

Dreisbach Family Association Newsletter

February 2015©

Taverns, Inns and Inn Keepers: *Inn Keepers were an important part of the early American scene and taverns were important meeting places. At least nine Dreisbachs owned taverns in the late 1700's and early 1800's. In a few cases we have a reasonably good picture of the Dreisbach inn keeper. In other cases, we have only a name. Here we present information and some speculation, readily identifiable by words like "perhaps", "possibly", and "maybe", about these inn keepers and their lives.*

In the 1700's and even into the early 1800's, the taverns that were found in the very sparsely settled countryside of Pennsylvania were small log buildings, 1 or 1 ½ stories high, with two rooms on the first floor. One room served as the bar room, the other as a meeting place or living quarters. These country taverns, like taverns everywhere, were located along a busy road or better yet, situated at the intersection of two well-traveled roads.¹



Fig. 1. One room of a log cabin with loft. The first taverns on the frontier probably looked much like the picture above. Wikipedia

The early, rural taverns were simple (see Fig. 1), having a fireplace, a few tables made of split logs and some stools and shelves. Many did double duty as the inn keeper's home. By hanging a sign that read "OPEN" on the front door of his house, the owner indicated he was ready to accept guests and sell hard liquor.

A church and a tavern! Settlement of the wilderness had a predictable pattern. First a few settlers, arrived, cleared land and built homes. Then, as more settlers came, a grist mill and a saw mill were built. By the time the population was large enough to sustain a church, it

had only two (kinds of) public buildings, a church and a tavern, and taverns were far more numerous."² In some places, (although, as far as we know, not where Simon Dreisbach or Martin Dreisbach settled) a tavern was built *before* the church and was used for services until a proper church building was erected!³ A law enacted in 1706, prohibited drinking in a 'public house' on Sunday, and ensured that church goers couldn't stay on after the sermon to enjoy a few rounds.⁴

Inn or tavern? When a tavern accommodated overnight travelers it was considered to be an inn but the terms were largely interchangeable and both inn and tavern were regulated and taxed. It was the legal duty of an inn to provide travelers with drink, simple meals and a bed although the bed was usually shared by several strangers and often was of dubious quality and cleanliness. An inn was also required to provide shelter and food for horses. As poor as it might be, in bad weather, a cramped, dirty inn was warmer, drier and safer than sleeping outside.

Taverns in populated areas (see Fig. 2) were larger, and better furnished than those on the frontier. They often had two or more stories with bed chambers located on the second floor. Even in these establishments it was taken for granted you would share a bed with 2 or 3 strangers. Diaries of travelers often describe breakfast discussions with fellow travelers about snoring, cleanliness, and the number of bed bugs encountered.⁵



Fig. 2. Taverns in more populated areas that were in use in the mid-to late 1700's would have looked something like this. Photo source unknown.

One inn was ranked by a visitor as “pretty good lodging” as it had only a few bugs - although it was “very noisy most of the night with partying, dancing, firing guns, etc.”⁶ Another place got a much lower ranking with the visitor saying “For my company all the night in my room I had Bugs in every part of my Bed & in the next room several noisy fellows playing at billiards.”⁷

Games were associated with tavern life almost as much as they were with drinking. Amusements ranged from dice and card games to outdoor sports and shooting matches. When too much liquor had been consumed, these sporting contests could prove hilarious or deadly.

Taverns served as official spaces: Beyond selling drink and serving travelers’ needs, taverns served as courtrooms before court houses were built.⁸ Trials were held in them, but they also served as assembly and voting places – a particularly important function during the Revolutionary War and later as the new nation struggled to find its way.

During the Revolutionary War period, most of the descendants of Simon Dreisbach Sr., lived in Lehigh and Moore Townships in Northampton County, PA. Records indicate there was only one (legal) tavern in Lehigh Twp.,⁹ owned by Peter Anthony, a two story, 48’x22’ log structure.¹⁰ It was at this tavern, in 1776, that delegates from Lehigh, Moore, Allen, Chestnuthill, Penn and Towamensing Townships were chosen to attend the 1776 Continental Congress where they helped to draw up a Constitution for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.¹¹



Fig. 3. Old house stands on land once owned by Peter Anthony and approximately at the site of Anthony’s Tavern. The history of this building is unknown to the author. Google Earth Street view image.

Simon Dreisbach Jr was elected at Anthony’s tavern as a representative of Lehigh Township to attend the 1776

Convention.¹² The location of this tavern is uncertain, but Peter Anthony had land very close to St. Paul’s Indianland Church in Cherryville, PA, on the main road from Easton to the Lehigh Water Gap. This area is near the center of Lehigh Twp. and Anthony’s tavern may have been located at the intersection of present day route 248 and Cashew Drive where, today, there is an old stone house whose history is unknown (see Fig. 3.).



Fig. 4. A modern, but most likely reasonably authentic view of Pennsylvania militia drilling, before their tavern visit. From: <http://kittycalash.com/>

Revolutionary War Militia met at taverns: By 1777, Pennsylvania had enacted a law making militia service mandatory for all white men between the ages of 18 and 53.¹³ They met on an irregular schedule depending upon farm duties, weather, and the officer in charge. After drilling, (and sometimes before drilling), the militia retired to the nearest tavern with the result that they were often useless to their wives and farms the following day. The *Pennsylvania Archives* record a number of letters of complaint on this topic including one that reads: “...they cannot be useful to the Country ... if they meet at Taverns in large numbers, & spend their Time in amusement & Frolick as is too often the Case, & still less do we approve the Practice of spending Time in shooting Game or Matches, which also consume ammunition.”¹⁴

Taverns and inns were, and still are, regulated by the government, and owners must pay a license fee. In the late 1700’s, the license fee helped to fill the coffers of Pennsylvania’s governor and payment of it was therefore enforced with some vigor. A license also ensured that tavern keepers maintained order inside and outside their establishments, since a licence could be revoked for failure to do so.¹⁵ Laws governed how and in what quantities, inn keepers could sell liquor and required inn keepers to provide a bed, the possibility of buying 3 meals a day and stabling and food for horses.¹⁶ The cleanliness of inns was not regulated and often was far even from the general standard of the day.

