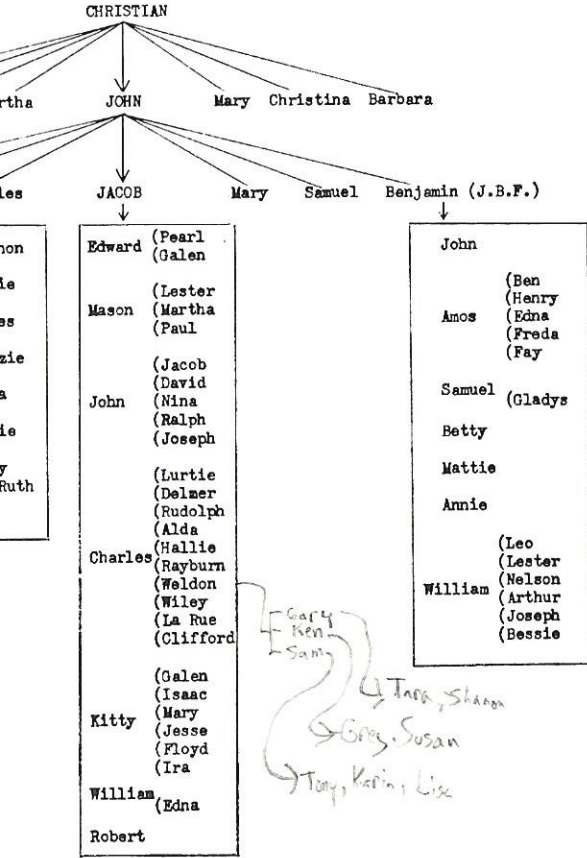


Christian Huffman

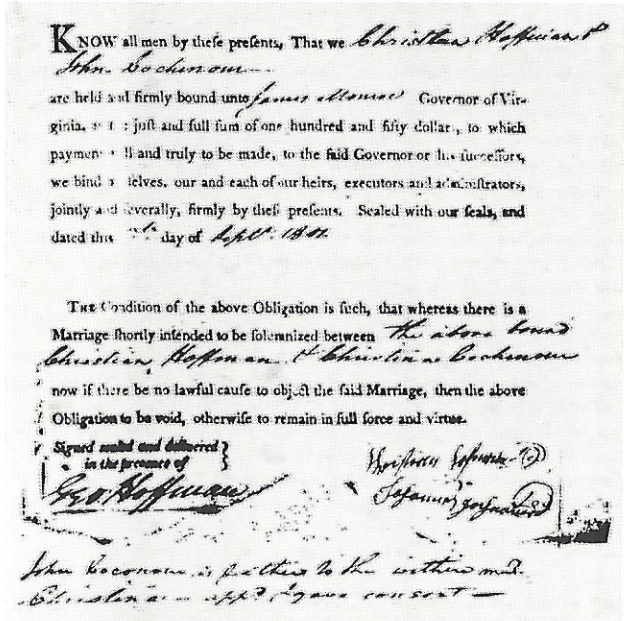
(1773 - 1816)

GENEALOGY CHART



Word has been handed down that three Huffman brothers came to this country from Germany. However this theory has not been documented. There is considerable evidence that Christian Huffman did come from Germany, possibly by way of Pennsylvania.

Strong evidence of this fact lies in the way he signed his name, Christian Hofmann, on a marriage bond which he applied for on September 7, 1801 at the courthouse at Woodstock, Virginia. The author personally inspected this bond and observed the actual handwriting of Christian Hofmann.



Further evidence that Christian Hofmann was a new arrival is that nothing has been found which would indicate that his parents lived in this country.

It is also established that he was a single man when he arrived, for he applied for the marriage bond.

Appearing with him at the courthouse was Johannes Gochenour, father of the bride to be, Christena Gochenour. Christena being a minor, her father had to appear and give consent. Note the clerk's handwriting at the bottom which says, "John Gochenour is father to the within mentioned Christena - appeared and gave consent".

Marriage bond, dated September 7, 1801, bearing Christian Hofmann's signature.

