

Not just any Christian might stand as sponsor in the baptism of children, and not even just a neighbor; but in all cases if possible, a kinsman was responsible for the promises made for the child at baptism.

John Egedius Hoffman, who was twice sponsor for children of John Dieterich Kober, came on the same vessel to America in company with Dieterich Kober, and it is my conclusion that this John Egedius Hoffman was the brother of John Dieterich Kober's wife, so that the unmentioned mother of John Dieterich Cover's children bore the full baptismal name, Anna Catharina Hoffman. This is simply a matter of inference, which I hope may yet be cleared up.

During his lifetime John Dieterich Kober had a son, and a grandson, named Dietrich, and in distinction the grandfather used his baptismal praenomen John, and the name John appears on the reinterred tombstone.

But why should this transfer of ashes be made, so late after the original burial? Likely grandfather John spent his last days with his son George, and both he and his son George were owners and proprietors of their farm, but at their death the farm was likely sold to new proprietors who objected to graves of strangers to them being in their garden plot, or nearby field, and asked for their removal.

And when "Barbace", the Keller-Coover burial place was founded, and perhaps founded for this purpose of meeting this contingency, the dust was placed in this memorial spot for Kellers and Coovers in perpetuity.

You will notice the irregularity of spelling of Kober-Koeber-Cover-Coover names, all of which occur in the original records and tombstones. However, by the time of the reinterment of John Coover, which was 126 years after his arrival in this country, the spelling Coover became most prevalent.

My object in sending you this long explanation, or perhaps surmise regarding this cemetery matter, is to learn if you, a descendant of John Coover and Salome Keller, his wife, have any traditional information regarding this to me very interesting matter. I neglected to say that those baptismal gatherings above mentioned were somewhere in the vicinity of Lebanon, Pa., and perhaps the transfer of dust was from a farm in that vicinity to the final resting place in Barbace. My material for a genealogy of our family line now amounts to records sufficient to form a volume of over 300 pages, containing about 1800 names of individuals, Kobers-Covers-Coovers and cognate families; and since the contents of the book must be a limited genealogy, I have now decided to look around for a publisher.

Very fraternally your kinsman,

Gettysburg, Pa.,
August 11, 1941.

M. Coover