

## The Becker-Hemmerich Families

Information taken from "The Becker-Hemmerich Families" a Genealogical Collection by Arthur M. Schumann and W. H. Beers, *History of Montgomery County*, 1882.

Randolph Township history recognizes the contribution of many different Becker families throughout the years. Most are probably related to John I who was born on the Atlantic Ocean in 1737 when his parents moved to America from southwest Germany (the palatinate region west of the Rhine). He had a son, John II, born in Bedford Co., Pennsylvania. Later the family moved to Lancaster Co., PA. John II and his wife whose maiden name was Snowberger had 9 children who lived to adulthood: John III, Jacob, Samuel, Andrew, Marie, Henry, David, Elizabeth and Nancy. John II brought his family to Randolph Twp., Montgomery County, Ohio in 1815. He was accompanied by the William Hart family and they settled on adjoining farms in sections 4 and 5 of the township. John III soon married Rebecca Hart with whom he had five children: Henry, David, Rebecca, Abraham and Annie. John III worked with his father John II to clear about 103 acres in Section 4. The two men working together made many improvements on the land including a sawmill along Pigeye Creek, a subsidiary of the West Branch. Both were millers and John III also served as a township trustee for several years. Rebecca Hart Becker died in November 1856. Her husband, John III, died a year later at about the age of 66. While growing up, young Henry and probably some of his brothers and sisters attended a nearby subscription school. This most probably was a log school run by Quakers at West Branch. Henry married Sarah Shiltz of Darke County, Ohio in 1840. His father gave him the sawmill and 24 acres around it where he continued to ply his milling trade. In 1865, Henry built a new sawmill and shipped large quantities of black walnut to distant points on the C. H. & D. Railroad which stopped at Becker Station. Sarah and Henry had six children: Sarah A. (died age 22), Catherine (m. Fred Hemmerich), Thomas J. (m. Martha Hickman), John S. (m. Elizabeth Weybright), Clement and Isaac. Children of some of these later Becker's may have attended No. 19 school in 1906, i.e., Raleigh, Clifford and Ralph Becker and perhaps even Clarence and Ethel Baker.

Residents may recall that an early hotel in Harrisburg stood at the southwest corner of St. Rt. 48 and U.S. Rt. 40. This hotel went by several names but in 1880 it was called the National Hotel and was owned by Jacob E. Becker born in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania in 1833. His father was Henry Becker who may have been John III's younger brother who bought a farm of 160 acres in Montgomery County, Ohio near Liberty (Madison Twp.). When Henry died in 1851, Jacob ran the farm for three years but after his marriage to Nancy Cox in 1857 tried various pursuits before settling into the restaurant and hotel business. He and Nancy had four children three of whom survived to adulthood: Charles E., Clara and Emma. Sometime later, Charles E. was running the local hotel under the name of Harrisburg Hotel. The sign in front of the hotel building shows up in many of Edwin Sink's photos of Englewood ca. 1915.