

A Brief Sketch
OF THE
Ream Clan

In America

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PREFACE

As president of the Ream clan, in producing this outline of its history; I am not attempting at this time to say that what I have here written prior to the birth of our noble ancestor, Eberhardt Rihm is authentic, I am only giving it as I received it from the older and better informed of a generation ago. But from 1691 to the present, all the history is taken from various records that cannot be disputed. Should any of the clan note any mistakes, I shall be only too glad to have them corrected.

N. W. REAM, Pres.

The Reams (or Rhiems, as they originally spelled the name) can be traced by history and tradition to the founding and building of the cathedral city of France in the 11th century, of which the Reim nobility were the founders and builders. From thence family tradition has it that they passed through the St. Bartholomew massacre of August 24, 1572. And again during the siege of Rochelle in 1627 they were among the besieged. Some time later by an edict, the siege was raised and the Huguenots scattered, some going to England, some to Holland, and some into the Rhine provinces.

The Rhiems were among those who went into the Rhine country, for in 1638 we find them prominent in the

French Reformed Church at Wesel, Germany, when in 1688-9, Louis the 14th entered the Palatinate, destroying with fire and sword, the Protestants fled farther into the Rhine provinces, where in 1691 Everhardt Rhiem was born. He was the founder of the Ream Clan in America. The exact date of his arrival in the New World has not yet been determined. We know that he was a taxable in Lancaster County in 1712, and in 1719 he took warrant for 200 acres of land in New Strasburg. However, there are no records to show that he ever had any returns on said 200 acres, in so far as a patent is concerned.

Sometime later, possibly 1722 or 23 he became the first white settler in what is now Cocalico township, where in 1760 his son Tobias Ream laid out and founded what was named Zoar or Lohar, now known as Reamstown. Here he reared a log cabin for himself and family, and not until 1734 did he take out his first warrant for land in that part of the said county, which was for 400 acres and allowances. Two years later he again took warrant for 200 acres more adjoining the former tract.

The position Everhard Rhiem took in the years between 1743 to 1755 against the movement known as "congregation of God in the Spirit," saved much of the Reformed Church property in this section of the state, and aroused unkindly feeling against him, among those who favored this movement at the expense of the church.

One of the properties the mother church lost in this movement was at Centerville, now Milton Grove, Lancaster County, Pa., containing 50 acres, upon which was erected a church and a parsonage. The property was later sold by the new sect to the Moravian church. About 1890 the church was torn away to make place for the Milton Grove cemetery.

In 1743 Everhardt "Rimm," (Rimm, this is one of the many ways of spelling) was a deacon and helper in the Maiden Creek Reformed Church.

In 1761 Mr. Rhiem died and was buried at Reamstown, Lancaster Coun-

ty, Pa.

In 1737 Nicholas Reeme, son of Everhart Rihm, (note the spelling,) took warrant for 150 acres. The patent for this tract was not returned until 1763.

In 1744 Jacob Rheam, son of Everhard Rhiem, took warrant for 25 acres. This patent was not returned until 1761, when Marcus Eckly was named patentee. Again in 1749 Jacob Reahm took warrant for 50 acres, patent returned to him in 1765.

In 1750 John Rheam, son of Everhard Rihm, took warrant for 50 acres.

In 1750 Abraham Rheim took warrant for 100 acres. This patent was returned in 1754. Again five months later Abraham Rheim took warrant for 100 acres. This patent was returned in 1751 with name spelled Reihm.

In 1751 John Reem took warrant for 50 acres. This patent was returned in 1761.

In 1772 John Ream, Jr. et al., took warrant for 100 acres in Northumberland County, but there is no record of any returns of patent.

Again in 1774 John Reem took warrant for 50 acres in same county, but no returns are given. Again on Aug. 16th, 1774, John Ream took warrant for Sunbury lot No. 264. Patent was returned one day later. Again on Dec. 27th John Rehm took warrant for Sunbury lot No. 20; patent returned two days later. Again on Dec. 29th, 1774, John Reem took warrant for Sunbury lot No. 263; patent returned one day later.

There are quite a few other records of Nicholas, Henry, and Adam Ream as having taken warrants for land in Lancaster County, the latter part of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In 1769 Jacob Rheam, son of Everhart Rihm, bought 400 acres of land in Mt. Joy and Donegal townships for 1150 pounds from Samuel Smith. This 400 acres was located where the present village of Rheems is built. His descendants owned and lived on some of the tract until 1894.

Everhardt Rihm had at least 12 (twelve) grand sons in the Revolution. Their names follow: Nicholas Rheam in the 3rd and 12th Penn'a, from 1775 to 1787, who was discharged in the latter year for wounds received. He died in Union County, Pa., in 1829. May 25th, 1778, Abraham Ream was a first-class soldier in Capt. Craig's Company of the Battalion commanded by Col. Lowrey. John Rheam of Reading, Pa., was a private in Capt. John's Company, and David and John Ream, of Cocalico township, Lancaster County, in Capt. Nathaniel Vansandt's Company, of May 28th, 1776. All three of these were taken prisoners by the British at the battle of Long Island, Nov. 16th, 1776. John, from Cocalico, died while in prison.

The muster roll of Capt. Andrew Ream's Company of 1781 gives the following names: Andrew Ream, Frederick Ream, Jacob Ream, John Ream, Abraham Ream, Andrew Ream, Abraham Ream. This Company was in the Battalion commanded by Col. Geo. Fether.

Is it any wonder that the descendants of such noble and patriotic ancestors cherish the liberties they so gallantly fought for and achieved? We have at this hour many of the clan who have sacrificed home and all who are dear to them, crossing the Atlantic through sub-marine infested districts, where the enemy of freedom lurks, ready to destroy those who dare to raise a protest against the murderers of innocent women and children, as well as to ravage the weaker nations who were powerless to resist the onrush of the barbarian hordes of the 20th century. Yes, my fellow clansman, we owe to our gallant sons a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

So to-day we gratefully recognize and appreciate the hereditary tendencies of energy, patriotism, and fidelity truly characteristic of the Ream Clan.

Note—The different ways of spelling are taken from the original papers and records.