

**The Ancestry of Ellen Schell Garber**  
**By**  
**Hon. William P. Schell**

**INTRODUCTORY**

Ellen Schell was born April 23d, 1817, at Schellsburg, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Peter Schell and Ellinor Statler. She was educated in Schellsburg, Bedford, and the Edgeworth school at Braddock's Field. On arriving at years of maturity she became a member of the Episcopal Church. She was married December 20th, 1837, at the residence of her parents in Schellsburg, to the late Colonel Michael C. Garber, then of Hollidaysburg, Penn. Their children are:

Frances Alberta Garber (adopted niece).

Ellen Margaret (died aged three).

Albert Asher (died aged five).

Sarah Harman (Mrs. J. J. Siddall).

Marie Katherine Garber.

Michael Christian Garber.

William Schell Garber.

Elizabeth Menzies Garber.

At this time (February, 1898,); our mother is residing at her home in Madison, Ind., eighty years of age and in good health for one of her years. She has always been of a bright and cheerful disposition, fond of her friends, devoted to her family and relatives, and much given to reading, correspondence, visiting and the duties and pleasures of social life.

The virtues of the sturdy religious stock, from which she is descended, have been portrayed in her life and character. To right principle has been most happily joined a faculty for enjoying the innocent diversions of life, an irrepressible optimism and gayety of disposition, which has been most delightful to her family and charming to her friends.

**M. C. G.**

## **THE PALATINATES AND THE HUGUENOTS.**

In the year 1670, Louis XIV of France, seized Lorraine and Alsace and annexed them to France. In 1685, he revoked the edict of Nantes, and then ensued a bloody persecution, which caused upwards of half a million of the best and most industrious inhabitants of France to leave the country, carrying their trades and industry with them. Many of these Huguenots fled to the Palatinate.

In 1688, Louis invaded the Palatinate, and in 1689 he over ran the Lower Palatinate and laid it waste by fire and sword. Over 100,000 of the inhabitants, with many of the French refugees, were driven down the banks of the river Rhine to Rotterdam and Amsterdam, in Holland. The government and the people of Holland kept them from starvation until Queen Anne, of England, transported many of them to England, and from thence distributed them among the American colonies. A large portion of them settled in Philadelphia County, Penn., between the years 1707 and 1717. In after years, when Bavaria, and other contiguous States, began aggressions on the Palatinate, many of the people left the country voluntarily and they also settled in Philadelphia County, near their countrymen.

The Schells, the Hillegasses, the Statlers, the Walters, and the Garbers, all came from the Palatinate, between 1727 and 1742.

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### **THE SCHELL FAMILY - MICHAEL SCHELL, SR.**

Michael Schell, Sr., (I) the father of John Schell (I) and grandfather of John Schell (II) emigrated from the Palatinate, by way of Rotterdam; arrived at Philadelphia in 1732. Soon thereafter he settled near Goshenhoppen in Philadelphia county, (erected in 1682), where so many of his fellow countrymen had already settled. Here he purchased a tract of 100 acres of land in Hanover Township, the same year. (It appears in "Rupp's Emigrants" and the Pennsylvania Archives, 2d series, Vol. 17, p, 164, that Michael Schell, Sr., and his son Michael, Jr., came to America in the ship "Nancy" and qualified the 20th of Sept., 1738.)

It is probable that Michael Schell came to America in 1738, but there is no doubt that he came here on his first trip, at a much earlier date, as is shown by the records in Philadelphia county, of his purchase of the above mentioned

land in 1732. It is also probable that his eldest son, Jacob Schell, came over with him on the first trip in 1732, and that on his second trip in 1738, he brought the other members of his family, among them Michael, Jr., and his young son John (I) who, as he was born on the 22d of January, 1729, was only three years old.

Michael Schell (I) was born in the Palatinate in 1675, and died in 1770, at Goshenhoppen. He was married to Veronica --- (Other name, date of birth, marriage and death unknown.) He executed a gift, confirmed by will, for the homestead to his youngest son John (I), in consideration that he (John) provide for and maintain him during his life. His second wife Magdalena, (whom he married in old age and had no children by) likewise to be maintained during testator's life with him in the homestead, but after his death she was to leave, having been otherwise provided for.

He had considerable property, which he devised to his children, (will dated 27th May, 1768; probated Feb. 19th, 1770; record book C, p. 465), as follows, to-wit:

1. Jacob Schell, of Virginia.
2. Michael Schell, Jr., (II) of Berks County, Penn.
3. Mary, married to Henry Sell, of Northampton county. (She was also given the old family Bible.)
4. John Schell (I).

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**JOHN SCHELL (I)**

John Schell (I) was born, probably in the Palatinate, on the 22d of Jan., 1729. He was married to Veronica Maurer, a daughter of Jacob and Sophia Maurer, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 1753. He died in Goshenhoppen in 17\_\_\_, in testate. John Schell (II) and Jacob Leidy, husband of his, daughter Veronica, were administrators of the estate. Peter Hillegass was on the bond.