The tavern – a man’s place. “Proper” women did not frequent taverns except to purchase liquor to take home or to attend specific parties or gatherings. One such occasion was the winter sleigh ride where people piled into horse drawn sleighs for winter rides, stopping at homes along the way.¹⁷ The rides often ended at the local tavern where there was prodigious consumption of alcohol.¹⁸

Visits to taverns depended upon weather and farming. Men gathered in taverns after the harvest was in and in early spring. Fewer came to drink in January and February probably due to the long, cold ride between farm and tavern.¹⁹



Fig. 5. Sleigh ride visit to a country inn, shown in the background. By Thomas Birch, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 1846–50. Courtesy of the Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.

Alcohol consumption: According to most accounts of everyday life in this period, everyone drank alcohol, no matter what their age. Children might be given small beer, with low alcohol content, but might just as well be given whisky or rum. The alcoholic content of most drinks was high, about 45%, equal to 90 proof!²⁰ Even abstainers drank hard cider, which was “only” 10% alcohol. While most English speaking people consumed whiskey or rum at every meal, this was not the case for the Pennsylvania Germans.

Dr. Benjamin Rush (a famous Philadelphia physician, 1745-1813), was well acquainted with the Pennsylvania Germans of his day and said “Very few use distilled spirits in their families; their common drinks are cider, beer, wine and simple water.”²¹ It’s not that Pennsylvania German men did not drink, it’s just that they did their drinking in taverns rather than at home. Even among the Germans, there were differences in alcohol consumption. The stricter religious settlers (Mennonite, Amish, and Dunkard) were more likely to drink water, cider and beer and not frequent taverns. German Reformed and Lutheran settlers were far more

likely to enjoy taverns where they drank heavily. Some even had small stills of their own.



Everyone brewed beer and cider at home and these were not considered alcoholic beverages. Larger stills were often located near grist mills. Farmers took a portion of their crop of corn, rye or wheat to be ground into flour and the remainder went to the distiller to make whiskey for home use or to sell.

Easily transported, whisky was a profitable ‘crop’.

A Brief look at Dreisbach taverns and inn keepers in the late 1700’s to mid-1800: All were descendants of Simon Dreisbach Sr. and many were closely related. In one case, they are brothers, in another three inn keepers are part of the same family. In still another example, two inn keepers married first cousins. Moreover most were operating taverns at more or less the same time. What we are seeing is part of the movement of the third and fourth generation Dreisbachs away from the farm and into a life in town where, at least these, served as inn keepers.

What follows is a crazy-quilt of Dreisbach inn keepers with tavern locations over a large area of southeastern Pennsylvania. At the end of the newsletter is a map showing where each hotel was located and a chart indicating how the inn keepers are related.

Dreisbach’s Mill Inn was located about 6 miles north of Lehigh Water Gap and was mentioned in the diary of a trip taken by Joseph Bowman during the years 1817 to 1819. Bowman, a Mennonite, travelled from Reading, PA. to Ontario, Canada to visit friends and relatives who had migrated there some years previously. He kept a diary in which he recorded the distance he travelled each day and where he stopped each night.²² On his return trip in 1819, he left Waterloo, Ontario on 9 February and arrived in Reading 18 days later. A few days before reaching home he mentioned an overnight stay at “Dreisbach’s Mill”. Nothing else is known about this inn. It may have been a separate building or it might have been the home of the miller who took in travelers, and served alcohol, to make extra money. Who was this tavern owner?

The best candidate to be the inn keeper is Jost Dreisbach (1764-1854), a son of John Dreisbach and a grandson of the patriarch, Simon Dreisbach Sr. This Jost settled in the Weissport, PA. area (which is about 6 miles north of Lehigh Water Gap) in the late 1700’s and he remained there his whole life. Survey maps²³ show the north east

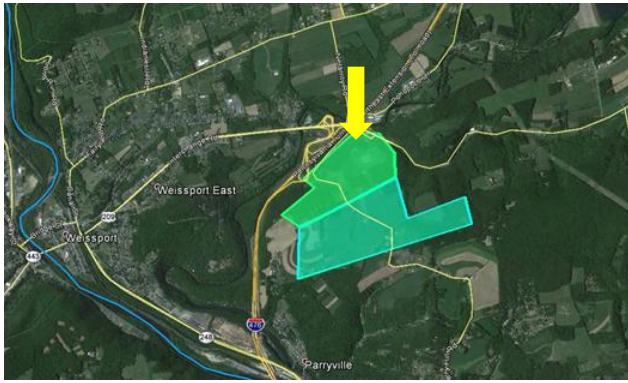


Fig. 6. Aerial view of the two tracts of Jost Dreisbach near Weissport, PA. Yellow arrow points to possible site of Jost's inn. Google Earth.

section of Jost's land was very close to a road that ran east-west along the base of the north side of the Blue Mountain. (Blue Mountain is the northern boundary of the Lehigh Valley). The road originated as an important Indian trail called the Pohopoco Path, named for the creek which it follows. During the French and Indian War of 1754-1763 it became an important military highway.²⁴ Then, as now, the road connects the towns of Gilbert and Kresgeville with the Lehigh River. It was, therefore, a logical and good place to have an inn.

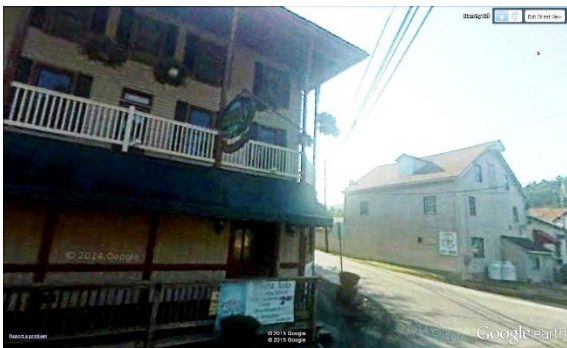


Fig. 7. Old mill on right and hotel on left. It is possible that the mill was "Dreisbach's mill". There is an old house to the right of the mill (not visible in the photo) and another old house directly across the street from the mill. Either of these may have been the miller's house. Google Earth street view snapshot.

Today there is an old mill, some old houses and an old hotel, built about 1880, along the Pohopoco Creek near or on Jost's land (see Fig. 7.). Was this "Dreisbach's mill"? Possibly. Might there have been a smaller forerunner of the present day hotel? Perhaps. Or perhaps Jost served travelers in his house.

