

Chapter 1

Alsace

*T*HE HENNINGER FAMILY of Hatten, Alsace, included five male members who emigrated to Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century. Of these, Michael¹ Henninger¹ arrived in Philadelphia in 1731. He was accompanied by his wife Anna Maria and his son Conrad, who was 9 at the time. In 1763 Georg¹, son of Michael's brother Martin, followed his uncle. In 1766 Georg's younger brother Jacob¹ set sail for Pennsylvania, to be followed, probably in 1767, by the youngest of this trio of brothers, Christian¹. They all settled in present-day Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties, though Christian, who was swept up in the American Revolution, fighting first for the American side and then the British, was granted land in Nova Scotia and was the progenitor of a large family in Hants county.

In the eighteenth century, Hatten was a small village in the Bas-Rhin region of Alsace. The word *bas*, meaning low, refers to the position of the region along the Rhine river. Hatten, being in the lower region, is north of Colmar, for instance, which is in Haut-Rhin [Upper Rhine]. Today, Hatten exists as a small town, though because of the wars that have ravaged the area over the past two and a half centuries, there is not much left of its eighteenth-century character. While Johann Michel Henninger and his brother Johann Martin Henninger were born in or near Hatten, their grandfather, Hans Peter Henninger, lived in Hunaweier (now Hunawihhr) a town 123 kilometres south west of Hatten. This picturesque village retains many of its seventeenth-century buildings to this day. Hans Peter married probably five times,² and died in 1652, two years after the birth of his tenth child, Johann Conrad, who later became the father of both Johann Michel and Johann Martin.

1. Once Michel Henninger arrived in Pennsylvania, documents refer to him as "Michael."

2. Information on Hans Peter Henninger is taken from the registers of the Evangelische Kirche Hunaweier, Alsace (Family History Library [hereafter FHL], Salt Lake City, Utah, microfilm 740188) [hereafter Evangelische Kirche Hunaweier]. This information can also be found in Rick Ortenburger, *William K. Henninger 1818–1894 & His Ancestors and Descendants* (Renton, Wash.: Desktop Publishing and Printing, 2002).