

## JONATHAN HAGER: CITY FOUNDER, LEGISLATOR, AND PATRIOT

Jonathan Hager, the founder of *Häger Stadt* or Hagerstown, in the province of Maryland, was the first non-British immigrant to occupy a seat in the Maryland legislature. As an American patriot, Hager also took a leading role in the events leading up to America's independence. Earlier he had laid out the Maryland town which carries his name, although he called it *Elisabeth Stadt* after his wife. A street named Jonathan still bears witness to the founder of Hagerstown, the seat of Washington County about 70 miles northwest of Baltimore and Washington. The 37,000 inhabitants of Hagerstown seem proud of their founder. Hager's first home in Hagerstown has been preserved as an historical shrine. In the adjacent Hager Museum, the visitor may see memorabilia associated with this German-American pioneer as well as German books, glass and other artifacts.<sup>1</sup>

The Washington County Historical Society aptly sums up his accomplishments:

Evincing leadership from the moment of his arrival in Western Maryland, Hager quickly became a leading citizen. He was involved in many activities—farmer, cattleman, even a gunsmith. Hager was a volunteer Captain of Scouts during the French and Indian War. In 1762 he founded Hagerstown,<sup>2</sup> and in 1771 and 1773 he was elected to the General Assembly at Annapolis, qualifying him as the first German to make his mark in politics.<sup>3</sup>

### THE IMMIGRANT AND PIONEER

Many places in Germany have been suggested as Jonathan Hager's birthplace. The ancestral file of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints lists his birthplace as Heidelberg, Germany.<sup>4</sup> This is almost certainly a misprint for Heidelberg. Rick S. Thomas has found a Heinrich Hager, who was born in Heidelberg in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>5</sup> Heinrich was probably Jonathan's father.

The given name "Jonathan" was certainly an unusual one for an eighteenth-century German, as was the name of Jonathan's older brother David. The Old Testament Jonathan was the friend to whom King David gave his robe and armor—the friend who called him brother. At the time Lutheran boys and girls were usually named after New Testament figures. Catholics, were named after those same individuals as well as later Christian saints. Calvinists, or *Reformierte* in German, put more emphasis on the Old Testament than other Christians and more often named their children after Old Testament persons.

Two different birth years are given for Jonathan Hager. In the manifest of the ship *Harle* his age is recorded as 22, which would make 1714 his birth year.<sup>6</sup> On his tombstone in the graveyard of the Old Zion Reformed Church in Hagerstown his birth year is given as 1719. The International Genealogical Index of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints also gives 1719.<sup>7</sup>

Had Jonathan reason to advance his age from 17 to 22 when he landed in Philadelphia? At 17, he would have been still a minor. Since he traveled alone, he could have feared being placed under guardianship or apprenticeship. If he were 21 or older, he could expect to be free to

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make his fortune. Whatever the situation, the birth year of Jonathan Hager remains a mystery.

We do, on the other hand, have a clue as to where Hager may have spent some of his time in Germany in addition to Heidelberg. Heinrich Wetter, a former fellow apprentice, wrote to Hager on May 16, 1773—thirty-seven years after Jonathan's emigration. Wetter informed Jonathan of the death of their erstwhile master, Rudolf Scheurer. On the basis of their former friendship, he asked Jonathan to help his son with immigration to America. News of Hager's success in the New World must have reached Wetter, who addressed Hager as esquire.<sup>8</sup> Wetter didn't specify the trade they had been studying under Master Scheurer, but it may have been metalworking. In Maryland, Jonathan was a practicing blacksmith and gunsmith; he could hardly have picked up these crafts on his own without an apprenticeship. The letter from Wetter, a reminder of the home country, seems to have been especially dear to Hager, because it is the only one of his letters which has survived. It may be seen in the Hager Museum next to the Hager House. The letter was written from Berleburg (now Bad Berleburg) in the *Rothaargebirge*, northeast of Siegen.<sup>9</sup>

Was Jonathan an apprentice in Berleburg? Wetter wrote, "Our above-mentioned master Rudolph Scheurer, soon after married my mother and so became my step-father. Hence, as you remember and perhaps recollect, it is difficult for me to gain a livelihood in these parts...." Wetter expected Hager to know the job situation in Berleburg; therefore, Hager must have spent some time in that town. Most likely he was an apprentice there.

Jonathan Hager arrived in Philadelphia on September 1, 1736, on the ship *Harle* of London (Ralph Harle, Master). It came from Rotterdam, with a stopover in Cowes, England. The *Harle* carried 388 men, women and children, all called Palatines. The immigrant is recorded as Jonathan Hager, 22, in the ship's manifest. (This would make his birth year 1714.) As Jonathan Heger, he signed the Oath of Abjuration of his previous sovereign in the courthouse at Philadelphia on September 1. As Jonathan Hager, he signed the Oath of Allegiance to George II in the same place and time.<sup>10</sup> Only about 850 German immigrants landed in Philadelphia in 1736, but their numbers would rise to about 1,800 in 1737 and to 3,116 in 1738.<sup>11</sup> Soon after his arrival, Hager moved to western Maryland, where land was cheap for persons willing to settle on the risky frontier.

### **THE BUILDER OF THE HAGERHAUS**

On June 5, 1739, Jonathan Hager received a special warrant from the provincial land office for 200 acres in the valley of Antietam Creek and now within the city limits of Hagerstown.<sup>12</sup> It was then in Prince George's County, subsequently in Frederick and since 1776 has been in Washington County. The surveyor listed certain improvements which had been made to the tract when he surveyed it on October 16, 1739. These were "about three acres of corn field fenced in and two sorry [dilapidated] houses."<sup>13</sup> Hager lived in the "sorry house" that was standing on or near the site where he would build his stone dwelling. No doubt he had chosen this tract because it contained two everlasting springs on top of which he could build his house. Hager took up the land on October 19, 1739, for "£ 44 current money of Maryland" and called it "Hager's Fancy."

When did Hager build his house? Hager married in 1740. "It seems likely that a young and enterprising German, who was later to be markedly successful, provided for his bride a decent house to live in."<sup>14</sup> Hager probably completed his stone house sometime before his marriage. We can't expect that he built it all by himself, of course; for instance, he would have employed one or several stone masons to dress the fieldstone.

The Washington County Historical Society describes the house as follows:

Situated in Hagerstown's City Park, the Hager House is built of...fieldstones carefully fitted by the young German immigrant who had traveled to the wilderness of Western Maryland in search of adventure and possible fortune.<sup>15</sup>

"The Hager House" in Hagerstown City Park just southwest of downtown Hagerstown is open to visitors; it is located immediately east of City Park Lake, which was a swamp in Hager's days.<sup>16</sup>

Hager settled here "to give encouragement to traders, and to erect proper habitations for the stowage of goods for the supply of the adjacent country..."<sup>17</sup> Hager "engaged in the furtrade," and his house "may be considered to be one of the few remaining storehouses of frontier America."<sup>18</sup> It is described by an architect as "a typical simple stone house of the Appalachian frontier, particularly of the Pennsylvania-Maryland region."<sup>19</sup>

"The Hager House" is a rectangular building measuring 30½ feet by about 35 feet exclusive of the porch foundations, which were added after Hager sold the house. The exterior walls are constructed of small fieldstones gathered from the surrounding out-croppings of limestone. The

interior walls are mud-and-rye-straw plaster over 1 by 4 inch oak strips laid horizontally approximately 2 inches apart. The roof was covered with wooden shingles (today's are imitation). The brick-capped chimney originates in a limestone hearth and flue on the cellar-floor level.<sup>20</sup> The house is built in the German style around this central chimney.<sup>21</sup> According to the Washington County Historical Society, "the large central chimney added warmth to the stone structure, while a fill of rye straw and mud between floors and partitions served as insulation against the cruel winters."<sup>22</sup>

"The Hager House" is so constructed that both the cellar floor and the first floor are accessible from ground level. A few steps lead down to the Dutch (two-leaved) door on the southwest side of the house. This cellar door is wide enough that cattle could be brought in for slaughter. Another door leads to the cellar from the northeast side.

