

**MEMOIRS AND REMINISCENCES:
TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES
OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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Memoirs and reminiscences: together with sketches of the early history of Sussex County, New Jersey by Casper Schaeffer

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CASPER SCHAEFFER

**MEMOIRS AND REMINISCENCES:
TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES
OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Memoirs *and* Reminiscences

together with

Sketches *of the* Early History

.. of ..

Sussex County, New Jersey

By Rev. Casper Schaeffer, M. D.

*With Notes and Genealogical Record of the Schaeffer,
Shaver or Shafer Family*

Compiled by

WILLIAM M. JOHNSON

Privately Printed

Hackensack, N. J.

1907

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- Rev. Casper Schaeffer, M. D.
Tombstones of Casper Schaeffer and Johan Peter
Bernhard
The Shafer Homestead
The Stone Mill (1844)
Windemuth's Homestead, now Bonnie Brook
Yellow Frame Church
Old Grave Yard at Stillwater



INTRODUCTION.

The accompanying historical sketch was prepared in 1855 by the Rev. Casper Schaeffer, M. D., of Philadelphia, who was a grandson of Casper Schaeffer, one of the founders of Stillwater, Sussex County, New Jersey. It contains an interesting and authentic account of people, events and customs of a hundred years ago, and seems well worthy of preservation. Local historians have often made use of the manuscript copy, and extracts therefrom have been freely published, but it has never before been printed as a whole. As one of the descendants of Casper Schaeffer, the Pioneer, through my father's maternal line, I have found the story as told by Dr. Schaeffer an entertaining one, and have ventured to put it in print for my own satisfaction, and for the benefit of any of the numerous other descendants of our common ancestor, who may like to have this record in a permanent and accessible form. The original manuscript is in the possession of his nephew, John S. Schaeffer, who in a letter on the subject says: "When driving Uncle Doctor over the hills of Old Sussex in quest of data and information, I promised him I would spell my name in the old German way, as he did. He also gave me the book, which was sent to me, and of which I have been very choice. It has been lent a number of times and is somewhat soiled from long absence from home."

In preparing this manuscript for publication I have thought its value would be enhanced by adding some historical notes, and especially by amplifying Casper Schaeffer's public record, which is rather lightly touched

upon by his grandson. I have also added a list of his descendants, in compiling which free use has been made of the interesting and valuable "Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Nathan Armstrong," published in 1895, by William Clinton Armstrong, A. M. I am indebted to Mr. Armstrong not only for permission to use the contents of his book, but also for valuable suggestions and assistance, and to my sister, Miss Laura C. Johnson, for her help in compiling the genealogical record. William Nelson, Esq. has kindly read the proofs, and has rendered important aid in preparing the manuscript for the press. I desire to acknowledge my obligation to him and to others who have responded to my request for information.

A word as to the spelling of the family name may not be inappropriate. Dr. Schaeffer, in the "Reminiscences," advocates the use of the spelling, "Schaeffer," which he had adopted. An examination of the records of a great number of deeds, wills and other documents shows that this spelling was discarded in the life time of his grandfather, whose name was usually written Shaver. The name has been spelled variously Schaeffer, Schaffer, Shaffer, Shaffar, Shaver, Shafer. I have examined the will of the Pioneer on file in the Prerogative Court at Trenton. It is impossible to decipher the signature, which is that of a very infirm man. In the body of the will the name is written Shaver. His sons gradually assumed the spelling Shafer, although they frequently wrote the name Shaver. Most of his descendants of that name now write it Shafer.

WILLIAM M. JOHNSON.

Hackensack, N. J., 1907.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES
OF
CASPER SCHAEFFER