An inventory filed in May, 1782, shows the personal estate to be £1404.19.1.

A petition was filed in the Orphan's Court of Philadelphia County in 1782, (docket No. 12, p. 146) for the distribution of the estate of John Schell (I) (of 230 and 55 acres of land) to the widow, Veronica. (1) John Schell (II); (2)

Jacob; (8) Abraham, Jr.; (4) Maria; (5) Veronica; (6) Catherine; all of age, and (7) Susannah, a minor. Value of land £1261.16.0, out of what the widow was entitled to have drawn.

John Schell (II) married Elizabeth Hillegass.

Maria married (20th Feb., 1776) John Mack.

Veronica married Jacob Leidy.

Catharine married Michael Hoffman.

Susannah married (15th of April, 1788) Peter Hollobush.

The Orphan's Court docket (No. 13, p. 121) contains this entry: "Jacob Schell, late a musician of Col. Proctor's regiment of artillery, aged about 24 years, - that he was discharged from his said regiment on the 1st of March, 1781, on account of a wound received in the service of the United States."

John Schell (I) was a trustee in a deed for a burial lot for the new Goshenhoppen congregation for 50 acres of land in 1749.

There is a deed on record, which recites the conveyance by Michael Schell (I) to his son John Schell (II) of a part of the original land of 147 acres, which he purchased in 1732.

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**JOHN SCHELL (II)**

John Schell (II) was the son of John Schell (I), and his wife Veronica Maurer. He was born in Philadelphia County on the 30th of November, 1754, within one mile of the residence of his wife, Elizabeth Hillegass, who was born 17th of Oct., 1763. She was a daughter of George Peter Hillegass, and a granddaughter of John Frederick Hillegass.

In the year 1798 or 1799, John Schell (II) removed from Montgomery County (which was erected in 1784) to the banks of Shawanese Cabin Creek, in Bedford County, Penn. He purchased some 1,500 acres of land, at a cost of about ten thousand pounds. In 1807 he gave the Lutheran and Calvinist congregations some six acres of ground for church and school purposes. In 1808 he laid out the village of Schellsburg. In 1814 he gave two lots in the town for church and school purposes. He also gave the citizens of the town the right to use a spring at the west end of the town. Prior to his death he conveyed to each of his sons a farm, and gave his daughters an equivalent in money and

lands. He died on the 30th of March, 1825, aged 71 years. His wife died the 10th of July, 1842, aged 78 years. They both died in and were buried at Schellsburg. His will was dated 21st of July, 1822, and was probated the 5th of April, 1825. Letters testamentary were issued to his sons, Peter, Abraham and Joseph Schell, the same day. (Will book 2, p. 160).

They had the following children, to-wit:

1. John Schell (III) born 30th of October, 1782, died 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1855; aged 72 years. Married to Miss Michaels.
2. Peter Schell born 1st of August, 1784, died 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 1862; aged 78 years. Married Eleanor Statler, on top of Allegheny Mountains, on the 9th of September, 1806, at the house of John Statler. He was 22 years old and she was 18 years old. She died the 26th of March, 1859; aged 71 years.
3. Abraham Schell (II) born the 23d of Feb., 1787, died 11th of April, 1859; aged 72 years. Married first to \_\_\_\_\_, second to \_\_\_\_\_ Colvin.
4. Jacob Schell born 28th of May, 1789, died 10th of October, 1834; aged 45 years. Married Maria Dannaker.
5. George Michael Schell born 20th of November, 1791, died 3d of July, 1811; aged 11 years.
6. Elizabeth Schell born 4th of January, 1794, died 20th of April, 1854; aged 59 years. Married to Michael Reed.
7. Henry Schell born 22nd of March, 1797, died \_\_\_\_\_. Married Louisa Koontz of Somerset County.
8. Joseph Schell born 4th of September, 1799, died the 28th of July, 1863. Buried in West Liberty, Iowa. Married December 3d, 1839, to Miss Sarah Hazzard Perry.
9. Catherine Schell born the 24th of November, 1801, died the 13th of June, 1809; aged 7 years
10. Maria Schell born March 30th, 1804, died Jan. 14, 1891. Married to Peter Levy born Mar. 19, 1795, died Sep. 23, 1885.
11. Eve Schell born April 4th, 1807, died \_\_\_, Mansfield, Ohio. Married Benjamin Blymyer, May 29th, 1827.

### **THE VILLAGE OF SCHELLSBURG.**

Michael Schell left the Palatinate and settled at Goshenhoppen about 1732. He had a son, John (I) who was the father of John (II) who settled at Schellsburg. John Schell (II) soon after his settlement in Bedford county, pursued the same course, in making improvements, as did the Palatinates in Philadelphia county.

