

Altaffer

family

info

&

book

DABNEY R. ALTAFFER

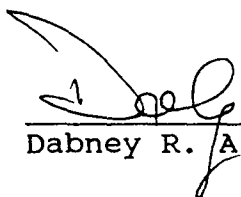
19 Sierra Vista Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85719-3846 - Tel: (602) 327-1783

December 16, 1991

Dear Milan:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 1991, and for its enclosures. Instead of completing the form you sent me I thought I would enclose a copy of the Altaffer chronicle my father wrote in 1968 since it includes a current table of descent of the members of my family.

Very truly yours,



Dabney R. Altaffer

P.O. Box 222
Coram, Montana 59913-0222
Feb 28, 1992

Dear Milan Altaffer;

Your letter of 11 Feb '92 to my Mother Larena E. Altaffer was forwarded to me by a brother. Mother is in a rest home now.

I would be very interested to read this book you found that your sister has made for Lynn Burton Altaffer. I am enclosing a book that I compiled a few years ago. The families have paid 2.00 a copy to cover my cost of printing and postage. I do not sell the many many hours of research and many more hours in compiling the material. The pleasure and satisfaction are reward enough.

The first 26 pages were an original book that a Altaffer compiled and I had the good fortune to obtain. I assume that your GrGrGr Grandfather William married to Leah (Letha) Pjifer) are the same ones as listed on page 28 of my book. My Grandparents are listed on page 34. My father is on page 41. My Mother is on page 43. That is me on page 46.

I thank you for your interest in the family research. Please write me after reading this book. Any comments are welcome.

Sincerely;

Eleanor Altaffer Franklin

I also have since this book was printed the history of John Frederick Altaffer son of Wm and Leah (Pifer) Altaffer. Brother to my Grandfather Jacob. Also have material on one of John's sons Wilbur. I have Civil war records of Issac M. Altaffer son of John and his 2nd wife Sarah (Heisey) Altaffer, and the grandson of George and Catherine (kBushong)

THE
ALTAFFER FAMILY

*A Short Chronicle
of the Altaffer Family of Virginia and Ohio*

by

MAURICE W. ALTAFFER

THE FAVIL PRESS · LONDON

1968

HE WHO looks with pride upon this history which his fathers have written by their heroic deeds, who accepts with gratitude the inheritance which they have bequeathed to him, and who highly resolves to preserve this inheritance unimpaired and to pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched, is a true American, be his birthplace or his parentage what it may.

Lyman Abbott

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FOREWORD

I HAVE undertaken this work primarily for my children and grandchildren in the belief that they may in the future be interested in knowing something of the lives of their forebears who preceded them, and laboured in the vineyard of this world. I wished especially to tell them something of the years in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the "Shanadore" of the Pennsylvania Dutch, the first settlers, where our family lived for several generations, beginning in the 18th century. They may not be interested in family history at present, but the thought has occurred to me that if they preserve this record, they may develop such an interest and it may influence, in some degree for good, their future. I myself can remember how little interested in such matters I was when younger. I lived then only in the present and the future. It was only later that I began to wonder what our forebears had been like and to have an interest in accounts of their lives. I began to see my own life in terms of what theirs had been. George Elliot, the English novelist speaks of

"The choir invisible of those immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence."

And I sometimes think of our own forebears in the same manner, feeling that they help guide and direct our own footsteps through life, and affording an influence for good that can never be estimated by us. My aim, therefore, in writing this simple account, is to indicate as best I can, with the material at hand, the general direction whence we have come, in the hope that it may help those who come after in some way in the future.

In the beginning I should say that I can bear witness to the fact that hitherto in our family little or no thought has been given to the question of their pre-American national origin, and they never thought of themselves as being anything other than American. And this was quite natural.

inasmuch as they were more than two hundred years away from Europe. In this period they had lived the lives of pioneers in three different frontier communities, two of them in the colonies prior to the Revolutionary War. It was the life of the frontier where little time could be spared except for hard manual work in making a living from the soil. They were plain-living; poor, but not poverty-stricken for a moment; rock-based in character and with good morals. They were a line of people who had helped to break the wildernesses, first in Pennsylvania, then in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and later in Ohio. In effect it may be said that the chronicle of our family is part of the early history of our country.

As a child, in my grandfather's house, I can remember that there were books to be found in strange places, on closet shelves, in the attic, in a strange language. And, had I known anything of German, I would have discovered that they were what remained of such books our ancestors had brought with them from Europe, all of them simple devotional books.

In the frontier communities where they lived there were few, if any, organized schools such as we know today. At best they were held for a few weeks in the winter months when a teacher could be found. More often the community preacher would hold a school during the winter months when the work on the farm was slack. My grandfather, who was born in Virginia early in the 19th century and who lived to be ninety years old, did not learn to read until he was twenty-four, when his newly-married wife, my grandmother, taught him to read. This never kept him from reading later and taking an active interest in politics and public affairs.

I make this preliminary statement to explain why little, or nothing, was available in the way of information about the origin of the family in Europe, and how it was left to me, after many years residence abroad in pursuance of my work, to inquire further into this matter. Following up the small lead afforded by the tradition that the original

emigrant to the American colonies had been Swiss, I pursued various inquiries which finally showed me that this was a fact. One of the indications, of course, is the name itself.

In the course of my assignment as American Consul at Nogales, Mexico (1926—1931), when my name was in the headlines of the newspapers in the United States, due to some work I had done connected with the Mexican Revolution which was brought to a conclusion in 1930, I had some correspondence with a distant cousin, who it turned out, had a great interest in the family genealogy. This was Mr. L. B. Altaffer, a teacher in Cleveland West High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for many years. He had made frequent trips through Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio, assembling bits of information. This task was made difficult and tedious by the fact that in pioneer days few or no vital statistics were kept, with the possible exception of land registration, deeds, an occasional death certificate, etc. Another important help was the grave headstones in the country cemeteries, where the family had lived. He even made a trip to Europe in 1907, when he visited Switzerland and southern Germany in an effort to gain a background of the family history. In 1939, shortly before his death, he placed at my disposal the greater part of his information which is used in this work. The European background, however, was gathered by me in the course of my official residence in Switzerland. This was greatly facilitated by my transfer in 1933 by the Department of State as American Consul at Dresden, Germany, to Zurich in the same capacity. Perhaps by the turn of the wheel of fortune, or could it have been through the higher workings of Providence, I received my assignment to Switzerland in 1933, some two hundred and one years after our common male ancestor, Friedrich Altdoerffer, landed in William Penn's colony in the New World, on August 11, 1732, the year of the birth of George Washington.

Zurich, Switzerland

2 May, 1968

COAT-OF-ARMS

A Swiss family name of any antiquity has a duly recorded heraldic bearings, or coat-of-arms. This family name appears in the records of the Canton of Zurich for the first time in 1331. The coat-of-arms is quartered in blue and white as follows:

- 1st quarter, a golden star;
- 2nd quarter, a blue plow-share;
- 3rd quarter, a bunch of blue grapes;
- 4th quarter, a half-moon in gold, lying.

The motto, in French, is:

"J'AI MA FOI TENU A MA PUISSANCE"
(Literally: "I have held my faith with (all) my might".)

FAMILY ORIGIN

The family name Altaffer, and its numerous variations in spelling through which it has passed from the beginning, dates from the Middle Ages when family names were first adopted. These family names came from a variety of origins, i.e. patronymics, such as Jackson, Jefferson, etc., and from the names of places. The name Altaffer, as it was finally anglicized in the United States with the passage of time, is one of the latter. It was originally derived from the name of the town of Altdorf, in the Canton of Uri, Switzerland. Uri is one of the original Swiss Cantons situated in the high Alps, in the valley of the river Reuss, leading from Lucerne to the St. Gotthard Pass, the continuation of which goes down into Italy. So far as can be determined from public documents and historical records, the origin of the family lies in this Alpine valley. In many of the Swiss valleys, especially in the Alps, there are descendants still from the original tribes of pre-history, who have lived there since times immemorial. The Helvetians, as successors of the Celts, were driven out or conquered by the Romans, and later, in the 5th century A.D., these gave place to the Allemani, the immediate forerunners of the modern Swiss. The name Altdoerffer (Altaffer) indicates one who in the Middle Ages was a native of the town of Altdorf. It is the site of the William Tell legend, although the average Swiss would vigorously maintain that William Tell is no legendary figure. The inhabitants of Altdorf, lying as it does on one of the oldest and most used thoroughfares between north and south Europe, were scattered with the passage of time in northern Switzerland, and even in south Germany, both of these areas then portions of the

¹ Mr. L. B. Altaffer, who made an extensive investigation into the subject early in the century states that he found about 30 different variations in spelling in wills, deeds and other records. In the publication "First Census of the United States, 1783, State Enumeration of Virginia", under Shenandoah County, the name appears as "Alterfer". Under Rockingham County there appear other variations in spelling.

Holy Roman Empire. It may be said, however, that people of this name had their ancestral origin in the Middle Ages in Altdorf, which gave them their name.

The Canton of Uri became a fief of the Frauminster Convent at Zurich in the 9th century, which brought about a lively interchange of populations with the Canton of Zurich, so that the name became one of the most frequently heard in this area. In 1291 Uri, together with the Cantons of Schwyz and Unterwalden, formed the league which became the nucleus of modern Switzerland. Our first ancestor who emigrated to the New World in 1732 was a native of the Canton of Zurich.

*Social Conditions in Europe at the beginning of the 18th Century — the Reformation — the Thirty Years War.
Reasons for Emigration to Penn's Colony in America.*

Our ancestor who emigrated to Penn's colony was an Anabaptist. I have found no first-hand evidence to confirm this statement, however, all of the social and political circumstances surrounding his emigration point unmistakably to this. His movements, so far as I have been able to trace them, both in Europe and in the New World, followed the pattern laid down by the Swiss Brethren who were then making their exodus in large numbers to America, so it seems certain that he was one of them. Anabaptist (re-baptiser) was a name applied in scorn to certain Christian sects, including the Swiss Brethren, the Mennonites, and the Amish. At that time they were prominent chiefly in Germany, Switzerland and Moravia. They formed the radical wing of the Reformation. They advocated the separation of church and state, refused to bear arms, and believed in the absolute brotherhood of men. The Anabaptists openly separated from the Swiss Reformed church in 1525. Persecution was not slow in coming and soon the death penalty was used against them who wished only to follow the New Testament as closely as they possibly could. Several thousand were put to death by drowning, fire and sword. The Anabaptists took seriously the New Testament command to love one's enemies, and not to take revenge under any circumstances. They were the forerunners of far-reaching social reforms in modern times.

The religious and social effects of the Reformation, taken with the political and economic effects of the Thirty Years War (1618—1648), coming as they did simultaneously, had far-reaching results in Europe. Whatever benefits the

Reformation may have brought to the world, religious toleration was not one of them. In Switzerland, the persecution of the Swiss Brethren drove a number of them to leave their homes and go down the Rhine to the German Palatinate, or to Alsace in France. The Thirty Years War, with its ruin and death, left both the Palatinate and Alsace greatly wasted, and with a seriously reduced population. This induced the governments of both these areas to invite persecuted groups to settle in their lands, offering them special inducements to do so. The fines, imprisonment, exile, and at times even galley slavery on Mediterranean vessels, until the 18th century and beyond in Switzerland, caused the Swiss Brethren to seek refuge abroad. The fierce persecution of the Brethren in 1671, and again in 1709, caused an exodus of many of them to the Palatinate and to Alsace.

Consequently, when the English Quaker, William Penn, opened up his colony in America to people of all religious faiths in 1682, it was not long before the Swiss Anabaptists began to turn their eyes to the New World.

Beginning in 1710, thousands of Anabaptists of Swiss origin poured into southeastern Pennsylvania, some from Switzerland, some from the Palatinate, all alike called Palatines by the colonial record-keepers. The Swiss Brethren—an estimated 2,500 of them, crossed the Atlantic, for the most part between 1710 and the Revolutionary War in 1775. They came to escape the persecution and poverty of Europe, as well as its wars.

Perils and Hardships of the Atlantic Crossing

The perils and hardships of the journey, over land and sea, are of course apparent; some of the immigrants died on the long voyage; many arrived sick. The sailing ships of those days were on an average of three to four hundred tons deadweight, and were mere cockleshells, as compared with modern iron ships. Sometimes they never reached their

destinations, but were lost at sea.¹ In those early days the prevalence of terrible conditions on ships was confirmed, particularly on west-bound ships. The congestion, filth, foul odors, disease, and lack of proper facilities for preparing and eating food often took heavy toll of lives, as already stated. Only the hardy survived the voyage in many cases.

As for the trip down the Rhine from the Swiss border at Basel to Rotterdam, Gottlieb Mittelberger, who himself made this trip in 1750, writes in his "Journey to Philadelphia in the Year 1750", as follows:

"This journey lasts from the beginning of May to the end of October, fully half a year, amid such hardships as no one is able to describe adequately their misery. The cause is that the Rhine boats to Holland have to pass by 26 customs houses, at all of which ships are examined, which is done when it suits the convenience of the customs house officials. In the meantime the ships with the people are detained long, so that the passengers have to spend much money. The trip down the Rhine lasts therefore four, five and even six weeks. When the ships come to Holland, they are detained there likewise five to six weeks. Because things are very dear there, the poor people have to spend nearly all they have during that time."