While Jost was content to stay in one place, near present day Weissport, his older brother, Henry Dreisbach, had greater ambitions. Henry started with a good piece of property in Lehigh Township, PA., but sold it and moved to New York State. What do we know about this Henry Dreisbach? Quite a lot, actually. Here is a quick look, but there is much more information about Henry.

Henry Dreisbach's Tavern, Sparta, New York State: Henry Dreisbach, owner of a tavern near Sparta, N.Y. is worthy of a newsletter all by himself. Born 30 Oct 1762, he was the oldest son of John Dreisbach (1735-1796) and a grandson of Simon Dreisbach Sr. He was also the older brother of Jost Dreisbach of Weissport, PA (above). From mid-1700 to mid-1800, many Dreisbachs were involved with mills. Weissport Jost, we have learned, was a miller. His brother, Henry, was a millwright, a man who could make and repair the many wooden parts of grist and saw mills.

From various accounts we can say that Henry had some character flaws. He was litigious, with many recorded court cases about money and/or land owed or owing. He also was charged with and convicted of – bastardy.

In 1784 Henry married Catherine App (1763-1837), the daughter of Michael App (also written Opp), a neighbor in Lehigh Twp., PA. By 1800, at a time when the couple had eight children, Henry was working as a mill wright across the Lehigh River. Here he had an affair with Eve Henry resulting in an illegitimate child who was named "Henry Dreisbach" after his father. The child's mother brought a court case against Henry for bastardy – and won. Amazingly, all the documents for this case survive²⁵ and were discovered in 2009. Through them, descendants of the illegitimate baby, who was known to genealogists as "Mysterious Henry Dreisbach" (born in 1800), were documented as being connected to the Simon Dreisbach Sr. line through his son John and grandson, Henry.

Henry moves to New York State and opens a tavern. Possibly due to community disapproval of his conduct, Henry Dreisbach sold his very valuable farm in Lehigh Twp. and moved his wife and family to Livingston County, New York in about 1804. He settled outside the town of Sparta and opened a tavern. How do we know about this somewhat surprising venture? Because it was another stopping place on the trip of Mennonite Joseph Bowman, this time on the outward leg of his trip from his home in Reading, PA. to Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in 1817.

Heading to visit friends and relatives, Bowman stopped at Mulhollan's tavern in Danville, NY. The next night he stayed at another tavern only 3 miles further down the road - the tavern of Henry Dreisbach. Bowman had traveled 20 miles two days previously and perhaps his horse was lame, or he himself was ill – but because he only travelled 3 miles to his next stay at an inn, we know that "Dreisbach's Tavern" near Sparta, N.Y., was open and functioning in 1817.

Thanks to Jeanne Finley, a Simon Dreisbach descendant who has researched and provided information about Henry in New York State, we know that Henry was not listed as an inn keeper on the tax rolls of Livingston County, N.Y. This suggests that his tavern was not a 'public house' but more likely was Henry's own house which he opened to travellers from time to time, and from which he sold liquor to make money.

However, the tavern *is* referred to in *The History of Livingston County, NY*²⁶ indicating it was at least locally known. We do not know how long Henry ran this tavern, but Finley suggests he was operating it at least from 1813 through 1817 and probably for longer than that.



Fig. 8. The Pennsville Tavern and Stagecoach Stop was built in 1809 on land previously owned by Henry Dreisbach. Did Henry have an earlier tavern on the same site? Photo - Google Earth Street view.

Did Henry have a tavern before he moved to New York State? Perhaps Henry had a tavern while still living in Pennsylvania. The idea behind this speculation rests on what we know about Henry's land. It was a perfect site for a tavern.²⁷ The intersection of two well used roads neatly cut his property into four equal quarters. One road, the current Route 248 (Lehigh Drive), was and still is a major east-west road. The other road, Walnut Drive, runs north-south road and was one of the roads to Jost Dreisbach's grist mill. These roads crossed right in the middle of Henry's land. His house was most likely located at this crossroads, placing it on a route traveled by thirsty farmers hauling grain to the mill - a perfect site for a tavern. In fact, there is an old tavern on this spot, today's Pennsville Tavern (see Fig. 8.). It sits where Henry might have had his house and from which, perhaps, he served travelers. Attractive as this idea is, we have no evidence at all to support this theory!

The brothers, Henry of Sparta, N.Y. and Weissport Jost, were the first cousins of the next inn keeper, John Peter Dreisbach. First, a bit about his name. "John" is the English translation of "Johannes", a "church name"

which was not used in everyday life. Thus "Peter Dreisbach" is the preferred name for the next inn keeper we will meet.

A family of inn keepers! Peter Dreisbach, a son of Simon Dreisbach Jr. was the first of three generations of inn keepers in the same family! Born 3 Nov. 1757 (see DFA Newsletter of Nov. 2013), he married Susanna Beisel about 1778. Shortly after the marriage they settled in the area between Bethlehem and Easton, PA. known as Drylands. We know that by 1802 Peter had title to 85 acres of land in Dryland²⁸ which formerly belonged to Conrad Fuchs (1700-1779)²⁹, who was the father of his step-mother. There Peter had an 18'x21', two story, stone house, larger and grander than the homes of most neighbors who lived in one story wood or log houses.³⁰

Peter Dreisbach and an inn: There is only one known statement, made by a descendant about 1900, which says that "Peter Dreisbach "kept a hotel and farmed at Dry Valley".³¹ Not being from the area, the descendant called the area "Dry Valley" and not "Dryland". However, the statement that Peter had a hotel is clear.

Fortunately, there is a piece of circumstantial evidence that lends credence to the idea that Peter did, indeed, have a hotel on his Dryland property. It revolves around the sale of his land. Peter died on 16 Aug. 1810. One year before his death, in 1809, Peter sold his 110 acres to his son, Simon Dreisbach (1785-1842), for \$5,283.³² This was a *very* high price for 110 acres of land, even though it was near water and in a desirable location. It strongly suggests that there was something else about the land, or more likely about the building(s) on it, that made it worth this much money. A lucrative hotel would certainly fit the bill!