A sum of \$150 had to be put up, to be forfeited if the proposed marriage did not materialize. The fact that John Gochenour signed his name Johannes Gochenour seems reasonable proof that the Gochenour family was also of German blood.

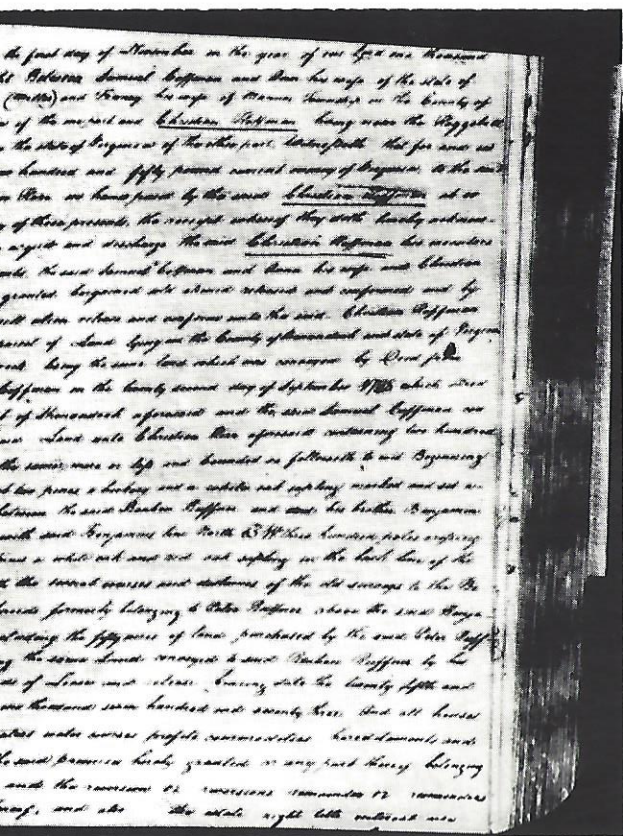
It would seem reasonable to assume that Christian, being a single man coming without his family to this strange land, would not have done so before about the age of 21. Since we know that he bought a farm in 1798 at the age of 25, it is the conclusion

in size and style of the type used in connection withendants of JOHN HUFFMAN, son of Christian. Itionships throughout this booklet if these are noted,

- children **JACOB**
- **Edward**
- children **PEARL**
- grandchildren **KENNETH**

ant in the 1790's and there are no lists in Washington for
 istian signed his name Hofmann on the marriage bond in
 his deed, or the clerk copying it for the record, spelled
 n writing it apparently wrote the name as he heard it or

211 acres located on Virginia State Route 340 about two
 ast side of the road, was purchased for 450 pounds. The
 and Christian Herr. It is interesting to note that Christian
 from Mannor Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,
 on that Christian Hofmann might have landed in Philadel-
 s and passed through Lancaster County en route to the
 o know Christian Herr along the way.



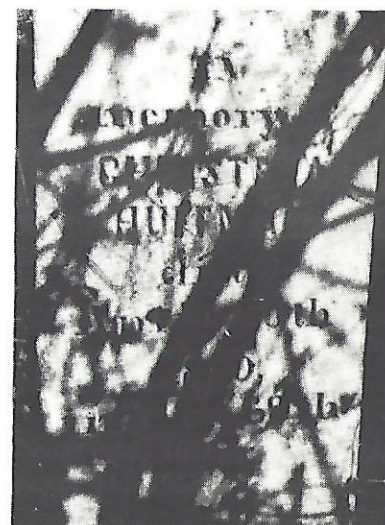
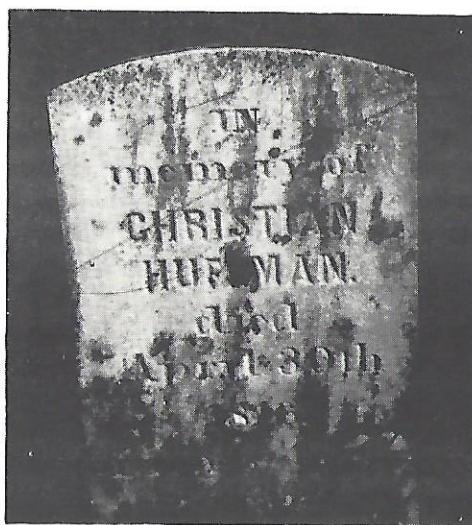
Christian Huffman farm, dated November 1, 1798. Close
 up of the name Christian Hoffman on lines 4, 7 and 9