It is evident therefore that a combination of strong influences must have been necessary to get the tide of emigration started to overcome the inertia of the emigrant and drive him into the uncertainties and dangers that beset a journey across the sea, and lurked in the wilderness of the New World. They left their native lands, not for

¹ Professor I. Daniel Rupp, in his "Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants to Pennsylvania 1727—1776" mentions a ship of 300 tons which was cast away on Block Island, Long Island Sound, on December 26, 1738. This ship had sailed from Rotterdam in August 1738, with 400 Palatines for Philadelphia. An exceedingly malignant fever had prevailed on board, due to unsanitary conditions, and only 105 persons landed on Block Island. All the others, 295 of them, including the Captain, died during the course of the four month's voyage. Upon landing, furthermore, 15 of the survivors died, reducing the number to 90.

economic reasons alone, but chiefly because of religious persecution, political oppression, and/or military outrages. Such forces always move the best classes. These emigrants came when the facilities for travel and transportation were at a minimum, and when the perils of the undertaking were at a maximum. Let us hope that their descendants will never lose their love of liberty and love of virtue that burned in their bosoms and that drove them forth in the face of danger.

*Emigration of Frederick Altaffer to Penn's Colony—
Oath of Allegiance to King George II of England*

Frederick Altaffer, our first ancestor to arrive in the American colonies, came from the Canton of Zurich. The ship's list of the ship SAMUEL of London, Hugh Percy, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes to Philadelphia, contains the names of two hundred and seventy-nine passengers landing on August 11, 1732, among which is found the name of Frederick Altdoerffer (or Aldorffer, as it is incorrectly spelled)¹. Upon landing in Philadelphia he, together with the other adult passengers, were required to take the Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty, King George II of England. He was at that time twenty-five years of age². He settled at Quitaphila, which was the original name of the settlement later forming the present city of Lebanon in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. He thus became a member of that heterogeneous body later known in our history as the Pennsylvania Dutch. This was comprised of Swiss and German Anabaptists, Mennonites, Amish, Moravians and related groups.

¹ See pages 60, 64 and 65 "Pennsylvania German Pioneers" by Ralph Beaver Strassburger, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

See also "A Collection of Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776" by Professor I. Daniel Rupp, 1931, Degener & Co., Leipzig.

² Notes of L. B. Altaffer.

*Quaker and Quaker-Associated Groups,
and the Puritans*

As has been shown, the Swiss and Germans who fled to Penn's colony in the 17th and 18th centuries were the protagonists of the Reformation. While little is said of them in our American history-books, they perhaps did as much or more than any other religious group in colonial times to contribute to the American Protestant heritage. The beginning of the German and Swiss emigration to America may be traced to the personal influence of William Penn, who in 1677 visited the Continent, and made the acquaintance of an intelligent and cultivated circle of Pietists and Mystics, who revived in the 17th century, the spiritual faith and worship of the Dominican mystics Eckhart and Tauler in the fourteenth century. In this circle originated the Frankfort Land Company, which bought of William Penn, the Governor of Pennsylvania, a tract of land near the city of Philadelphia, later to become known as Germantown. Soon after their arrival some of these became united with the Society of Friends. One of them, Francis Daniel Pastorius, in the year 1688 drew up a memorial against slave-holding, which was adopted by the Germantown Friends. This is noteworthy in history as the first protest by a religious body against Negro Slavery.

Pondering on the fact that the contribution of the Quaker, and associated groups, in Pennsylvania, had not received the recognition in American history that it deserves, especially as compared with the Puritan of New England, the poet Whittier wrote a longer narrative poem entitled "The Pennsylvania Pilgrim", which called attention to this. In the introduction to this little volume he writes:

"The Pilgrims of Plymouth have not lacked historian and poet. Justice has been done to their faith, courage and self-sacrifice, and to the mighty influence of their endeavor to establish righteousness on earth.

Such forces always move the best classes. These emigrants came when the facilities for travel and transportation were at a minimum, and when the perils of the undertaking were at a maximum. Let us hope that their descendants will never lose their love of liberty and love of virtue that burned in their bosoms and that drove them forth in the face of danger.

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2 Notes of L. B. Altaffer.

(Note from Eleanor Altaffer Franklin's searching:)
The following information was obtained from page 589 of the book "The Alderfers of America, History and Genealogy" by Helen Alderfer Stanley.

FREDERICK ALDORFER born 1707 and died 1745, arrived at the port of Philadelphia on 11 Aug. 1732 on the ship SAMUEL from Rotterdam, by clearance from Cowes (on the English coast) under the command of Captain Hugh Percy. A check-in-the-Pa. German Pioneers (Straussburger-Hinke) Vol. 1, pages 60-65 shows that Frederick Aldorffer, who arrived in 1732, was 25 yr. old, he qualified before the members of the Provincial Council at Philadelphia and apparently settled among the Germans in the vicinity of Lancaster. Further records indicate some time later he settled on Quintobahilla Creek, Lebanon Twp. Lebanon Co. This farm is near Annville, a short distance from the city of Lebanon. He married Margaret..... and it appears that he and his wife joined the Church of the Brethren at Conestoga, under the Eldership of Michael Frantz who served from 1734 to 1748.

The records of the church show that a Frederick Altoerfer was* baptized there in 1741. On 22 Feb. 1745 letters of administration were granted to Margaret widow and relict of Frederick Aldorfer, late of Lebanon Twp on Aldorfer's estate (recorded in Lancaster Co. Adm Book F. They had a son also named Frederick.

FREDERICK ALTOERFFER (as many of the descendants of this family spell the name) was born Mar 1742, Lebanon Twp., (Lancaster) now Lebanon County, was the son of Frederick and Margaret Aldorfer mentioned above. He settled on a farm near Maurertown, Shenandoah County, Va. He died 12 Apr. 1818 near Maurertown. His place of burial is said to have been across the road from the house about a quarter of a mile southwest, there is no tombstone but the place was marked by three locust trees. He married 1st on 7 Apr 1766 to Magdalene Acker. He married 2nd, 13 Nov. 1806 Magdalene Jacobs. (Recorded in Shenandoah County marriage Book 2 pg. 80) Children all by the 1st wife;

John born Feb. 14, 1770

George born 22 March, 1772

Salomie born 27 March, 1776

Quaker and Quaker--Associated Groups, and the Puritans

As has been shown, the Swiss and Germans who fled to Penn's colony in the 17th and 18th centuries were the protagonists of the Reformation. While little is said of them in our American history-books, they perhaps did as much or more than any other religious group in colonial times to contribute to the American Protestant Heritage. The beginning of the German and Swiss emigration in America may be traced to the personal influence of William Penn, who in 1677 visited the Continent, and made the acquaintance of an intelligent and cultivated circle of Pietists and Mystics, who revived in the 17th century, the spiritual faith and worship of the Dominican mystics Eckhart and Tauler in the 14th century. In this circle originated the Frankfort Land Company, which bought of Wm. Penn, the Governor of Pa., a tract of land near the city of Philadelphia, later to become known as Germantown. Soon after their arrival some of these became united with the Society of Friends. One of them, Francis Daniel Pastorius, in the year 1688 drew up a memorial against slave-holding, which was adopted by the Germantown Friends. This is noteworthy in history as the first protest by a religious body against Negro Slavery.

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" The Pilgrims of Plymouth have not lacked historian and poet. Justice has been done to their faith, courage and self-sacrifice, and to the mighty influence of their endeavor to establish righteousness on earth."

~~The following sent to Eleanor by Janis Pahnks -~~

This will recorded in Will Book "K" on pages 436, 437, & 438 of the Shenandoah County Will Books, in Woodstock, Shenandoah County Virginia Courthouse.

This is copied as closely as possible to original. Double "S" is given as "FS"- the German way of writing it- so read "GLAFS" as "GLASS", etc. When a word is underlined or with a (?) following it, I was in doubt as to spelling of the original word.

The will, as copied in the Will Book, lacked a "Thirdly"-only by seeing the original Will could it be learned if this was an omission in copying - or a mistake by "Frederich".

.....

(Will of Frederick Altdoerffer)

In the name of God amen, I Frederick Altdoerffer of the County of Shenandoah, State of Virginia, calling to mind the certainty of death, and the uncertainty when it will happen and being of sound mind and memory, thanks to be to God, do think proper to make this my last will and testament, which I do in the following manner.

first) I direct that all my just debts and funeral expences be paid out of my personal estate.

secondly) I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Magdalene Altdoerffer, for herself and her Heirs, one horsebeast, two cows, two hogs, two swarms of bees with hives, whichever she may make choice of out of my stock, two beds, bedsteads and furniture thereunto belonging, all her and my wearing apparel of every kind, and all linen, Cloth, thread and yarn on hand, a bureau, one table, two walnut chests, six chairs, all of her own choosing - a wool and flax wheels and check Reel, her saddle, bridle, and saddlebags, my kitchen cupboard with all its contents and as much of the rest of my Kitchen Furniture, including plates, Dishes, cups and saucers, Knives and forks--and other (?) as she may deem necessary for her use for housekeeping, a looking glafts two flat Irons, two Glafts tumblers, two stem Glafts a testament & a Hymbook. Also I give to my said wife for and during her natural life my Clock and Case as it now stands in my house, my tenplate stove with pipes my looms and all the Gear thereto belonging. One ax a wheelbarrow, a pitchfork, dungfork and dunghook, Cowhoe Gardenhoe & shovel and Iron wash kettle, a shovel plough and gear for one horse for the plough, a handsaw, drawing knife, meat Choppers, a Hatchet, Scythe hammer and Anvil, Rakes a grind stone, six mealbags, my baskets, vinegar barrel with vinegar, two tight (?? or light) barrels, two washtubs, an iron wedge, a pair of fire tongs and shovel, a pr. of Steelyards two candlesticks & snuffers, candel moulds, four bottles, a mortar and pestle, four Cow Chains, a half bushel measure. My said wife shall also have all the grain hay feed and fodder that may be on hand at the time of my death to her own use. All these articles herein given to my said wife are not to be appraised, but to be given to her by my Executors

herein after named she pausing her receipt for the same she shall also have during her natural life my two hemp or flax harkels (?) and two seives--

fourthly) I give and bequeath to my son John Altdoerffer for himself and his Heirs, my surveying instruments, and everything thereunto belonging, my english Bible, a rifle, shot pouch, & powderhorn, a broadax and one hundred and fifty dollars in money, he being my oldest son.

fifthly) all my personal estate not herein before otherwise bequeathed (excepting my wheat fan (?) which shall remain in my barn) shall be equally divided in three parts. The one part thereof, I give to my said wife, Magdalene Altdoerffer, the other part I give to my son John Altdoerffer and the third part I give to my son George Altdoerffer, to each of them I give their respective shares for themselves and their Heirs, with this Proviso always that if my said son George Altdoerffer shall well and truly take in a peaceable manner what is herein bequeathed to him and that neither he or any of his family shall give my said wife any unnecessary trouble molestation or uneasienefs nor unbraid her on account of anything in this my last will and testament contained, otherwise that share out of my personal estate hereby bequeathed to him shall go to his children and not to him.

Sixthly) I will and direct that my real estate consisting of my land and plantation whereon I now live being the land I now own and am pofsefsed of in the said County of Shenandoah shall be sold by my Executor herein after named as soon as conveniently may be after my Death to the best advantage of my heirs, subject always to the dower of my widow. Provided my said son John Altdoerffer consents to have it sold, but if he consents not to such sale, then the said land shall be divided into two parts the one part thereof I give and devise to my said son John Altdoerffer for himself his heirs and afsigns forever always subject to the dower of my widow during her natural life, the other part of said land I give and devise to my said son George Altdoerffer for himself his heirs and afsigns forever subject always to the dower of my widow during her natural life and do will and direct that the dower of my widow out of my land shall include all the buildings, the two wells, meadows and orchards as follows, beginning at a hickory sapling corner to John Hawn and my land, thence along Hawn's and my line with a middle fence to a white oak intersecting a middle fence in my lands, thence with the last mentioned fence near a graveyard in a northeasterly direction towards Martin Black's nearest corner as far as said fence goes thence from said fence to said corner, thence with said Black's line to a white oak and hickory (the hickory down) Corner to Andrew Bushong land and thence with my original line to a white oak (fallen down) corner to said Bushong, John Copp and me, thence with the original line to a pine in said Copp's clearing, thence with said Copp's and my line to the beginning to be her dower in full out of my real estate during her natural life.

Seventhly) If it shall so happen that the land should be divided as aforesaid, I will and direct that the buildings, the two wells, meadows and orchards shall be in my son John Altdoerffer's part as it is laid off in a platt made by me according to my best meaning and intention. And if my son George Altdoerffer consents not in a peaceable and quiet manner to this part of my last will and testament, then that share or part hereby given and devised to him is not to go to him but to his lawful heirs--and in case the land should be sold as aforementioned, I do hereby empower my Executor herein after named to make good conveyance (?) to the purchaser or purchasers thereof --

Lastly) I do hereby constitute my friend Henry Hackman Jnr. (son in law of Abraham Beydler Sr. (?) executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and disannulling all and every other will or wills by me made, declaring this and this only to be my last will and testament. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and seal the fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Frederick Altdoerffer (Seal)

Signed, Sealed, published & declared by the above named Frederick Altdoerffer to be his last will & Testament in the presence of us

Samuel R. Bader
John Boehm

At a Court held for the County of Shenandoah on Monday the 11th day of May 1818, the last will and Testament of Frederick Altdoerffer, dec'd was produced to the Court and proven by the oaths of Samuel R. Bader and John Boehm witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded and on the motion of Henry Hackman Jr. the executor therein named who made affirmation according to law and entered into bond with Jacob Huddle Jr. and Samuel Kerns Senr. (?) (Sr.) his securities in the final sum of six thousand dollars. Conditioned as the law directs. A certificate for obtaining a probat of the said Will in due form is granted him.

