

K R A T Z D I A R I E S

1870 - 1910

Being the Diaries of Henry M. Kratz and
his wife Sophia L. Shaddinger and their
daughter Mary Emma Kratz.

Hilltown Township
Bucks County, Pa.

Arranged from the original diaries

by

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K R A T Z D I A R I E S

The Kratz diaries consist of thirty-three pocket-size volumes covering the years from 1870 to 1910, with the books for some of the intervening years missing. There is an entry for nearly every day. The early years are copied here almost in full, except for the daily weather conditions. In the remaining years mention of daily chores and routine farm work is omitted here. Also omitted are most of the numerous visits from and to friends and relatives.

The Kratz family were members of the Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, but on Sunday evenings they usually attended the Baptist Church. Henry M. Kratz was active in local civic and political affairs. In these days, before the day of primary elections, he attended political caucuses and conventions. For a number of years he was one of the township auditors. In the latter years covered by the diaries he was one of the township supervisors and as such was one of the first in the township to have a part in good roads' movement. He was also interested in education and one of the yearly outings of the family was their attendance at the Bucks County Teachers' Institute, although none of the family was a teacher. Sophia L. Shaddinger, wife of Henry M. Kratz, had attended West Chester State Normal School. Their daughter, Emma Kratz, had a musical education and became a local music teacher. In those days there were also institutes for farmers and Henry M. Kratz was a regular attendant.

The period covered by the diaries saw great changes in farming from the use of the cradle for reaping to the introduction of the self-binder, and the use of other labor saving machinery. However, some of the threshing was still done with the flail after 1900. There were also great changes in ways of travel. In the early years Henry M. Kratz took his produce to market in Philadelphia in a market wagon. The diary gives details of travel time and the places where he stopped to feed the horses or where he stayed over night - for the trip usually took two days. The route was by way of the Linekiln Pike and places to stop were generally Jarrettown and Pittville. Pittville has now disappeared from the map. It was a village at the lower end of the Linekiln Pike and is now a part of West Oak Lane in Philadelphia.

^{Sacob}
Sophia L. Shaddinger, wife of Henry M. Kratz, was a daughter of ~~John~~ L. Shaddinger. Her sister, Mary Ann Shaddinger, was married to Bishop Henry B. Rosenberger of the Blooming Glen Mennonite Church. Henry B. Rosenberger and Henry M. Kratz were close friends and associates and his name occurs frequently in the diaries, usually indicated by the initials HBR.

Henry M. Kratz was a great grandson of Abraham Kratz, b. 1741, d. 1817, who was married to Barbara Moyer and lived one-quarter of a mile east of the Upper Hilltown Baptist Church. Valentine Kratz, son of Abraham, and grandfather of Henry M. Kratz, was born Apr. 22, 1773 and died Sept. 18, 1830. He was married to Anna Overholt. They were members of the Mennonite Church at Blooming Glen. Valentine and Anna Kratz had six children, and since there were

frequent visits between members of the family, of which mention is often made in the diaries, a list of the children of Valentine and Anna Kratz is given below:

1. Simeon Kratz, b. Feb. 22, 1807, d. Mar. 5, 1865, married Catharine Moyer.
Children:
 - a. Enos M. Kratz, b. 1836, d. 1890
 - b. William M. Kratz, b. 1837, married Mary E. Shaddinger
 - c. Mary Ann Kratz, b. 1842, married Joseph G. Moyer
 - d. Barbara Kratz, m. Christian D. Moyer
 - e. Ephriam Kratz, b. 1845, m. Catharine Clymer
 - f. Mahlon Kratz, b. 1847, m. Mary Ella Cahill
 - g. Catharine Kratz, b. 1848, m. Isaac George
 - h. Aaron M. Kratz, m. Mary Clymer
 - i. Emma Kratz, b. 1859, m. Nero Button

2. Elisabeth Kratz, b. May 4, 1809, d. June 26, 1836, not married

3. Jacob Kratz, b. June 3, 1814, d. Feb. 23, 1903, married Mary Myers, b. Mar. 7, 1818.* He was a farmer in Hilltown township. A picture of his home (and also the home of Henry M. Kratz) with whitewashed fences and whitewashed tree trunks is found in the Kratz Family History, on the page following the title page. They had four children:
 - a. Salome, b. Aug. 30, 1839, married John F. Funk
 - b. Henry M. Kratz, b. June 23, 1845, married Sophie L. Shaddinger on Jan. 4, 1868. She was born Apr. 12, 1844. They were the writers of the diary. Henry was therefore 25 years old when the diaries were started, and Sophia was one year older. They had only one child - Mary Emma, b. Sept. 23, 1868. She did not marry. In the diaries she is usually called Emma.
 - c. Anna Kratz, b. Aug. 31, 1850. She was not married and when the diaries were begun she lived with Henry and Sophia.
 - d. Isaiah Kratz, b. and died 1856

4. Abraham Kratz, b. Mar. 25, 1817, d. May 9, 1889, married Sarah Swartley. She died in 1902 and was buried at Line Lexington. They had eight children:
 - a. John S. Kratz, b. 1841, m. Angelina B. Godshalk
 - b. William S. Kratz, b. 1846, m. Sallie Clymer
 - d. Mary A. Kratz, b. 1847, m. Levi Clymer
 - e. Henry S. Kratz, b. 1849, m. Anna Bishop
 - f. Levi Kratz, b. 1851, d. 1865
 - g. Abraham Kratz, b. 1853, m. Jennie Markley
 - h. Oliver Kratz, b. 1855, drowned 1877 while a student at Cornell University
 - i. Jacob Kratz, b. and d. 1859

5. Barbara Kratz, b. July 1, 1818, d. Apr. 1891. She married William Clymer. They had 2 children:
 - a. Isaiah K. Clymer, b. 1841, m. Emma C. Moore
 - b. Ephriam K. Clymer, b. 1845, m. Annie Little. He was a printer and publisher in St. Paul, Minnesota

6. Mary Kratz, b. Sept. 1826, married Charles Haldeman, farmer near Chalfont. They had five children:

- a. Sarah Ann Haldeman, b. 1851, m. Henry M. Fretz
- b. Daniel Haldeman, b. 1854, m. Ella Haldeman
- c. Emma Haldeman, b. 1858, m. Abraham G. Ruth
- d. Edwin Haldeman, b. 1862, m. Emma Wilgus
- e. William Haldeman, b. and d. 1866