

Recd 8/19/91

Mr. Walter Lee Kauffman,
Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Friend & Kinsman:-

Eighty-five years ago this day, August 11, 1856, the dust of four bodies was reinterred in one grave in "Barbace" cemetery, near Mechanicsburg, Pa.

It was evidently John Coover who married Salome Keller, who six years before his own decease transferred this dust above mentioned and reinterred it. Whose dust was it? whence was it brought, and why such a transfer at so late a date? The first two persons whose names are engraved on the tombstone are easily identified. They were John Coover's parents: George Coover, 1st, son of (John) Dieterich (Koeber) Coover, palatine immigrant of 1730, and Elizabeth Mohler Coover, George Coover's wife.

The former died in 1820, and was reinterred after the lapse of 36 years, and his wife died in 1823, and was reinterred after the lapse of 33 years. The last two persons have been a puzzle to me until recently, when historic genealogy matters came to my notice: Catharine Coover, who died in 1782, and John Coover, who died in 1791; Catharine Coover was reinterred 74 years after her death, and John Coover reinterred 65 years after his death, how much likely dust would remain to be reinterred? and why should such a transfer be made?

After several years of investigation and research I have reached the conclusion, definitely to my mind, that these two last engraved names on the fourfold tombstone, are the names of our forebears, the Palatine immigrant, John Dietrich (Koeber) Coover, and his wife Catharine, whose full baptismal name according to custom was (Anna) Catharina (Hoffman ?) These two individuals were the grandparents of John Coover, who made the transfer and reinterment.

This grandson of John Dietrich, namely, John Coover, bore his grandfather's name.

In the Baptismal and Marriage Record of the Rev. Caspar Stoeber, immigrant Lutheran pastor in this colonial era, we find the record of five baptisms of infant children from the years 1734 to 1748, children of (John) Dietrich Kober (Cover), the father's full baptismal name being given, while the mother's name is not mentioned, in the record. Two sponsors are the same in two instances, John Egedius Hoffman and his wife; besides one son was named John Egedius Kober after the sponsor. this name Egedius was afterwards anglicised to Gideon, brother of (John) George Coover, 1st.