

# Keim Family

The Keims are entitled to display a coat-of-arms, the motto of the family being: *Deo non fortuna.*

Ludwig Hericourt Keim, believed to have been the first ancestor of record, was born about 1598, near Speier, in the Palatinate of the Rhine, and was an officer in the Thirty Years' War. He died after 1662. His son, George Keim, was born about 1623. His son Johann Keim, is supposed to have been born about 1647. His son, Johann Keim, was born about 1675, near Speier, and became the founder of the American branch of the family.

## First Generation

**1. Johann Keim** was born about 1675 near Speier, Palatinate, Germany and died about 1753 about age 78.

He was born near Speier, in the Palatinate of the Rhine, and became the founder of the American branch of the family. He is said to have come to America in 1698 or 1699, and to have returned to the Fatherland where he spent several years, embarking a second time for Pennsylvania about 1707, or a little earlier. He settled in the upper part of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, which, in 1752, was absorbed in Berks County.

Among the articles which he brought with him from Germany was an antique chest having on its lid the portraits of two stately personages in ruffs and bearing the legend: "Ludwig Hericourt and Bertha Keim Landshaffen von Elsass. A D. MDCLX." Another heirloom, still more ancient, was a steel bow-gun upon which was inscribed: "Gilbert de Keim, A. D. 1314." This weapon, dating from the time of William Tell, was still in the possession of the Keim family into the twentieth century.

Johann married **Bertha de Turck** in 1706 in Germany.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 2 F i. **Catherine Keim.**
- + 3 M ii. **John Keim.**
- + 4 M iii. **Stephen Keim.**
- + 5 M iv. **Nicholas Keim** was born on 2 Apr 1719 in Philadelphia (later Berks) Co, PA and died on 2 Aug 1802 at age 83.

Nicholas married **Barbara Schneider** (d. 8 Jun 1788).

- + 6 F v. **Elizabeth Keim.**
- + 7 M vi. **Jacob Keim.**

Johann next married **Maria Elizabeth** [Unk].  
He had ten children by his second wife.

# Keim Family

## Second Generation (Children)

2. **Catherine Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

3. **John Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

4. **Stephen Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

5. **Nicholas Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 2 Apr 1719 in Philadelphia (later Berks) Co, PA and died on 2 Aug 1802 at age 83.

During his early manhood he remained near the homestead, engaging in agricultural pursuits. In 1755 he became one of the founders of Reading, the county seat of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where he bought real estate and established himself in the hardware business, being the originator of that line of trade in that region. During the Revolutionary War his sympathies and practical support were given to the cause of the colonists, and we find his name in a list of members of a company of "Associators."

Nicholas married **Barbara Schneider**, daughter of **Hans Schneider** and **Catherine** [Unk]. Barbara was born in Oct 1727 in Philadelphia Co, PA and died on 8 Jun 1788 in Reading, Berks Co, PA at age 60.

Children from this marriage were:

+ 8 F i. **Catherine Keim.**

+ 9 M ii. **John Keim** was born on 6 Jul 1749 in Philadelphia Co, PA and died on 10 Feb 1819 at age 69.

John married **Susanna de Benneville** (d. 15 Jan 1837) on 15 Oct 1771.

+ 10 F iii. **Susanna Keim.**

6. **Elizabeth Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

7. **Jacob Keim** (*Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

# Keim Family

## Third Generation (Grandchildren)

**8. Catherine Keim** (*Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

**9. John Keim** (*Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*) was born on 6 Jul 1749 in Philadelphia Co, PA and died on 10 Feb 1819 at age 69.

He was born in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and was a child when the family removed to Reading, where the remainder of his life was passed. During the Revolutionary War he first became one of a company of Associators and later served in the Berks County militia with the rank of captain. During the winter at Valley Forge Captain Keim, out of his ample means, contributed largely to the relief of the suffering patriots and made several visits to the camp, meeting General Washington and the officers and men.