Soon after John Schell obtained the deed for the two tracts of land (on the first of June, 1801), he commenced building a large house in the west end of Schellsburg (now kept as a hotel) for the purpose of keeping an inn and a store. He was licensed to keep an inn in 1803. He kept it for three years and then retired to his farm and mill property, which was a short distance southwest of Schellsburg, where he resided up to the time of his death, on the 30th of June, 1825.

This primitive town was laid out by John Schell, on the old State road leading from Bedford to Pittsburg, on the 9th of November, 1808. (Deed Book "J", 328). It was surveyed and located on the tract of land purchased by John Schell, on the 1st of June, 1801, and named "the nine mile tavern," in the patent to James Anderson, dated 1776. The town is beautifully situated, about nine miles west of Bedford, in the little valley, which slopes down on the east side of Chestnut Ridge.

The following extract is from the History of Bedford County, published in 1884:

"John Schell, Sr., founder of Schellsburg, was born in 1764 and died in 1825. He moved from Montgomery County to Bedford county in 1800, and soon became one of the leading business men of the country. To the town of Schellsburg he gave several lots of ground, to be devoted to religious and educational purposes. He also donated several acres for a church lot and cemetery on the hill west of the town. He and his sons were prominent members of the company that built the turnpike. Mr. Schell, after seeing his town well established and on the road to prosperity, removed to his farm nearby and there passed the remainder of his days. He built the mill now owned by Charles W. Colvin, which for some years was the principal mill in the western part of the county.

"Mr. Schell's sons were identified with the interests of Schellsburg and his grandsons are still among its most respected citizens. Its first founder, John Schell, was a man of enterprise and public spirit. Probably the first house in it was built by James Anderson, prior to Schell's coming. The next house was built by Mr. Schell and is now part of the hotel of George M. Colvin. The first store and tavern were kept by John Schell. The first brick house in the town was erected about 1810 by Peter shell, who occupied it as a store and residence.

Peter Schell was a Justice of the Peace in 1812; was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1822; was appointed by the Governor Associate Judge of Bedford County in 1831 and 1842; was Burgess of Bedford in 1832.

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**THE CEMETERY**

"The Chestnut Ridge and Schellsburg Union Cemetery" is situated on Chestnut Ridge, about one-half mile west of the town. On the 17th of March, 1807, John Schell conveyed the following parcel of land: "I, John Schell, \* \* as well for and in consideration of the marked respect and veneration which I have for the Christian religion, as of the sum of \$1.00 \* \* to me in hand paid, by the Lutheran and Calvinistic congregations, on the waters of Shawanese Cabin creek, have given, granted, & c., \* \* all that certain piece of land situated in the township of Bedford aforesaid, on the south side of the State road leading from Bedford to Stoyestown, containing 6 acres, and 46 perches, being part of my tract of land, called 'Pekin.' \* \* \* "In trust for the erection of churches wherein may be preached and heard the Christian religion; also for the erection of school houses for the use of the members of said congregations."

Although this deed was not made until 1807, yet, it is very certain that soon after John Schell had obtained the deed for the Chestnut Ridge tract of land, he determined to give a sufficient parcel of ground for school and church purposes, for the use of the people who lived in the neighborhood. This view is strengthened by the fact that the old log church was commenced and was under roof in 1806, one year before the deed was made for the ground.

The land thus granted by deed in 1807 has been used as a burial place, since 1806, by the settlers of all denominations in Schellsburg and the surrounding country for many miles. The mother of the grantor, Veronica Schell, who was born in 1730 and died in 1813, aged 83 years, and his two children, aged 18 and 7 years, were buried there. At this time five generations of the grantor's family rest in the cemetery grounds - his mother, himself and wife, and some of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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**ELIZABETH HILLEGAS.**

The Hillegas family is undoubtedly of French extraction (the name originally was *Hill de Gasz*, and we learn from tradition, which must be accepted, having been so sacredly kept and surrounded with convincing evidences of truth, that the family fled into the Palatinate of Germany during the time of the persecution of the Huguenots.

John Frederick Hillegas was born in Alsace, November 24, 1685, and with his wife, Elizabeth Barbara, and his sister, sailed for America in the ship "William and Sarah," from Rotterdam, with the company led by the Rev. George Michael Weiss, a Reformed minister, who was a native of Stebbeck in Necherthal, Germany, and a graduate of the University of Heidelberg. They arrived at Philadelphia September 18, and took the oath of allegiance September 21, 1727, subscribing for themselves and families.

Soon thereafter they settled in the region known as "Goshenhoppen," now Montgomery County. Here the subject of this sketch, prior to 1734, took up a tract of one hundred and fifty acres of land, and by right of purchase, within the years closely following, became the possessor of a large landed estate. Among these early purchases was a tract of one hundred and sixty-five acres, containing thereon a gristmill, From George Gowen, February 6, 1738, and which is still in possession of one of his descendants, and a tract of three hundred and sixty-three acres, bought of William Parsons, 1749.