What is unique about this house is "that it was erected over two separate springs, thereby giving occupants a constant and protected water supply."<sup>23</sup> The two natural springs in the cellar did indeed assure *Herr und Frau Hager* a dependable, indoor supply of fresh water.

In the cellar, which is largely at ground level, each spring is enclosed in a separate room. The first room entered through the Dutch door contains the first spring and an hearth more than five feet wide; this hearth is built into a stone wall running from northeast to southwest through most of the house. This was the largest cellar room, and it served as the main kitchen or *Küche* of the house. Behind this kitchen is a slightly smaller room with the second spring and a door leading outside; this may have been the wash room. The two springs provided natu-

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ral air conditioning for the women working before the hot hearth in the summer time. Since the temperature of the springs is always 40 degrees Fahrenheit, they also offered a convenient place to chill and preserve food. The waters from the two springs merge and flow in a single stone channel southward from the house.

A narrow room occupying the entire northwest side of the cellar probably served as storage space; it is accessible from the first floor by steps with a very low overhead (against which this 5' 10" author banged his head during two visits after being duly warned by the custodian).

Half a dozen wooden steps led up to the front door at the southwest side of the house. (The current porch was added after Hager sold the house.) The front door opens onto the *Flur* or entrance-hall. Straight ahead is the dining room, with a large hearth connected to the chimney; besides heating the room, this hearth could be used for warming food or for light cooking. On the back wall of this hearth is a heat-reflecting iron plate cast in Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

To the right is the *Stube* or parlor, the best room of the house. *Stube* is related to the English word "stove." The parlor, where visitors were entertained, was usually heated by a tile or iron stove attached to the chimney by a pipe. This room features today an exhibition of furs, including buffalo hides. Hager was a fur trader, and his house served as an Indian trading post. The hides remind visitors that mountain buffaloes roamed Maryland in Hager's days. The visitor is also shown samples of wampum—Indian money that Jonathan exchanged with the natives for furs. Behind the *Stube* is an unheated *Kammer* or chamber. From the hall, stairs led to the attic.

Besides trading in furs and goods, Hager and his family also farmed the land; it appears that they relied on themselves alone, because there is no documentation that they had slaves.

"The house, as it stands now, is a two-and-a-half story limestone structure [counting the attic but not the cellar]. However, Hager probably only built a one-and-a-half story structure—the full second story and attic were added later. This is evidenced by a visible mortar line on the north side of the house...."<sup>24</sup>

### **THE HAGER MUSEUM**

In the adjacent Hager Museum may be seen items uncovered during the restoration of "the Hager House" in 1953. Also on display is a waistcoat of Jonathan Hager and his German prayer book. There is also a Lutheran Bible printed in 1743 by Christopher Saur in Germantown, Pennsylvania, a collection of sermons printed in Marburg, Germany, and a book of medicinal cures published in Frankfurt am Main in 1718.<sup>25</sup> Hager's copy of a Bible published in Nürnberg, Germany, in 1755 is in the nearby Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.<sup>26</sup> Other items uncovered around the Hager House include pieces of glass and pottery, wrought iron, a blacksmith's iron hammer and a metal smith's brass hammer. Here was also found the stem of a tobacco pipe bearing the manufacturer's name, Friedrich Von Derwall.

### **HAGER'S MARRIAGE**

Probably shortly after having completed his house, Jonathan Hager married the 15-year-old Anna Elisabeth Kirschner.<sup>27</sup> Jonathan wrote in his *Book of Sermons*, "I entered into marriage with my wife, Elizabeth Grischner, in the year 1740."

Anna Elisabeth Kirschner was born March 25, 1725, in Langenselbold, Hesse. Her father was Johannes Georg Kirschner, born May 9, 1695, in Langenselbold. Her mother's maiden name was Anna Fischer, born June 13, 1696, also in Langenselbold. Anna Elisabeth's ancestry may be traced back through her father to Enders Kirschner, who was born about 1570 in Herbstein, Germany (See appendix).

Herbstein is located in upper Hesse on the Vogelsberg. It calls itself "Die Stadt auf dem Berge" (the town on the mountain). Today it attracts visitors because of its beautiful location, fresh air and thermal bath; it is located next to Naturpark Hoher Vogelsberg. It was founded in 976 by Count Heribrath, hence the name Herbstein. In the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), Herbstein was besieged and its castle destroyed.

Enders' son Ludwig Kirschner (1590-1657) married Anna Fuchs (1585-1657) of Langenselbold, and he moved to his wife's hometown in Hesse near Frankfurt-am-Main. His was the first of six generations of Kirschners that would live in Langenselbold until 1731.

In 1731, Johannes Georg Kirschner left the village of Langenselbold to immigrate to America with his wife Anna, and the children Anna Elisabeth, Johannes Martin and Anna Barbara. They traveled on board the ship *Samuel* from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, arriving on August 17, 1731. The British ship captain listed them as "Joh. Georg Kirschner," "Ann Crisner," "Elisabeth Crisner," "Mertin Crisner" and "Barbary Crisner."<sup>28</sup>

Jonathan and Elisabeth lived in "the Hager House" at least until March 19, 1747, when they sold the house and its now 507 acres to fellow German Jakob Rohrer.<sup>29</sup>

"The Hager House" is surrounded today by herbal and flower gardens. "The Elizabeth Kershner Hager Herbal Gardens" feature about 35 varieties of herbs of the type that she might have used for seasoning, as teas, and for medicinal purposes.<sup>30</sup>

#### THE FARMER AT "HAGER'S DELIGHT"

Hager acquired more land, most of it north and west of Hagerstown. He then decided to sell "the Hager House" and move to his new holdings. Around 1747, he took up residency in a house standing on a tract of land he later called "Hager's Delight." But the records show that he didn't actually buy this 1780-acre tract until September 10, 1751. The entire tract would eventually grow to 4,086 acres.

The house on the tract was a two-story log structure, with a cellar, arched with stones. By the late 19th-century the house was owned by Samuel Zeller.<sup>31</sup> It was later described as "located about two miles from Hagerstown on the Mercersburg road, on the farm recently owned by Henry Zeller. It was a large log house, a fine building in those days. There were large log pens far enough apart to constitute a hall."<sup>32</sup> The house was, however, torn down in 1898.<sup>33</sup>

John H. Nelson, the curator of "the Hager House," believes that the dwelling on "Hager's Delight" "stood almost exactly where Interstate 81 crosses Broadfording Road near Salem Avenue Extended, two miles northwest of Hagerstown."<sup>34</sup>

Salem Avenue Extended becomes Cearfoss Pike (58) after I-81 and heads toward Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Just before Salem Avenue becomes Cearfoss Pike, Broadfording Road starts off to the left or northwest. Today it is interrupted by I-81. If we crossed I-81, we could follow Broadfording Road past Bostetter and

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Martins Crossroads and eventually across Conococheague Creek at the village of Broadfording. But since Broadfording Road is cut off today by I-81 at Interchange 7, this road comes to a dead end on either side of I-81. It is in this vicinity, called Wood Point today, that Hager's log house stood. Unfortunately no archeological work has been done on this site. Not even a highway marker points out the place where Hager resided for the majority of his time in Maryland.

