

BOSSARDS  
BOZARDS  
and  
BUZZARDS

THE DESCENDANTS OF  
PHILLIP BOSSARD  
WHO LANDED IN PHILADELPHIA  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1740 AND SETTLED  
IN HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

A GENEALOGY COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY  
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## CHAPTER 1

### FIRST GENERATION

1 **BOSSARD Johannes Phillip:** was born in 1706, possibly in Alsace-Lorraine. At the age of 34 he sailed for America on the ship "Samuel and Elizabeth", William Chilton, Commander. The ship sailed from Rotterdam, last from Deal, England, arriving in Philadelphia on September 30, 1740.

It is unknown whether or not Phillip was married when he came to this country, since I have not found the names of wives or children under the age of 16 in the passenger lists for that time period. However, from events that took place later, I assume that he brought with him his wife, Eva Catherine, and at least two or three children.

Soon after his arrival, Phillip made his way to Cherry Valley and settled there between the Wind-Gap and the settlements on the Delaware River. It was here that Phillip and John Moor purchased the plantation of over 250 acres from Joseph Farmer, who was the executor for the estate of Edward Farmer. He paid one hundred and fifty pounds, lawful money of the state of Pennsylvania and the deed is recorded in Easton, Northampton County dated October 11, 1752. Later, by an endorsement, John Moor released all of his part to Phillip.

The location of the plantation was in the town of Lower Smithfield, but in 1762 part of Lower Smithfield became Hamilton Township. In 1842 the town of Bossardsville was projected by Melchior Bossard, a descendant of Phillip. To anyone passing through the town of Bossardsville it would seem to be only a crossroad, but to this family it is a very important place on the map. Near this crossroad stands a large stone house, built in the German fashion to last, and is the home of our ancestors who helped to build this country. The first home that Phillip built was probably a log house located about 100 yards North of the stone house now standing there. This house was probably built by his son or his grandson in the early 1800's.

The first few years in their new home were peaceful and prosperous. No doubt it was a busy time, clearing the land to be worked, planting, harvesting and caring for his family. With the primitive tools for farming they had at that time, it must have been extremely hard work and long hours to work a farm of that size.

As more settlers moved into the area the Indians became more and more resentful. They were determined to drive the white settlers south of the Blue Mountains. On the 11th day of December, 1755, over 200 Indians attacked the settlements in what is now known as Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe counties. All the buildings were burned north of East Stroudsburg and the people were killed

or taken prisoner. Cherry Valley was next and in the middle of January 1756 an attack was made on the settlers there.

There was a man working for Phillip named Mulhausen and on the day of the attack, he was shot by one of the five Indians. One of Phillip's sons tried to come to his rescue but was also killed by the Indians. Phillip wounded one of the attackers and might have been killed himself if some of his neighbors had not come to his assistance and scared the attackers away. This was the first of Phillip's sons to be killed by the Indians.

After this happened, a chain of forts were built along the ridge from the Susquehanna to the Delaware to protect the settlers. There was Fort Norris near Kresgeville, Fort De-Pui at Shawnee and Fort Hynshaw at Bushkill. The Bossard home was located about half way between Fort Norris and Fort Hamilton and it was the very center of activity during this time. Officers and troops would stop off at their home on their way from one fort to another. Among them was General James Young, who spent the night of June 23rd at the Bossard home, while making an inspection of the Provincial forts in 1756. Neighbors would congregate there to discuss the difficult times and to make decisions on their best course of action. His home became a place of refuge for his neighbors during Indian attacks. At one time, there were nine families staying there, as there was safety in numbers.