Peter's son, Daniel, is an inn keeper: After Simon took title to his father's lands, the tax assessment records from 1817 to 1834³³ show Simon was a farmer (other records were not examined). However, these same records show that his older brother, Daniel, was an inn keeper! One wonders if the brothers had reached an agreement; one (Simon) would work the land, the other (Daniel) would run the tavern that their father had established.

Daniel, the inn keeper was born on 27 April 1782, and at the age of 20, married a neighbor girl, Catharine Gradwohl.³⁴ The wedding took place at the German Reformed Church in Easton, PA on 1 February 1802. Six years later, his brother Simon married Elizabeth Lerch, in the same church. (By the way, it was Simon and Elizabeth's first daughter, Hannah, who married into the famous von Steuben family.)



Fig. 9. The Hanoverville Roadhouse about 1900. Photo courtesy of hanovervilleroadhouse.com

Hanoverville Inn - Daniel's hotel: Where was the hotel that probably first belonged to Peter and that passed to Daniel? The best guess is that the hotel was on Dreisbach property that fronted onto a busy thoroughfare, Hanoverville Road. This was and is a road that runs from the Lehigh River to Easton, making it a prime location for an inn. Today there still is a hotel at this site, the present Hanoverville Roadhouse.

The current structure, although greatly modified, was built in 1825, at the time when Daniel Dreisbach was the inn keeper! Daniel owned and ran this hotel from at least 1817 to 1834, and probably until 1837 when he moved his family west, to Northumberland County. After Daniel left, the hotel building was renovated and a general store, a post office, and a stage coach stop were added, no doubt by the new owner.³⁵



Fig. 10. Present day Hanoverville Roadhouse, probably the very same inn that was built by Daniel Dreisbach. Photo courtesy of hanovervilleroadhouse.com

Daniel moves to Northumberland County: In 1837, at age 43, Daniel sold the inn and moved his wife, Catharine, and their family, including 16 year old son, Daniel Hiram Dreisbach, to Lewis Twp. in Northumberland Co.³⁶

Probably using money from the sale of the inn, Daniel purchased the imposing Slote-Hower farm. The house was relatively new when he bought it and was built on the site of Fort Freeland.³⁷ The land, itself, had a bloody history. On this spot, in 1779, a force of 300 Indians and British had attacked and killed settlers living inside the stockade known as Fort Freeland. A battle raged on the site of the house leading one to wonder if musket balls and arrowheads turned up as Daniel Hiram and his father plowed the fields and as his mother gardened.



Fig. 11. Homestead of Daniel Dreisbach near Turbotville, PA. Built in 1829 on the site of Fort Freeland. Courtesy of Franklin Stahl II.

The next Dreisbach to be discussed was a 3rd generation inn keeper. Hiram, was the son of Daniel and the grandson of Peter. Hiram continued the tradition of inn keeping, establishing an inn in Northumberland Co.

Hiram Dreisbach: Hiram was born 17 Aug. 1821. He began life with the name "Daniel Hiram Dreisbach" but to differentiate between the father, Daniel Sr., and the son, the younger Daniel was always known by his middle name, "Hiram", which is how we will refer to him.ⁱ

In 1842, when he was 21, Hiram married Elizabeth Menges, the daughter of wealthy neighbors Peter Menges and Anna Elizabeth Stahl. Four years later, possibly with financial help from his father-in-law, he purchased land near his father's farm.³⁸ Both the 1850³⁹ and 1860⁴⁰ Census records show Hiram as a farmer and his children, Daniel, Rebecca and Sarah, attending school⁴¹.

ⁱ Thanks to Franklin Phillip Stahl II, a descendant of "Hiram", who provided much information about "Hiram" Dreisbach.

The Eagle Hotel and Hiram the inn keeper: In 1867, Hiram's wife, Elizabeth, died. Three years later, the 1870 Census shows Hiram as a single man. Now nearly 50 years old, he was no longer a farmer. In fact he had left the farm and moved into the town of Turbotville to become the proud inn keeper of the *Eagle Hotel*.

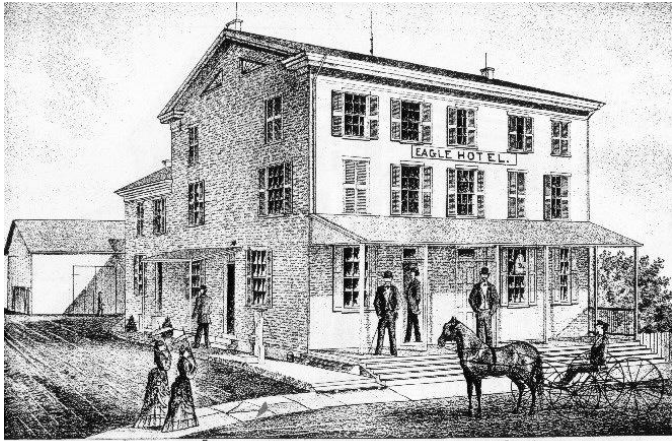


Fig.12. The EAGLE HOTEL in Turbotville, PA built in 1843, as it appeared about 1875 and as shown in "History of Northumberland Co. PA etc."⁴² with the caption "Eagle Hotel, D.H.Dreisbach, Propr., Turbotville, Northd. County, Penna."

Being an inn keeper could not have been a new experience for Hiram – he must have worked for his father in the Hanoverville hotel. But Hiram's new hotel, built about 1843,⁴³ was much grander than his father's. It was a three story brick building worth \$30,000, a significant amount of money. It had rooms for travelers on the second floor and a ballroom on the third floor!⁴⁴

The town of Turbotville was growing, by 1870 it had 94 dwellings, churches, a school, and a fine hotel! Inn keeper Hiram must have been considered one of the town's upstanding citizens – he was appointed to the board of directors of Turbotville Public School (which was deemed quite an honor in the 1870's)⁴⁵. For a short time, between April 1867 and November 1868, he was also a member of the Freemasons, Milton Lodge No. 22.



Fig. 13. Present day view of the EAGLE HOTEL which is still in operation in 2015. Photo courtesy of Franklin Stahl II.

The hotel was a lucrative business and Hiram was doing well. In 1875 he commissioned a sketch of his hotel which was published in the *History of Northumberland Co., PA.* (see Fig. 12.).