Deed to the farm can be read in
 deed book M, page 175, in the record-
 er of deeds office in the courthou-
 se at Woodstock. The deed gives Christian
 Hoffman's residence as "living near the
 Hoggskill". We know now that this was
 a reference to the Hawk's Bill Creek, a
 familiar landmark in the neighborhood
 where the Huffmans had their begin-
 nings.

The farm can be seen along State
 Route 340, two miles South of Luray on
 the East side of the road. A lane along-
 side Lynn Huffman's Plumbing Shop
 leads directly to the cemetery where
 Christian and others are buried. The main farm lane is located a few hundred yards
 South. Inasmuch as the courthouse at Luray was built about 1831, the 1798 deed was re-
 corded in Woodstock instead. The children's deeds, written after 1831, appear in the
 Page County Courthouse at Luray.



Christian Huffman Homestead



The above tombstones are located in the old farm cemetery on the old Christian

change in spelling from Hofmann to Huffman was no accident, sloppy handwriting as some would like to believe. The change only after the marriage of Christian and Christena. There is no doubt they made a decision right away to anglicize the name before the birth of children, for the grave marker of their firstborn, Barbara, was placed, four years after the marriage of Christian and Christena,

John, the oldest son, bought out the one-seventh interests of his father. He owned the home farm himself. The farm was therefore the Henry Huffman farm.

The estate account appears in Will Book "A", page 414, in the original copy being filed, it appears, 26 years after his death. It is interesting to note (Samuel Forrer) was appointed for the seven living children, for his first husband 34 years. Nor is it clear why the farm was left to the sons, when their mother lived.

This reflects the efforts of Henry Huffman to obtain title to the home farm from the Page County Courthouse in Luray:

- 276: John and Nancy to Abraham Huffman, one-seventh. June 1, 1837.
- 172: Anna Huffman Mauck to Henry Huffman, one-seventh. June, 1832.
- 330: Christina Huffman Brumback to Henry and Abraham, one-seventh.
- 329: Martha Huffman Funkhouser to Henry and Abraham, one-seventh.
- 401: Mary Huffman Varner, one-seventh.

John bought the interests of John, Anna, Christina and Martha, sold in September, 1850.

It is interesting to note that when Christian bought the farm in 1798 he lived in the backyard of the brick dwelling, and that his son Henry bought the brick house is written up in a Page County publication show-

Pioneer Elder

JOHN HUFFMAN

(1809-1882)

The son in whom we are most interested is John, who married Nancy Lionberger, daughter of Samuel Lionberger and Susan Hockman Lionberger. Samuel was the son of John and Barbara Lionberger, Barbara Lionberger being the son of Samuel and Anna Hershberger, Anna being the daughter of Christian and Anna Grove, Anna being the daughter of John and Eve Albright Roads, a Mennonite minister from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Rev. John Roads is said to have been shot in the doorway of his home by the Indians who wanted his scalp. A son who survived, lived to tell the story.

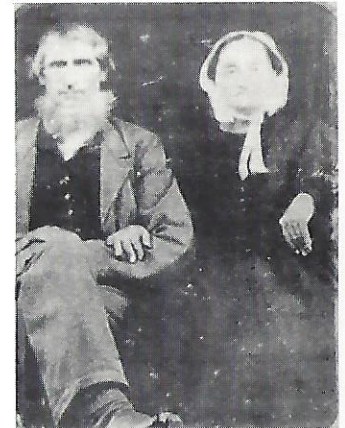
After selling his one-seventh interest in his father's farm, John and Nancy bought a farm of 150 1/4 acres adjoining Nancy's home place along the Hawk's Bill for \$3,000. This deed can be read in the Page County Courthouse in Luray in Deed Book C, Page 364, dated January 6, 1838. It was here where Grandpa Jacob W. Huffman and his brothers and sister were reared. It was here where many stories about the Hawk's Bill originated.