Test. Williams, Ct. Shen. C. (?)

(Note from Eleanor Altaffer-Franklin's searching---)
The following information was obtained from the book "The Alderfers of America, History and Genealogy" by Helen Alderfer Stanley. Copyrighted 1972, page 590. Helen Alderfer Stanley is a descendant of *Frederick Alterfer who arrived on the ship SAMUEL on 17 Aug 1733. *He is believed to be a cousin to our line. Copies of the pages were sent to Mrs. Franklin by Janis Pahnke descendant of George's (b Mar 1772) daughter Sarah (Solona)

JOHN ALTDCERFER (Altaffer) was born 14 Feb 1770, Mauretown in Shenandoah County, Va.; the son of Frederick Altdoerffer and Magdalene Acker; died Jan 1839 at Middeten, Columbiana Co. Ohio He was buried in the German Reformed churchyard; the grave was not marked. When the yard was taken up for street purposes, the body was not lifted and so a street or building covers the grave. He married 13 Sept 1789 to Mary KOPP (Cope)-(Copp) born in Pa. died 9 Oct 1847, she was the daughter of Andrew Copp. Apparently before 1809, the family moved from Virginia to the Ohio territory, in what is now Springfield twp., and settled on farmland purchased from the U.S. Government. John Aldoerfer is recorded as Justice of Peace in the year 1809, Springfield twp Columbiana Co. Apparently most of the children were born in Va. but married later in Ohio, (Marriages recorded Springfield Twp., Columbiana Co., Ohio) They had eight children:

John married 21 Oct 1818 Eleanor (piles) Fyles
George married 16 Sept 1810 Mary Altman
Rebecca married....Slidall
Elizabeth (Betsy) married 31 Dec 1811 Joseph (Kannal) Kannells
Mary Married 18 Sept. 1825 Simon Cope
Sarah married 12 Sept. 1817 John Lower
Eve married 1st....Stratton 2nd ...Crockett
Samuel born 10 Apr 1810 married 3 times.

The Quaker Pilgrims of Pennsylvania, seeking the same object by different means, have not been equally fortunate. The power of their testimony for truth and holiness, peace and freedom enforced only by the irresistible might of meekness, has been felt through two centuries of amelioration of penal severities, the abolition of slavery, the reform of the erring, the relief of the poor and suffering,— felt, in brief, in every step of human progress. But of the men themselves, with the single exception of William Penn, scarcely anything is known. Contrasted, from the outset, with the stern, aggressive Puritans of New England, they have come to be regarded as a "feeble folk" with a personality as doubtful as their unrecorded graves."

Whittier takes spirited exception to this and seeks to call attention to this situation in his poem, the "Pennsylvania Pilgrim".

As a body the Pennsylvania Dutch have been a highly respected group, many of them later having reached positions of culture and affluence. Benjamin Franklin estimated their number to be about a third of the population of Pennsylvania.

Outside of the main settlement around Philadelphia, the Swiss Brethren pushed out into York, Lebanon and Dauphin Counties. Such names, in the Indian-Pennsylvania Dutch vernacular, as "Canestogis", "Tolpehokin", "Quitophilo", "Mannakesie", and "Shanadore", which were of settlements beyond their original borders, later became well-known in our language as Conestoga (in Lancaster County), Quitaphila (in Lebanon County), Tolpehoken (in Western Berks County) and Monocacy (in lower Berks County). "Shanadore" was the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. They once marked the outposts in the time of our ancestors as the pioneers pushed back the frontier of our country.

A Frederick Alterfer (also spelled Alldoerfer in two other places in the ship's papers), eighteen years of age, arrived one year later in the same ship, the SAMUEL, on August 17, 1733. He came by way of the Rhenish Palatinate, as did so many others of the Swiss emigrants of that time. There is good reason to believe that he was a cousin of our common ancestor, Frederick Alldoerfer. He became an indentured servant upon landing in Philadelphia to pay his passage and later settled at Salford, Montgomery County. He was the progenitor of the numerically large Pennsylvania branch of the family who have anglicized their name as "Alderfer".²

The name Altaffer occurs fairly often in the State of California, as I discovered when I was American Consul at Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. These are the descendants of John Altaffer, (1770—1839), a brother of my great-great grandfather, George Altaffer. A younger son of the foregoing, also named George, went to California during the gold-rush in 1849 or 1850. He had a large family of boys.³

¹ Records of L. B. Altaffer.

² Pages 106, 110 and 112, "Pennsylvania German Pioneers," by Ralph Beaver Strassburger, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

³ Extract from a letter of Mrs. George Moore, née Altaffer, Canfield, Columbiana County, Ohio, also a descendant of said John Altaffer. Date of letter June 9, 1929.

STATIONS ON THE JOURNEY IN THE NEW WORLD

The "West" in Colonial Times—The Valley of Virginia

One of the important outposts of the Swiss Brethren was the settlements in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Tidewater region and that part of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains had seen the earliest English settlement in America. In 1716, an expedition under Governor Spotswood over the Blue Ridge advertised to the world the rich back country, known then as the Valley of Virginia, or Shenandoah Valley. In a letter to the London Board of Trade, dated August 14, 1718, Governor Spotswood said: "The chief aim of my expedition over the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716, was to satisfy myself whether it was practicable to come at the (Great) Lakes". It was a delusion of the time that the Great Lakes and Canada were just a little beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, and many attempts were made to find a "northwest passage" through the mountains to them¹.

Following Spotswood's expedition to the Shenandoah Valley, there was a migration thither from Pennsylvania, and from Europe, which eventually changed the character of the Colony. The "West" now appeared in American History. The "West" as it was conceived in Colonial times was the Shenandoah Valley. It was settled originally almost exclusively by the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch, small farmers, immigrants from Pennsylvania, prior to 1748. The causes that brought these people from Pennsylvania to Virginia were chiefly economic, though race prejudice growing out of the close association of heterogeneous

¹ J. W. Wayland, "The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley", page 7.

nationalities, and real or fancied neglect on the part of the Pennsylvania Government, may have contributed to the same effect.¹ But the Pennsylvania Dutch, having passed through the stressful period of their history, wanted land for their children. In 1732, they could buy land for between 6 and 7 pounds per 100 acres in the Shenandoah Valley, which was cheaper than they could buy land in Pennsylvania. Samuel Kercheval, in his "History of the Valley" placed the value of the pound at that time at 3 pounds equal to 10 dollars (modern).

In 1749, a group of Virginians interested in Western lands formed the Ohio Company. But before the French and Indian War in 1756 the land beyond the Ohio River was claimed and fought over by England and France. It was still largely the vast unknown, inhabited by savage Indian tribes, and would-be settlers did not venture there. It was still another fifty years before this territory was opened up to general settlement.

The westward trek of members of our family in successive generations followed that of the traditional pushing back of the American frontier. It began in eastern Pennsylvania, then moved further west in Pennsylvania. Then it proceeded in the order named: (1) western Virginia; (2) beyond the Ohio River in Columbiana County, Ohio; (3) Rome, Richland County in north central Ohio; and finally in 1848 (4) Williams County, the northwestern-most county in the State of Ohio. And significantly enough, this was the westward rout customarily used by the Swiss Brethren.

Royal Grant to Baron Fairfax

In pre-Revolutionary times, Baron Thomas Fairfax was the owner, by inheritance from his grandfather, Baron Culpeper, Colonial Governor of Virginia, of the land between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers, known

¹ Wayland, "The German Element in Shenandoah Valley". Page 22

as the Northern Neck of Virginia, consisting of over five million acres. The Virginia Colonial Council claimed the right to make grants of substantial areas in this territory, and it did make a number of such grants, where individuals undertook to bring in a stipulated number of settlers. Lord Fairfax, however, ignored the rights of these settlers, claiming that the privilege to convey lands to settlers in the Northern Neck existed in him alone. Conflict of opinion existed in the courts for upward of fifty years, however, caused by the reason of the general caveat entered by Fairfax. The localities where the towns of Woodstock and Maurertown eventually developed, where our family settled, comprised land belonging to Fairfax.

In 1752, Fairfax moved to the Shenandoah Valley, where he built "Greenway Court", near Winchester. He was the only resident peer in the colonies. Though loyal in sentiment to the King of England, he went unharmed during the American Revolution. The State of Virginia canceled his proprietorship in 1785, five years after his death.

Removal to Virginia

We have seen that Frederick, the original immigrant to the New World, upon his arrival in Penn's Colony, settled at Quitaphila, in Lebanon County. He married Margaret, whose maiden-name it has not been possible to learn, in 1741. He and his family lived there until his death in 1745, at the age of 38. His son, also named Frederick, was born in 1742 at Quitaphila and lived there until about 1766. In 1766 he married Magdalene Acker, shortly afterward going to "Shanadore", as the Shenandoah Valley was known to the Pennsylvania Dutch¹. The reasons for the removal of Frederick and his wife to Virginia were probably chiefly economic. The settlers in Lebanon

¹ J. W. Wayland, "The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley" records that there were some 20 different ways of spelling "Shenandoah". My grandfather, Jacob, who was born there, always called it "Shanadore", although he did not speak a word of Pennsylvania Dutch.

County, Pennsylvania, were attracted to the Shenandoah Valley at that time because it offered good land at a low price.

The route used in going to the Valley from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, crossed the Potomac River above Harper's Ferry. The "road" consisted only of blazed trails of the Shawnees and Tuscaroras and other Indian tribes. These lead like threads through the maze of the virgin forests. Into this uncharted realm came the Pennsylvania immigrants. They settled at a point approximately thirty miles south of Winchester,¹ near the town of Woodstock, which was beginning to develop there. Four miles north of Woodstock they cleared a spot in the forest, which was to become their farm. More than fifty years later this became the site of the village of Maurertown.

Frederick Altaffer acquires Land from Lord Fairfax

The Deed Book, DD, page 103, dated April 10, 1824, of Shenandoah County, at the Court House, Woodstock, Virginia, shows that the first tract of land owned by Frederick Altaffer, was sold to him by Lord Fairfax on September 19, 1770, and comprised 152 acres. In 1796 he acquired two additional tracts adjoining, 16½ acres and 50 acres, some 218 acres in all. This land is now occupied by the north part of the present village of Maurertown.

It was here that their two sons were born to Frederick and Magdalene Altaffer — John in 1770 and George, later to be the founder of our line of the family, on March 25, 1772.

Woodstock, in early times, was doubtless very near the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch communities. It was established on the land of one, Jacob Mueller, and was first

¹ The novelist, Willa Cather, a native of Winchester, and a descendant of settlers of colonial Virginia, has written a novel of the customs and manners of the Shenandoah Valley, called "Sapphira and the Slave Girl", the locale of which is this region where our family lived. Our family line had already departed for Ohio, however, when this story takes place.

called after him, Muellerstadt, i.e. Millertown. Mueller had come into the Valley sometime prior to 1752, and had settled near Narrow Passage, a few miles above the site of the town. He bought about 2,000 acres of land and in 1761 laid out on a larger scale the village that was already named for him. In March of that year the Virginia Assembly passed an Act which incorporated it and decreed that it should be called Woodstock, after Woodstock in England.

Marriage of George Altaffer to Catherine Bushong

George Altaffer was married at Woodstock on December 2, 1794, to Catherine Bushong of New Market, a descendant of John Bushong, who had come to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1719, probably from Alsace, later moving to the Shenandoah Valley. Their "bondsman", as the groomsmen was called in those days, was her brother John. Their son, John, my great grandfather, was born at Woodstock in 1795. In modern times this area, with its center at Winchester, has become one of the great apple and fruit-producing regions of the country.

The Muhlenberg Family

It is perhaps of interest to relate here that in the immediate vicinity of Frederick Altaffer's farm was the farm, which was settled two years later, in 1772, by Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, later well-known in American history. Muhlenberg, of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, born at Trappe, Pennsylvania, a young man then 26 years of age, settled this farm. He had been educated for the Lutheran ministry at the University of Halle, Germany, and he came to minister to the small frontier settlement at Woodstock, 90 per cent of which were Pennsylvania Dutch of the Lutheran and Reformed confessions. Our ancestors belonged to the Reformed church and were members of the congregation of this little backwoods community.

In 1776, young Muhlenberg assisted in raising a regiment of soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley, later becoming its Commanding Officer, noted for its services during the Revolution. In January 1776 he preached his famous sermon in the little church, dramatically throwing back his robe and displaying the uniform of an officer in the Continental Army. He served with distinction throughout the war, attaining the rank of Major General. He was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. The Muhlenberg family lived on their farm near Woodstock during his absence in the Army from 1776 to 1783. This home of its first pastor, who gained fame in the service of his country, was later acquired by the church, to be known as the "glebe" farm. The church is now known as the "Old" church of Woodstock.