Mish wrote that the tract "Hager's Delight" was on the Cearfoss Pike and extended southward over the old National or Western Pike.<sup>35</sup> The Cearfoss Pike is at Interchange 7 of I-81, and the National Pike (US 40) is at Interchange 6. These interchanges are about one and two-thirds miles apart.

Elisabeth and Jonathan had at least three children here. The first recorded was a daughter, who was baptized July 1748 but apparently did not survive infancy. The second was Rosanna (also called Rosina), born on April 21, 1752, and the third, Jonathan Hager, Jr., born on December 13, 1755.

Hager ran a sawmill on nearby Antietam Creek. His chief source of income, however, was from his real estate business; he would eventually own more than 10,000 acres of land.

### THE RELIGIOUS MAN

There is no doubt that Hager was a deeply religious man, but questions remain concerning Hager's religious affiliation. There is no record that he was a member of the German Reformed Congregation (later Zion) established in 1770 in Hagerstown or that he contributed a lot to that church. He may have been a member of the Salem Reformed Church (Troxell's) established ca.

1747 about two miles northwest of his home at "Hager's Delight." But no early records of this congregation on Salem Church Road, between Broadfording Road and Cearfoss Pike, survive.<sup>36</sup>

Nelson raises the possibility that Hager was a member of the Moravian Church, because members of that church preached in his home.<sup>37</sup> There is no doubt that Hager was close to the Moravian Brethren if not actually a member. We note that Pietism had been prevalent in Berleburg, which could have drawn him to the Brethren.<sup>38</sup> But there was also Calvinism in the form of the German Reformed Church. Cunz states, "When Hager grew older he disassociated himself from the Moravians, joined the Reformed Church and took an important part in its activities."<sup>39</sup> We can be certain that he was no longer a pacifist Brethren when he commanded militia in 1757.

### CAPTAIN JONATHAN HAGER

"The French & Indian War, which lasted from 1754 to 1763, spelled hard times for those living on the American frontier in western Maryland...." Hager "served as a Captain of Scouts at various times during 1757, 1758 and 1759. However, his exact role is unknown, nor is it known if he saw any action.... Hager's rank as Captain was probably an honorary title, yet it remained attached to him until his death."<sup>40</sup>

According to a muster roll compiled for the Maryland General Assembly on August 13, 1757, Captain Hager commanded 39 officers and men for 6 days for which he was paid 160 pounds of tobacco and 1 pound sterling.<sup>41</sup> "A List of Militia Accounts now before the Committee of Accounts" of the Maryland General Assembly indicated that "Jonathan Hager of Frederick County" was owed 52 pounds of

tobacco, £ 8, 7 shillings and 11 pence; and 66 pounds of tobacco, £ 70, 9 shillings and 11½ pence.<sup>42</sup> "After the French & Indian War, Hager continued to serve in the military, for there is a record of 'Captain Jonathan Hager's Muster Roll—1767' at the Annapolis Hall of Records."<sup>43</sup>

#### THE WIDOWER

Hager's wife Anna Elisabeth died at "Hager's Delight" in 1765 at the age of 40, after twenty-five years of marriage. Jonathan Hager recorded in German in his Bible published in Nürnberg in 1755, "We lived together until the 16th of April, 1765, then it pleased the Lord to call her, after severe suffering, out of this world. What God does is well done. Her funeral text is recorded in 2nd Timothy.<sup>44</sup> The hymn was sung, 'Lord Jesus Christ True Man and God,' also the hymn, 'Think Ye Children of Men on the Last Day of Life.'<sup>45</sup> She was buried in the family vault at "Hager's Delight." Hager showed his love for her by never remarrying and by naming the town he would found in her honor.

#### THE FOUNDER OF ELISABETHSTADT

Hager began a new work after his wife's death, partly to distract his mind and partly to build a lasting memorial to her. He acquired 714 acres of land in March 1765 and called it "New Work."<sup>46</sup> Here he laid out what he called Elisabeth Stadt or Elizabethtown. Since the French and Indian War had been concluded by the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Hager could expect that the peaceful conditions would attract settlers to his new town.

"Capt. Hager laid off the town in about 520 lots of 82 feet front and 240 feet deep, making half an acre each... He reserved all the lots outside the town which were not numbered in the original...."<sup>47</sup> The first re-

corded lot sale was in 1768. "It is known that 46 lots are recorded as being sold before 1770, and a total of 97 by... 1775."<sup>48</sup>

In 1772, an Englishman named Eddes visited Hager's town and was impressed by its swift growth. He asserted that it was established to give "encouragement to traders" and "to erect proper habitations for the stowage of goods, for supply of the adjacent country." Eddes declared, "His (Hager's) plan succeeded; he has lived to see a multitude of inhabitants of lands which he remembered unoccupied; and he has seen erected in places, appropriated by him for that purpose, more than an hundred comfortable edifices, to which the name of Hager's Town is given, in honour of the intelligent founder."<sup>49</sup> In 1776, the town would become the seat of newly established Washington County.

Hager was not successful in permanently honoring his wife by naming the town after her. People insisted on also calling it "Hager's Town." Both names were used until 1813, when the City Council voted to change the name from Elizabethtown to Hagerstown.<sup>50</sup>

#### THE CANAL COMPANY DIRECTOR

In 1770, Col. George Washington "sent a letter to Governor Eden [of Maryland] pointing out the great benefits that would accrue to Virginia and Maryland if the Potomac River were made a channel of commerce between the Atlantic Seaboard and the Western territory...." Washington was convinced "that the opening of a communication from tidewater to the great country west of the Alleghanies was vitally important to North America from a social, commercial and political standpoint, as well as from the standpoint of military defense."<sup>51</sup>

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A company was formed to open the Potomac to navigation, and subscriptions were collected in 1770. Jonathan Hager was appointed one of the eleven managers or directors of the company from Maryland.<sup>52</sup> Among the six managers from Virginia were George Mason, who later helped draw up the Bill of Rights, and Jacob and Abraham Hite; they were descendants of Justus Heide, who led German settlers into the Shenandoah Valley.

Unfortunately the Maryland Assembly and the Virginia House of Burgesses "turned a deaf ear" to the idea of a canal.<sup>53</sup> The plan was partially realized eighty years later with the completion in 1850 of a canal from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland—part of the planned Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

### **THELEGISLATOR**

Several factors worked against Germans participating fully in politics during the formative period of our nation. While immigrants from Britain faced no language barrier, Germans had to overcome not only the obstacle of language but an even more difficult one: the obstacle of tradition. Unfamiliar with the practice of democracy, German immigrants had to eradicate their ingrained habit of thinking of themselves as subjects [*Untertanen*] of princes or lords. While in Britain some early sprouts of democracy were raising their heads, in Germany, public matters were still determined by a few; the many had only to obey. In America, German immigrants had to learn to take public matters into their own hands. Jonathan Hager learned these lessons well and overcame these barriers; he showed the way for the Germans of Maryland by being the first of their numbers to enter the Maryland Legislature.

