

In 1774, John Blickensderfer wrote to his sister-in-law, Eva Blickensderfer, at the Kohlhof in Germany. Translation:

Methe-Crik (Meadow Creek), Virginia 1774

Dear and Beloved sister-in-law:

Thanks to God I myself and my two children are still well. My dear wife passed away three years ago. I had to lift and carry her for 3 years, because of a limb disease. Due to the circumstances I have fallen behind with my household, and also have fallen into debt. Therefore, because of these circumstances I need very badly that which I still have coming to me from you, so I would not lose my piece of land which would be very hard on me. If you could send something at this time, it would just be a great help in time of need. We shall acknowledge it with much thanks. The 90 fl. from my brother Christian have arrived correctly.

Your brother-in-law,

Johannes Blickensdörfer

In 1776, Yost Blickensderfer, then residing in Frederick County, Maryland, visited his brother John in Virginia. On his return to Maryland, Yost is reported as saying John had one son (John Jr.) living with him. John's other child, Catharine, had married John Lester, supposedly in 1775.

On April 4, 1789, the tract on Meadow Creek was surveyed and sold to James Simpkins by "Jno. Pleckenstaker & wife Elizabeth." This was John Plickenstalver Jr., as the elder Plickenstalver's wife died in 1771, as stated in his letter, and it is probable that John Sr., had also passed away by this date.

Nothing further is known of John Plickenstalver. The date of his death may have been ca. 1788, as his tract of land was sold by his son in 1789. John Jr. left Montgomery County and moved to Kentucky. Catharine was the only member of the family to remain in Montgomery County.

Source: History of the Blickensderfer Family in America, by Jacob Blickensderfer, 1897. Reprinted by Occidental Graphics, Michael A. Ellis, P.O. Box 17184, Phoenix, Arizona 85011.

Jacob Blickensderfer, born May 9, 1816, at New Philadelphia, Ohio, died February 26, 1899, Oakland, Missouri, was the great-grandson of Christian Blickensderfer, the oldest son of the Anabaptist. He had a distinguished career in railway service as a civil engineer. He was personally appointed by Abraham Lincoln to inspect the transcontinental railway lines. He was the father of 13 children. It is thanks to his knowledge and research of the family that we have this history of the Blickensderfer family.