Connection between the Valley, Alexandria and Washington

Very early in the history of the Valley numerous mills for the grinding of wheat, corn and other grains were built on watercourses. The famous mill on Opequon Creek, a short distance from Woodstock, was one of them. Many of the Pennsylvania Dutch, who settled on watercourses built mills, large or small, and harnessed the streams for power. To these mills the farmer would haul his grain, especially wheat; and it was by the sale of his surplus flour that most of his money was obtained. With his load of flour, supplemented sometimes by several hundred-weight of bacon, the master of the farm would mount his saddle-horse and with his wagon drive off to market: sixty miles, eighty miles, or more than a hundred, through great forests and over unbridged streams to the nearest point on the James River; to Falmouth or Fredericksburg; to Alexandria; or to Washington. There were certain necessities of life that could be obtained no nearer.

In this connection I should mention, as showing the

1751, and had settled near Narrow Passage, on the site of the town. He bought about 2,000 acres of land and in 1761 laid out on a larger scale the village that was already named for him. In March of that year the Virginia Assembly passed an Act which incorporated it and decreed that it should be called Woodstock, after Woodstock in England.

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.....
George Altdoerffer (Altaffer) was born 22 March 1772 near Maurertown, Shenandoah Co., Va. He died 4 Mar 1847 in the town of Shenandoah in Richland County, Ohio. He married 1st on Dec. 2 1794 in Shenandoah County, Va. to Cathrine Bushong; daughter of John and Elizabeth Bushong. Their children were: John, Elizabeth, Sarah (Solona), Mary, Frederick, William, and Jacob.

16

A copy of Abstracts of Wills, Richland County, Ohio, 17 April 1847 reads: ALTDORFER, GEORGE (AR VI, P 146) 3 January 1847
To Son John, \$1.00
To daughters Elizabeth Hisey and Sarah Sonmanstine, \$1.00 each.
To daughter Mary Keister, all my claim and interest in and to the following two claims: The one against Jacob Hawn & Wm. Tapp
To Elizabeth Altdorfer, daughter of deceased son Frederick, \$1.00
To son William, proceeds of farm, being 90 acres, west quarter, northeast quarter, section 34, township 23 range 18, now owned by Jacob Cline; real and personal estate.
Executors; John and William Altdorfer.
Witnesses; Samuel B. Liter, William Burns.

.....

The Muhlenberg Family

It is perhaps of interest to relate here that in the immediate vicinity of Frederick Altaffer's farm was the farm which was settled two years later, in 1772, by Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, later well-known in American history. Muhlenberg, of Pennsylvania Dutch origin born at Trappe, Pennsylvania, a young man then 26 years of age, settled this farm. He had been educated for the Lutheran ministry at the University of Halle, Germany and became a minister to the small frontier settlement at Woodstock, 90 per cent of which were Pennsylvania Dutch of the Lutheran and Reformed confessions. Our ancestors belonged to the Reformed church and were members of the congregation of this little backwoods community.

In 1776, young Muhlenberg assisted in raising a regiment of soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley, later becoming its Commanding Officer, noted for its services during the Revolution. In January 1776 he preached his famous sermon in the little church, dramatically

Geo and Magdalena (Acker) son William is the descendant of the Wyo. and Wis. Altaffers and the information gathered on him is found beginning with page 28.

Eleanor Altaffer Franklin would like to insert here a brief history of their daughter SALONA (SARAH). Her descendant Janis (Mrs. Harvey L.) Pahnke of Chicago has been researching the Altderfer line for many years and has been an invaluable help to me in sharing her information.

SALONA was married 8 May 1826 to Joseph Francis Sonnanstine. He was born 1802 in Shenandoah Co., Va., the son of Dr. Joseph F. Sonnanstine and Catharine Bozeman. He was the oldest of 16 children. Joseph rose in the ranks during the Civil War from Private to Major. Two of his brothers were also in this war, all on the side of the North. Records show Joseph F. fought in the Shenandoah Valley of Va. One can wonder if he was fighting against cousins (Sonnanstine, Altdoerffer, Bushong) or if he fought in or near his grandparents in Shenandoah Valley.

Their son Joseph F. B. 9 Sept 1830 in Columbiana Co., Ohio was married 13 Jan 1853 in Richland Co., Ohio to Julia Catherine Hackett. She was born 4 Dec 1852 in Dryden, N.Y. the daughter of Elon Hackett and Mary Bowlby. There were 7 children. The 4th child a girl was the next descendant.

Anne Eliza Sonnanstine was married 22 Oct 1879 in McConnelsville, Ohio, to Francis James Bigelow. He was B. 27 Sept 1852 in Honeoye, N.Y. He died 2 July 1928 in St. Joseph, Missouri and was the son of John Benjamin Bigelow and Maria Stout. There were 4 children. The youngest son the descendant.

Wilber Francis Hinman Bigelow Sr. was married 20 Oct. 1918 to Helen Irwin in Covington, Kentucky. He was B. 26 June 1897 in Nevada, Mo. D. 19 June 1968. Helen was born 3 Feb. 1896 in Dayton, Ohio the daughter of Otho J. Irwin and Mary Kirchner. They have 5 children, the 4th next descendant.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|--------------|----|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Robert Donald | B | 1 Nov. 1919 | D. | 2 Nov. 1919 | |
| 2. Wilber H. Jr. | B | 8 Dec. 1920 | | Dayton, Ohio | |
| 3. Marvin Charles | B. | 21 Aug. 1923 | " | " | M. Maxine Hoffmann |
| 4.*Janis Aline | B. | 21 Dec. 1924 | " | " | M. Harvey L. Pahnke |
| 5. Norma Corine | B. | 4 Aug. 1929 | | Camden, N.J. | M. Robert Bower |

*Janis was married 24 Sept 1947 in Watsonstown, Pa. to Harvey L. Pahnke. He was born 12 Mar 1925 in Chicago, Ill. the son of Louis Pahnke and Elsie Dittmann. They have 2 sons:

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|----|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Karl Irwin | B. | 14 June 1954 | in Chicago |
| 2 | Eric Ross | B. | 10 Mar. 1957 | in Chicago |

Finally, I would like to end this account on a rather philosophic note, which does not have a bearing on our family alone, but on family life in general. Having seen a great deal of life over a long period of years, I am concerned at the increasing erosion of the influence of the family in modern life. And this little chronicle is in but a small way my endeavor to oppose this development, by calling attention to the individuals and families in our own past to whom we owe much. By our solidarity with them we are doing our part, even though a small one, to oppose the tendency towards the atomization of society into lonely, rootless individuals, caused by the de-personalization, which leads to the de-humanization (if I may be permitted to coin a new word or two) of life, brought about by modern technical and mechanical developments. In doing so, we are helping, even in small degree, to stem this subtle influence.

ELEANOR ALTAFFER FRANKLIN would like to add a personal note here.

In Sept. 1968, Janet Young, a friend of hers went on a trip thru Europe. The following is taken from her notes, written when she spent a night in Altdorf, Switzerland. (See reference to Altdorf on page 3)

"We continued through the Alps--such beauty--narrow valley and towering peaks with new snow; lovely chalets and beautiful flowers. It is just like one thinks of Switzerland. We stopped for the night at the edge of Altdorf, Switzerland--the legendary home of William Tell! We are just at the foot of Lake Lucerne. There are two chapels near and it was lovely listening to their chimes. Just across the lake are huge peaks. Our motel is old, but very typical and very clean. We have been treated very courteously and the lady here speaks English as most educated Swisspeople do. We had dinner on a closed, two story porch and served in the very genteel style of the old world. For the first time since going to Italy, we feel relaxed and truly enjoying ourselves."

The following article was sent to Eleanor Altaffer Franklin by Mrs. Harold Shiffler. Mrs. Shiffler is the daughter-in-law of Joseph B and Eva (Keller) Shiffler. The Mrs. Russell mentioned is a sister to Joe. Joe's parents were Joseph Shiffler and Charlotte Altaffer. (she is a sister of Jacob Altaffer)

Pioneer Ohio 20 Aug 1940

To whom it may concern I will give you a brief history of the Altaffer family. As I recollect from my mother and what I got from the records at Woodstock Va. while I was there in 1898. Now the Altaffers moved from Maryland prior to the Revolutionary War and settled near Woodstock Va. on a large plantation owned by George Altaffer; a wealthy man. He was a great, great grandfather of mine. He was a Tory and a supporter of King George of England. He had a number of sons who were loyal to the Republic. Now George Altaffer, his son and family and 2 sons John and William moved to Columbiana Co. Ohio. His 5 daughters and their husbands also, in 1828, where they lived for a number of years, then moved to Richland Co. Ohio, where they stayed until 1847. When John William and Mrs. Joseph Bysey came to Williams Co. Ohio and settled in Jefferson Township on farms. I am the oldest grandson of John Altaffer and your mother was the oldest child of William Altaffer (Charlotte); where John my grandfather died in 1861. William moved to Michigan in 1864 and later to Clay Co. Kansas for a short while, then came back and died on his farm in Amboy Michigan. The Altaffers were very early emigrants from Europe and talked the German language.

There is some Altaffers still in Va. and quite a number of distant relatives there yet when I was in Va. I met quite a number of them there. There were nice people. Now Mrs. Russell this is all from memory. I am 92 years old and as I have no written history I trust this will be satisfactory.

~~WILLIAM ALTAFFER~~ - Son of GEO ALTDORFER and
CATHRINE BUSHONG

The exact birth date of William is unknown. The death certificate states his age at his death was 77 (His death date was 31 Aug 1883) making the year 1806. However the 1880 census records gives his age as 72 yrs. making his birthdate 1808. All documents give birth place as Va. From the article on page 27 we can assume it was Woodstock in the County of Shenandoah.

The following information has been gathered from census records; land, tax records, etc.

George and his family moved to Columbian County Ohio from Shenandoah Valley Va. before 1820 as they are on the 1820 census in Columbian Co.

Land records show George bought land in Columbiana Co., Ohio in 1808, 1827, 1828, 1833.

The 1840 census records show the family in Richland Co., Ohio; again confirmed by article on page 27.

In the book "History of Richland County, Ohio" by Graham on page 400, we read; Shenandoah (the town in Richland Co.) was laid out on "Bell's Trail" in the Southeast part of the township by William and George Altorfer (note spelling) on the southeast qtr of Section 34 in June 1844. Altorfers were from Shenandoah Valley, Va., hence the name of the village.

George died in 1847, so would have been around 70 yrs. old and William around 40.

Marriage records of Richland Co Ohio records the marriage of William Altdoerffer (note spelling) to Lea Pifer 21 Oct 1838 (she signed her husband's probate papers Leah Altaffer in 1883)

All records were hand written and often hard to read for copying. The 1852 papers of Leah's Father's (page 30) will states Leah Altdoerffer a daughter lived in Riley Co. Kansas. Article of page says they moved to Clay Co. Ks. Did they live in two farms in Ks?? or was on misinformation??

The 1860 Census records of William Co. Ohio, Jefferson Twp states William Altdoeffler a farmer, wife Leah and children: George; John; Catherine; Eliza; Martha; William; Mary; Mary (twice?) Olive.

In the 1870 census for Hillsdale Co Amboy Twp Michigan lists William (again as a farmer) and children (On this census name was spelled (Altaffer) William, Mary, Olive, Jacob E. Nancy William Sr.'s son John and his wife Nancy and children were listed under another household. John was spelling his name Altaffer.

In the 1880 census for Hillsdale Co. Amboy Twp Mich. we again find William Alltoffer as a farmer, his wife Leah and son Jacob E. listed as farm laborer. His son John and wife and children and George and wife; no children were listed, under separate households. Both these boys spelled the name Altaffer. Olive was not listed telling us she died between 1870 and 1880. Aunt Emma remembers her father telling of her death as a young girl in Hillsdale Mich. Hillsdale Co. Amboy twp. Leah's death certificate gives the date as 26 May 1899 in Hillsdale Co. Amboy twp.

The following is a copy of the petition in the matter of the estate of William Alltaffer; since he did not have a will.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
County of Hillsdale

PROBATE COURT FOR SAID COUNTY

In the matter of the Estate of William Alltaffer deceased, your petitioner would respectfully represent to the Court that she is interested in said estate as widow of said deceased; that said deceased departed this life at his residence in the township of Amboy in the County of Hillsdale and state of Michigan on the 31st day of August 1883 leaving no last will and testament as your petitioner is informed and verily believes. That said deceased was, at the time of his death, an inhabitant of, or resident in said County of Hillsdale and was possessed of real and personal estate situate and being in said county of Hillsdale and elsewhere to be administered and that the estimated value of the personal estate the sum of Seven Hundred dollars, and of the real estate the sum of Twenty-four Hundred dollars or thereabout as your petitioner is informed and verily believes.

And your petitioner further represents, that the names, residence and relationship to the deceased, of the heirs at law of said deceased and other persons interested in said estate, as your petitioner is informed and believes are as follows:

Your petitioner	widow	of Amboy, Michigan
Sarah N. Bouersox	daughter	Edgeston, Ohio
Susan Culbertson	"	Pulaski (?) Ohio (City spelling
Charlotte Shiffler	"	Amboy, Mich.
George Alltaffer	son	" "
John "	"	" "
Catherine Snyder	daughter	Riley Co. Kansas
Eliza (Lyde) Crow	"	Rausom, Mich (writing not clear
Martha Converse	"	Amboy, Mich. on city)
William E. Alltaffer	son	Riley Co., Kansas
Christina Harmow	daughter	Amboy, Mich.
Mary Oldfield	"	Montcaliu Co. Mich. (writing not
Jacob Alltaffer	son	Amboy, Mich. clear)

(There was a daughter Olivia who died young so was not listed on this paper.)