When Hager was elected a Delegate to the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland in 1771, his fellow Delegates discovered that British colonial law prohibited him from taking his seat. According to the law, a Delegate had to be born either in Britain or in America or be a descendant of someone born in either place. The German-born Hager had been naturalized in October 1747, in Prince George's County Court, where he reaffirmed his 1636 oath of allegiance to King George II. But this was not sufficient to satisfy the law. For this reason, he was denied a seat by a vote of 24 to 23 on October 8, 1771; Paca voting to seat him, and Samuel Chase not to. The Delegates voted on October 16th to change the law and to open the General Assembly to naturalized citizens. The new law gave full political rights to Jonathan Hager and with him to all "foreign Protestants who have already settled in this province."<sup>54</sup>

Hager was re-elected in 1773 to another two-year term in Annapolis. Doubts were raised by the Delegates concerning the validity of the laws they had passed in October 1771, because Lord Baltimore, the chief of state, had died in September. They decided to pass all laws all over again. But they decided to leave the issue of naturalized citizens until the 1775 session. "In the meantime, Jonathan Hager was permitted to continue as a member and to hold his place on several committees till the end of the session, when he returned to Elizabeth-Town."<sup>55</sup>

### **THEAMERICANPATRIOT**



In the period leading up to the American Revolution, Hager served on various patriotic committees championing U.S. independence. On July 2, 1774, 800 men assembled in Hagerstown and elected him a member of the Non-Importation Association that organized a boycott of British goods, especially tea, opened subscriptions for the relief of the Port of Boston and hung and burned British Prime Minister Lord North in effigy. On November 18, 1774, Hager was named a member of the Committee of Correspondence and part of a group that represented the county in carrying out the resolutions of the Continental Congress. On January 24, 1775, he was elected to the Committee of Safety and Observation which had the task of carrying out the resolves of the Continental Congress and the Maryland Provincial Convention. Hager's specific assignment was to collect money for the purchase of arms and ammunition in Salisbury Hundred, which he represented in the Maryland Legislature.

#### HAGER'S TOWNHOUSE

When Hager laid out Elisabeth Stadt, he centered it upon Public Place at the crossing of Washington and Potomac Streets. Washington Street runs southeast-northwest and Potomac Street northeast-southwest. In the center of Public Place was the square market building with an arched opening in each side; these were large enough for a horse and wagon to drive through. The ground floor of the Market House was built of stone; here's where the residents of the town purchased their produce. In the second floor, built of logs, were public rooms. The Market House was topped by a wooden tower with a weather vane. This vane, called Little Heiskell, was in the shape of a soldier. "Commissioned by

Jonathan Hager, Little Heiskell was designed by a German tinsmith of the same name." It has become the symbol of Hagerstown and can now be seen in the Hager Museum.<sup>56</sup>

Jonathan Hager built for himself a two-story stone house at the northeast corner of Public Place (Lot 12). It isn't known exactly when he moved in, but "it is apparent that Hager was residing at the townhouse at the time of his death on November 6, 1775... (the house at 'Hager's Delight' was being rented out at the time of Hager's death.)"<sup>57</sup>

#### HAGER'S DEATH

Unfortunately, Hager, who had begun to play an important role in the struggle for independence in the colonies, died just at the outbreak of the American Revolution. His life was cut short tragically in 1775 just as he was making his greatest strides. There are two versions of his death:

The historian J. Thomas Scharf, writing in 1882, stated:

The elder Hager was accidentally killed on Nov. 6, 1775, at a sawmill, near the site of Hager's mill, by a large piece of timber rolling upon and crushing him. The timber was being sawed for the German Reformed Church, which Mr. Hager was very active in building.<sup>58</sup>

Judge Thomas J. C. Williams, writing in 1906, elaborated on this information:

About a year after Capt. Hager's return from Annapolis on the 6th of November, 1775, this active, able, and most excellent man and citizen was killed at his saw mill on the Antietam Creek near the town. He was superintending the preparation of timber for building a German Reformed Church on a lot which he had given, when a log slipped, knocked him down, and crushed him. As soon as he could be rescued

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from the log he was carried into a house near by and laid upon the floor. The pool of blood which ran from him stained the floor and the stain was well remembered by the late M. S. Barber who saw it when a young man. The house was pulled down not long ago.<sup>59</sup>

In 1917, 142 years after Hager's death, the site of his death was switched to the German Reformed Church in downtown Hagerstown. Mrs. Robert Brent, said that her husband had told her that the account of Hager's death, "which states that he was killed at his mill, while preparing lumber for the Reformed Church in this city was inaccurate." She said, "I have always heard in the [Hager] family that he was killed at the German Reformed Church where the men engaged in the construction appearing to be unable to handle a large piece of timber, he stepped forward and put his cane against it when it fell to the ground and he was killed."<sup>60</sup>

This more dramatic version of Hager's death is now in general circulation.<sup>61</sup> But it appeared thirty-five years after the first version, and it has the intelligent Hager doing a very foolish thing: standing under a heavy piece of lumber and trying to steady it with his little walking stick. Also, why would the severely injured Hager have been carried to a nearby house and not ministered to within the walls of the church? Such a transportation would have added to his agony and possibly injured his broken bones further. On the other hand, if he was injured out in the open near his mill, it would have been logical to carry him to the shelter of a home.

John H. Nelson writes regarding the saw mill:

Whether Hager actually owned or operated a saw mill has never been confirmed; however, regarding its

location: "George Williams of Linda Drive thinks it was located along today's Mt. Aetna Road, not far from the City Light Plant, and across from Henson & Sons Offices.<sup>62</sup> George grew up in that neighborhood and remembers that as a child some old foundations were discovered and residents referred to them as the location of Hager's sawmill."<sup>63</sup>

This would put Hager's saw mill on Antietam Creek where it forms a long wedge pointing toward Hager Park and the Municipal Stadium. Henson & Son, Inc., excavating and utility contractors, is located on the land within this wedge. It is situated at 975 Mount Aetna Road, where South Colonial Drive meets this road. Antietam Creek is dammed up today just south of the bridge that carries Mount Aetna Road across the stream; this dam, next to the old Hagerstown City Light Plant, could be a modern version of an 18<sup>th</sup> century dam. We must look for Hager's sawmill and the site of his death in this general vicinity. Unfortunately, no archeology has been done so far to determine the exact location of Hager's mill.

Hager was not buried at the German Reformed Church at North Potomac and West Church Streets in whose construction he gave his life; instead, he was buried in the family vault at his home, "Hager's Delight," several miles away.<sup>64</sup> No doubt his friends wanted to place him next to his wife.

### **HAGER'S GRAVE**

Some time after Hager's death, he and his wife were reburied in the graveyard behind the German (now Zion) Reformed Church.<sup>65</sup> Over his grave a stone obelisk has been erected in his memory. This monument bears on its south side the inscription,

Here lieth the remains of Captain JONATHAN HAGER Founder of HAGERSTOWN Born 1719,<sup>66</sup> Died Nov. 6, 1775

His only son JONATHAN HAGER, Jr. Proprietor of HAGERSTOWN, Born Dec. 1755, Died Dec. 1798

Was Gott thut ist wohl gethan.

[What God does is well done.]

In the same grave are buried the wife of Jonathan Hager, Sr., namely Anna Elisabeth Kirschner-Hager, and the wife of Jonathan Hager, Jr., namely Maria Magdalena Ohrendorf-Hager (1767-1845). Also Elizabeth Hager (1785-1867), the only child of Jonathan and Maria Magdalena, as well as her husband, their son and their three daughters.

