Ebersole Family

An Introduction

Benjamin Frank Ebersole Jr. was born in 1853. He married Cindy Germer, and they both graduated from Elizabethtown High School. They live in Mount Joy, which sits on the township boundaries of Mt. Joy Township and East Donegal Township in Lancaster County Pennsylvania.

Ben’s parents are Benjamin Frank Ebersole Sr. and Marjorie McLanachan. Ben Sr. was born to Martin Heisey Ebersole (1878-1927) [[1]](#endnote-1) and Adeline G. Wormly.

Martin was born to Joseph H. Ebersole (1845-1927) [[2]](#endnote-2) and Elizabeth (Lizzie) B. Heisey. Joseph was born to Jacob Ebersole (1809-1877) [[3]](#endnote-3) and Barbara Hershey.

Jacob Ebersole’s heritage is deeply rooted in 18th century Lancaster County. This paper is an attempt to identify his lineage.

From 1850 - 2015

We began with what we knew in 2015 from a family member’s oral history. With that information we relied heavily on the 1906-1962 Pennsylvania Death Certificates, which lead us to obituaries, and 1900-1945 Federal archived records. [[4]](#footnote-1)

* The Ebersole families of Lancaster County Pennsylvania usually lived on large farms next door to each other, and often times family members lived with other family members. The families were also an integral part of the faithful Mennonite [[5]](#footnote-2) culture.

In every case, key information came from the death certificates, which was usually provided by a family member. In most all cases we captured: a person’s full name and their residence; birth date and place of birth; age by years, months, and days at time of death and place of death; parent’s names and their palace’s of birth; cause of death; burial location and burial date; and informants name and address.

All the information was carefully correlated back through time to Lancaster County Wills and Probate records, and the 1850 Federal census record. That’s how we were able to definitively identify Jacob Ebersole (1809-1877) [[6]](#endnote-4) in Rapho Township Lancaster County Pennsylvania. Many times the family’s oral history doesn’t exactly match all the archived records, but in this case they matched.

* The Federal census taking began in earnest in 1790, and they hadn’t changed until 1850. At that time each person living in the home was identified; capturing their name, age, sex, occupation, real estate value, place of birth, and school attendance. There were other categories to capture more data, but in most cases that didn’t happen. This was a good start to isolate, with caution, presumable the husband, wife, and children.
* The one significant piece of information missing was the relationship of the person to the head of the household. This relationship wasn’t identified until the 1880 census, along with the birth place of their parents. By the 1900 [[7]](#footnote-3) census, the member’s month and year of their birth was added, as was the number of wife’s number; born and living.

Lancaster County Ebersole Families

This brings us to the history of 18th and 19th century Lancaster County and the Mennonite community, and the major townships were the Ebersole families settled:

Elizabethtown; settled 1751; incorporated Apr. 13, 1872 from West Donegal & Mount Joy Twps.

Manheim; settled 1762; incorporated May 16, 1848 (1) or May 16, 1838 (2, 3) from Rapho Twp.

Mount Joy; settled 1812; incorporated Feb. 10, 1851 from Mount Joy Twp.

Townships:

East Donegal; settled 1716; incorporated June 24, 1838 from Donegal Twp.

Warwick; settled 1716; incorporated June 9, 1729.

West Donegal; settled about 1719; incorporated June 24, 1838 from Earl Twp.

Conoy; settled about 1719; incorporated 1842 from West Donegal Twp.

Rapho; settled about 1721; incorporated 1741 from Donegal Twp.

Manheim; settled 1729; incorporated as Twp June 9, 1729;

Mount Joy; settled 1735; incorporated 1759 (1) or 1759, 1767 (2) from Donegal Twp.

Penn; settled about 1735; incorporated 1846 from Warwick Twp.

Elizabeth; incorporated 1757 from Warwick Twp.

Bibliography

1. Incorporation Dates for Pennsylvania Municipalities, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Internal Affairs, 1965, Lancaster County Historical Society, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603
2. Ebersole Wills and Probate Index; Will Abstracts, 1721-1820; Probate Place: Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania County, District and Probate Courts.
3. The Ebersole Families in America, 1727-1937: including the leading clans who spell the name Ebersole, Eversole, Ebersol, Eversul; by Charles Eliphalet Ebersol, Printed by Franklin Dekeleine Co., 1937.
4. Ebersole Births and Deaths: Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Collection Name: Historic Pennsylvania Church and Town Records; Historic Pennsylvania Church and Town Records. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
5. 1840 Christian and Joseph Ebersole Census: Rapho, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Roll: 465; Page: 63; Image: 131; Family History Library Film: 0020547; Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. 1840 Samuel Ebersole Census: Rapho, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Roll: 465; Page: 55; Image: 115; Family History Library Film: 0020547; Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. 1840 John Ebersole Census: Rapho, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Roll: 465; Page: 59; Image: 123; Family History Library Film: 0020547; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

End Notes

1. Martin H. Ebersole (1878-1927) research paper, Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Rd, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Joseph H. Ebersole (1845-1924) research paper, Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Rd, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Jacob Ebersole (1809-1877) research paper, Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Rd, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. From 1900 to 1966, we relied heavy on Federal Census records, WWI and WWII Draft Registration records. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
5. The Mennonite community usually referred to each other as brother and sister, which lead to some problems when we read the wills and probate records. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
6. Jacob Ebersole (1809-1877) research paper, Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Rd, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
7. 1890 Federal census records for many states were destroyed in a fire. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)