His youngest son, Conrad, was amply provided for in after years by a deed of gift, bearing date 1758, conveying to him two hundred and sixteen acres of land.

His two eldest sons came to this country a few years later than their father: Leopold on September 5, 1730, and John Adam on August 11, 1732.

At the time of his death, January 6, 1765, he left a valuable estate, bequeathed to the following children:

1, Leopold; 2, John Adarn; 3, Frederick; 4, George Peter, 5, Conrad; 6, Eva Elizabeth; 7, Ann Margaret; 8, Ann Regina; 9, Elizabeth Barbara.

The executors were Matthew Reichard, a son-in-law, and his son George Peter Hillegas. The will bears date June 25, 1759, and was translated and probated July 31, 1765. Among the items bequeathed to the two youngest sons, George Peter and Conrad, were, each "one folio Bible of the edition of Basel, and one Zollikoffer prayer book." One of these Bibles is in the possession of Thomas Hillegas, who is also the present owner of the old mill property before mentioned.

1. Leopold, after having served three years in the War for Independence, taking part, in the battle of Brandywine, settled in Esopus, Dutchess County, New York, where his brother Frederick followed him.

2. John Adam (1717-1779) married Anna Catharine Bitting (1728-1810).

4. George Peter, through whom the writer takes his descent, was born February 2, 1735, and died September 24, 1810. He married Anna Barbara Hornecker, (supposed to be a Swede,) who was born 1737, and died March 14, 1812. Their remains repose in the burial ground of the German Reformed Church, New Goshenhoppen. They had issue: Eve, who married Abram Levy; John; Jacob; Frederick; Catharine, who married John Maurer; Elizabeth, who married John Schell, who emigrated to Bedford County Pennsylvania, in 1798-1799, and located and, laid out Schellsburg, donating land for church and school purposes; Maria, who married George Hillegas; Magdalena, who married George Ewault.

At a very early age George Peter united with the German Reformed congregation at New Goshenhoppen. He was an elder in the Reformed Church on Race Street, near Fourth, in Philadelphia, in 1727. He died in testate, leaving real estate valued at £4502.14.10.

Still in the possession of the family there are fifty French crowns that were buried, during the Revolution, under the hearth of the old homestead,

which stood near the present East Greenville, Pennsylvania. These have been sacredly preserved and handed down as a memento of the origin of the family and of the persecution which drove them from their home.

Of the daughters of John Frederick we have learned but little, except that one married Matthew Reichard, and two married men by the name of Yeager.

Michael Hillegas (1729-1804) who obtained distinction as the first Treasurer of the United States, (1775-1789), was a cousin of Elizabeth Hillegas.

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### **CASPER STATLER**

Casper Statler (*Note 1*) was born and reared in the "Concocheague Settlement", (probably born about 1740), that settlement now constituting Franklin County, Penn.

*Note 1. There was a Casper Statler, who came from the Palatinate by way of Rotterdam to Philadelphia, on the ship "Bennett Galley," and was qualified the 13th of August, 1750. (17 Penn. Arch., p. 309, 2d series). Probably he is identical with our ancestor.*

The first account I have of him, is as an ensign in Capt. Ward's company, 1st Battalion, Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. Armstrong commanded in April, 1759, at Fort Bedford. The regiment accompanied Gen. Forbes' army in the reduction of Fort Duquesne in 1758. This was on their return. (2 Penn. Arch., 2 series, p. 558.)

Casper Statler, in marching along the Forbes military road over the Allegheny Mountains in 1758 and '59, passed over the very land on which he subsequently settled. It was then in Cumberland County; in 1771 in Bedford, and in 1795 in Somerset County.

It appears that he was pleased with this Allegheny wilderness, for he went back there in 1762, and perhaps then selected the tract of land on which he, a few years afterwards, erected his house and other buildings.

About 1762, he married Rebecca Walter, who had just been released from seven years captivity among the Indians in Ohio. They were reared in the same settlement and probably they were playmates before her capture in 1755. David Husband, of Somerset County, says in his Annals, that they were married soon after her release, and that they then immediately removed to the frontier. While it may be possible that they settled on the western side of the

Allegheny mountain in 1762, I rather think that they did not do so until 1768. There was a severe penalty against settlers on the Indian lands west of this mountain. On the 24th of Feb., 1768, the Governor issued a proclamation, warning settlers to leave their settlements. However, in the fall of 1768, the Indians released all their lands in South Western Pennsylvania to the proprietors. Then it was, I think, that Casper Statler settled on the land with his wife, which he had previously, perhaps in 1762, located. The above mentioned Annals say, "that in about 1770, Herman Husband took a trip to Bedford, Forbes' road (from Fort Bedford to Fort Pitt) and it was well traveled - a small military post at Stoystown, and a number of adventurers had built cabins along the road for the entertaining of wayfarers. Among them we may mention Martin Stoy, John Mills and Casper Statler." It is, therefore, certain that Casper Statler settled there before 1770. He was licensed to keep an Inn, by the Court of Q. S. of Bedford County in 1778. The said Annals state that Stoy, Mills and Statler were the first settlers, and where they located. They also say that Statler commenced clearing and farming his land as soon as he came, instead of devoting as much time to hunting as did some others.