By 1878, Hiram was remarried to a widow, Catherine Jerrel. He continued as a hotel keeper for another eight years, until he died at age 64 on 3 April 1886. This was the end of the familial chain of Dreisbach inn keepers. None of Hiram's sons took up the hotel business. Hiram and his second wife are buried in the Old Turbotville Cemetery, in Lot no. 287⁴⁶.

The next inn keeper, another Jost (known as Jost 1773 to differentiate him from "Weissport Jost"), was a 2nd or 3rd cousin to Daniel, who had the Hanoverville Inn. Jost was an even more distant cousin of Turbotville Hiram. But first, a little history about the discovery of this inn keeper.

Discovered! In 2009, combing through a box of old documents in the Northampton Co. Archives, a list of Moore Township inn keepers was found which included, among others, a Jost Dreisbach. Since then I have periodically wondered about Moore tavern keeper Jost and these thoughts eventually evolved into this newsletter. But let's start at the beginning of his story....



Fig. 14. A list of inn keepers in Moore Township in 1797: Abraham Kreider, Michael Tanner, Jost Dreisbach.⁴⁷ Photo by M. Falconer.

The earliest Moore tax rolls examined, those of 1781, show a John Dreisbach apparently just getting established in Moore Twp. and paying the next to lowest tax of anyone listed. Two years later this same person is paying the next to highest tax and thereafter the tax lists show he continues to do well, even acquiring more land. Although his tax profile is complicated, he is not our main focus and so we are content to say that by 1796 John Dreisbach was a successful farmer in Moore Township.⁴⁸

Enter Jost, born 1773. In 1796 Jost Dreisbach first appears in the Moore tax list - as a single man. The next year, 1797, Jost's name was added to the bottom of the regular tax list - indicating Jost had just gotten married. Piecing together documents, we get a picture of Jost, who, according to his tombstone, was born 30 Nov. 1773.⁴⁹ From church records, we know his wife's name was Maria Magdalena Hawk⁵⁰ and in 1797, the same year they were married, Maria gave birth to a baby son, Johannes, on the 14th of June.⁵¹

John and Jost Dreisbach are both on the assessment lists. What was the relationship between John and Jost? A single document answered this question. A land transfer of 134 acres and 18 perches of land in Chestnuthill Twp. (now Monroe Co., PA.) on 5 April 1808, shows land was transferred to Jost Dreisbach by his father, John Dreisbach.⁵² John was the father of Jost!

Jost becomes a tavern owner! From 1796 until 1798, father and son worked as yeomen farmers but in 1799 things changed!⁵³ Joseph/Jost Dreisbachⁱⁱ was listed in the tax rolls as *an inn keeper*, with a tavern, one horse and he was taxed at \$21, a rather large amount of tax.

Another document shows that Jost owned only one building, a moderately large one at 36'x18'.⁵⁴ This means that Jost's tavern was not a separate building, but must have been part of his house. One wonders if his wife enjoyed feeding, listening to and cleaning up after drunken men, for such must have been her life, at least part of the time.

In 1799, Jost was not the only man to go into business. His father, John Dreisbach, opened a store in his own house, a 32'x24' one story building. Although there weren't many stores in this part of Moore Twp, John was listed as a store keeper only for the next two years. Perhaps he did not enjoy having a store.

Jost goes to court. Jost, Abraham Kreider, Michael Tanner and John Merch (Marsh) were licensed as *retailers by small measure*,⁵⁵ meaning they could not sell liquor wholesale, or in large quantities. Jost apparently did not quite follow the rules because in January 1801, Jost received a summons to appear at the Court of General Quarter Sessions of Peace in Easton, PA. on the charge of selling whiskey by the quart.⁵⁶ If he failed to appear, he owed £50 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. John Dreisbach was also named in the court case. He also would have to pay £50 if his son,

Jost, failed to appear in court. We assume Jost appeared but have no record of the outcome of his court case.

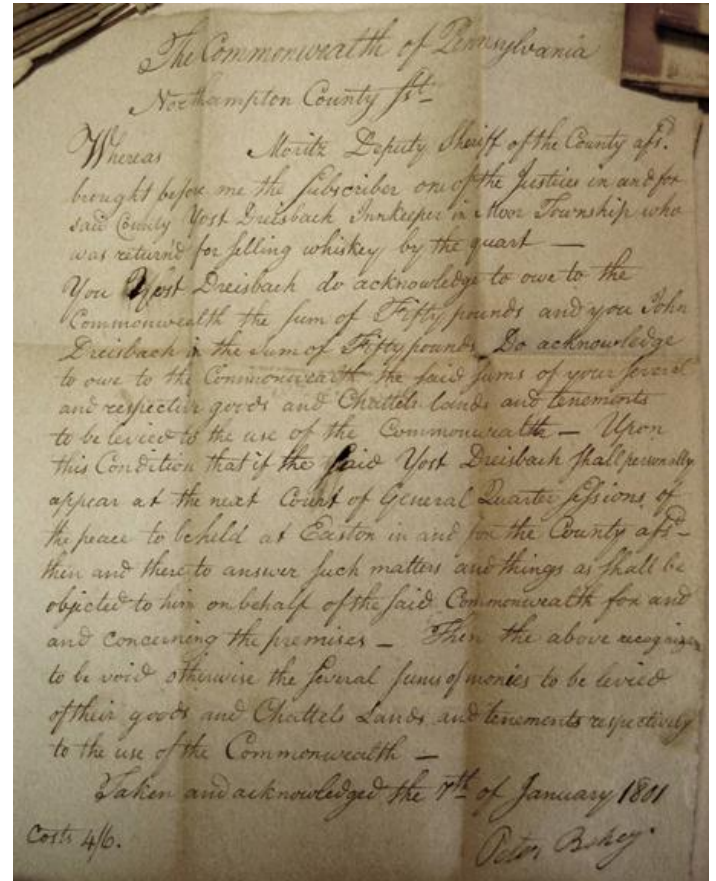


Fig. 15. Summons for Inn Keeper Jost Dreisbach to appear in court on charges of selling large quantities of whiskey. John Dreisbach, while not summoned, was also threatened with a large fine if Jost did not appear in court. Photo by M. Falconer 2009.