#### CONCLUSION

Had it not been for his untimely death, Jonathan Hager would no doubt have played an even more prominent role in the struggle for American independence. His only son, Jonathan Hager, Jr., who was born in 1755, was able to continue his father's patriotic tradition and participate in the American Revolutionary War.<sup>67</sup> Hager's only daughter, Rosanna (1752-1810), married Revolutionary War General Daniel Heister, Jr. (1747-1804).<sup>68</sup>

Hagerstown sustains the ties with Germany begun by Jonathan Hager by maintaining a sister-city relationship with the city of Wesel. Hager no doubt passed this town on the lower Rhine on his journey down this river in 1736 to the port of Rotterdam. A street in Hagerstown has been named "Wesel Boulevard" in honor of this association. Wesel Blvd. leads from southwestern Hagerstown toward City Park and "the Hager House."<sup>69</sup>

#### VIEWING THE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH JONATHAN HAGER

A good place to start viewing the sites associated with Jonathan Hager is at Public Place, the center of old Hagerstown. Public Place was laid out by Jonathan in 1665 where Potomac and Washington Streets cross; it divides Hagerstown today into north and south, east and west. Thus we have North Potomac Street and South Potomac Street, East Washington Street and West Washington Street.

In the northeast corner of Public Place was Jonathan's town house—the third Hager house. To the southwest is "Hager's Fancy"—the first Hager house. It may be reached by driving or walking two blocks west on West Washington Street, three long blocks south on South Prospect Street and one block right on Key Street.

To the northwest is the site of "Hager's Delight"—the second Hager house. It may be reached by driving one block west on West Washington Street, turning right (north) on Jonathan Street, left (west) on West Church Street and angling to the right on Salem Avenue. The site of the house on "Hager's Delight" is near the intersection of Salem Avenue and Interstate 81 (Interchange 7).

To the southeast is the site of Hager's fatal accident at his sawmill near Antietam Creek. Drive south on South Potomac Street, left (east) on East Baltimore Street, right (southeast) on Frederick Road, pass Hager Street on the left, turn left (east) on Memorial Boulevard East, pass Hager Park on the left, and stop at Antietam Creek. (Memorial Blvd. becomes Mount Aetna Road after the bridge across the Antietam.) On the right, before the bridge, is the old Hagerstown City Light Plant and the dam

Jonathan Hager, Founder of Hagerstown

across Antietam Creek. It was near here that Hager's sawmill stood.

To the north are Jonathan and Elisabeth's graves. Walk north two blocks

on North Potomac Street to West Church Street. The Zion Reformed Church is at the northwest corner of the intersection N. Potomac and W. Church. The cemetery is west of the church.

— Gary C. Grassl  
The German-American Heritage Society  
of Greater Washington, D.C.



**Figure 1:** The Jonathan Hager House ("Hager's Fancy") in Hagerstown, MD  
Before 1937

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Jonathan Hager is also honored by the City of Hagerstown by a park at Frederick Street and Memorial Blvd. Over the entrance gate of this beautiful, walled-in park in the southeast part of the city are the letters HAGER PARK. The importance of Jonathan Hager to the German-American history of Maryland may be gauged by the fact that the *Second Annual Report of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland* (1888) contained Basil Sollers' biography of Hager.
- <sup>2</sup>The year 1762 is officially considered the date Hager founded Hagerstown, but this is incorrect. He didn't acquire the land ("New Work") on which he staked out the town until 1765.
- <sup>3</sup>The Washington County Historical Society, *The Hager House: Take A Walk Through the Past...* Hagerstown, MD, undated brochure.
- <sup>4</sup>Vers 4.19, @I9BXZ-73@INDI, posted January 5, 1998.
- <sup>5</sup>Family Tree Makers for Windows, The Learning Company, Inc., Fremont, CA 95439, posted December 26, 1998, @I0899@INDI.
- <sup>6</sup>German Pioneers to Pennsylvania, Passenger Ships' Lists, THE HARLE, List 41, <http://www.ris-tenbatt.com/genealogy/shplst38.htm>.
- <sup>7</sup>FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service, International Genealogical Index (R), Verse 4.0, February 1997, File Hager-1719.ged.
- <sup>8</sup>The letter was addressed to Hager in the "Vicinity of Philadelphia." The fact that it was delivered to him in Hagerstown, more than 170 miles from Philadelphia, is testimony to the fact that he was well known in Colonial America.
- <sup>9</sup>Berleburg in Westphalia was first mentioned in 1258. (The name means "little bear's castle.") In 1322 the town of about 50 houses on the Odeborn came into the possession of the Counts of Wittgenstein. Their castle, Schloß Berleburg, may still be seen today as it looked in 1732 ([www.hist-stadt.nrw.de/source/nrw.htm](http://www.hist-stadt.nrw.de/source/nrw.htm)).
- Schloß Berleburg is today a museum and the site of indoor and outdoor concerts. It is interesting to note in connection with the assumption that Jonathan Hager learned metal working in Berleburg that a smithery museum exists in the nearby village of Arfeld. With a population of about 22,000, Bad Berleburg 57319, Kreis Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, is today known principally for its therapeutic baths.
- <sup>10</sup>Minutes of the Provincial Council, in Colonial Records, Vol. IV, 58f.
- <sup>11</sup>John W. Wayland, "German Immigrants, Male and Female, Landing at Philadelphia" (1727-1775), *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*. Harrisonburg, VA: C. J. Carrier Co., 1989, 28 [first published in 1907].
- <sup>12</sup>Province of Maryland Warrant Book LG No. A, f. 34.
- <sup>13</sup>Patented Certificate No. 1013, Prince George's County, Land Office, Annapolis; Patents EI, No. 6, f. 203-4. See also plat H 35, Hager's Fancy, 200 acres, in Maryland State Archives Building, microfilm FC862 and CFW-L-41.
- <sup>14</sup>James W. Foster and William B. Marye, "The Stone House Called the 'Hager House,' Hagerstown, Maryland," 3, *Historic American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.
- <sup>15</sup>The Washington County Historical Society, *The Hager House: Take A Walk Through the Past...*
- <sup>16</sup>The Hager House and Museum are located at 110 Key Street, City Park, Hagerstown. (Tel. (301/739-8393.) From Washington, D.C., take I-270 and from Baltimore take I-70 northwest. At Frederick, continue on I-70 toward Hagerstown. Take Exit 32B (U.S. 40 West) into the city and continue on Franklin Avenue. Turn left on South Prospect Street and continue for three blocks. Turn right immediately after you have crossed railroad tracks and follow the road that parallels these tracks. This is Key Street. Turn right across the railroad tracks at the "Hager House" sign. "The Hager House and Museum" are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM and Sunday from 2 to 5 PM. They are closed January through March and from the last week of November through the first Tuesday of December to prepare for Christmas. A Christmas celebration featuring German customs is held throughout December. "The Hager House" may be seen in color at [http://pilot.wash.lib.md.us/hag/html/the\\_hager\\_house.html](http://pilot.wash.lib.md.us/hag/html/the_hager_house.html).

## Jonathan Hager of Hagerstown, Notes

<sup>17</sup>William Eddis, *Letters from America*. London, 1792, 133.

<sup>18</sup>Mary Vernon Mish (signed Mrs. Frank V. Mish), "The Jonathan Hager House, Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland," *Historical American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.

<sup>19</sup>Charles N. Stotz, registered architect and engineer, "Comments on the Jonathan Hager House, Hagerstown," Dec. 16, 1945, 5. *Historic American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.

<sup>20</sup>Eddis, 133.

<sup>21</sup>"The comb roof is broken in the near-center by a brick chimney. (On the Maryland-Pennsylvania frontier central chimneys are a characteristic of German construction)." See Mish, note 17.