The following extract is from the history of Somerset County, published in 1884:

"The earliest settlers in Somerset County, Penn., were Casper Statler and George Lambert. Casper Statler was probably the first settler in Shad's Township, and one of the first inhabitants of Somerset County. He came from Franklin county, Penn., following the old military road, known as the Forbes' road, (built in 1758), and having reached the western slope of the Allegheny mountain, settled and began making himself a farm. Statler first went to Greencastle to trade. He was obliged to flee several times from his mountain home and betake himself to that county during the period of Indian hostilities. Casper, the pioneer, was a genial, whole-souled man. By his industry, he acquired wealth and was the owner of large bodies of land in Somerset and Bedford counties. His family consisted of the following:

Casper, John, Samuel, Emanuel, Mary, wife of John Lambert, Elizabeth, wife of George Lambert, and Eleanor, wife of Peter Schell. He died in May, 1798. On the 12th of May, 1798, letters of administration were granted to Casper

Statler, Jr., and John Statler. In 1805, there was a petition for a writ of partition, setting forth that he had died seven years before, owning 19 tracts of land, containing 4,332 acres in all. In two of the lands, an Emanuel Statler, probably his brother, was part owner. These lands were appraised and divided among the children, with an obligation to pay to the widow, Rebecca, the interest on one-third of the appraised-value of the lands during her life. She died in 1825, on the Allegheny mountain. Casper Keller was appointed guardian of Eleanor Statler, who married Peter Schell in 1806.

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**REBECCA WALTER**

Among the Palatinates, who settled in Pennsylvania, was Joseph Walter, who sailed from Rotterdam in the ship "Robert and Mary," and arrived at Philadelphia on the 30th of December, 1740. (Penn. Arch., 2d series, p. 204). It may be possible that he was a Huguenot.

Some years later he settled in the Conococheague settlement, Antrim township, Franklin county, Pennsylvania. His name appears in the list of taxables in that township in 1751. (Ruff History of Cumberland Co.) This Joseph Walter is supposed to be the father of Rebecca Walter, who married Casper Statler in 1762 or 1763.

After Gen. Braddock's defeat in July, 1755, the French and Indians overran the entire Province west of the Susquehanna River. In the latter part of October of that year, King Shingas and Capt. Jacobs, two Delaware or Shawanese Indians, started out from Kittanning village (some 50 miles above Pittsburgh), where they then lived, on a marauding expedition to the Conococheague settlement. On the 2nd of November they killed many of the settlers in the Great Cove, and in the Tonoloway settlement. They then crossed the Tuscarora Mountain and devastated the Conococheague settlement.

It was during this incursion that Joseph Walter and several members of his family were killed and others carried off by the savages, and his house and buildings burned to the ground.

Immediately after the defeat of Gen. Braddock, the Rev. John Steel, who had been preaching to several Presbyterian congregations in the Conococheague settlement, fortified his meeting house (known as the White

Church) with a stockade, for a place of refuge for the neighbors from the cruelties of the Indians. Though a man of peace, yet he determined to defend his parishioners and neighbors from the ruthless attacks of the savages. He organized a company of rangers for their defense, of which he was unanimously elected Captain. He was duly commissioned by the Governor, and did valiant service in the war.

During this critical period, when Mr. Steel entered the church, he took his place back of the rude pulpit, and hung his hat and rifle behind him, and this was also done by many of his parishioners. At one time, while in the midst of his discourse, some one stepped into the church quietly and called out a member of the congregation and related to him the fact of the murder of a family by the name of Walher (*Walter. Note 2d*), at Rankin's mill, near Greencastle.

*Note 2d. It is very certain that the name of Walher above given, is a mistake, and that it should be Walter. The taxable list in 1751, of Antrim Township (where the massacre took place) contains the name of Joseph Walter, but it does not contain the name of any person of the name of Walher.*

This tragic story was soon whispered from one to another. As soon as Mr. Steel discovered what had taken place he brought the services to a close, took his hat and rifle, and at the head of the members of the congregation went in pursuit of the Indians. (*Forts of Penn. 1, p. 553*). It is certain that the murder of the Walter family took place on one Sabbath morning when Mr. Steel preached. Mrs. Walter and some of her neighbors had gone to church, while her children and also those of some of the neighbors (as was the custom), were at her house in the care of Mr. Walter.