For the next nine years, from 1799 to 1808 (the period of time for which the tax documents were investigated), Jost/Joseph Dreisbach is listed as a tavern keeper. In 1808, Jost's name was entered on the tax roll and then lined out. Why? Because Jost and his family had moved to Chestnuthill Twp. Did Jost have a tavern in Chestnuthill? We don't know, but perhaps he did. Late in life, Jost moved to Exeter Twp. in Luzerne Co., PA. where he died on 26 April 1858. He and his wife are buried in the Dreisbach-Morse cemetery in Harding, Luzerne Co.

What did Jost's tavern look like and where was it?

Without more research we don't know where Jost's tavern was located. However we can make an educated guess based on information in the *Road Index, 1753-1937*⁵⁷ and in *Road Book 4, 1805 - 1812*.⁵⁸ Both books describe a road that was to be laid and maintained for public use - today's route 987, also known as Mountain View Drive.

ⁱⁱ Joseph is the Anglicized version of Jost and an indication that he may have spoken English.

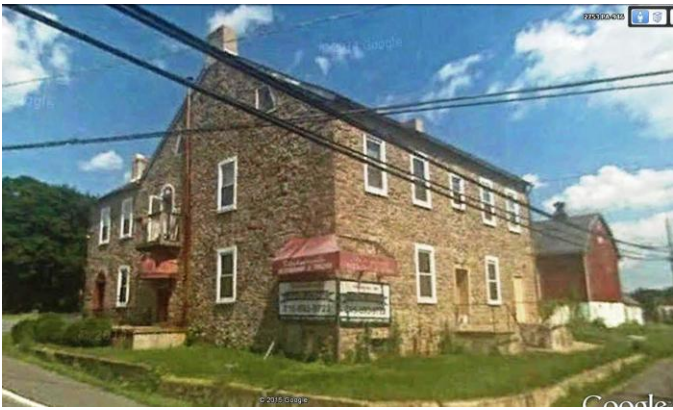


Fig. 16. One of two taverns in Klecknersville, PA. It may be the site of Jost Dreisbach's tavern. Google Earth street view from 2014.

By following the names of farmers listed in the road books as having land along the path of this road, we can see that Jost's tavern was located on Mountain View Drive in what is now Klecknersville. Today the town has two old taverns. Research is needed to determine if one of them occupies the site of Jost Dreisbach's tavern.

It was not only Dreisbach men who were involved in running taverns and inns, we know of two Dreisbach women who, along with their husbands, owned hotels. Interestingly, the women were first cousins!

The Butztown Hotel: An inn keeper with a Dreisbach wife. Located near Bethlehem, PA., the hotel was built in 1806 by George Butz (b. 3 Feb 1762, d. 18 Sept. 1849), a fact confirmed by a date stone on the east wall of the building.



Fig. 17. View of the Butztown Hotel circa 1910. Unknown photographer. Picture courtesy of Richard Musselman.

George married a daughter of Simon Dreisbach Jr., Mary Catherine Dreisbach. She was born 8 Jan 1769 on Simon Jr.'s farm in Lehigh Twp, Northampton, Co., PA. and, according to *The Dreisbach Book*⁵⁹, she married Johan George Butz on 9 July 1787. An early settler and entrepreneur in Bethlehem Twp., George built several flour mills along the nearby stream called the Nancy Run before he built the Butztown Hotel.⁶⁰

George and Mary Catherine Dreisbach Butz ran the hotel he built for many years until they encountered financial difficulties. In 1824 they had to declare bankruptcy. They sold the hotel, moved to Philadelphia and, in their 60's, began a new business!⁶¹ Mary Catharine Dreisbach Butz died 18 Sept. 1849.

A descendant of inn keeper George Butz provided a short history of the hotel⁶² and said that to the east of the hotel building there was a large livery stable for the horses of patrons. It was torn down in 1995 and a replaced by a parking lot – more suitable for the “horses” of today.



Fig. 18. Mary Catherine Dreisbach Butz. Daguerreotype taken prior to 1849. Photo courtesy of Richard Musselman.

Catherine Dreisbach Butz

Like the other hotels we've discussed, the Hanoverville Roadhouse, the Eagle Hotel in Turbotville, and the Klecknersville inn, the former Butztown Hotel still exists in more or less its original form. In 2000 the hotel was reincarnated as the Keystone Pub, under which name it is operating today.



Fig. 19. Present day view of the Butztown Hotel, now the Keystone Pub. Photo by M. Falconer, 2012.

The Blackhorse Inn of Lorentz Erb, another inn keeper with a Dreisbach wife: Lorentz Erb was born 24 Dec. 1758 in Northampton Co., PA. He married Anna Maria Dreisbach, the daughter of Adam Dreisbach (1722-1803), saw extensive service during the Revolutionary War and by 1790 was farming in Moore Twp.⁶³ Sometime during the next few years, he moved to Easton, PA. possibly because his father-in-law, Adam Dreisbach, had settled there in 1782.⁶⁴

For political reasons, Easton was chosen as the county seat for Northampton. Its location and hilly terrain were neither central nor conducive to building. Making it a county seat was a political decision by the sons of William Penn, Thomas and John Penn.⁶⁵ Eleven families began the construction of this frontier town in 1752. When Lorentz Erb settled there some forty years later, about 1782, Easton was no longer the frontier and the town had churches, a court house and many taverns. Lorentz thought there was room for one more tavern.

The Blackhorse Inn: By 1794, Lorentz Erb was well established and he and his wife, Anna Maria Dreisbach, were operating the Blackhorse Inn. It had a prime location, at the corner of Northampton Street and the central square. The hotel was a wooden building, 27'x40' in size, two stories high and highly taxed at \$1250.⁶⁶

Lorentz opens a stage coach run: "In the spring of 1794 Lawrence Erb, of Easton, advertised that he would run a stage coach between there and Philadelphia. It was to start every Monday morning at five o'clock, from the sign of the Black horse, near the court-house, Easton, and to return on Thursday, starting from the sign of the Pennsylvania arms, in Third street, between Vine and Callowhill, stopping over night at John Moore's, Jenkintown, going down and at Adam Dreisback's, now Stony Point, returning. The fare was two dollars for each passenger, with ten pounds of baggage. The charge for one hundred and fifty pounds of baggage was the same as a passenger."⁶⁷ The building that housed the Black Horse Inn no longer exists, and there are no known drawings of it. We don't know for how long it existed or even precisely where it was located. More research might provide some answers.

