

Jonas Hartzell's 1816 Letter to Philip Hartzell

At the time this letter was written, Philip's son Adam & family had already moved to Montgomery County, Ohio. The War of 1812 had ended 1 year and 8 months earlier. Thomas Jefferson was 70 years old. Abraham Lincoln was 7 years old. This was the year without a summer because of the Mt. Tambora eruption. The National Road had not yet reached Wheeling, PA. Indiana had just been admitted to the Union.

From Paul Swan's Hartzell Chapter (see my home page for the link):

On 6 Oct 1816 Jonas wrote a letter to his brother Philip who was at that time in Rocky Mount, Franklin, Virginia. This letter, dated at Allentown, is two legal size pages long. The first page starts off by chiding Philip for not writing since "25 august 1813 - which Letter was delivered to our Brother John Hartzell By the same man that you gave it to". There was no organized postal delivery service which could be depended upon to take a letter from Virginia to Pennsylvania. It then goes on to provide a chatty account of various items of family news, and says that their brother John will send Philip's share due from their mother "as sun as the Bank notes of the united States will be in Circulation".

The second page of Jonas' letter is almost entirely a genealogy of the family. Jonas mentions first the death dates of their parents, then gives the birth dates of all of the children of the family, with a calculation of the intervals between each birth. He then copies a "memorandum given By me Jonas Hartzell to my son Isaac & his Sons it Being from Jonas and philips grand father, down to our grand Children in the mail Blod down to the present fifth generation - to Jonas and philip Hartzels grand Children". He then lists "old george" and his son Jacob, both born in Germany, and gives the years of their birth and death. Then himself, "as god pleases yet Living in the year of our Lord 1816". Finally, he lists the dates of birth of his son Isaac and grandson Thomas.

At the end of the letter he says that he has sent this to Isaac to be "Entered in his Bible for our great grand Children", and requires that Philip must also send a copy "to your oldest son adam & then his sons if any". **This provides the only documentary evidence we have that our ancestor Adam is the son of Johann Philip Hertzell.**

--- Allentown now Lehigh County October 6th 1816. ---

Dear and Loving Brother your wife and Children, the last Letter we received from you was dated the 25 august 1813. which Letter was delivered to our Brother John Hartzell By the same man that you gave it to. And John Hartzell told me he assured your Letter. and I was in hopes that you would write again, But I do think the Time Long to hear from you. as we are now lived to a greater age than our father and grand father and the grate Distance Between us, we ought not miss to write, as Letters come safe by the post offices. your and my age are on the 26 of feby last I was 75 years old, and you on the 26 of april you was 73 years old, I do at end of this Letter give you a memorandum of our father and mother of the days of their death. and also of their Children when each was Born, and this you ought to enter in your Bible or some Books for the Satisfaction for your Children and grand Children. and further I send you a memorandum from our grand father. down to your Children which Being the fifth generation. I have also send one to my son Isaac, to enter in his Bible to be for our grand Children. to see when we are no more. ---
I do hereby inform you that I am yet quit hearty and as I ever was, thanks be to god for his mercie and hoping this will find you the same.

to god for his mercies - and hoping this may find you in the same as it now serves me - you have heard that my wife died on the 9th of may 1804 I Remained a widower till the 22 of april 1810 was 6 year - and now live in allentown since the Spring 1808 in the Tavern where John Knacht lived - after my wife died I

Rented my Tavern to Jacob Deihorn who was married to my daughter Betsey they kept my Tavern till I sold all off and purchased the Tavern in allentown, and Deihorn and Betsey Rented this Tavern from me - and Last January Deihorn died & Betsey keeps the Tavern as yet - But she will quit it next Spring - She has done well Deihorn made his will and willed all his Estate to her - the Inventory of Bonds and Notes was 3.500 dollars - and she have no debts and she having no Children, she is a happy widow and philips Knachts wife my daughter Regena she died the 24 february 1815 after the death of Deihorn in april 1816 philips Knacht come here and wanted to marry Betsey But she absolutely Declined, But he got married a few months ago to young widow with children & will get more - the poor fool - my son Isaac live in wyoming was formerly wyoming - I purchased a grand farm with very good Improvements the farm is 425 aers 2 miles below the Town on the Susquihanna River five low lands I paid 8 year ago 18 hundred pound Cash for the farm my youngest daughter Bege moved to georg Knidler live on the half of said farm - and my son Jonas did not do well, he moved to Jersey to his wifes relations - and he listed in the last war he was a under the tarp of horse we heard that he is now alive

I purchased a house and lot for his wife and children - my children are all alive except Regena John Knacht live here in allentown for a while Butchering and makes out well - Daniel Knidler married to mally fold Blacksmith whom I used to live - Now dear Brother please to write where all your Children live - and then I will also write a

and Respecting the share due to you from Mathew Remander I wory John Hartzell speak to me how he could send it - as soon as the Bank notes of the united States will be in circulation it shall be send to you by mail to franklin Courthouse which can not fail to come to your hand

Now Jacob Hartzell our father died the 9 of february 1781 - and our mother died the 7 of Decemr 1807

and our mother died the 7 of Decemr 1807
father lived 65 years and mother 87 years

their Children as follows when Born

- Jonas Born 26 february 1741 after each other
- Philipe Born 26 april 1743 2 yr 2 mo
- Jacob Born 20 august 1745 2 yr 3 mo
- Regen Born 17 Decemr 1747 2 yr 3 mo 27 da
- Christen Born 5 Septemr 1750 2 yr 8 mo 26 da
- Elegabell Born 9 Septemr 1759 9 yr 4 mo 4 da
- John Born 21 august 1762 2 yr 11 mo 12 da after the 2 Twins

- 1 The following memorandum given By me Jonas Hartzell to my son Isaac & his sons
- 2 it being from Jonas and philips grand father, down to our grand Children in the mail
- 3 Blod down to the present fifth generation - to Jonas and philipe Hartzell grand Children
- 4 To wit George Hartzell - Begot his son Jacob - Jacob begot his son Jonas & philipe
- 5 and Jonas begot his son Isaac and Isaac begot his son Thomas

1 Old George Hartzell Died in Northampton County in february 1755
he was Born in germany in the year 1691 he lived 64 years

2 Jacob Hartzell Died in Northampton County of february in year 1781
he was Born in germany in the year 1716 he lived 65 years

3 Jonas Hartzell - as god please yet living in the year of our Lord - 1816 Being now
he was Born in Northampton County 26 februy 1741 5 octob 1816 - 75 1/2 years old

4 Isaac Hartzell as yet living in Surzer County now in the year 1816
he was Born in Northampton on 8 of J... 1764 } Being 52 years old

5 Thomas Hartzell Isaac son in Surzer County now in the year 1816
he was Born in Northampton in the year 1792 } Being 24 years old

N.B. Jonas Hartzell was about 14 years old when his grand father George Hartzell was Buried
and Isaac Hartzell was 16 years 7 months old when his grand father Jacob Hartzell was Buried
and Thomas Hartzell if he live will hear of his grand father Jonas Hartzell - Being
I have statement I have about it

have statement I have ent^{ed} my son Isaac to Entered in his Bible for our great
to Children NB you most Take notice - where my name Begins there you most
your Name & then to your oldest son adam & then his son. if any be &c