While Mrs. Walter was at church the Indians stealthily approached the house of Mr. Walter. He was reading the Bible. The children were playing in the yard, near the house. They screamed. He grasped his rifle and walked to the door. There was a sharp report from an Indian's rifle and he fell dead in the doorway. The Indians then killed a neighbor of the family and perhaps some of the neighbors' children and scalped them. They set fire to the house and other buildings. They took Rebecca Walter, who was then about ten years of age and two younger brothers, one of them almost a babe. They also took some of the other children captive.

When Mrs. Walter returned from the church she found her husband dead, the children gone and the house burned. Rebecca says the Indians compelled her to carry her little brother, but after going some distance they got tired worrying about him and they dashed his head against a tree and killed him. After some time they scalped Rebecca and they were about to kill her also, when a squaw, who had taken a fancy to her (tradition says she was a beautiful little girl with piercing black eyes) saved her life, and kept her until she was surrendered in 1762.

As Shingas and Capt. Jacobs had their village at Kittanning, it is absolutely certain that they took Rebecca Walter and the other captives to that place. It is known that when a few months later the Indians captured the widow Cox's sons (Feb., 1756,) and the garrison in Fort McCord (April, 1756,) the captives were taken to Kittanning. These places were not more than ten miles from Walter's house.

The agony and suffering endured by Rebecca Walter on this journey of nearly 200 miles, over the steep and rough mountains, must have been fearful and beyond description. Besides she must have suffered great pain from her scalp wound. It is very likely she was compelled to walk the entire distance. I think she was a captive at Kittanning in Sept., 1756, when Col. John Armstrong took and destroyed the village. In the attack Capt. Jacobs and his squaw were killed. But King Shingas escaped with many of the captives, and removed to Muskingum, (now in Ohio), where he was living on the 14th of Nov., 1756. (7 Col., Re., p. 381).

Many of the captives were rescued by Col. Armstrong. Among them was a Mrs. McCord, who was captured at Fort McCord in April, 1756. She says that "when it was known that the whites were upon them, orders were given to the squaws to flee with the captives to the woods."

George Cox, who was captured in Feb., 1756, says: "When he got there (Kittanning) there were over fifty white captives." As Col. Armstrong only rescued thirteen of them, it is clear that the other captives (Rebecca Walter and her brother among them) were taken to the Muskingum country. It appears that Rebecca and her brother remained at Muskingum until they were delivered in 1762. In the meantime they forgot the use of their own language and acquired

the use of the Indian. They also became acquainted with the habits and customs of Indian life. A treaty of peace had been made with the Indians at Easton, Pa., in Sept., 1758, wherein they agreed to surrender all the white captives held by them. They never fully performed this obligation. But in July, 1762, King Beaver, of the Delaware Indians, agreed to surrender certain captives held by him.

Frederick Post, a Moravian missionary, was deputed to escort these Indians, with their captives, to Lancaster, Pa. It is proper to state here something in regard to this good man. In 1759, the Governor of Pennsylvania gave him this passport, to-wit:

"To Mr. Frederick Post, minister of the gospel in the church of the 'Unitas Fratium.' About 17 years ago he came to this country with no other view than to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ among the heathen, which has ever since been his great task. That he is a member of the 'Unitas Fratium', which church has not only several settled congregations of Indian churches among them, but also by indefatigable labors and travels in the Indian countries, has acquainted a considerable number of Indians remaining there, with their first notions of Christianity, and has set an example of Christian life among these heathen."

That during the late bloody Indian war, all commerce between the white people and the Indians being suspended, he was entrusted first by the Governor, and afterwards by Brig.-Gen. Forbes with the negotiations to secure Indian nations, etc. (3 Pa. Arch. 578).

It appears from the journal of Fred. Post that he reached Fort Bedford on the 16th of July, 1762, at noon, where he was cordially received, and remained one or two days. It is singular that Rebecca Walter found rest within the same fort in which her future husband, Casper Statler was an ensign in Sept., 1759, three years before.

The following is the journal of Frederick Post, leading the Indians with their captives from Tuscarora (Ohio) to Lancaster, Pa. in 1762. (Pa. Arch. IV, p. 92):

"June ye 25th. Mohichan Abraham came to Post's house and asked to let the Governor know \* \* \* that he had twelve or more of our people amongst

them, whom they bought of others for goods or money. He has given for a little child, which the Indians would have killed, a coat \* \* \* he would deliver the child willingly if somebody would repay him, and allow him a small matter for his trouble., He said another Indian gave 100 bucks for a girl. (I suppose skins).

June 28th. Beaver and Shingas wanted flour that was on its way to Sandusky.

June 29th. Beaver said "two of the prisoners he had ran back and were not willing to go along."

June 30th. Beaver wanted to know "for what reason the Governor had called us to the Council Fire."

July 1st. Came to Beaver creek at Sahunk.

July 2d. Came to Loggstown and Fort Pitt.

July 3d. Went to Commander Capt. Barrenslly. He promised to find victuals for the Indians.

July 4th. The Indians complained that they could not eat salt meat and wanted fresh meat.