A central chimney, which radiated heat throughout the house, was more efficient than the English-style chimneys at both ends of a house. To warm a house with two end chimneys, both would have to hold a fire, thus consuming twice as much fuel (the author).

<sup>22</sup>The Washington County Historical Society, *The Hager House: Take A Walk Through the Past...*

<sup>23</sup>John H. Nelson, "What God Does Is Well Done ": *The Jonathan Hager Files*. The City of Hagerstown, MD, 1997, 12.

<sup>24</sup>Some writers have maintained that the Hager House was built over springs so that the inhabitants would have a secure water supply in case of an Indian siege. This does not seem plausible. When the rare opportunity presented itself, Germans built houses over springs in their homeland and in Pennsylvania: it spared the great toil involved in carrying water. Indians are not known for having conducted sieges. They waged warfare as they conducted a hunt: a quick strike from an ambush. The Hager House has also been described as a fort against Indians because of its nearly 2-foot-thick, stone walls. But massive stone walls were a standard German construction method (the author).

"The construction of a house over a spring was not a rarity even in the early part of the nineteenth century. Where topography was favorable, and this was usually not the case at the

source of a spring, the owner was thus provided with the equivalent of a modern refrigerator and was spared trips to the springhouse in bad or unseasonable weather... It is therefore not necessary to assume that the house was built over a spring with an eye to withstanding a siege from Indians..." —Charles K. Stotz, architect and engineer, December 16, 1949, "Comments on the Jonathan Hager House, Hagerstown," *Historic American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.

<sup>24</sup>Nelson, 12.

<sup>25</sup>The book of medicinal cures published in Frankfurt am Main in 1715 may have been brought over by the Kirschner family. Anna Elisabeth Kirschner, the wife of Jonathan Hager, was born 1725 in Langenselbold, only 16 miles east of Frankfurt.

<sup>26</sup>James W. Foster and William B. Marye, "The Stone House Called the 'Hager House,'" undated, footnote 8, *Historic American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.

<sup>27</sup>Like most German women, Anna Elisabeth had two given names. Because they honored the chief female saints of the New Testament, Maria, the mother of Jesus, and Anna, the mother of Maria, were common initial names for girls. But with so many girls having these names, a second given name had to be added to distinguish them from other Marias or Annas. The second given name was the *Rufname* or call name: the name someone was actually called. Since the initial given name was used only on formal occasions, it may be termed the titular name. Some American genealogists call this initial name the "secular" name, but this is incorrect. Both names were religious. The titular name for boys was usually Johannes after St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.

<sup>28</sup>Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, Ship Samuel, List of Foreigners Imported in the Ship Samuel, Hugh Percy, Master, from Rotterdam, Qualified Aug. 17, 1731, <http://istg.rootsweb.com/v2/1700v2/samuel17310817.html>.

<sup>29</sup>The Rohrer family originated in Markkirch, Elsaß, Germany, which is now called Ste. Marie-aux-

Mines, Haut-Rhin, France. The Protestant Hans Michael Rohrer and his family were forced about the year 1711 to move from Markkirch to escape religious persecution. Johannes Jakob, the third son of Hans Michael, was arrested by the Catholic French while he was trying to save some of the family possessions. Johannes Jakob, known as Jakob, somehow escaped from prison, and he immigrated to America. Other Rohrers followed and settled in Lancaster County, PA, and in the area that would later become Hagerstown (Donald L. Spidell, "The Great Palatine Migration": <http://www.zekes.com/~dspidell/famresearch/palatine.html>). Spidell describes himself as a Rohrer descendant.

Jakob Rohrer bought 50 acres called "Rorer's Lot" on 4-19-1739 in what later became Washington County. "Rorer's Adventure" of 100 acres was purchased on 7-3-1740 in modern Washington County. The settlement Rohrersville is located in the southeast corner of modern Washington County. Jakob Rohrer bought "the Hager House" from Jonathan in 1745 (Land Office, Annapolis, MD, *Deed Book TT*, No. 1, f. 447). "Rohrers and their descendants, the Hammonds, possessed this property until 1944, when the house and an approximate ten acres were sold by them, under the name of the West End Improvement Company, to the Washington County Historical Society" (footnote 18, 3).

<sup>30</sup>The Washington County Historical Society, *The Hager House: Take A Walk Through the Past...*

The City of Hagerstown also honored Elizabeth Hager by naming its Welcome Center in Historic Downtown Hagerstown after her.

<sup>31</sup>Scharf, 1059.

<sup>32</sup>Thomas J. C. Williams, *A History of Washington County, Maryland*. Hagerstown: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, Publishers, 1906, 23.

<sup>33</sup>Mary Vernon Mish to Francis Jencks, 28 Feb. 1950.

<sup>34</sup>Nelson, 19.

<sup>35</sup>Mary Vernon Mish, *Jonathan Hager, Founder: Commemorating the Founding of Hagerstown, Maryland, 1762*. Hagerstown Bookbinding and Printing Company, 1937, 22.

<sup>36</sup>Letter from Rachel S. Schwartz, Zion Church historian, to Ilse Hager of Germany, 26 June 1980.

<sup>37</sup>Nelson, 44.

<sup>38</sup>"Alexander Mack and a small circle of pietists lived for a while in the village of Schwarzenau [close to Berleburg] under the protection of the Count [Wittgenstein]. They were part of a wider movement known as the German Brethren, German Baptists, or Dunkards. Because of their belief in adult baptism ("Anabaptism") and other reasons, they were widely persecuted in the German states and eventually had to leave Wittgenstein. Mack and his group arrived in Pennsylvania in 1729" (Wittgenstein Genealogy Home Page, <http://www.action-research.com/gene/wittpage.htm>). A Brethren Meeting House stood at Broadfording (on the Conococheague Creek), 4 or 5 miles northwest of "Hager's Delight," but the author doesn't know its dates.

"Between 1745 and 1479 a number of German families belonging to the sect of Moravians settled at what is now the village of Graceham...twelve miles northwest of Frederick city" (Gross, 16). Graceham is near Thurmont and about 18 miles in a direct line east of Hagerstown (the author).

<sup>39</sup>Dieter Cunz, *The Maryland Germans*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1948, 85.

<sup>40</sup>Nelson, 41.

<sup>41</sup>*Maryland Historical Magazine*, "French and Indian War," IX, No. 3 (September 1914), 279.

<sup>42</sup>"French and Indian War," 366.

<sup>43</sup>Nelson, 41. Colonial Muster Pay Rolls, Folios 173, 175, 192, 196, 197, 199. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD.

<sup>44</sup>Probably 2:12: "If we have died with him, then we shall live with him."

<sup>45</sup>Jonathan's Bible is in the Washington County Museum of Fine Art near the Hager House.

<sup>46</sup>Basil Sollers, *Jonathan Hager, The Founder of Hagerstown*. Baltimore: T. Kroh and Sons, 1888, 20. Also, Mish, 24.

<sup>47</sup>J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882, 1060.

<sup>48</sup>Nelson, 22.

<sup>49</sup>Eddis, *Letters From America*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of the Harvard University Press, 1969. Also, Mish, 27.

## Jonathan Hager of Hagerstown, Notes

<sup>50</sup>Hagerstown City Council Minutes for Dec. 5, 1813.

<sup>51</sup>Edward S. Delaplains, "The Life of Thomas Johnson," *Maryland Historical Magazine* (December 1919), 14, No. 4, 347.

<sup>52</sup>Delaplains, 346.