Adam Dreisback's Stony Point Inn: In the advertisement of Lorentz Erb, above, there is mention of yet one more tavern – Adam Dreisback's inn at Stony Point. We've been unable to discover anything more about this tavern beyond that it existed in the 1790's.

The Dreisbach Inn Keepers: We have taken a look at nine Dreisbach inn keepers: Weissport Jost, Sparta

Henry, Drylands Peter, Drylands Daniel, Northumberland Hiram, Moore Jost, Bethlehem Butz and his wife Mary Catherine Dreisbach, Easton Erb and his wife, Anna Maria Dreisbach, with a quick mention of Adam Dreisback of Stony Point. These inn keepers were all at least 3rd or 4th generation Dreisbachs, beginning with Simon Dreisbach Sr. as generation #1. Often they were farming as well as running an inn, but the Dreisbach family was moving away from rural life and into the towns and cities – where they stayed.

These Dreisbach taverns and inns were operative for about fifty years, beginning shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War. During that time the US Constitution was drawn up, the War of 1812 took place, and the new country had to come to terms with Loyalists, new taxes and rebellion. All of these were, no doubt, discussed with vigor, and quite a bit of alcohol – in the Dreisbach taverns.



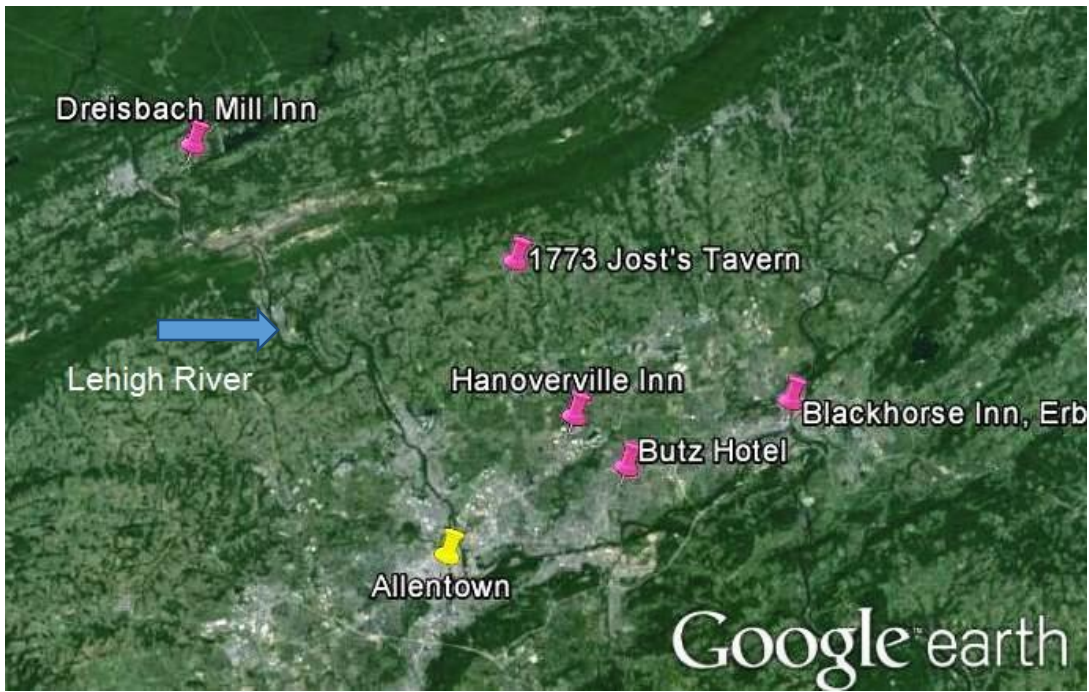
Fig. 20. Interior of a town or city tavern. Most, if not all, taverns owned by Dreisbachs were far more rustic than this. "SETTLING the AFFAIRS of the NATION" by Bowles and Carver. By permission of Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE.

Marcia Dreisbach Falconer,
dreisbachfamilyassociation@gmail.com

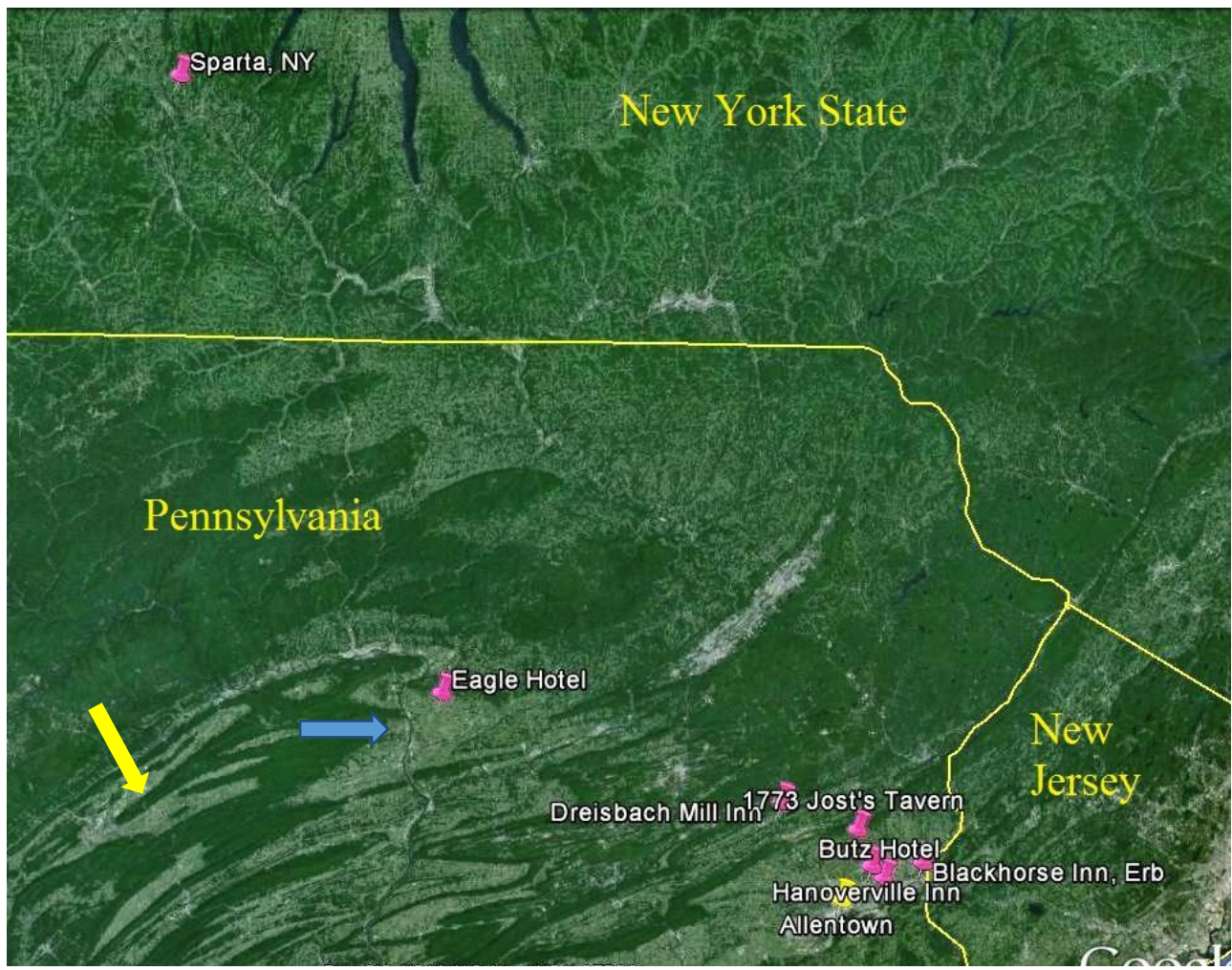
A number of people have provided valuable information which enabled me to write this newsletter. One in particular offered hours of his time to search the Northampton County Archives for needed information. Special thanks for his help, goes to Richard Musselman, a respected genealogist and a descendant of Mary Catherine Dreisbach Butz, who, along with her husband, owed the Butztown Hotel.