July 5th. Bought the fresh meat.

July 6th. Beaver informed His Honor, N. Ward, that they intended to deliver the prisoners to him. He advised them to take them to Philadelphia. This they agreed to do.

July 8th. The Indians complained about their victuals. Maj. Ward would not give them any provisions.

July 9th. Maj. Ward and Col. Bouquet said, "It was the Governor's business and they would be under no expense at all." The Indians requested me to write to the Governor "that they had already brought into Fort Pitt 74 prisoners since the peace is made; some are run away, and some are stolen away from them."

July 10th. With much difficulty got away from Fort Pitt. Had not enough provisions to last for the journey to Ligonier. I sent some Indians back for more bread. We completed nine miles from Fort Pitt.

July 11th. Bought a steer for them at Byerly's, and then went 14 miles. We traveled 34 miles that day. It rained all night.

July 12th. Mr. Ward had provided provisions. As they were all tired, they wanted to rest a day. Mr. Ward set off the same day for Bedford.

July 13th. Had their horses shod and provided victuals for four days. It rained and stormed all night.

July 14th. It cleared up. A man and three women went back again and two more fell sick. We encamped at Stony creek. (This was near where Casper Statler settled in 1762).

July 15th. Five of the pack horses gave out and one died. Although I had 15 horses in line, I traveled most of the way on foot, because I was obliged to give my horse to others, who were lame or tired. . We crossed the Allegheny mountains and encamped at Hay's.

July 16th. Before noon we arrived at Bedford, where they received us well. With much difficulty I hired ten horses more to hurry the lame and sick along. Had such trouble to provide for them all that was necessary, that I had no time to rest myself.

July 17th. Hitherto I have brought them along without a drop of liquor, but now they desired very earnestly of Mr. Ward to let them have a dram now and then, and they said I was too hard with them. They agreed to keep sober, and Mr. Ward told us to give them a dram occasionally.

July 18th. An Indian fell sick on the road. We bled him and I gave him my horse to ride on. It was so excessively hot that we were hardly able to travel on Sidling Hill. I almost dropped down. We arrived at Fort Lyttleton and were quartered in the Fort. Mr. Croghan came and told us that it would be dangerous for us to travel as the Court was at Carlisle; that no more Indians were coming from the Susquehanna, and desired us to persuade them to stay here until the Court was over. They consulted most all night but could not agree - some would stay and others would go along.

July 19th. They at last agreed to stay here three days. I sent six horses to Bedford for flour and provided meat for them. Everything scarce.

July 20th. Beaver called me to come and look over some of their writings about lands.

July 21st. They wanted more rum - wanted to have a frolic. I would not give them much.

July 22d. Mr. Croghan desired the Indians to stay until Sunday, that he would be at Lyttleton and go with them, step by step. But - as I would not give them more liquor they resolved to go on.

July 23. We made ready to start off. Beaver came and desired me to take no notice of what, passed between us, but to make ready and conduct them along. We went twelve miles and encamped under the foot of Chestnut Gap.

July 24th. We started early, and when we came over the mountains, we gathered all in one company and came in good order into Shippensburg, in a hard gust of rain.

July 25th. We could not set off till noon, because they could not find some of their horses. I advertised Beaver's horse. Mr. Bode met us on the road, four miles from Carlisle. The people in Carlisle were most all gathered to see the captives and the Indians.

July 26th. I informed the chiefs of the Indians of the contents of the Governor's letters, and introduced Mr. Bode to them. It pleased them to hear that the Governor took so much notice of them. They desired me to let them have an opportunity to make a speech to Mr. Bode, whereupon we met at Mr. Machentire's in the hall, with some gentlemen of the town. Beaver spoke, and said:

"Brothers, we are all rejoiced to see you. We thank you that you took so much pains to come to meet us on the road, and we thank the Governor that he had been pleased to send somebody to meet us. We are glad to hear from him, and we will do as he wants us to do."

We assured them of God's love and regard for them, and treated them with a glass of wine, after which they broke up and went to their five places. Some of them got very drunk. The white people had carried one of their prisoners off in the night. Beaver was much displeased about it, and said, "Brothers, you act very strange. The Governor hath requested us to bring in your flesh and blood, and with great trouble we brought them safe. If they had spoken to us about it, we would say nothing to the contrary, but when we come to the Governor we shall know what to say."

I told him that I would inform the gentlemen of the town of it, and take all possible care to find them out. In the evening they had a frolic dancing, singing and drinking all night long.

The Indians then proceeded to Lancaster to deliver the prisoners to the Governor.

At a conference held with the Indians at Lancaster on Thursday, the 13th of August, 1762. Present: Hon. James Hamilton, Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Council and the members of the assembly. The Chiefs and Deputies of the several nations of Indians, to-wit:

Iomago, or Beaver	Chiefs of the Ohio,
Wadocalla	Delaware and 22 others,
Tissacoma	Most of the warriors.

