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JHFA, Inc.

Post Office Box 154

Goshen, IN 46527-0154

Thanks!

In August 1987 several Hochstetler descendants in northern Indiana met to consider how to observe the 250th anniversary of the 1738 immigration of our common ancestor, Jacob Hochstetler. A newsletter was initiated to provide a means of communication with our widespread clan and to disseminate information about the Hochstetler family,

One of the mandates of the Jacob Hochstetler Family Association is to sponsor a **"GATHERING"** every five years so we can share our common heritage. Attendees constitute a unique mixture of those descendants who have not wavered from their Amish and Mennonite roots with those who have adopted other ways and blended with today's modern society. It is always a moving and educational event so make plans to attend our 7th

Gathering in 2018 in Holmes County, Ohio!

Dues for membership in the JHFA are \$10.00 per calendar year and include a subscription to the quarterly newsletter. Dues, orders for back issues of

the newsletter (all of which are currently available), and orders for other JHFA genealogical materials should be sent to **JHFA, Inc., P.O. Box 154, Goshen, IN 46527-0154**. Articles and submissions for the Newsletter, information about family activities, research, or any inquiries should be sent to **H/H/H Family Newsletter, 618 South Vine Street, Orville, OH 44667**, or e-mailed to editor@jacobhochstetler.com.

<http://www.hochstetler.net>

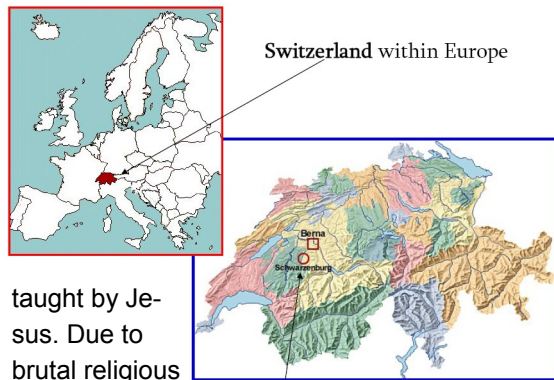


This amazing pioneer traveled between two continents by wind and animal power in order to be able to freely worship in the way he chose. He did not raise arms against his fellow man even though he had opportunity and suffered as a result. And even though he was held captive by those considered to be heathens, he stayed strong in his faith and continued to search for his sons.

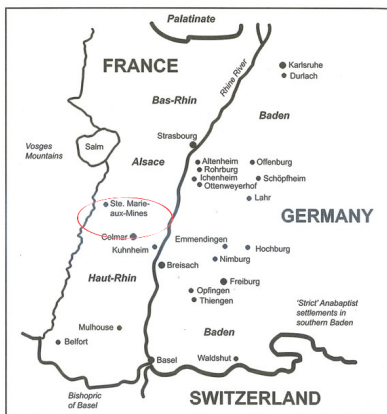
Today, his descendants number in the hundreds of thousands and we carry on the humble legacy that this unique man left in his heirs' hands . . . our hands.



The Hochstetler (with many variant spellings) family originated, perhaps in the 1300's or 1400's, in the Schwarzenburg, Switzerland area about 30 kilometers southwest of the capital of Bern. Some of them became a part of the Anabaptist reform movement in the 1600s. These Anabaptists, or Swiss Brethren, tried to follow the Bible and restore the biblical church, which they understood to be a believers' church made up of members who were baptized as adults upon their confession of faith in Jesus and who lived out the ethic of love and nonviolence



taught by Jesus. Due to brutal religious persecution by the state churches, both Catholic and Reformed, our ancestors along with many others left Switzerland. The man we believe to have been the father of the immigrant Jacob left his native Schwarzenburg area in the late 1600s and settled near Ste. Marie-aux-Mines in Alsace (now in France), where Jacob was likely born in 1712.



Ste. Marie-aux-Mines

To escape the intolerant rulers of the time, many Anabaptists (who viewed baptism as valid only when a conscious declaration of faith was made, therefore rejected infant baptism, and who believed in the separation of church from state and in simplicity of life) took the long, arduous and treacherous journey from their homeland to a new land called America, a land that offered religious freedom to anyone who lived there.

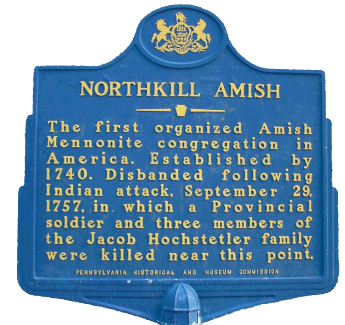
One such emigrant, Jacob Hochstetler, age 26, arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 9, 1738, with his wife and two small children on the ship *Charming Nancy*. They spoke the language of the land they left, a language which was an early form of "Pennsylvania Dutch." The young family settled in the Northkill area of what is now Berks County, Pennsylvania, with others of their faith, called Amish, in the New World. There, near Shartlesville, additional children were born. The economy of the Amish community was based on farming, and they tried to live peacefully with all people.

During the French and Indian War, Indians began making assaults on the colonial settlers who had taken over their lands. On the night of Sept. 19 - 20, 1757, a small group of Delaware Indians surrounded the Jacob Hochstetler home. The young teenage sons, Joseph and Christian, reached for their hunting rifles in an attempt to kill or scare off the attackers, but their father, true to his Christian pacifism, did not allow them to shoot at the attackers even at the risk of their own deaths. The Indians set fire to the house and the immigrant mother, an unnamed daughter, and a teenage son Jacob were all killed. This incident has been called, by some, the "**Hochstetler Massacre.**" Jacob and his sons Joseph and Christian were taken captive and separated, but all of them were released after the treaty which ended the French and Indian Wars, and they returned to Berks County. The European-born children, Barbara

and John were already married in 1757 and were living on farms nearby, thus escaping the Hochstetler Massacre unharmed.



Today, tourists and family pilgrims might have difficulty seeing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker in an overgrown area across Old Route 22 (one mile west of Shartlesville, PA), but the memory of the massacre and its impact on our family lines is still recognized as one of the many significant milestones on our journey.



John Hochstetler, son of Jacob Hochstetler, wrote in his last will and testament about a "Little House" that he bequeathed to his second wife, Ann, so that she could "live well and in peace" for the remainder of her days. This historic house, built around 1800, was destroyed by a tornado in June of 1998. The scattered remains of "John's Little House" were collected and used, by George Hostetler and others, in the rebuilding of a replica of this house that is now located in Spruce Forest Artisan Village in Grantsville, MD, where it is surrounded by other buildings of historical significance. Inside the house are artifacts, articles and photos that are meaningful memorabilia of the Hochstetler legacy of peace