A second major attack was made about the 20th of April on Cherry Valley and the surrounding area. It was decided that this was such a serious matter, they would send a representative to Easton and ask for protection. They chose Michael Roup and the deposition he gave is so interesting that I would like to include it here:

The 24th day of April, one thousand seven hundred and fifty seven, appeared before me, William Parsons, Esquire, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Northampton, one Michael Roup, of Lower Smithfield, in the said county, age 52 years, a person to me well known and worthy of credit, and being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God, did depose and declare, that his neighbor, Phillip Bozart, being at Fort Norris last Saturday week, heard a letter read there, which was dispatched by Major Parsons to acquaint the garrison that he had received information that some enemy Indians intended shortly to come and attack the inhabitants at and about Minisink and to desire them to be on their guard; which was soon made known to all the neighboring inhabitants. And this deponent further saith that on Friday morning last, John LeFever, passing by a house of Phillip Bozart and this deponent informed them that the Indians had murdered Casper Gundryman last Wednesday evening; whereupon this deponent went immediately to the house of Phillip Bozart to consult which was best to be done. Their house, being about a half mile apart, that they concluded it best for the neighbors to collect themselves together, as many as they could in some one house. And this deponent further saith, that he immediately returned home and loaded his wagon as fast as he could with his most valuable effects which he carried to Bozart's house. That as soon as he unloaded his wagon, he drove to his son-in-law, Peter Soan's house, about two miles, and loaded as much of his effects as the time would admit and took them also to Bozart's house, where nine families were retired; That a great number of inhabitants were also retired to the houses of Conrad Bittenbender and John McDowell; That Bozart's house is 7 miles from Fort Hamilton and 12 miles from Fort Norris. And this deponent further saith that yesterday morning about 9 o'clock the said Peter Soan and Christian Klein, with his daughter, about 13 years of age, went from Bozart's house to the house of the said Klein and thence to Soan's house to look after their cattle and to bring some more effects. And this deponent further saith, that about a half hour after the above three persons were gone from Bozart's house, a certain George Hartleib, who also fled with his family to the Bozart house and had been to his own house about a mile from Soan's to look after his creatures and to bring away what he could, returned to Bozart's and reported that he had heard three guns fired very quick, one after the other, and toward Soan's place which made them conclude the above three persons were killed by the Indians. And this deponent further saith, that their little company were afraid to venture to go and see what had happened that day as they had many women and children to take care of, who had they left might have fallen prey to the

enemy. And this deponent further saith, that this morning, nine men of the neighborhood armed themselves as best as they could and went toward Peter Soan's house in order to discover what had happened to the above three persons. That when they came within about three hundred yards of the house, they found the bodies of the said Soan and Klein lying about twenty feet from each other, killed and scalpt, but did not find Klein's daughter. Soan was killed by a bullet which entered the upper part of his back and came out his breast. Klein was killed with their tomahawks. The nine men immediately returned to Bozart's house and reported the above. That this deponent was not one of the nine, but that he had remained at Bozart's with the women and children. That the rest of the people desired this deponent to come to Easton and acquaint the Justice with what had happened. That the nine men did not think it was safe to stay and bury the dead. And further this deponent saith not

The mark (X) of  
Michael W. Roup

Col. Rec., Vol. VII p. 49

This deposition gives us an insight into what life must have been like for our ancestors during that time.

A short time after this, two more of Phillip's sons were killed by Indians during another attack. I know of no records giving the names of these three sons, but they are probably buried in the small family plot behind Phillip's house along with his hired man Mulhausen. According to a descendant of Phillip, Mulhausen had purchased a small plot of land from Phillip for his burial, and that he asserted that this burial place was to be kept in good shape for all time. This plot was only used before the church cemetery was started about 1775.

As previously stated, it is difficult to determine whether or not Phillip was married before he came to this country in 1740. We know that his son, Melchior, was born in 1745 and that he would have been 10 or 11 years old during the Indian attacks of 1755 and 1756. It would seem very likely that the sons who were fighting Indians during this time would have to be older than Melchior. Since Melchior was born just five years after Phillip came to this country, it is reasonable to believe that Phillip was married and had at least two or three children when he arrived here.

When the French and Indian war was over, peace once again returned to the valley and there was time to think of church and school, the many duties of caring for his family and his plantation. He was active in community affairs and at times, he acted as viewer of new roads. It was during this time that Phillip donated land for the new church and school.