Also: 3 Chiefs of the Tuscarorors,  
3 Chiefs of the Shawanese and 10 warriors.  
2 Chiefs of the Kickapoe nation.  
3 Chiefs of the Wiwaltanes.  
4 Chiefs of the Twightnee nation.  
2 Interpreters.

After the Indians had taken their seats the Governor told them that he was ready to hear them. Beaver, the Delaware Chief, spoke as follows:

"Brother: I have heard what you said to me yesterday and am well pleased with it. You have cleansed me; opened my eyes and cleansed my ears in the same manner as my forefathers used to do. You will now listen attentively. With this story I also open your eyes and cleanse your ears that you may see and hear what I have to say to you. A story. Brother: When our grandfathers used to meet together they wiped the tears from one another's eyes, and with this story I now wipe the tears from your eyes, that you may see clearly your brother's eyes now before you," etc.

The Governor then acquainted Beaver that he was well pleased to hear what they had said to him and that he received it into his heart, and should take a proper opportunity to give them an answer.

The Governor rose and went to the place where the white prisoners sat, and received them one by one from the hands of King Beaver, and here follows their names:

Thomas Moore, taken from Potonmack, Maryland.

Philip Studebaker, taken from Congocheague, Penn.

Aus Dougherty, taken from Pennsylvania.

Peter Condon, taken from Pennsylvania.

Mary Stroudman, taken from Congocheague, Penn.

William Jackson, taken from Tulpehockon, Penn.

Elizabeth McAdam, taken from Little Cove, Penn.

John Lloyd, taken from Little Cove, Penn.

Eleanor Lancastoctes, taken from Little Cove, Penn.

Dorothy Shobrian, taken from Big Cove, Penn.

Richard Rogers, taken from Virginia.

Esther Rogers, taken from Virginia.

Jacob Rogers, taken from South Branch, Va.

Archibald Woods, taken from Va.

Rebecca Walter, taken from Congocheague, Penn.

Hans Boyse, a boy, not known from where.

Col. Records, Vol. 8, p 728.

Notice had been given, requesting all persons who had lost children by the Indians carrying them into captivity, to come and reclaim them. Many of these captives had been taken when very young and had grown up to boyhood and girlhood in the wigwams of the Indians, having in the meantime forgotten their own tongue and learned the Indian language. One woman was unable to point out her daughter and the captives could only talk in an unknown tongue. She used many years before to sing her daughter a hymn of which the child was very fond. In her dilemma she thought of this hymn. She began to sing

"Alone, yet not alone am I,  
Though in this solitude so drear,  
I feel my Savior always nigh,  
He comes my dreary home to cheer."

She had not finished the first verse before her long lost daughter rushed into her arms.

A letter written by Mr. Isaac Craig of Allegheny, Penn., Oct. 28, 1879, tells an incident related to him by the Rev. Sam. Williams, pastor of a Baptist church in Pittsburgh.

"In the old French war, two little girls, who were on a peach tree were taken by the Indians. The youngest was scalped without other injury by the Indian that first approached them, but another Indian approached who took a fancy to them, and, instead of slaying them, carried them into captivity. The scalped child was tenderly cared for and survived, to be returned in the manner related by you.

"Mr. Williams, who is nearly eighty, told me that he was born and raised in Bedford County, where both his parents were born. He had often heard the story referred to. In 1825 or 1826, whilst yet a licentiate in the ministry, he served a small Presbyterian church in Schellsburg, and a small Baptist church in Somerset. About the close of 1826, Mr. Peter Schell, the son-in-law of Mrs. Statler, requested him to conduct the funeral services of his mother-in-law, on the top of the Allegheny Mountains, not far from Stoystown. When they arrived at the house, Mr. Schell took him into the room where the deceased lay. Approaching the corpse of a very aged woman, he drew back her cap and showed Mr. Williams that she had been scalped, and then narrated the story of her capture by the Indians about seventy years before. She was the child who recognized her mother by hearing her sing the once familiar hymn. She had grown up, married Mr. Statler, and raised a large family of most respectable character. The funeral services were at the house of Mr. Lambert, another son-in-law.

Very truly yours,  
ISAAC CRAIG."

"If not mistaken, the Peter Schell referred to in Mr. Craig's letter was the late Hon. Peter Schell of Bedford, father of the Hon. William P. Schell, Auditor-General of Pennsylvania, 1878 to 1881."

The family tradition is that when Rebecca Walter's brother was surrendered, he ran off and returned to the Indians, and never was heard of thereafter. It was supposed that he returned to the Muskingum country.

Rebecca Walter was seven years in captivity, married Casper Statler in 1762 or '63, and about 1770 they removed to the western slope of the Allegheny mountain, now Somerset county, Penn., where they lived until 1798, when he died, and shortly thereafter she went to live with her brother, John Statler, where she died in 1825 or '26.