Your petitioner therefore prays that a day be fixed for hearing this petition and that due notice thereof be given to all persons interested, by an order of the Court duly published once in each week for three successive weeks, in such newspaper as the Court shall direct, and that administration of said estate may be granted to your petitioner or some other suitable person, and that such other and further order and proceedings may be had in the premises as may be required by the statutes in such case made and provided.

Dated Hillsdale Sept 4th 1883 Signed Leah Altaffer (note she used 1 letter L while in above it was spelled with 2 L's)

The above named petitioner being duly sworn, say that she has heard the foregoing petition by her signed and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of her own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated on her information and belief, and to those matters she believes them to be true.

Subscribed and sworn before me at Hillsdale this 4th day of Sept A.D. 1883. signed Geo A. James probate register

There was a signed statement of the publisher of the newspaper the HILLSDALE STANDARD that the notice was published for the required three weeks from Sept 11th up to the 19th of Oct. The notice itself did not copy well and could not be read.

The following is a copy of the handwritten paper on the probate of William Alltoffers estate. Where there is * it indicates a word that I was unable to read.

The paper on the session of the probate court of County of Hillsdale on Wed the 10th of October 1883. Judge of the Probate Oscar A. James.

This being the day assigned by this court for hearing the petition of Leah Alltaffer praying that an administrator may be appointed on the estate of said deceased. Now comes the said petitioner and is appearing to the court by due proof on file, that a copy of the order of this court * the hearing of said petition made on the 4th of Sept last past, has been duly published as in said order directed, and after a full hearing upon said petition it further satisfactorily appearing that the said deceased last dwelt in and was an inhabitant of Amboy in said county and is now deceased. That the said William Alltaffer was seized and possessed of real and personal estate and being in said county of the value of thirty-five hundred dollars or there about to be administered; That it is necessary that an administrator should be appointed upon said estate and that Leah Alltaffer of Amboy in said county is a competent and suitable person for that trust. It is ordered and decreed by the court now here that the said Leah Alltaffer be and is appointed administratrix of the estate of said deceased.

And it is further ordered that John Drake and Henry Russell of said county be and are appointed as two appraisers to appraise the estate of said deceased.

It is further ordered that the administratrix be allowed one year from this 10th day of October * in which to disperse of the estate and pay the debts of the said deceased.

And upon the application of the said administratrix and after careful examination and hearing had thereon, it is further ordered that an allowance of 2 hundred dollars be and is hereby made for the support of the widow and children constituting the family of said deceased during the progress of the administration of said estate. And it is further ordered that six months from this said 10th day of Oct. * be allowed for creditors to present their claims against said estate for examination and allowance and that James H. Baker and John Drake be appointed * to receive, examine and adjust all such claims against said estate.

signed Oscar A. James Judge of Probate

(There were many pages of facts & figures showing how each claim was handled & a full account of the estate was made and filed with the court)

JACOB ELMER ALTAFFER was born 23 Aug 1863 (we assume in William Co. Ohio; Jefferson twp as his parents were listed there on the 1860 census records).

On the 1870 and 1880 census records of Hillsdale Co. Amboy twp, Hillsdale, Mich. he is listed with his parents and brothers and sisters. Occupation in 1880 as a farm laborer. He was tall and slender.

Jacob and Lilly May Murray were married 1 Aug 1888 on the Murray home place, Skidmore, Mo. She is the daughter of George Washington Murray and Margaret H. Graham. She was bor 8 Aug 1866 in Wilton Co., Ill. Lilly May is the 8th generation of our immigrant ancestor, Jonathan Murray who came to the colonies from Scotland in 1665 and settled in East Guilford, Conn., when he was 20 years old. The book "The Descendants of Jonathan Murray of East Guilford, Conn.", compiled and edited by William B. Murray contains the complete Murray Clan History.

The couples oldest child was born in Clay Center Kansas and 2nd in Wichita, 4th on Murray home place and 5th in Colo. giving an indication as to how they moved around. He told his children of how hot and dry it was in Kansas those years.

Then Jacob was section boss on the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Arlington, Colo. Later lived in Sheridan Lake, Colo. and Fullerton and Table Rock, Nebr. Then to Moorcroft, Wyo. where he filed on homestead land. "Jake" was the first postmaster on Pine Ridge and started the "Old Time Settler's Picnic", an annual affair held every summer at the Devil's Tower.

The Devil's Tower is the first National Mounment (1906) and one of the most unique geological formations in the world. A tall fluted volcanic rock rising up 1,280 ft. above the Belle Fourche River, ranging from about 1½ mi. around at the base to about ½ mile around at the top. It can be seen from the front room of the ranch house.

In 1921, they left Wyo. and moved to Winter, Wis. There he acted as a guide to sportsmen and built earth dams. This land of many lakes and abundance of wild game was "home" to this ardent hunter and fisherman. They lived there the rest of their lives. She passed away in Sept. 1937 and he in March 1938.

Children of Jacob and Lilly May Altaffer:

- Emma May B. 20 Sept. 1890
- Florence Hazel B. 24 Oct. 1894
- Elmer B. about 1896 & died at age of 9 mo.
- Frederick Milton B. 6 Sept. 1899
- James Harry B. 8 Mar. 1901

foregoing custom rather intimately, there is in my possession the old personal Account Book of my great-great grandfather who signed himself, "George Altdoerffer of Shenandoah County and State of Virginia", covering the period 1805—1835. The sheets are yellow with age and the faded script is in ink written with quill pen. The accounts are in "lawful money of Virginia" between 1805 and 1818, and they are in United States dollars thence forward. It appears from this that the colonial currency in pounds, shillings and pence prevailed in Virginia, at least in the frontier communities, until well into the 19th century. It is shown in this old account book that Alexandria was then the nearest market town, some sixty miles distant, where the members of the family went by saddle-horse and wagon to sell produce and to make necessary purchases. A few items taken at random, showing the scale of prices and the customs of the times, are such entries as follows:

1805	To a pair of calfskin shoes	12 shillings
	To making 1 pair trousers	1 shilling 6 pence
	To 2 bushels sault (sic) ..	14 shillings
1809	By 1 trip to Alexandria ..	1 pound 16 shilling
	By 2 trips to Alexandria ..	3 pounds 6 shillings
1822	To 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ gal. molasses from Alexandria	\$3.18
1830	To weaving 40 yards cloth at 10 cents per yard	\$4.00

Service of John Altaffer in the War of 1812

The records of the War Department in Washington show that John Altaffer, at the age of 19, served in the War of 1812, as a private in Captain Samuel Colville's Company of Infantry, 6th Regiment of Virginia Militia.

Three years after his demobilization, in 1817, great-grandfather John, at the age of 22, was married to Catherine

Haas. Jacob, their son, my grandfather, was born at Woodstock on December 9, 1824. Shortly after his birth his mother Catherine died. John Altaffer then married a second time to Sarah Heisey, born November 7, 1803. I recall that my grandfather always spoke of his step-mother with affection as he said that she had been very good to him. I, personally, knew as a youth briefly, only Isaac, my grandfather's half-brother, who had been an Army officer in the Civil War, and Ellen, Mrs Longenecker of Bryan, Ohio, a half-sister. Ten children were born to John Altaffer and his first and second wives.

BEYOND THE OHIO RIVER IN OHIO

Columbiana and Richland Counties

After 1830, with the removal of the Indians from Ohio by the Federal Government, there was a great rush of migration into Ohio. However there is evidence in the Court records at Woodstock, Virginia that already early in the 19th century, certain members of the Altaffer family had moved thence. The Deed Book T, page 284, dated April 7, 1812, shows that John Altaffer, the eldest son of Frederick, born at Woodstock in 1770, together with his wife, Mary, née Kapp, had already moved to Fairfield Township, Columbiana County, one of the eastern-most counties of the State of Ohio. Frederick, the father of John and George who had acquired the land holdings at Woodstock from Lord Fairfax, died in 1818. The Court records at Woodstock show that his heirs, John and George, did not dispose of their land holding until April 10, 1824, for approximately \$5,000.¹

It was not until about 1836, however, that great-great grandfather George, with his family, including great grandfather John and his family, also went to Fairfield Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. Collateral lines of the family, descendants of the two Fredericks, continued to live in Shenandoah and Rockingham Counties in Virginia, from whom are descended the Altaffers in the Shenandoah Valley. My grandfather, Jacob, was 12 years of age when the family left Woodstock for Ohio. They were there only a few years and then moved on some hundred miles further west, where they settled on a farm near the village of Rome, Richland County. But both of these stops could be regarded as but temporary, as the ultimate destination was the

¹ It should be recalled, of course, that our present dollar is worth but a fraction of what it was in a frontier community in 1824.

area further west, the Maumee Valley. At their very threshold was the vast territory calling to the young and adventurous to seek their fortune.

Removal of the Indians West of the Mississippi

Indians roamed northwestern Ohio at will until 1830, when the United States Congress decided to offer them an exchange of land west of the Mississippi River, and move these tribes there. They were principally of the Pottowatomie and Ottawa tribes, large and powerful tribes who were the original owners of the land throughout the Maumee Valley. The Maumee River extends from the Western end of Lake Erie into the eastern part of the State of Indiana. The Bill removing the Indian tribes was signed by President Jackson on May 28, 1830. This was the signal for settlers in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and for immigrants from the Old World, to make a rush for this virgin land. During the administration of President Van Buren (1837—1841) an effort was made by the State of Ohio to settle this rich and heavily wooded land and special inducements were offered new settlers.

Construction of a State Road

In 1834 the State of Ohio had authorized the laying out of a road from Maumee, on the Maumee River near the present city of Toledo, to West Unity. At this time this road was the only mode of access to this region. The people were forced to clear their way through dense forest at all times without the substantial food necessary for the support of the hardy frontiersmen. Captain Williams, as superintendent, residing at Maumee City, and the Hon. Ambrose Bierce¹ of Perrysburg, surveyor, with the necessary help, chain and axe men for the clearing of the trail, commenced the survey in August 1834 of this State Road.

¹ Father of Ambrose Bierce, the well-known American author and journalist.

Trail's End—Settlement in Williams County

Northwestern Ohio at this period became known among the new settlers as the "El Dorado of the West". It is not surprising, therefore, to find our family among the new arrivals. In 1847, the then head of the family, George Altaffer, my great-great grandfather, died at the age of 72. He is buried in the cemetery at Rome, Richland County. Shortly afterwards, the remaining members of the family, consisting of John Altaffer, my great grandfather, his wife Sarah, and his children, including my grandfather, Jacob, set out for Williams County, where they arrived in 1848. They traveled by way of the State Road, the only mode of ingress into the densely forested country. On June 13, 1851 great grandfather John Altaffer purchased from one, Miles Carter, who had previously acquired it from the U.S. Government on March 16, 1837, two hundred and forty acres of land in Jefferson Township, Williams County. This is described as "one hundred sixty acres in the southwest quarter of Section 14, and eighty acres in the southeast quarter of Section 14 of Jefferson Township".¹ The price paid for this tract of land was \$1,500. It was but a nominal one established to attract settlers as quickly as possible. In comparison, it may be of interest to mention that the present value of good Ohio farm land is \$500 an acre. This would bring the total value of this land today to well over one hundred thousand dollars.

Beginnings in Williams County

A small, faded certificate before me records that my grandfather, Jacob Altaffer and Sophena C. Bauman were united in marriage on April 26, 1849, by the Reverend Rogers Salter at Lafayette (later Pulaski) Ohio. My grandfather was then 25 and his bride 21. Their wedding pictures, in a small velvet-lined case, are on silver-gilt framed daguerreotypes, then but lately introduced into the

¹ Letter dated March 27, 1967 from the Recorder of Williams County, Ohio.

U.S. from France by Samuel F. B. Morse. She is attractively, but modestly clad in a dark finely-striped dress of the fashion of the period, her smiling face confidently looking out on the future. He is tall, dark and well-made, and something of a beau in black jacket, with plaid waistcoat and flowing bow tie. I recall that he was tall and straight when he was an old man past ninety.

The clearing and breaking of virgin land, such as existed in Williams County in 1851, was a task of such magnitude that it is difficult properly to estimate it now with all of the aids of mechanics and technology that have been developed since then. It was a task to test the strength and courage of this little group of people. With the single exception of the State Road already mentioned, there were no roads, only Indian trails, and no bridges over streams. It took a week to go to the nearest flourmill at Maumee. Their only shelters were hastily thrown-up log houses, which, especially in winter, became very damp. The land was still undrained and without tiling, and the frequent swamps were pestilential with ague, a type of malaria, brought about by the clouds of mosquitoes. All of the early settlers suffered from this disease. Other diseases, such as ulcerated throats and diphtheria, resulting from damp housing, were common. My grandparents lost two children within three days of each other in 1863, from diphtheria, and another from the same disease in 1864. In 1866, an infant of only a few days died. The family was thus reduced within two years by four children, which was a heavy blow to the parents.

John Altaffer, my great grandfather who served to bridge the period from the Shenandoah Valley, and who laid the foundation of the family in Williams County, died in 1860, at the outbreak of the Civil War. My great grandmother, Sarah, who was also a native of the Shenandoah Valley, lived until 1869.

