

Biblia

Das ist/ alle Bücher
des bund newen Testaments/
den ursprünglichen sprachen nach/
ausführlich ist vertürschet.

Darzu ist verordnet worden ein schön
vollkommen Register der heiligen biblia. Das
Inhalt und rechnung der heiligen von Adamen
mit gewissen Concordanzen/ Argumenten/ Tabellen und Figuren.

Darzu ist verordnet worden
Gedruckt zu Zürych bey Christoffel
Froschwer/ im Jar als man zalt
M. D. LXXX.

313 2/10
1580



Printed by
Froschwer

Printed in 1580

The mentioned Groff's Born and died on the said Old farm. Excepting the Hans was from the Old Country.

I hereby certify that I often heard my parents say that this old German Bible printed in 1580, was brought to this country by Old Hans Graf in the year 1696, and settled on this Old farm in West Earl Top, Lancaster County Pa. Now called Groff's Dale in 1717, on his Land grant of 1419 acres from John, Thomas & Richard Penns, for 141th 18 shillings. Equal to \$686.80. And built there on his favorite spot, a small House within 20 yards of the Old present mansion, said mansion was afterwards built by his son David in 1753. —

The foundation of his first original building was often shown by the writer to decedents and others and can plainly be seen yet. The said mansion built in 1753, was rebuilt in 1853, by Levi W. Groff, Quintennial building. —

After Old Hans's death this Old Bible came in possession of his son David until he died. Then his son David Int. had it until his death, from David Int. to my Father John Groff, until his death in 1857. And from that time it is in my possession.

Hans, and his decedents from step to step mentioned above, all born and died on the Old Hans Graf farm, excepting Hans was born in the foreign country. — Barbara, widow of the first mentioned David lived in the small house in the yard west of the Old mansion, until her death in 1814, in 93rd years.

She lived in Widowhood 30 years, and 68 years on the said Old farm. — My Father's account of his grandmother Barbara's funeral expenses, receipts, and many Old papers, Releases of all the above Groff's, Hans's land warrants from the Penns, are all in my possession. December 1869.

Levi W. Groff
From Old papers. July 21st 1892. In my 180th year.

Hans Graf, died in 1746, Age not known.

David Groff, died in 1784. In his 64th year.

(Son of Hans) David Groff Int., died in 1799. In his 98th year.

(Son of David) John Groff died in 1857. In his 80th year.

My Father's Son of David Int. All the above Groff's are buried at the Groff's Dale, Old Menorah Meeting house, in sight of the said Old farm, in the Township, County, and state as mentioned above.

Wright of the Bible 154 5 verses

Beginning.

Hans Graf.

The first settler of the Groffs in this country, came from Switzerland in the year 1696, settled in the vicinity of Germanstown near Philadelphia. From there he went near Pocon Lancaster County, and from said place several of his horses went stray, he followed them to this neighborhood, now called Groff's Dale.

Awards he returned to his neighborhood and bought a land grant of 1419 acres from John Thomas & Richard Penn's, for 141 £ 18 shilling's. Equal to $\text{\$}$ 686.30 along Groff's run. And built there a small house on his favorite spot within 20 yards of the old present Mansion. Said Mansion was afterwards built by his son David. The foundation of his first original building was often shown by the writer, to decedents and others, and can be plainly seen yet.

Hans Graf settled on said farm in 1717, and died in 1746, during which time, he carried on trading between the Philadelphians & the Indian's, he started a Big 6 horse Team. He loaded Blankets in Philadelphia, and hauled them to a Ferry a few miles beyond Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River, and there loaded the blankets to the Indian's on their different Hides and Furs, took them back to Phila., and traded them on blankets again, and this trading between said ^{two} points was carried on by him for a long time.

Hans Graf & Susanna his wife, had 9 children, 6 sons and 3 Daughters. They were all married, but the Release of his property don't show the maiden name of the women. Peter was married to Barbara. Samuel to Christina. Mark's to Anna. Daniel to Mary.

Han's to Elizabeth, David to Barbara. Daughters,
Anna to Peter Good. Mary to Jacob Roy. Ironika to
Henry Landis.

David, son of Han's, & his wife Barbara, came in possession
of his Father's Farm in 1746. And lived on it until his
death in 1784, in his 63rd year. Said David built the
old Mansion as per date on the west gable end of said
House in 1753. And it was again Rebuilt in 1853,
By Jeri W. Cross. Barbara widow of said David
lived in the small house, in the yard west of the old
dwelling until her death in 1814. In her 93rd year
she lived in widowhood 30 years. And 68 years on the
late Han's Croft Farm.

David & Barbara had 4 children, 2 sons & 2 Daughters.
John's Wife's Maidsen name is not known to the writer.
David Int. was married to Barbara Horst. Anna to Jacob
Esb. Barbara to Christian Binkley.

David Int.

Along with the others of his Family, resided on and
farmed the Old Hornestead from his Father's death in
1784. until he became of age in 1792 and then it came
into his possession.

He was married to Barbara Horst, and lived on this
property until his death in 1799. ^{Died} In his 28th year.

They had 4 children. The same number of each as his
Father, 2 sons & 2 Daughters, John, commonly called Big
Johnny, was married to Magdalena Wenger. David to
Elizabeth Bitzer. Elizabeth to Zacob John's "Farmer".
Barbara to Samuel Wenger.