<sup>53</sup>Delaplains, 347.

<sup>54</sup>James W. Foster and William B. Marye, "The Stone House Called the 'Hager House,'" undated, footnote 12, *Historic American Buildings Survey*, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS, MD, 22-HAGTO, 2-.

<sup>55</sup>Mish, 29.

<sup>56</sup>The Washington County Historical Society, *The Hager House: Take A Walk Through the Past....*

<sup>57</sup>Nelson, 19. See Jonathan Hager Estate Papers in Hager House Files.

<sup>58</sup>J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*. Philadelphia, 1882.

<sup>59</sup>Thomas J. C. Williams, *History of Washington County, Maryland*. Hagerstown, 1906, Vol I, 59-70.

<sup>60</sup>Nelson, 48.

<sup>61</sup>Mary Vernon Mish repeated this account in her book *Jonathan Hager, Founder*. Hagerstown, 1937. So does a history of the Zion Church, where Hager supposedly died: According to a report with which Hager's descendants seem to concur, "the accident happened at the site of the church building, probably within the confines of the stone walls, when he stepped forward to steady with his cane, a heavy log being hoisted to place, evidently high in support of the roof. The log slipped, falling on the Proprietor who sustained injuries resulting in his death shortly thereafter" (Frank and Rachael Schwartz, *Old Zion: A History of the First German Reformed Church in Hagerstown, 1770-1970*. Published by the Consistory of Zion Church and printed by The Craft Press of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 1970, 46).

This account of Hager's death is also circulated by the City of Hagerstown in its brochure *The Hager House*: "On November 6, 1775, Captain Hager was accidentally killed while supervising the building of the German (now Zion) Reformed Church on land which he had

donated." This is repeated on the internet site of the City of Hagerstown.

<sup>62</sup>Henson & Son, Inc., excavating and utility contractors, 975 Mount Aetna Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740-6876.

<sup>63</sup>Nelson, 48.

<sup>64</sup>"At the time of his death the Founder was buried in the family vault at 'Hager's Delight.' It was sometime later that his remains were removed to the cemetery of the German Reformed Church" (Mish, 72).

<sup>65</sup>The first parish register of this congregation, dated 1771, is entitled *Kirchen Buch Von Die Reformirte Gemeinde Ihn Hägers Stadt oder Elisabetha Stadt in Canageschik* [Conococheague] *Fridrich County in der Province Mereland*.

<sup>66</sup>The 1719 birth year of Hager, Sr., on his grave monument contradicts the information in the ship manifesto, according to which he would have been born in 1714.

<sup>67</sup>Jonathan Hager, Jr., enlisted in 1776 at the age of 21 in the American Army. He is listed as serving with Captain Henry Hardman's company on July 19, 1776 ("Archives of Maryland Muster Rolls and Others of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, 1775-1783," 51). On 27 August 1776, he took part in the Battle of Long Island, N.Y., the first engagement after the declaration of independence. It was George Washington's first command of an army in battle, and his inexperience led to the defeat of the American forces.

George Washington made the mistake of dividing his small forces between Manhattan and Long Island. British General Sir William Howe landed about 20,000 troops on Long Island against an American force of about 5,000. Howe engaged the American troops near Flatbush from the front while moving the bulk of his forces around the unprotected American left flank. Then he began an attack from the front and the rear, which resulted in an American route, with the loss of 1,500 men compared to fewer than 400 British. Jonathan Hager, Jr., was captured, along with General John Sullivan, and transported to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here he was imprisoned in a dungeon under the ramparts of the fort.

After his release at the end of the war, Hager, Jr., returned to Hagerstown and married Mary



Magdalena Ohrendorf (1767-1845). She was the daughter of Major Christian Ohrendorf, who lived near Sharpsburg, MD. Hager, Jr., and his wife Mary Magdalena had an only child, Elizabeth Hager. (She would marry Upton S. Lawrence, a leading member of the Hagerstown bar, and one son and three daughters would emanate from this marriage.) Hager, Jr., died at the age of 43 in December 1798. His relatively early death has been attributed to a disease that he is believed to have contracted during his long imprisonment.

<sup>58</sup>Heister was an American general in the American Revolution and was elected three times to the U.S. Congress from Pennsylvania beginning in 1798. He died in 1804 and is buried alongside his wife in the same cemetery as his father-in-law.

<sup>69</sup>The City of Hagerstown holds in August an annual "Celebration of Affiliation With Our Sister City-Wesel, Germany." The celebration features German music and dancers and German food and drinks.

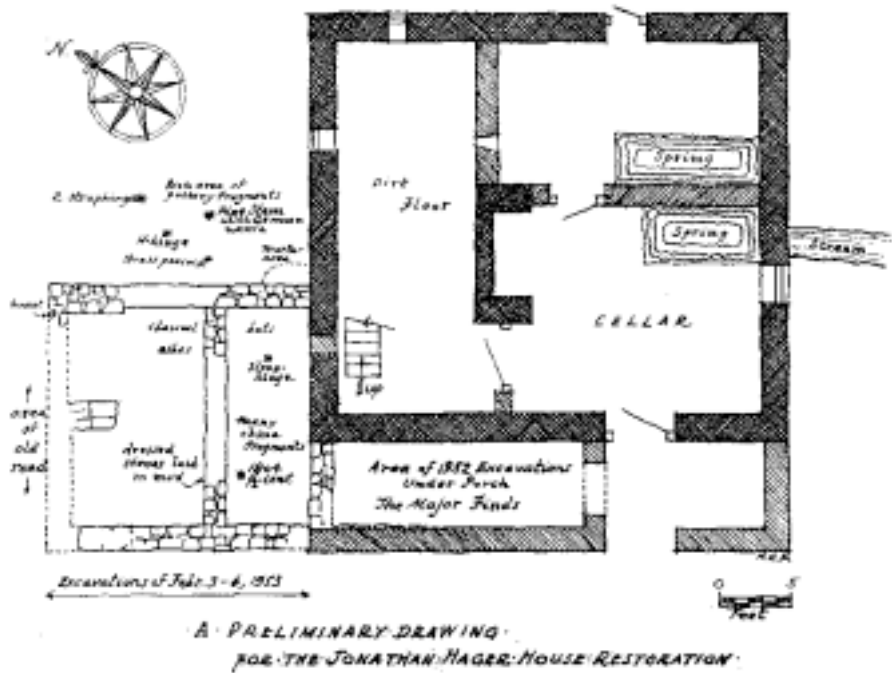
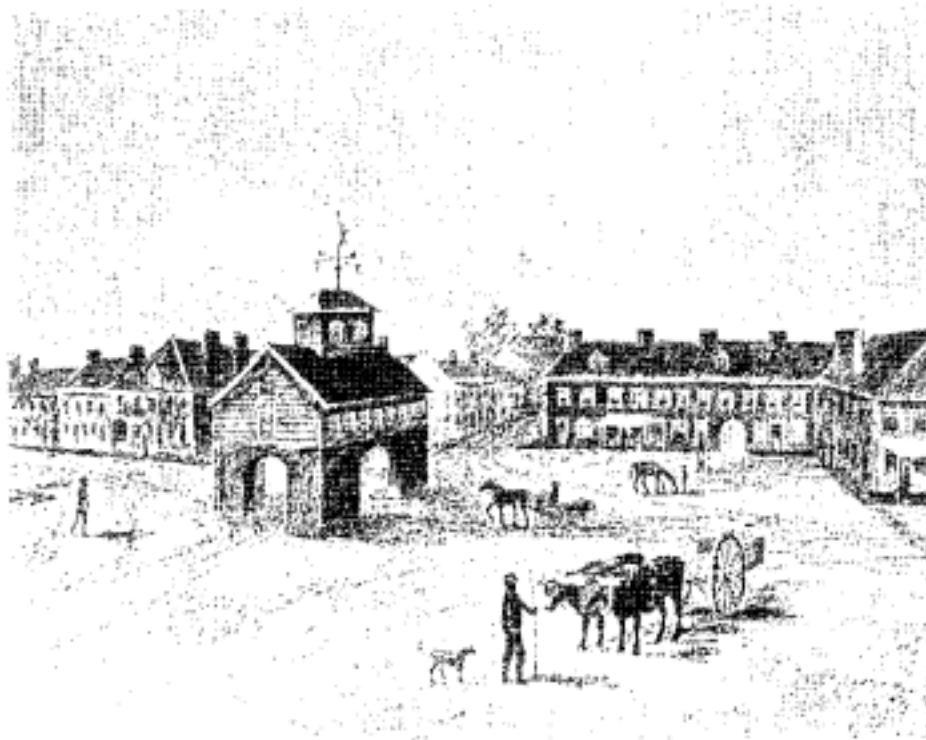