A log house was built on the 240 acre tract big enough to accommodate the two families. Soon, however, log houses and barns were built on each 80 acre tract. Upon the death of great grandfather John, two of the eighty acre

tracts were left to Isaac and John Junior, half-brothers of grandfather Jacob, who inherited the main, or southwest 80 acres of the tract.

A church, of the denomination known as the Reformed Church in the United States, was organized shortly after the arrival of the family, who donated the land for erection of a church building. A substantial brick church, known as the Bunker Hill Reformed church was built somewhat later. The area of these farms was known as "Bunker Hill". My grandfather, Jacob, was "converted", to use the colloquial term of that day, at the age of 19, and was a leader in the activities of this church all his life—in his later years—the Presiding Elder. Near the church, a one-room school, the Bunker Hill school was erected, which served the neighborhood for many years and furnished primary education to all the children of the family. It also served as my own initiation into school life later when I lived temporarily with my grandparents, after my father's death.

Bunker Hill, the area of the family farms, was about 3 miles southwest of the village of West Unity, mentioned before. It was probably named for the village of Unity in Columbiana County, which had served as a relay post for migrants from Pennsylvania and Virginia, in the same manner it had served our ancestors. It was connected to the farms by what was known as the "Angling" Road, which ran at an angle to the rectangularly laid out County roads and eventually ended in Bryan, the county seat, some ten miles distant to the south and west. Between the farms and Bryan, about half way, is the hamlet of Pulaski, in the beginning known as Lafayette, close to which is the burying ground, known as the Shiffer Cemetery, where numerous Altaffers, their kith and kin and friends, for over a hundred years are buried, from the Civil War onward, beginning with John, my great grandfather, whose tombstone bears the legend "A soldier in the War of 1812". It is here that both my father and mother are buried.

Land Speculation

From the mouth of the Maumee River at Lake Erie, to the foot of the rapids at Grand Rapids, Ohio, the country swarmed with adventurers. The results of all this speculation was to draw hundreds of young men from all over the east and south, and the Old World, to this valley with the hope of amassing a fortune. In 1837, a canal was begun from Toledo. Originally, at the advent of the white man, this land was covered with a forest of giant trees of the best timber. It had been the hunting grounds of the Indians from times immemorial. Their homes had been principally confined to the area along the Maumee River, from its mouth at Lake Erie to Fort Wayne, Indiana. In the spring they would come out in large numbers to the maple bush, miles distant north and south of the river to make maple sugar. This work was done principally by the squaws, while the men did the hunting or lay around the camp smoking their pipes.

As early as 1850 rumors traveled fast that a railroad was to be built from Toledo, at the western end of Lake Erie, to Elkhart, in western Indiana. In 1851, the year my great grandfather purchased his farm, surveying crews and engineers started marking trails through the virgin forests between these points. Trees were felled, stumps blasted and the roadbed marked. The coming of the railroad increased the demand for the land and new villages and towns began to spring up. The road was completed as far as Bryan in 1854. After the railroad was completed to Elkhart, Indiana, it became famous as the longest and straightest section of railroad tracks in the world. It was known as the "Air Line" railroad and it is now a part of the New York Central System.

My Father, Charles Edwin

My father, Charles Edwin, was the seventh and last of the children of Jacob and Sophena Altaffer, born on October 25, 1870. As previously related, four of his brothers and

sisters died in their childhood before his birth due to epidemics and primitive or non-existent sanitary and medical facilities. His elder sister, Laneta, born in 1851, and his elder brother, William Ursinus, known by his middle name, Ursinus, were the only children living at his birth. Ursinus was deeply attached to our father, Charles, 16 years younger, and after the early death of our father, when I was 3 years old, and my brother an infant, he was a second father to my brother and me.

Charles Edwin, the youngest child of his parents, who was also considerably younger than his brother and sister, was much loved, and was easily the family favorite. He early took upon himself the responsibility for the work of the eighty acre farm of his father, who at that time was nearing seventy years of age. Following a tradition of early marriage in the family, he was married to my mother, Elisabeth Kniess, on May 29, 1892. He was then twenty-two and his bride eighteen. I, Maurice Willard, the eldest child, was born on May 10, 1893, and my brother, Leland Charles, was born on January 12, 1896. Our mother was the daughter of John and Margaret Kniess, who had a farm near Archbold in adjoining Fulton County. My maternal grandfather, John Kniess, as a youth had learned the trade of fine cabinet-maker in Germany, and as a young man had come to the United States during the Revolutionary Epoch of 1848 in Europe. Margaret, my maternal grandmother, had come to the United States from Switzerland with her parents, as a child of six. My mother's parents had settled in Fulton County, coming from Whitehouse, near Toledo, shortly before the Civil War.

The work which devolved upon my father, with the then simple agricultural equipment in common use, was very heavy for a young man of his age. It was the period just preceding the Panic of 1893, when agricultural prices slumped into decline. This caused him to take upon himself, in order to provide additional income, the working of another farm at some distance from our home. While the farmers of the Middle West and South were growing poorer,

bankers and capitalists of the East were growing rich. The prices of agricultural products fell so low that farmers who had contracted debts when prices were high found that the money they had to repay was worth more than the money they had borrowed. It was the period of the domination of the United States economy by the financial and industrial leaders of the East, some of the most prominent of whom were later so aptly characterized by a well-known American writer as the "Robber Barons".

In August, 1896, as the result of overwork, my father was prostrated by the mid-summer heat and was obliged to take to his bed. After a brief illness, with only the skill of a village doctor available, he died of the effects of a sunstroke on August 12, 1896, in his twenty-fifth year. My mother was left a widow at twenty-two, with two small children, one of three years, the other an infant of six months.

As could be expected from my father's youth, the financial provisions that he could make for his family were not large and were only sufficient to last for a year or two. Furthermore, my mother had but little training for making a livelihood for herself and the children, because of her own youth.¹ Fortunately, however, there were loving relatives on both sides of the family who stepped in to give their assistance, chief among them were the grandparents and uncles and aunts, who gave both support and counsel. Due to this circumstance, both my brother and myself owe much to our close contact in our childhood with our grandmothers, both of whom were women of exceptionally high characters.

Conclusion

This is a family chronicle and it is only secondarily concerned with the recording of the fortunes of the individuals about whom it is written. It reaches a conclusion

¹ She passed away on August 28, 1960, at Wauseon, Ohio, in her 86th year, after a long life of devotion and self-sacrifice to her family. In her later years she spent much time with her two sons at their respective U.S. Foreign Service posts in Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland.

when it comes down to the present, in this case, as represented in the person of the present writer. Upon the death of my father, within but a few years of the beginning of the twentieth century, my uncle, William Ursinus, took his place on the family farm at Bunker Hill. He died in 1920, having been preceded in death by grandfather, Jacob, in 1916. My uncle left no issue so that the family farm where I was born was disposed of in 1918. The end of this record, therefore, coincides roughly with the end of the 1st World War, in which both my brother and myself served in the United States Navy.

If I may speak of the contribution of our family to the national development through the various generations down to the present generation, I would say that this has been almost exclusively as pioneers and farmers. The family has been identified with its development from the beginning, not only during the life of the nation, but during the colonial period as well.

Our ancestors did not distinguish themselves through their acquisition of much worldly goods or fame. Their accent was, if anything, rather on the religious and spiritual, as has been shown in their identification, both in the Old World, as well as later in the New World. In general it may be said that their bent was not toward business and commerce, but rather toward the peaceful life and the seclusion of the rural community. The quiet virtues of the home and the common duties of the simple citizen were the goal of their ambitions.

Afterword

Aside from the motives given in the Foreword for the preparation of this little chronicle to which the writer has hitherto not referred, there is another important reason in the fact that the members of our family are so widely scattered, both at home and abroad, far from the family's former long-established place of abode. The result is that the children and grandchildren have little or no knowledge at all of the

family background and the place of our family in our own country. The cause of this is not far to be looked for. It is primarily attributable to the career of the writer in the U. S. Foreign Service which, over a period of nearly forty years, took us abroad in many foreign countries during the formative period of the family and beyond. After having been a closely-knit unit for so many generations, it was suddenly cut off from its former connections and environments. While the written word can never fill the vacuum thus resulting, it will nevertheless supply an outline, briefly indicating our family background, as well as the parts played by our various forebears in the past, recalling that our first ancestor landed in the New World the year of the birth of George Washington.

Finally, I would like to end this account on a rather philosophic note, which does not have a bearing on our family alone, but on family life in general. Having seen a great deal of life over a long period of years, I am concerned at the increasing erosion of the influence of the family in modern life. And this little chronicle is in but a small way my endeavor to oppose this development, by calling attention to the individuals and families in our own past to whom we owe much. By our solidarity with them we are doing our part, even though a small one, to oppose the tendency towards the atomization of society into lonely, rootless individuals, caused by the de-personalization, which leads to the de-humanization (if I may be permitted to coin a new word or two) of life, brought about by modern technical and mechanical developments. In doing so, we are helping, even in small degree, to stem this subtle influence.

I. TABLE SHOWING DIRECT MALE LINE OF DESCENT

FREDERICK ALTAFFER 1707 — 1745 Switzerland-Penna.	<i>married</i>	MARGARET ————— 1741
FREDERICK ALTAFFER 1742 — 1818 Penna. — Virginia	<i>married</i>	(1) MAGDALENE ACKER 1766 (2) MAGDALENE JACOBS 1806
GEORGE ALTAFFER 1772 — 1847 Virginia — Ohio	<i>married</i>	CATHERINE BUSHONG 1794
JOHN ALTAFFER 1795 — 1860 Virginia — Ohio	<i>married</i>	(1) CATHERINE HAAS 1817 (2) SARAH HEISEY 1829 1803 — 1869
JACOB ALTAFFER 1824 — 1916 Virginia — Ohio	<i>married</i>	SOPHENA C. BAUMAN 1849 1828 — 1901
CHARLES EDWIN ALTAFFER 1870 — 1896 Ohio	<i>married</i>	ELISABETH M. KNISS 1892 1874 — 1960
MAURICE WILLARD ALTAFFER 1893 — Ohio —	<i>married</i>	JEANNE MARGUERITE ROCHER Born March 16, 1905 at Chinkiang, China Married July 9, 1925 at Beirut, Lebanon
LELAND CHARLES ALTAFFER 1896 — Ohio — Arkansas —	<i>married</i>	GUILHERMINA CONCEPCION 1964

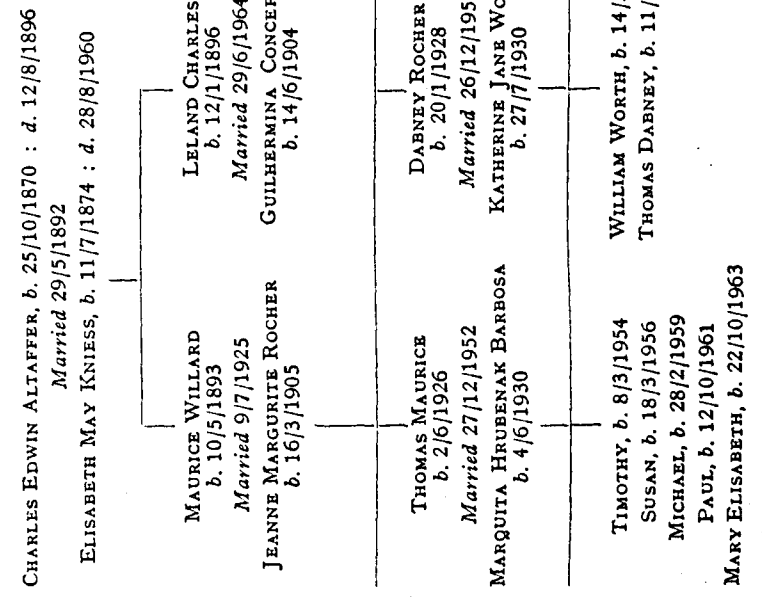
The two foregoing are sons of Charles Edwin and Elisabeth May Altaffer.

CHILDREN OF

MAURICE WILLARD AND JEANNE MARGUERITE ALTAFFER

- THOMAS MAURICE born at Toledo, Ohio, June 2, 1926
- DABNEY ROCHER born at Tucson, Arizona, January 20, 1928
- MAURICE ANTHONY born at Zurich, Switzerland, April 13, 1939
- ANNE THERESE born at Zurich, Switzerland, March 21, 1944
- JOAN-MARIA BEATA born at Zurich, Switzerland, November 3, 1945

II. DIAGRAM SHOWING PRESENT FAMILY STATUS 1968





Maurice Willard Altatter



Maurice Willard Altatter

FLORENCE HAZEL ALTAFFER was born Oct. 24, 1894 at Wichita, Kansas. The family lived in Table Rock, Neb. Hazel spent her teen years with the family in Fullerton, Neb. With 1 year of high school to go, they moved to Moorcroft, Wyo. Here Mrs. Brandt taught her some high school subjects. She rode horseback to school or took the buggy. (When her neice Eleanor went to Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, S.D., the college Pres. remembered another Altaffer - Hazel - attending the college and that her brother Jim would bring her to school in a buggy.) Hazel took a train to Rozet to teach a country school one year and another year she taught the home school at Pine Ridge.