Mr. Keim was a recognized leader in the civic, commercial and moral progress of his community, filling at different times the offices of county commissioner and Burgess of Reading. True to his German lineage he was a great lover of music, and purchased from an importer in Philadelphia one of the pianos of that early period. For a long time it was the only instrument of the kind in Reading and was, as may be supposed, an object of great curiosity. Not only did Mr. Keim possess a fondness for music, but he was essentially a student, familiar with the ethical writings of England, Germany and France.

John married **Susanna de Benneville**, daughter of **Dr. George de Benneville** and **Esther Bertolet**, on 15 Oct 1771. Susanna was born on 15 May 1748 and died on 15 Jan 1837 at age 88.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 11 M i. **Daniel de Benneville Keim.**
- + 12 F ii. **Esther de Benneville Keim.**
- + 13 M iii. **John [1] Keim** died in infancy.
- + 14 M iv. **George de Benneville Keim.**
- + 15 F v. **Catherine Keim.**
- + 16 M vi. **John [2] Keim.**
- + 17 F vii. **Susanna Keim.**
- + 18 M viii. **Benneville Keim** was born on 30 Nov 1790 in Reading, Berks Co, PA and died on 30 Oct 1872 at age 81.

Benneville married **Mary Hoch** (d. 14 Jul 1833).

**10. Susanna Keim** (*Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

# Keim Family

## Fourth Generation (Great-Grandchildren)

11. **Daniel de Benneville Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).
12. **Esther de Benneville Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).
13. **John [1] Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>) died in infancy.
14. **George de Benneville Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

His child was:

+ 19 M i. **John May Keim.**

15. **Catherine Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).
16. **John [2] Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).
17. **Susanna Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).
18. **Benneville Keim** (*John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 30 Nov 1790 in Reading, Berks Co, PA and died on 30 Oct 1872 at age 81.

He was for years one of the wealthiest and most influential residents of his native Reading, Pennsylvania. He was one of the firm of Keim, Whitaker & Company, which founded, in 1835, the extensive iron works, one of the earliest and most important of the metal industries of that region. From 1824 to 1842 Mr. Keim was an officer of the Farmers' Bank, either president or cashier, and was also president of the Reading Water Company. In 1825 he served on the building committee which supervised the erection of Christ Church, and for many years he was a vestryman of the parish. Mr. Keim was also a liberal contributor to the First Universalist Church in Reading, his maternal grandfather, George de Benneville, having been the founder of that denomination in America. In the sphere of politics Mr. Keim departed from the family traditions which were chiefly Democratic, warmly advocating the principles of the Whigs. In 1858, 1859 and 1860 he was elected mayor of Reading. Mr. Keim was one of the original trustees of the Charles Evans Cemetery, having been appointed to that office by Mr. Evans in his will.

He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom several died in infancy. Only four of the survivors married and left children.

Benneville married **Mary Hoch**, daughter of **Isaac Hoch** and **Sarah Hottenstein**,. Mary was born on 16 Jun 1792 and died on 14 Jul 1833 at age 41. Another name for Mary was Mary High. The surname "Hoch" is often given as "High," the latter being a translation of the former.

# Keim Family

Children from this marriage were:

- + 20 M i. **William High Keim.**
- + 21 F ii. **Matilda High Keim.**
- + 22 M iii. **John High Keim** was born on 26 Jan 1817 and died on 29 Oct 1858 at age 41.  
  
John married **Martha Elizabeth Randolph** (d. 5 Jun 1890) on 3 Sep 1839.
- + 23 F iv. **Emily Susan Keim.**

# Keim Family

## Fifth Generation (Great Great-Grandchildren)

**19. John May Keim** (*George de Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

He was the founder of the Philadelphia branch of the Keim family.

**20. William High Keim** (*Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

**21. Matilda High Keim** (*Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

**22. John High Keim** (*Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*) was born on 26 Jan 1817 and died on 29 Oct 1858 at age 41.

For many years he was associated in mercantile pursuits with his brother, William High Keim, they having succeeded their father. No other establishment in Reading, or in that part of Pennsylvania transacted a larger or more varied business than the house of W. H. and J. H. Keim. The latter member of the firm was also heavily interested in industrial enterprises in the Schuylkill and Lehigh valleys. In 1855 Mr. Keim removed with his family to Dubuque, Iowa, where he became cashier and partner in the banking house of F. S. Jessup & Company, afterward Redmond, Lovell & Company. Like many of his kinsmen, Mr. Keim was identified with the Pennsylvania militia, being at one time lieutenant-colonel of the Fifty-third Regiment. He was also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and was a prominent Knight Templar.