To find this farm, one would take the first macadam road Eastward after passing the Christian Huffman farm and follow it until it appears to run into a little country store and turn right. After bearing right at a little church, the lane to the farm will be on the right after a very short distance. The lane is long, and the buildings are hardly visible from the main road. The Lionberger farm will be found on the right of the lane, the John Huffman farm to the left.

It was here where the boys reportedly baptized dogs in the Hawk's Bill Creek, while their father, John, a minister, baptized converts. It was here where one of the boys sawed a slot in a wide board and turned it upside down and laid it over the creek, a trap for brother Joe. Joe, who started across the creek to see his girl, wearing a brand new white suit, crashed into the water, delaying his arrival until the other boy stole his girl.

Until his recent death, grandson Vernon Huffman lived on the home farm. Mrs. Vernon Huffman now resides here, along with other members of her family.

Like the farmstead of his father, this old



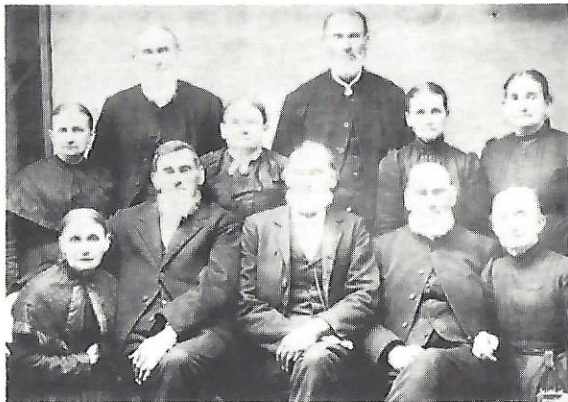


Elder John had seven children, Charlie, David, Grandpa Jacob, Joe, Ben (known as J. B. F.), and Mary (Beaver), all shown in photo at left. Samuel was missing from the photo, having migrated to Missouri prior to the photo.

Mary went with her husband, Isaac Beaver, to Kansas.

as above,
are shown

photos of
se couples



The grave markers of John and Nancy are in the Lionberger Cemetery on the old Lionberger farm which adjoins the old John Huffman farm.

Dates: Nov. 18, 1809-Aug. 26, 1882
Sept. 18, 1817-Mar. 17, 1877

It was at the time of the organization of a congregation of twelve members of the Church of the Brethren that John Huffman was made a minister to serve the small group. From "The History of the Brethren in Virginia" we read:

"At the call of a lone sister, as early as 1835, they began to preach in Page County . . . The first preachers of the Brethren came to this county in 1835. Among them were John Kagey, Samuel Wampler, and John Kline. The members there were Sisters Gibbons, Farrey, Maggert and Rodecap. In 1850, the congregation was organized with twelve members. At that time John Huffman was elected minister and Isaac Spitler deacon".

The 1914 history goes on to say:

"At this time, we have eight ministers as follows:

Martin Rothgeb, J. B. F. Huffman, John A. Racer, John A. Racer, Jr., Joseph S. Foster, Joseph S. Foster, Jr., W. D. Strickler, George W. Painter and David S. Bradley".

The J. B. F. Huffman referred to was a son of Elder John Huffman, known familiarly to many as "Uncle Ben", a brother to Jacob W. Huffman.

On page 263 of the same history, we read, "At present there are 500 members, and among those who labored so faithfully in the past to establish the faith are Elders John Huffman, Nathan Spitler, Martin Rothgeb, J. S. Foster and J. A. Racer".



The little church organized in 1850 was used jointly with the Mennonites for a time. It was known as the Elk Run Church, located along Virginia State Route 616 several miles Southwest of Luray. 616 begins at 211 just West of Luray. The church is on the East side of the road, up in a field. It is now used to store farm machinery and crops.