In 1775, the first log church was built and at the same time a new school. The Christ Church in Hamilton Township has records of baptisms as early as 1763 and include nearly all of the Bossard family for many years. Phillip and his family were very active in the church and we find them acting as sponsors for many of the children born of their children and friends. Altho it was Phillip who donated the land for this church, it was his son Melchior who actually gave the deed for the land, which is in Easton, Northampton County, dated June 23rd 1792 and was recorded on January 12th, 1795.

The log church was used until 1829, when the new Hamilton Square Church was built. It is a beautiful stone church and the interior is exceptionally beautiful. The pulpit is high and on each side are winding stairs leading up to it. The work

was all done by hand, including the delicate spindles in the balustrade and the altar rail. There have been almost no changes made since the church was built and the church is still being used today.

There is a cemetery in the back of the church and it is here that Phillip and his wife Eva Catherine are buried. At least two of his known children are also buried here. His tombstone states that he died in 1797, in the 90th year of his life and also that his wife, Eva Catherine, died in her 77th year, altho no dates were given for her. The tombstone, written in German, was replaced by the descendants of the sixth and seventh generation and is an exact replica of the original.

The tax list of 1785 shows that his son Melchior paid taxes of one pound, eight shillings, three pence on 300 acres of land, 3 horses and 5 cows. By this time, he had evidently taken over the farm for his Father, altho he did not receive a deed until 1790. This deed is recorded in Deed Book B2, page 102 in the town of Easton, County of Northampton. It reads in part as follows:

This indenture made the twenty seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand and ninety between Phillip Bozsert of Hamilton Township in the state of Pennsylvania, Yeoman of the one part and Melchior Bozsert (son of the said Phillip) of Hamilton Township aforesaid, Yeoman of the other part, witnesseth that the said Phillip Bozsert as well for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he hath and doth bear towards his son and of the sum of four hundred pounds lawful money of the State of Pennsylvania, to him heretofore paid and five shillings now at the execution hereof paid by his son Melchior Bozsert, etc.

This the same tract or piece of land which the executors of Edward Farmer, deceased, by indenture bearing date of October 1752 granted and sold unto a certain John Moor and the said Phillip Bozsert; and the said John Moor, by an endorsement on said indenture, released all his part thereof unto the said Phillip Bozsert, etc.

The memorial stone, placed at the homesite of Phillip by the Monroe County Historical Society, is a tribute to this man, a true pioneer, Indian fighter and one of the builders of our country. He was loved and respected by his neighbors, friends and an ancestor we can be proud of.

HOMESITE OF PHILLIP BOSSARD  
 BORN 1706--DIED 1797  
 PIONEER SETTLER OF CHERRY VALLEY  
 DONOR OF LAND FOR HAMILTON SQUARE  
 CHURCH  
 HERE WAS A PLACE OF REFUGE FROM INDIAN  
 RAIDS DURING THE FRENCH AND INDIAN  
 WARS OF 1754-1760

Known surviving children of Phillip and Eva Catherine:

2 BOSSARD Heinrich: (*Phillip*) was born ca 1740, believed to be a son of Phillip and Eva Catherine, altho there has been no record found to prove his relationship to Phillip, other than Phillip and Eva Catherine were sponsors for at least one of his children born in Hamilton Township and christened in the Hamilton Square Church. Therefore, the children of Heinrich and his wife Anna Catherine will be included here.

3 BOSSARD Melchior: (*Phillip*) born December 18 1745

4 BOSSARD Christina: (*Phillip*) born ca 1746

The number of children born to Phillip and Eva Catherine is unknown. There is evidence that they were living in Williams Township in Northampton Co., before settling in Hamilton Township, with Eva Catherine attending communion at church in 1752. There was also a George Peter Bossard, who was a sponsor for a child born in 1752 in Williams Township and this is probably the same Peter Bossard listed in the 1761 tax lists for Hamilton Township. No other records have been found for him.

There was mentioned a record of a Samuel Bossard, son of Phillip, for confirmation, no dates or place, and no other records found of a Samuel. He might also be a son, and may have been one of the sons that was killed by the Indians in 1756.

This would account for at least seven children in the family, including the three known surviving children, George Peter, and the three sons that were killed by Indians. There may have been others that are unaccounted for and some records may show up at a later date.