

**A MEMORIAL OF THE ONE
HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE MARRIAGE OF PHILIP
SCHOFF AND ELIZABETH
RAMSAY, APRIL 10, 1794**

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A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Marriage of Philip Schoff and Elizabeth Ramsay, April 10, 1794 by Eloise (Walker) Wilder & Fanny Ramsay Wilder Winchester

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ELOISE (WALKER) WILDER & FANNY RAMSAY WILDER WINCHESTER

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A Memorial
of the
One Hundredth Anniversary
of the
Marriage
of
Philip Schoff and Elizabeth Ramsay
April 10, 1794

by their
Grandaughter
ELOISE (WALKER) WILDER
April 10, 1894

1922
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TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER

FANNY SCHOFF WALKER

Whose strong intellect, exalted piety, tireless energy
and unfailing generosity and sympathy, made
her foremost in all good works, and a tower
of defense for her children, early be-
reft of a fond father's care, and,

TO THE MEMORY OF MY GRANDDAUGHTER

ELOISE MORTON

Who, like a beautiful vision, faded from life in her
Twentieth Year,

These pages are lovingly inscribed.



THE OLD SCHOFF FARM HOUSE IN OHIO
BUILT BEFORE 1812

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SCHOFF (OR SCHAFF) FAMILY

We know little of the early history of the "Schoffs", never a numerous family in America; but rumor, faint with the lapse of time, tells us that they were of the nobility of Germany, and that our immigrant ancestors to Pennsylvania were the "Barons von Schoff (or von Schaaf) who, long before the American Revolution, immigrated to America on account of religious and political oppressions; that their estates in Germany were probably confiscated, and when they left the old home, they dropped a part of their surname, which has long since been forgotten by their descendants, several of whom served in the War of the American Revolution.

Philip Schoff was the only child of his parents who survived infancy. The christian name of his father is unknown to the writer.

His mother's maiden name, was Elizabeth Singer.

As a boy, he was remarkable for his unusual size physical strength, and mental precocity, which accounts for the fact that in the darkest days of our struggle for independence he shouldered a gun furnished him at home, and in July, 1778, in a sudden and great emergency, was enrolled in Captain Asia Hill's Co. of Cumberland Co. Militia.

He was adored by the writer, who, in her frequent

visits to him at the old farm in her childhood, and early girlhood, always took a lively interest in his reminiscences of his service in the War of the American Revolution, his skirmishes later with the Indians, and his experiences as a soldier in the War of 1812.

After the lapse of many years, my daughter, Mrs. Winchester, (who was the first acting Historian of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the State of Indiana), wished to place among the National Archives of the Daughters of the American Revolution, with those of her seven other "Revolutionary Sires"—a record of the service of her great-grandfather Philip Schoff.

With nothing to guide her save the fire-side tales from the lips of the old soldier, repeated to his little granddaughter, Eloise Walker, (the writer of this "Memorial") the search was begun, and carried on industriously, for several years.

After many fruitless attempts to find it, Mrs. Winchester's patient and persistent search for the official record of so young a soldier, (perhaps the youngest Revolutionary soldier upon the official records) aroused the interest of the Pennsylvania State Librarian, who unearthed for her, a mass of long-forgotten manuscripts in the basement of the State House, in Harrisburg, Penna.

Among these papers was found the manuscript "Muster Roll," of Capt. Asia Hill's Co. of Cumberland Co. Penna. Militia.

The old fashioned hand writing was faded and almost illegible, by the (then) lapse of more than 120 years; the paper had been gnawed by mice, and was covered with mildew. Unfortunately, some of the

names upon the company roll were entirely obliterated; but the name of PHILIP SCHOFF was there!

Thus by the long and patient endeavor of one of his great-granddaughters one of the "fire side tales" related by the old soldier to his little granddaughter, was verified by official records; and, incidentally, a long-forgotten "Muster Roll" of the American Revolution, was rescued from total destruction and oblivion.

Mrs. Winchester next turned her attention to the records of the War of 1812; and succeeded in verifying the tales of her great-grandfather as to his service in that war also, from Aug. 26, 1812 to November 12, 1812, in Capt. Absalom Martin's Co. of Col. Bay's 3rd Regt. Ohio Militia, War 1812. His company was stationed on the (then) frontier; at a block house near an Indian town called "Greentown", in what was then Richland Co. but is now Ashland Co. O.

Philip Schoff was a prosperous citizen of the community in which he lived, and it was not the goadings of poverty, which induced him to seek a new home in "Western wilds", but the promptings of the same spirit of enterprise which dominated his ancestors, impelling them to leave the civilization of the old world, to battle with danger and death in the new that fair lands might be opened up, a heritage for their descendants.

In a deed of land upon record in the court house, in Carlisle, Penna., made by Philip and Elizabeth Schoff, of Dickenson twp., Cumberland Co. Penna., April 19, 1806, to John Schoff, of Allen twp., he is styled "Yeoman." (meaning a "freeholder," or one who held his lands in fee simple, and was therefore entitled to the suffrage, and to hold certain political offices.)