David Int. and his Barbara's 2nd Marriage was to David Martin.
They had 2 Daughters, Susanna was married to David
Wenger. Ironika to Isaac Sheaffer.

John, Son of David Int.

1 My Father. The oldest of the Family, came in possession
2 of the Old Farm, at the appraisement after his Father's
3 death. And was in his possession until 1848. Then
4 he and his Wife Magdalena repaired, and moved into the
5 small House in the yard west of the Old dwelling men-
6 tioned before, where aforesaid Barbara had lived 30 years
7 until their death.

8 They had 9 Children: 7 Sons and 2 Daughters. And
9 all gone to their heavenly home, except the writer.
10 Mary was married to Andrew Swartz, Isaac to Leah
11 Daughter of Samuel Kurtz, Margdalena to Joseph Rust,
12 John to Mary Daughter of Christian Wenger, David
13 died in his 17th year, Israel W. to Mary Daughter of
14 Dietrich, Samuel W. to Caroline Daughter of Adam
15 Bare, Jacob to Henrietta Daughter of an Wertz from
16 Adams County, Levi W. to Catharine Daughter of
17 Adam Bare.

18 The following is the age of the Parents of the above Family.

Magdalena, Died March 23rd 1855, Aged 83 years, 3 mths & 14 days.

John, Died October 17th 1857, Aged 79 years, 4 mths & 17 days.

Levi W. & Catharine Croff.

22 Came in possession of said Farm as stated in
23 1848. And lived on it since. Raised a Family of 10
24 Children, 2 Boys & 8 Girls, Adam B. Married Eliza
25 Beth Daughter of Cyrus Bare, Mary A. to Samuel
26 B. Sheaffer, Salinda, Died June 17th 1875, In her 28th year.
27 Elmina to Alpheus Croff, Julian to David W. Rank,
28 Sarah A. to John M. Mellinger, Kate to Martin P. Miller,
29 John Frank, Carrie & Annie M. They 3 youngest
30 are single.

4th Page.

The above "or former" is a correct statement,
as per papers in my possession, Also a German
Bible, printed in 1580. And other books and Relics
brought to this country by said Hans Graf, and
which are yet in my possession.

Thus ends this Graf's statement to date.

July 4th 1876.

Levi W. Groff

From Father.

"To Daughter Annie M."

groff

The below quotation was taken from the original hand writing of Levi W. Groff found on the inside cover of the original Hans Graf Bible. As of the date this is written the Bible is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Foose Oreland Rd., New Holland Route #2, Penna.

"I hereby certify that I often heard my parents say this old German Bible printed in 1580 was brought to this country by "old Hans Graf" in the year 1696, and settled on this " Old Farm in West Earl Township, Lancaster County, Penna." Now called Groff's dale in 1717 on his grant of 1419 acres from John, Thomas and Richard Penn's for 141 lbs., 18 shillings equal to \$686.80. And built there on his favorite spot a small house within 20 yards of the old present mansion said mansion was afterwards built by his son David in 1753.

The foundation of his first original building was often shown by the writer to descendants and others and can plain to be seen yet. The said mansion built in 1753 was rebuilt in 1853 by Levi W. Groff. "Centennial Building"

After Old Hans death this Old Bible came in possession of his son David until he died. Then his son David Jr. had it until his death, from David Jr. to my father John Groff, until his death in 1857. And from that time it is my possession.

Hans and his descendants from step to step mentioned above all born and died in the Old Hans Graf farm, excepting Hans was born in the foreign country. Barbara, widow of the first mentioned David lived in the small house in the good west of the old mansion until her death in 1814 in her 93rd year.

She lived in widowhood 30 years and 68 years on the Old Farm. My father's, account of his grandmother's Barbara's funeral expenses, receipts and many old papers, releases of all the above Groff's, Hans land warrants from Penns are all in my possession."

Levi W. Groff
July 1st - 1892 in my 80th year

" From Old Papers"

Hans Groff, died in 1746, age not known

David Groff died in 1784 in his 64th year (son of Hans)

David Groff Jr. died in 1799 in his 28th year (son of David)

John Groff died in 1857 in his 80th year (John my father
son of David Jr.)

All the above Groff's are buried at the Groffdale old
Mennonite Meeting House, In sight of the said Old Farm
in the Township, County and State mentioned above.

Weight of Bible 15lbs. 5oz.

The mentioned Groff's born and died on the said Old Farm
exception "Old Hans was from the Old Country.

Bible printed in 1580

"Printed by Christopher Fro Shower"

AFFIDAVIT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)
: SS:
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the County and Commonwealth aforesaid, personally appeared Charles B. Grove, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that the portion of the attached Exhibit "A" in quotes is a true and correct copy of the words inscribed by Levi W. Groff on the inside cover of the original Hans Graf Bible, which Bible is in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Foose, Oreland Road, R. D. #2, New Holland, Pennsylvania.

Sworn and subscribed to)
before me, this 22nd day)
of September, 1967.)

Jane B. Denlinger)
Notary Public)

Charles B. Grove
Charles B. Grove

My Commission Expires:)
July 26, 1970