, and in Hardy, Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Randolph Counties, West Virginia. This compilation includes seven generations.

Variations of Heltzel--According to Dr. Virgil B. Heltzel, variations are Helzel, Hölzel, Hoelsel, and Hoeltzel. According to Dr. Nicholas Heltzel, the spelling in the oldest records was Holtzel. The earlier spelling probably included an umlaut (or two dots) over the "o". This, in German, gives a short "e" sound. John Tobias Höltzel, arriving on the Hampshire, signed his name in the ship landing records. Other "Heltzels" had clerks sign the names for them or made their marks. Dr. Nicholas Heltzel gives other variations of Heltzel as Holtzel, Holtylein, Holtyley, Heltzell, Helsel, Helsil, Helsle, Heltsley, Haltzel, Helzel, Heltsley, Heltsel, Helsly, Helzly, Heltzle, Hailtzel, Heltzel, Hatsel, and Heltzlein. (p. 19.)

Coat of Arms--The Höltzel coat of arms is described in German as follows: "W: Zwei G. übers Kreuz gelegte Aeste in R. K.: Ein r., Flug mit denselben Hölzern. D.: r., s." (Siebmacher's Wappenbuch, Vol. 5, part 1, page 25.) Five Höltzel coats of arms are formed in V. and HV. Rolland's Illustrations to the Armorial General, one Nuremburg, and four German. None match the coat of arms in the Nicholas Heltzel book.

Eunice Heltzel Prunty compiled the information on John Charles' family. Her address is 1126 Sunset Drive, Fairmont, West Virginia, 26554.

Paul C. Cline compiled the information on Philip's family. His address is 221 Dixie Avenue, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22801.

Additions or corrections should be sent to either Mrs. Prunty or Mr. Cline. Also, information is sought on the father and mother of John Charles and Philip H. Heltzel, so that the line may be traced further back.

Copies of this record will be placed in public libraries in Moorefield and Marlinton, West Virginia, and in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Jerry H. Hatch

Philip H. Heltzel

II. Philip H. (April 16, 1803-March 28, 1891) Married Elizabeth "Betty" Keister (April 2, 1808-) of Brandywine, W. Va. on February 12, 1824. Moved to Pocahontas County, W. Va. Drum major in Civil War. Died in Hardy County, W. Va. He said he was born in Va., died in W. Va.--never left home. (State changed name.) Mona Hull, Durbin W. Va. has Philip's family Bible; includes Philip's children and children of James C. and Christina Good Heltzel. Buried in Olivet Cemetery, Moorefield, W. Va. (beside road on back side). (Elizabeth Keister was descended from Frederick Keister (c. 1730-after 1814) who settled in Brandywine, W. Va. about 1757. Frederick married Hannah Dyer (1735-c.1820) in 1755. Hannah's father was Roger Dyer, who settled on the S. Fork of the S. Branch of the Potomac in 1747. Fort Seybert was built on his land. The family was involved in the Fort Seybert Massacre in 1758. Frederick was a Lieutenant in the American Revolution. The DAR has erected a stone on his grave, located on Mary (Mrs. Virgil) Hoover land near Brandywine, W. Va. Frederick's first son was James (c. 1756-June 12, 1834). Elizabeth was the sixth child of James. For further information, see Morton's History of Pendleton County, W. Va., pp. 239-241; Miss Martha Keister, Brandywine, W. Va.; and Mary Lee Keister Talbot's The Dyer Settlement: The Fort Seybert Massacre.) Eleven children, listed A through K, below.

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