

John George Kitzmiller

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No Picture Available

Born: 29 Oct 1738 Conewago, PA

Married: Anna Keefauver

Died: 3 Mar 1824 Littlestown, PA

Parents: Hans Martin Kitzmiller & Julianna Benckner

6. JOHN GEORGE³ KITZMILLER (MARTIN^c, JOHN) S-398

Born 30 October 1738; died 10 March 1824, both records from gravestone. Married about 1768 to ANNA CHRISTINA Keefauver, who was born 1747, died 3 March 1831.

He was a constable in Manheim Twp. in 1768; assistant assessor in 1780; collector in 1785. He was taxed in that township in 1762 and 1783. In 1801 he had the largest tax assessment in Conewago Twp., his property including grist mill, saw mill, slaves, etc. In 1765 he bought a lot in Germany Twp., agreeing to put up a building; the same year he bought from his father 164 acres in Manheim and Germany Twps, which the father had bought in 1759. He was then described as a cordwainer.

In 1786 he gave bond against possible claim by the heirs of Dudley Digges over ownership of land in "Digges' Choice". He apparently took over his father's property, buying out the shares of his brother and sister, guaranteeing to his father half the crops and half the toll of the grist mill. In 1777 he was fined for failure to meet and drill with the militia; in 1776 he hired Henry Baumgardner as his substitute, and in 1781 hired Peter Frein for the same purpose.

In the 1790 census he was listed as of Manheim Twp., having two minor boys, five females, four other free whites and one slave in his household. His will of 22 May 1815 was probated 27 March 1824; his son Michael was executor. It names his wife, two sons, five daughters and a son-in-law Jacob Dewalt (DeVault). His estate was large, and appears in the records till 1833.

Ancestry.com. *The Kitzmiller family in Pennsylvania before 1800* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: Bishop, J. C.. *The Kitzmiller family in Pennsylvania before 1800*. Muscatine, Iowa: unknown, 1959. Page 12

Picture of Mill , purchase of, and info on shooting follows:



Kitzmiller's Mill, which was located near the head waters of the Little Conewago, Conewago Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, the scene of the shooting of Dudley Digges.

**This mill no longer stands, as written in 1941 (pg -11) in the "The Murder of Dudley Digges- 1752"
"This famous old mill stood until a few years ago when the ravages of time and modern influence invokled its final destruction."**

Kitzmiller's Mill

(The following description of Kitzmiller's Mill, near which Dudley Digges was shot by Jacob Kitzmiller, is reprinted from the August 10th, 1886 edition of the Gettysburg Compiler. The author "M" is unknown to The Gettysburg Times.)

THIS mill is located near the head waters of the Little Conowago, in Conowago township, Adams county; part of the land is situated in Union township and it is part of an original tract of 164 acres which was deeded by Thomas and Richard Penn to Martin Kitzmiller for the sum of £25, 8 shillings and 4 pence. The deed is dated Sept. 17, 1759, and was issued on a land warrant held by Mr. Kitzmiller from the Penns under date of Feb. 5, 1747, and with the stipulation of paying one-

half penny, sterling, annually per acre, like Manor of Maske. The tract was bounded by lands of Barnet Brandt, Abraham Sell, John Diggs and Conrad Keefhaver.

If the dates of the building of the first mill are correct Mr. Kitzmiller must either have been a "squatter" or the tract held in dispute, since the tragic altercation between Martin Kitzmiller and Dudley Diggs occurred in 1752.

The founder of this mill exercised sufficient foresight to carve in stone a few dates to be a guide for future generations. In the gable of the old mill, about 14 feet from the ground, is placed half a mill burr in the wall, upon which is the following inscription: Hans Martin Kitzmiller, underneath the inscription are the initials I H G K M, on the left Ano 1738, on the right Ano 1755, underneath the five initials May 12, 1791. According to these dates the first log mill was built in 1738, which antedates any of the churches organized west of York. In 1755 part of the mill now standing, 28 by 42 feet, was built of brick, and on the north gable it can yet be seen where the mill was built alongside of the old mill or a dwelling house; a dwelling house is still remembered by old citizens, and in 1791 an addition was built to the mill, making her dimensions 42 by 60, walls 2 feet thick and 3 stories high. We have heard of no one yet that could solve the meaning of the five initials. Your historian might venture on a guess, but not having access to the proper manuscripts, he will withhold his opinion for the present.

In 1773 John and George Kitzmiller, Assignees of Martin Kitzmiller, conveyed the mill and 188~ acres of land to George Kitzmiller for the sum of 5 shillings. In 1829 Jacob 'Heagy, of Germany township, bought of Michael Kitzmiller, Executor of George Kitzmiller, the mill and 85 acres for \$7,060. In 1830 he sold the mill and farm to Jacob Kitzmiller for \$7,600. In 1831 Michael Kitzmiller bought the mill and farm, 85 acres, for \$8,360. In 1832 Mr. Kitzmiller increased the water power by building the mill dam, which covered 18 acres. In 1844 he sold the mill and 26 acres of land to William S. Jenkins for \$6,500. Thus the mill, with the exception of one year, was in the possession of the Kitzmillers for 106 years. Wm. S. Jenkins sold the mill to John Duttera in 1854 for \$8,010.

In 1866 Ephraim and Benjamin Bollinger bought the mill of John Duttera for \$9,000. The tract now contains 27 acres. The Bollinger brothers remodeled the mill in 1869, putting in turbine wheels and entire new machinery, etc. After the death of Benjamin his brother, Ephraim Bollinger, bought his half interest in 1877, and is now the sole owner.

A short distance north of the mill was a saw and hemp mill, the tail race still being visible. There was a clover huller run by water power in connection with the property.

The mill and farm, and the two farms now the Stoner and Bollinger farms, were owned by the Kitzmillers. They were robust and hardy pioneers, and the surroundings indicate that they kept pace with the times and improvements.

Mr. Ephraim Bollinger has a plot of a town that was laid out on what is now the Major Bollinger, deceased, farm, dated Aug. 30, 1815, containing 82 lots; it was laid out by Robert Jones and was called Gainsburg. The farm was formerly owned by George Kitzmiller. The lots remained unsold and in 1825 he was sold out by the sheriff. The dwelling house, one of the old land marks in Conowago township, was torn down last year. On one of the logs was some carving and a date 1732 or '39, quite likely the latter, it being on the public highway, which was not laid out until 1740-41. The larger part of the original mill tract is now owned by Ezra Miller and David Boyer.



Buried at Christ United Church of Christ Cemetery, Littlestown, PA

Inscription:

In Memory of John George Kitzmiller who was born on the 30th day of October. D. 1738 and departed this life on the 10th day of March 1824. aged 85 years 4 months and 9 days
Why do we mourn departed friends
Or shocked at death's alarms,
Tis but the voice that Jesus sends
To call us to his arms.