Figure 2: Plan of the cellar of the Jonathan Hager House ("Hager's Fancy")



**Figure 3:** The Public Square in Hagerstown, MD, as it appeared in 1776. The market building with the "Little Heiskell" weather vane is in the center. North Potomac Street is in the upper center; East Washington Street on the right and West Washington Street on the left. Jonathan Hager's townhouse is in the upper right corner.

## APPENDIX

**Ancestors of Anna Elisabeth Kirschner, born March 25, 1725, in Langenselbold, Hesse, died April 16, 1765, in old Frederick County (now Washington County).**

### Father's side:

#### FATHER

Johannes Georg KIRSCHNER, born May 9, 1695, in Langenselbold, Hesse, Germany, immigrated to Philadelphia in 1733, died May 1748 in Prince George's County, Province of Maryland (modern Washington County, State of Maryland).

#### GRANDPARENTS

Johannes Konrad KIRSCHNER, born Nov. 14, 1669, in Langenselbold, died there April 26, 1746.

[K] + Maria Knies, born Feb. 28, 1668/69 in Langenselbold, died there Nov. 21, 1697.\*

#### GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Johannes KIRSCHNER, born Dec. 2, 1638, in Stockhausen, married in Langenselbold, died there April 23, 1713.

[E] + Anna Elisabeth Ermolt, born Nov. 14, 1641, in Langenselbold, died there Feb. or March 15, 1682/83.

[K] Kaspar Knies, born March 24, 1640/41, died Feb. 6, 1675/76 in Seligenstadt.

[R] + Anna Roht, born 1636 in Bobenhausen, died March 6, 1708/09.

#### GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Peter KIRSCHNER, born c. 1621 in Langenselbold, died there March 10, 1664/65. + Anna Baumann, born c. 1607, died Aug. 25, 1693, in Langenselbold.

[E] Hans Ermolt, born March 30, 1603, died Nov. 24, 1672.

[H] + Anna Hinkel, no further information,

[K] Konrad Knies, born c. 1615, died Jan. 17, 1666.

+ Margareta - - - - - , born 1608, died Dec. 14, 1688.

[R] Konrad Roht, born 1594, died Feb. 8, 1675/76.

+ Anna Barbara Nix.

#### GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Ludwig KIRSCHNER, born c. 1590 in Herbstein, Hesse, died before May 1657, in Langen. [F] + Anna Fuchs, born Aug. 29, 1585, in Langenselbold, died there Dec. 3, 1657.

[E] Nikolaus Ermolt, died Dec. 22, 1622. [L] + Anna Lochmann.

[H] Nikolaus Hinkel, died 1610. + Name unknown.

[K] Johannes Kniess, born April 20, 1584, died Dec. 21, 1625.

+ Anna Hummel, married Feb. 13, 1608/09, in Gelnhausen.

#### GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Enders KIRSCHNER, born c. 1570 in Herbstein, Hesse.

+ Name unknown

[F] Anton Fuchs.

+ Ursula Deynes.

[L] Heim Lochmann

+ Name unknown.

[K] Peter Kniess, died April 14, 1618.

[R] + Elsa Ritter, married in 1569, died Feb. 7, 1615/16.

#### GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT

#### GRANDPARENTS

— KIRSCHNER .

+ Name unknown.

[K] Adam Kniess. + Name unknown.

[R] Stephan Ritter + Name unknown.

Jonathan Hager of Hagerstown, Appendix

**Ancestors of Anna Elisabeth Kirschner.**

**Mother's side;**

**MOTHER**

Anna Fischer, born June 13, 1698, in Langenselbold, Hesse, died about 1768, in Maryland.

**GRANDPARENTS**

Konrad Fischer.

+ Anna Veronika Schubert, born Sept. 22, 1659.

**GREAT GRANDPARENTS**

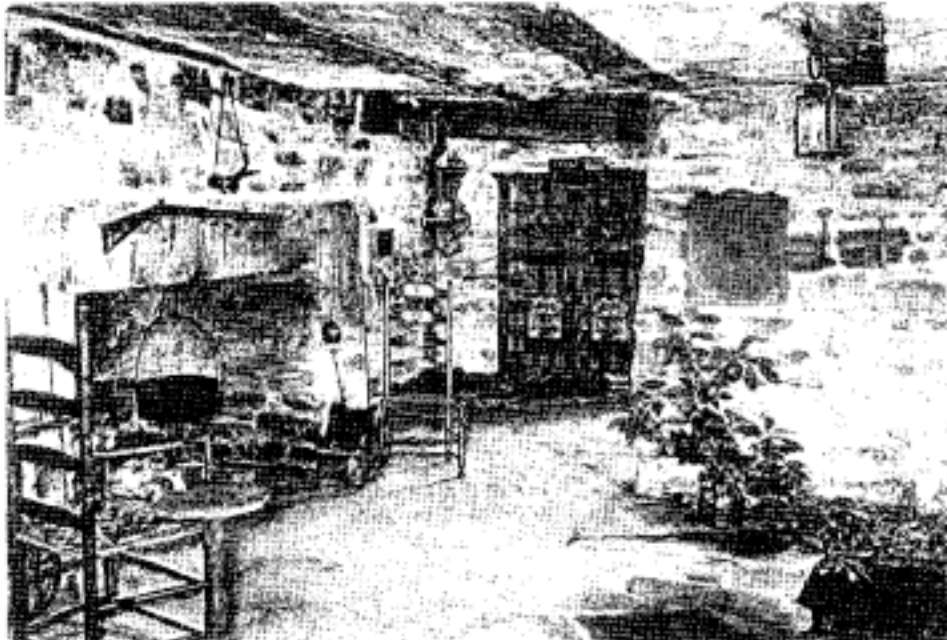
Johannes Fischer. +

Barbara Herchart

———— Schubert.

+ Name unknown.

\*1668/69 refers to years in Old Style and in New Style. Pope Gregory decreed that the 14 days from October 5 to 14, 1582, be dropped from the calendar to bring it in line with the movement of the sun. Protestant areas complied only after some years. For some time, people continued to write both the old year and the new year, perhaps in the fear that the newfangled calendar would not last.



**Figure 4:** Jonathan Hager House ("Hager's Fancy") in Hagerstown, MD. Interior of the basement kitchen, with the first spring on the right.