JOHN BUTLER BIRKETT was born 2 Dec. 1882 in Dalton, Furness near Liverpool, England, one of 13 children, 12 of which lived to adulthood. His parents were Michael Birkett and Margaret Anne Butler and they were married 7 Nov. 1877. The family migrated to Toronto, Canada when he was a youngster. He made the trip twice, once when he was 10 and once when he was 21. Once he was a stow-away, but treated very kindly as a decent person. He went to Wyoming and rode the range as a cowboy over land now covered by the Key-hole Dam. Part of his family moved to Vancouver where his mother died at an advanced age of 94.

John Birkett met Hazel and married her 27 Oct. 1915. The couple homesteaded two places near Moorcroft, Wyoming. One was on the open prairie and one in the timber. They improved her homestead in the summer on the prairie and his in the winter where they took their cattle and belongings to the protected timberland. Ada Anne was born to them at the prairie cabin. They migrated to Wisconsin in 1919 before the 2nd child was born, because of lack of rain in Wyoming.

They managed a farm at Draper, Wis. for the Edward Hines Farm Land Co. and later managed Pine Tree Farm at Iron River. In the fall of 1928, they moved to their own property at Winter. The property is on two lakes and was paid for when they moved into one large cabin. Part of this land is still owned by Hazel.

The four children had a happy childhood here, swimming in summer, skiing in winter, studying in the one room school house and working on the beautiful farm. A serious stroke was suffered by John in the spring of 1933. He never completely recovered.

Hazel helped to keep a Sunday School going in the schools or in the home and each child became a Christian as a child or a teen. They moved to Wheaton, Ill. about 1847 and helped their daughter Frances Karlson provide a home atmosphere for her daughter Karen Ann, then in the early grades. Uncle Jack passed away 7 Jan 1970.

CHILDREN OF HAZEL ALTAFFER And JACK BIRKETT

Ada Anne	B. 3 June 1918
Frances	B. 20 Jan 1920
Robert John	B. 8 Dec 1924
Florence Rose	B 31 Aug 1931

ADA ANNE BIRKETT married John H. Doolittle on 23 Aug 1944.
John was born 11 Dec 1913 the son of Benjamin Doolittle and
Iva Owan. He graduated from Wheaton Ill. College in 1950 and
is a Baptist Minister. They have served Pastorates in Wyoming
and Calif.

Their children:

James Benjamin B 6 Jan 1946

Lois Ellen B 25 Jan 1947

Grace Carol B 1 Mar 1948

Grace married Duane Evertson B 21 Oct 1946

Their Children:

Kathryn Jean B. 23 May 1974

John Jeffrey B 19 June 1975

Esther Rose B 2 Nov 1954

David Timothy B 23 Oct 1955

David married Marille Prentice Dec 1976

FLORENCE ROSE BIRKETT and Harold Gene Helfer were married 14 Feb 1955 in Chicago, Ill. He was born 25 Feb 1931 the son of Edward Helfer and Rose Epstein. He is a diesel mechanic and the couple have lived in the Chicago area.

Their children:

David Mark B 12 Nov 1955

Dana Michael B 18 Mar 1960

Benjamin Jay B 12 Sept 1962

James Darren B 18 May 1974

FRANCES BIRKETT was married in July 1940 to Robert Karlson of Winter, Wis. He was killed in World War II when his daughter was a small child. Frances now lives with her mother, Hazel Birkett in Wheaton, Ill. She has been a reading specialist for many years having graduated from Wheaton College in 1950, the same year that John Doolittle did.

Her child: Karen Ann B 16 July 1943 Died 22 Oct. 1965 of Cancer.

ROBERT JOHN was born 8 Dec. 1924. He works for the Sawyer County Highway Dept. He was married 11 Aug 1944 to Rolena Boekelov. She was born 4 May 1924, the daughter of Fred Boekelov and Rika Smith. Rika was an immigrant from Holland at the age of 11. Fred was born in America. Their children are

ROBERT JOHN: B. 29 June 1945. His wife Maureen Gail
Their children: John, Andrew, Timothy, Paul, Marie, Mark.

VALERIE JUNE: B. 17 May 1948 Married to Roy Caldwell
Their children: Ben, Robert, Joel, Johnathan

SANDRA ROSE: B. 11 July 1954 Married to James Seymour
Their children: Jennifer, Sarrah, James

No

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FREDERICK MILTON ALTAFFER and ELIZA EUDORA BLAKE were married 9 June 1928 at Hayward, Wis. Eudora was born in White City, Mahaska County, Iowa on 21 July 1907. Fred was born 6 Sept. 1899 on Murray Home Place, Skidmore, Missouri. He passed away 17 Dec. 1965 at Hammond, Wis. Fred was 6'2½" tall.

This compiler, Eleanor Altaffer remembers a visit from this Uncle and Aunt and family from Wis. Uncle Fred always had a quick smile and pleasant word for everyone. Aunt Eudora was a wonderful cook. The double cousins had wonderful times playing children's games. I will always remember seeing Fred and Jim sitting side by side on the front step "swapping yarns".

Children of Fred and Eudora Altaffer

~~Alan Maurice~~ Born 30 Jan 1929 in Winter, Wis.

Married Joyce Borgen Born 15 July 1931

Children:

Gail Married Raymond Phelps
children Raymond and Tracy

~~Debra~~ Married James Pogue

children: Jamie

Brian B. 31 Oct. 1953 Died 28 Sept. 1972

Michael B. 14 Mar. 1958

~~Doris Elaine~~ Born 16 May 1932 in Winter, Wis.

Married Cashmere Gardas B. 14 Sept. 1921 New Brighton, Minn.

Children:

Lori Michell B. 6 Sept 1954 in Red Wing, Minn.

Pamela Ann B. 24 Sept. 1963 " " "

Matthew Alan B. 2 Mar. 1967 " " "

~~June Eudora~~ Born 30 May 1937 in Winter, Wis.

~~Frederick Bruce~~ Born 3 July 1944 at Red Wing, Minn.

Fred and Eudora had a summer resort at Winter, Wis. He acted as a guide for out of state fishe rmen and trapped fur bearing animals. They then moved to Bay City, Wis. on Lake Pepin and had a boat livery. He worked on a commercial fishing outfit. Eudora taught school one year.

JAMES HARRY ALTAFER was born in Colo. Mar. 8, 1901. In 1910, his father - Jacob - left Nebr. headed on a train for Mont. to file on a homestead in the Galatin Basin. He became quite ill. No one is sure how he happened to settle in Moorcroft, Wyo. But, he liked the area and heard of land for homesteading, so filed in Moorcroft instead, on 306 acres - then later on an additional 200 acres - 15 miles NE of Moorcroft on what is known as Pine Ridge. (In 1958, her parents came to Mont. to visit Eleanor and her family and drove thru the Galatin Basin area. Jim decided because of the timber there, he liked Wyoming best.)

Jim attended school at the Griffith School. He tells of going 4 or 5 miles on horse back. He always regreted not having more education and stressed the importance of education to his children. Winter evenings were spent playing games such as Parchesi or Rummy with the children learning the "times tables" or addition or subtraction using the cards or dice.

Music was also of importance to the family. Larena played the piano, Jim played the mouth harp, fiddle and guitar. All the children sang and the three youngest boys had an instrument around all of the time.

Jim's oldest sister Emma tells of their parents going to Winter, Wisc. in 1921. Granddad Jake was an ardent fisherman and hunter. She felt the many lakes in Wisc. were a lure for him. She said that Jim told her after his parents left Wyo. he couldn't bear to leave the horses he had grown up with. Everything was mortgaged. Dry land farming and ranching in Wyo. was and is hard work and luck. At the sale a representative of the bank said they would back him. Jim offered \$1000.00 for the \$1500.00 mortgage the bank of Sundance had on the land. The bank accepted. It has backed the Altaffer homestead ever since.

Jim's sister continued in her story of how hard Jim worked. His father had started throwing up small earth dams for stock and Jim continued doing this. We went to Mont. to help with the harvest when there was no work in Wyo. in the fall of 1929. He enjoyed working with the Indians of the Hardin, Crow Agency and Lama Deer area. They called this white man "brother". He also hauled wheat for Tom Campbell.

Jim had a four horse freight line from Moorcroft to Sundance, had 2 wagons tied together. The train came to Moorcroft, but no rail lines went to Sundance. (It is still without rail service.) He could make Moorcroft to the ranch in one day. The second day he got to the Sunny Divide Country; and on to Sundance the third day. Other freightors and travelers used the homestead house for an overnight stay. If he was gone, they always left the wood box full of dry wood; a low of the range as winters can be rough in Wyo. He ran a small sawmill on the place and trapped animals all winter and traded furs for groceries.

His parent's log house burnt in 1917. They lost everything but a small rifle. The family lived in a 20x24 log school house for awhile, until another log home was built. That was replaced in

1947 and 48 with a large 5 bedroom frame home. Water was always a problem, with the family hauling it in cans for many years. A well was drilled around 1932 that produced good drinking water. In 1962 a deeper well (640 ft.) was drilled that produced enough water to finally get water in the house.

Jim went to Wisc. in the winter of 1930 to see his brother and wife (Fred and Eudora) and to see his father who had a serious operation. While there, he met his brother's sister-in-law Larena. Six weeks later they were married and on their way to Wyo.

Our mother was always a hard working woman; a good friend and neighbor. She had a green thumb and homes for many miles around shared in her "starts" off house plants. Her daughter and granddaughter (Eleanor and Dorothy) have inherited her green thumb. She liked the outside work in the yard and garden better than the inside work. For one reason, as a child she helped her father outside with one sister while the other two sisters helped in the home. Most years some of her garden produce won blue ribbons at the Farm Bureau booth in the county fair.

A favorite saying of hers was; "Have a place for everything and everything in its place"..and it was always in its place unless ofcourse, some of the children got into it and didn't put it back. While we were "depression" children, having been born in the early 30's, we never felt the pinch as some city families did. Mother sewed a lot, raised vegetables and animals for food and the furs traded at "Mespels" store at Carlile for staples that kept us going.

TABLE SHOWING DIRECT MALE LINE OF DESCENT OF WYO. & WIS. ALTAFFER'S

FREDERICK ALTAFFER	1701-1745	
FREDERICK ALTAFFER	1742-1818	
GEORGE ALTAFFER	1772-1847	
WILLIAM ALTAFFER	1808-1883	
JACOB E. ALTAFFER	1863-1938	
FREDERICK MILTON	1899-1965	JAMES HARRY 1901-1964

LARENA ELLA BLAKE was born 18 Feb. 1910 in Bussey, Iowa, the daughter of William Frances Blake and Bertha Long. The family lived close to Bussey til 1914 when they moved to Ada, Minn. From there, they moved to Hayward, Wisc. in 1916.

She went to school in a country school by Ada, Minn. when she was 5 years old. The family then moved to about four miles from Seeley, Wisc. where she went to the Sabin School, finishing the gradeschool there. Graduated from the 7th grade into high school. Went to high school and one year normal training in Hayward High School, graduating in 1927 just past 17 years of age.

After finishing Normal training in 1928 she taught one year in a country school about 6 or 8 miles out of Hayward.

Jim and Larena were married by Jim's father a justice of the peace. Clyde Smith a friend came to Wyo. with them. They came from Wisc. to Wyo. in a Model T. It took 50 hrs. to come about 850 miles. They had car trouble once; lost a wheel once and got to the ranch about noon the 14th. They drove 12 hours the 12th; from 9:00 the 13th, all night and till noon the 14th.

Jim was tall, over 6 ft. and slender. He was always ready to help a neighbor. Some of his favorite sayings were: "The wheel of life makes a complete turn"; "Return a favor with a favor"; "You don't have to preach your religion if you practice it"; "A man is as good as his word." Jim was a good man and his word was good.

The little church at Pine Ridge was always a central point in our lives. The men of the community furnished the material and labor to build the church. A brief history of the church once written reads - "This little country church known as Pine Ridge Community Church is located in the Black Hills of Wyoming, sixteen miles northeast of Moorcroft on highway 14. The people of the community began its construction in 1933, using native materials. All the church furniture, including pulpit and clergy seat were fashioned by neighborhood men. This is truly a community church, where all meet for worship or recreation and carry its memory in their hearts wherever they go."

We had a missionary minister for many years. They served several churches and would come to ours on the circuit once or twice a month. Often on these Sundays, a pot luck dinner was held. Dad seldom worked on a Sunday, he said if you work on Sunday you lose a day in the week. The Lord meant for man to rest one day.

Larena always raised a big garden. The children always took a turn at the hoe every day. Larena and Eleanor put up hundreds of jars each year and stored them in the root cellar, until a vegetable room was built in the basement of the new house. Since there was no electricity until around 1950, all the meat had to be canned except the side pork and hams which were cured.

Sheep were raised off and on at the ranch as well as cattle. Sometimes the coyotes got so thick the sheep were sold until the

coyote population was thinned. Hogs were also raised and sold. One crop of animals were raised only once tho. Someone talked dad into raising turkeys. Oh, how he hated those dumb creatures! We always had chickens, some geese and ducks, but no more turkeys, on a large scale.

Dad always loved animals. The only time I ever saw him really angry at a neighbor was when he was abusing a saddle horse. He couldn't stand by and see that without speaking out. He had two teams of hourse to do the farm work until tractors were available. About 1935, he purchased the first tractor in the Pine Ridge, Carlile area. Also owned the first (Ford) truck in the territory, also about 1935. He also had the only sawmill for many years, cutting his own or other's timber on shares.