John married **Martha Elizabeth Randolph**, daughter of **Gen. Thomas Beverley Randolph** and **Maria Barbara Mayer**, on 3 Sep 1839. Martha was born on 6 Apr 1818 and died on 5 Jun 1890 at age 72.

Gen. Thomas Beverley Randolph was a representative of one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Virginia and traced his descent from the Indian princess, Pocahontas, who became the wife of John Rolfe.

Children from this marriage were:

- + 24 M i. **De Benneville Randolph Keim.**
- + 25 F ii. **Mary High Keim.**
- + 26 M iii. **Edward Tudor Keim.**
- + 27 F iv. **Virginia Randolph Keim.**
- + 28 F v. **Anna Heister Keim.**
- + 29 M vi. **Peyton Randolph Keim.**
- + 30 M vii. **Thomas Beverley Keim.**

# Keim Family

+ 31 M viii. **John Randolph Keim.**

+ 32 M ix. **John Otto Keim.**

John married **Ella Boreaf.**

+ 33 M x. **Frederick Sherwood Jessup Keim.**

+ 34 F xi. **Anna Sherwood Keim.**

**23. Emily Susan Keim** (*Benneville*<sup>4</sup>, *John*<sup>3</sup>, *Nicholas*<sup>2</sup>, *Johann*<sup>1</sup>).

# Keim Family

## Sixth Generation (3rd Great-Grandchildren)

- 24. De Benneville Randolph Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

He became a celebrated journalist, representing the New York "Herald" in the field during the Civil War and winning renown as one of the most efficient of the "war correspondents."

- 25. Mary High Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 26. Edward Tudor Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 27. Virginia Randolph Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 28. Anna Heister Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 29. Peyton Randolph Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 30. Thomas Beverley Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 31. John Randolph Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 32. John Otto Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

Residence: Jacobs Creek, Westmoreland Co, PA

John married **Ella Boreaf**.

- 33. Frederick Sherwood Jessup Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).

- 34. Anna Sherwood Keim** (*John High<sup>5</sup>, Benneville<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas<sup>2</sup>, Johann<sup>1</sup>*).



# The de Benneville Line

## First Generation

1. **George de Benneville** was born in Rouen, Normandy, France.

He was born in Rouen, Normandy, France, probably about the middle of the seventeenth century, and being a Huguenot was forced, on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, to flee from his native country and take refuge in England.

George married **Unknown**.

The child from this marriage was:

- + 2 M i. **Dr. George de Benneville** was born on 26 Jul 1703 in England and died on 19 Mar 1793 in Philadelphia Co, PA at age 89.

George married **Esther Bertolet** (d. 7 Mar 1795).

## Second Generation (Children)

2. **Dr. George de Benneville** (*George*<sup>1</sup>) was born on 26 Jul 1703 in England and died on 19 Mar 1793 in Philadelphia Co, PA at age 89.

He was born in England, and at an early age was bereft of his parents. For some years he had a romantic career in Europe, and in 1741 emigrated to the province of Pennsylvania, settling in Philadelphia County and there passing the remainder of his life. In addition to being a noted physician Dr. de Benneville was the founder of Universalism in America, being a minister of that denomination.

George married **Esther Bertolet**, daughter of **Jean Bertolet** and **Unknown**,. Esther was born on 12 Aug 1720 and died on 7 Mar 1795 at age 74.

Jean Bertolet was a native of Chasteaudeau, Switzerland, who came to America in 1726 and founded the well known Pennsylvania family of Bertolet, or Bertolette.

The child from this marriage was:

- + 3 F i. **Susanna de Benneville** was born on 15 May 1748 and died on 15 Jan 1837 at age 88.

Susanna married **John Keim** (d. 10 Feb 1819) on 15 Oct 1771.