Thanks also go to my sister, Ardis Dreisbach Grosjean, who spent hours sharing information from her vast archive, as well as reading and correcting the many versions of this manuscript.

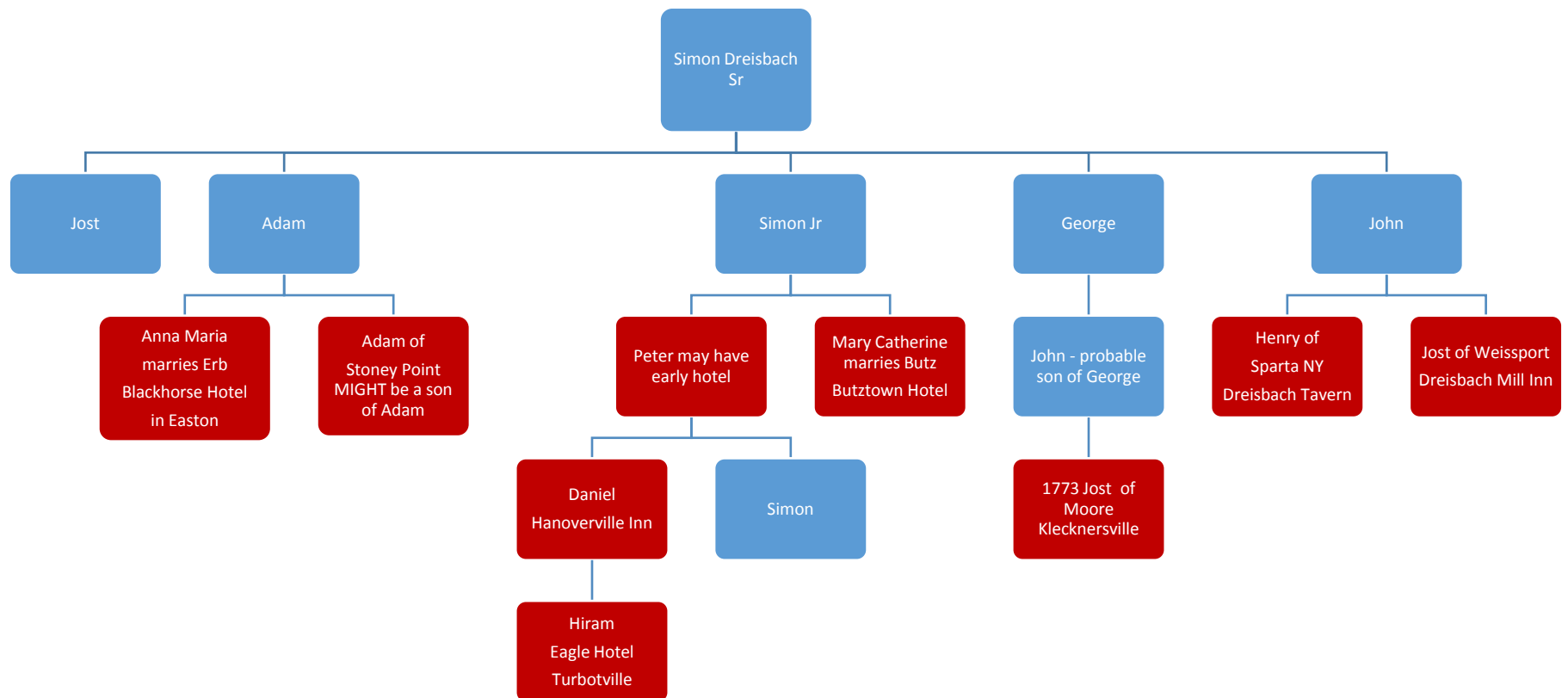
There are gaping holes in the information presented, and no doubt many errors – all of which are mine. Each inn keeper deserves (but didn't receive) hours more research in order to better tell their stories. My hope is that somebody will be interested enough to try to find the missing information.



Above: Google Earth map shows cluster of Dreisbach inns in southeast Pennsylvania. Blue arrow points to the Lehigh River.



Above: Dreisbach inns in Pennsylvania and New York to provide sense of distance between them. Blue arrow: Susquehanna River. Yellow arrow: Appalachian Mountain ridges. Google Earth.



Family tree to help visualize relationship between the various inn keepers (shown in red boxes).

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