One family in the community had a large family of children and an older boy stayed with us and helped in the sawmill for room and board and the wage of .25¢ a day--a large wage in those days.

The sawmill provided lumber to sell and slabs were cut up for firewood; these were delivered for \$5.00 a load. Dad furnished wood to the county schools till they were closed for busing the children to Moorcroft. One could come to the mill and get a load of wood for \$1.50. This mill kept the family finances going and enabled the folks to add to the homestead acreage (including the Fieght; Tex Olds; and Coltharp homesteads).

After Jim's death, Larena lived on the ranch 10 years, then sold the homestead to Loren and Carol and there was aprox. 2400 acres. Bill owns about 300 acres they bought from John Thompson.

The Lord called dad home on 16 January 1964.

Following the sale of the home ranch; Larena moved to Miles City, Mt. in Apr. 1975. Then, in Sept of 76 she moved to Moorcroft and bought a home there. For many years, hunters from Wisc. and Minn. came to Wyoming to hunt deer. They would stay at the ranch, take their meals with the family and hunt white tail and mule deer. Seldom did they return empty handed.

Jim and Larena's Children--

Loren James	b 18 June 1932	at Moorcroft, Crook County, Wyo.
Eleanor Francis	b 30 March 1934	" " " "
Richard Elmer	b 6 Sept. 1936	" " " "
William Edward	b 29 July 1942	Gillette Wyo., Campbell Co.
Arnold Ray	b 10 Aug 1946	" " " "

LOREN JAMES ALTAFER was born at Moorcroft 18 June 1932. He grew up as his Dad's "right hand" and loved the land as his Dad did. He graduated from Moorcroft High School in 1952. He was drafted into the Army and served from 1953 to 1955, part of it with the occupation forces in Korea. He then ran a filling station grocery store and motel at Moorcroft for a couple of years; then returned to ranch to help his dad.

On 25 Mar 1962 he was married in the Pine Ridge Church to Viola Carol Schletchardt. Carol was born 18 July 1943 the daughter of Carl Schletchardt and Edna Mae McClelland. Her father was born 20 Sept 1897 and died 3 Nov 1950. Her mother was born 9 Aug 1917 and died about 1968. After the death of Mr. Schletchardt she married George Steele. He preceeded her in death. Carol has a brother Carl Edward Schletchardt born 10 Jan 1942 and a step brother George "Champ" Steele.

Carol worked in the bank of Sundance after graduation from the Sundance High School. Carol has worked side by side with Loren on the ranch. She drove tractor or rode horse during round-up or what ever needed done and still had time to sew for her family and herself and raise a garden and can it. She has been truly a "helpmate" and partner to her rancher-farmer husband.

They bought the "Sission" place and ranched it till Jim's failing health, then worked it and the home place. This proved a large task so they bought the home place from Larena and moved there in April of 1975; selling the Sission place. Loren has the love of hunting his Grandfather and Uncle Fred had. He and Carol and usually other couples (friends) go every year to "Jackson Hole" elk hunting. This is their annual vacation. They also had out of state hunters come in and hunt, seldom returning home empty handed as there were many deer in the area. Loren has a hobby in photography and over the years has taken thousands of pictures which are shared many times to the pleasure of family and friends.

Children of Loren and Carol

Fredrick Jacob B. 1 Aug 1964

Wayne Curtis B. 9 June 1966

ELEANOR FRANCES ALTAFFER and MERTON ALLEN FRANKLIN were married 5 Apr 1952 in Rapid City, S. D. Eleanor was born 30 Mar 1934. She attended grade school at several locations in the Pine Ridge area. All 8 grades were in the same class room. When she, her brothers Loren and Dick went to high school in Moorcroft, they stayed in town with another family or drove back and forth the 15 miles one way each day. (Buses were later furnished by the district and grade and high school students were taken into town.) Eleanor graduated in 1951 as class Valedictorian at the age of 17. She attended Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, S. D. for the 2 summer quarters and received an Emergency Teachers Certificate. This qualified her to teach in a rural school for 1 year. She had 5 students for the 1951-52 school year. Her brother Dick drove her to the school every morning on his way to high school till the bad weather of winter and she boarded with one of her student's parents walking 1½ miles to the school every morning carrying drinking water for the students. The building was heated with wood and coal, which her father hauled under contract with the district, so, she had to be there an hour early to have the buildings warm.

Merton was born in Great Falls, Mont. on 17 Mar 1928, the son of Earl Franklin and Viola May Denniston. His parents moved to the 260 acre ranch in the New Haven, Wyo. area owned by Viola's mother when he was a small child. He attended grade school in that rural area and lived and worked on cattle ranches in the Gillette, Moorcroft and Carlile areas till 1952.

The spring of 1952 when school was out, Merton and his bride moved to Lodge Grass, Mont. and worked on a ranch for 4 years. Three babies were born while living on the Bill Miller Ranch. A growing family and low ranch wages made it necessary for them to seek other work.

Eleanor's cousin Ailene Coltharp Wilttrout, husband Dan and family were moving to the Kalispell, Mont. area and talked them into going along. They arrived in April and Merton went to work right away in a sawmill owned by Rex Brown in Coram, Mt. He worked there till the fall of 1964. The family moved to Thompson Falls, Mt. and lived there till the spring of 1967. Merton went to work for Stoltz Land and Lumber Co. in Columbia Falls, Mt. The family bought a trailer house in Martin City, Mt. in 1967 and in 1975 bought a home in Coram, Mt. Merton retired in March 1991. Eleanor has worked 5 months over the summer as head housekeeper in a local motel, since 1985. The couple have always been active in Community affairs; scouts, PTA, etc. The little brown church in Coram has always held a special place in their hearts. Merton would haul in the winter wood every fall until a gas furnace was installed. Eleanor served as Sunday School Supt. and teacher in the Sunday School and Bible School for many years. She also served in every office in the Church Women's Club and has been on the Church Board as an Elder and Deaconess - one year as chairman of the board.

CHILDREN OF MERTON FRANKLIN and ELEANOR ALTAFFER

Charles Edgar	B 20 Oct 1952	married Nancy Berck - one son one daug
Linda May	B 15 Dec 1953	lived 6 hours
Dorothy Ann	B 3 June 1955	married Bob Schilling -one son 1 daug
Allen Leroy	B 29 Sept 1967	lived 1 hour.

RICHARD ELMER ALTAFFER was born 6 Sept 1935

He graduated from High School in 1953. He worked 2 years for Ike's and went into the Air Force in June 1955. He has served in Greenland, Guam and the Azores Islands as well as all over southern USA. He has received commendations for his work and service in the Military over the last 20 plus years.

He was married in 1957 on the Azore Islands to Connie

They have one son William Henry B. 10 Mar. 1958

WILLIAM EDWARD ALTAFFER was born 29 July 1941 in Gillette, Wyo. He attended grade school on Pine Ridge and high school in Moorcroft, Wyo. He graduated from high school there in 1959.

He worked several years in the oil fields in central Wyo. Served several months in the U.S. Army in 1963-64, receiving a hardship discharge after the death of his father James Harry Altaffer.

He inherited some musical talent from his parents and played the drums for a period of time anytime he could get with some "Country Western" players.

He attended Billings Business College in Billings, Mt. for 12 mo. in 1969 & 1970 where he met Norma Jean Friberg, later to become his wife. As a direct result of their meeting and dating, Bill became a New Testament Christian, being Baptized into Christ, April 28, 1969 and the 10th and Alderson Church of Christ, Billings, Mt. Perry Zumwalt, minister of the gospel.

Bill worked for a short period of time after leaving Billings Business College and then seeing the need for more gospel preachers he enrolled as a student at the Sunset School of Preaching, Lubbock, Tex. Feb. 1971. He left there in April of 1971 and he and Norma Jean Friberg were married May 22, 1971, in Boone County, Albion, Neb. by Norma's brother Ronold Friberg.

After Bill and Norma were married, they made their home in York, Neb. till Feb. 1972, when they moved back to Lubbock, Tex. to take more classes at Sunset School of Preaching. They left Lubbock in July 1972 and Bill began preaching fulltime for the Church of Christ at Miles City, Mt. In Aug. 1976, they returned to Sunset School for some additional studies. They went to a church in Osceola, Iowa spring of 1977

His wife Norma Jean Friberg was born 12 Nov. 1945 in Fairview, Mt. the daughter of Clifford Roland Friberg - born 14 Feb. 1908; and Rella Leah Followwill - born 21 Dec. 1915, died Dec. 1977. She has 2 brothers Ronold Leroy and Gordon Eugene. She attended grade and high school in Fairview, Mt. graduating in 1964. She attended York Christian College in York, Neb. for 1 1/2 years. She attended Billings Business College one year (1969-70) Norma is a deep sincere person of strong faith and is a great help to her pastor husband. They both have an interest in antique furniture and have many pieces in their home.

Children of William and Norma:

Lily Jean	born	18 Nov.	1977
Sarah	born	3 Aug	1979
Seth	born	23 June	1981
Nora	born	5 Nov	1983

ARNOLD RAY ALTAFFER was born 10 Aug. 1946 in Gillette, Wyoming. He attended grade schools in Pine Ridge schools and went to High School in Moorcroft, graduating in 1964. He worked in the oil patch from July of 1965 to July 1967 when he was drafted into the Army, 26 July 1967. The year of 1968 was spent with "A" Company 2nd of the 16th 1st Infantry Division in Viet Nam. He was discharged July 25, 1969.

Arnold then went to the University of Wyoming at Laramie from the fall of 1969 to Sept. of 1973. In 1976 he became Loan Officer and Rural Home Specialist for Federal Land Bank Assn. of Wyo. in Casper Wyoming.

On Dec. 16, 1974, Arnold and Penny Leora Tschetter (Penelope) were married in the Trinity Church in Laramie. She is the daughter of Albert Tschetter - born 28 Feb. 1921 - and Elsie Pearl Ames - born 26 July 1926. She has 4 brothers - Dan; Paul; Donovan and Randall and 2 sisters - Sheila and Aleta.

Penny went to school in Upton Wyoming, graduating in 1967. She attended school in Upton and was at home on Kara Creek during the summer months. She and Arnold met at a country dance. Penny then attended college at Laramie from the fall of 1967 to the spring of 1973 and took Med. Tech Training in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She is a Medical Technologist (ASCP) "American Society of Clinical Pathologist".

Arnold inherited his music talent from his parents. He plays the guitar and sings. For a number of years he and some friends had a "western band" playing week ends for "living" money while in college.

Penny is a very conscientious, hard working gal and a credit to her profession. His family (and he added "so does Arnold") feel he is a lucky guy to have her.

The following is a direct quote from Arnold:

"I guess the fondest-or at least best remembered moments of my childhood were those times spent hunting with the best four dogs on earth - Bum, Tip, Duke and Buck. These times were usually shared by some other member of the family, many times at night and were never dull."

"Dad is probably best remembered by me for his approach to affection and discipline. His affection was never pretentious but always apparent and genuine and missed by those who loved him."

"Since he commanded the respect of those around him (including children; esp his own) discipline was never a problem. Usually a few well chosen words were all that it took to create a good understanding. His life was enriched immeasurably by the woman we all love. He called her "Hun" - we call her "Mom". "

Arnold and Penny's children:

~~James~~ Natasha Elaine b 30 Oct. 1977

~~James~~

At this time, I would like to add a final page to this my addition to the ALTAPPER book. First off, I want to thank Merle and LouAnne Altaffer for sending a copy of the book compiled by Maurice Willard Altaffer (pages 1--26) As you have read, he spent many years gathering this information. Many other people have been a great help to me in gathering this information down to the Wyoming ALTAPPER'S. Most of these, I have mentioned on the pages of the information they supplied. Others include the researchers I hired to check records; people who worked in the Ohio Historical Society office who answered my letters and added suggestions for further searching; a friend and fellow genealogy "bug" Margaret Watts who helped, encouraged and advised me to keep digging when I would hit a "blind wall" and think there was no further I could go. I have written about 100 letters to distant relatives all over the country (most of whom answered and answered and answered till I was satisfied). My thanks to each of you who took time to help me out. I have always been interested in the History of the ALTAPPERS and it was only 3 years ago that I undertook to find our "ROOTS". Last but not least, I wish to thank Iola Breneman for the many hours of typing she did for me. Her neat and accurate work has made this a book we can all be proud of.

As I read again the Forward (pg. 1) that Maurice Altaffer wrote to his book, I think how much of our family heritage would have been lost without his years of careful and patient work. I would hope this will be a book that the members of our line will read and preserve and cherish for future generations. I would add to Maurice's conclusion that the Altaffer family continued to be pioneers and farmers. The ones I have known and met have been active, kind and caring family member, friend and neighbors. That in itself is a fortune to leave your family. As he said in the last paragraph of his Conclusion (page 24) our ancestors did not always distinguish themselves through acquisition of worldly goods, but the quiet virtues of the home and the common duties of the simple citizen, continue to be the goal of their ambitions. It is my hope that each of you will continue to keep up your family lines and preserve it for the future generations. I feel we owe this to our children. Continuing this further study to date of the ALTAPPERS has given me a sense of personal pride and satisfaction to be able to do this for each of you.

(Mrs. Merton) Eleanor Altaffer Franklin
Coram, Montana
June 1978