

## THE FAMILY OF CASPER SHAEFFER AND MARIA CATRINA BERNHARDT

Casper Shaeffer was born 16 September 1716 in Kerzenheim, Grafschaft, Bolanden, Germany. The name is shown in records as Shaeffer, Shafer and Shaver.



*Kerzenheim*



*The pin shows the location of Kerzenheim*

Casper married Maria Catrina Bernhardt.

Casper and Maria had the following children:

1. Nicholas, born 1739 in Frederick, Pennsylvania; died 27 September 1790.
2. \*Margaretta, born 1743 in Stillwater, New Jersey; married John Roy; died 5 January 1815.
3. Peter Bernhardt, born 1744 in Philadelphia; married Elizabeth Simpson; died 6 April 1799.
4. Abraham, of New Jersey; married Sarah Armstrong; died 11 January 1820 in Warren, New Jersey.
5. Valentyn (male), born 9 March 1746 in Stillwater, New Jersey.
6. Maria Susanna, born 1753 in Stillwater
7. Isaac, born 4 June 1760 in Stillwater; married Margaret Lynn; died 1800.

There is a good deal of documentation on Casper's life, including an application to the Sons of the American Revolution, detailing Casper's involvement in the Revolutionary War.

My ancestor's services in assisting in the establishment of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as follows:

1775 member of the County Committee of Safety, and at a meeting.....  
held at the Court House, Newton, N.J., August 10 and 11 - he  
attended as a delegate from Hardwiche Township. Casper Shaver  
at this meeting was appointed Collector to take charge of the  
funds to be raised under authority of the Committee of Safety.  
He was a delegate to the Provincial Congress 1776, took his  
seat at the session begun at Burlington, June 10, 1776 and was  
at its meetings at New Brunswick, Trenton & Burlington. After its  
dissolution Casper Shaver was present at the first legislature  
meeting of New Jersey on August 27, 1776 at Princeton as a member  
of Assembly from Sussex County. They took their seats on the 30th  
day of August, in the assembly held in the College library. He  
also sat in the Assembly 1777 - 1778 - 1779. An examination of  
the minutes shows that he was faithful in his attendance at the  
various meetings at Princeton, Trenton, Burlington and Haddonfield.  
His vote is recorded on almost every question.

-These records from Bible of Joseph Morris Roy, also  
"A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Casper Schaeffer" in  
Memoirs and Reminiscences together with sketches of the early  
history of Sussex County, New Jersey by Rev. Casper Schaeffer, M.D.,  
with notes and genealogical records of the Schaeffer, Shaver or  
Shafer Family - Compiled by William M. Johnson, Hackensack, N.J.  
-Also "History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J." by  
James P. Snell, published at Philadelphia in 1881 pages 51 and 55.

*Application to SAR*

Wikipedia provides a good summary of his life: "'Casper Shafer (c. 1712 – 17 December 1784) was among the first settlers of the village of Stillwater along the Paulins Kill in Sussex County, New Jersey in the United States. A successful miller and early tavern owner, Shafer later served in the first sessions of the New Jersey Legislature during the American Revolution. During these sessions, New Jersey had become a newly-independent state, established the first state constitution, ordered the state's last Royal Governor deposed and arrested, and actively supported and financed the Continental Army.

Shafer was born in 1712 in the Rheinland-Pfalz in present-day Germany. He was among tens of thousands of German Palatines who escaped conditions of war and poverty in southwestern Germany throughout the eighteenth century and journeyed up the Rhine River to Rotterdam seeking passage to the New World. From Rotterdam, Shafer emigrated to the American colonies aboard the ship Queen Elizabeth commanded by Alexander Hope, and entered Philadelphia on 16 September 1738. At some time after 1741, Shafer married Maria Catrina Bernhardt (1722–1794), the daughter of Johan Peter Bernhardt (d. 1748).] Shafer, his father-in-law, Johan Peter Bernhardt, his brother-in-law John George Wintermute (1711-1782), and their families settled along the Paulins Kill in northwestern New Jersey

circa 1742. Over the next few decades, more German Palatine families settled here, and this settlement became the village of Stillwater.

During the first year the conditions were spartan, and the settlers shared a log cabin located over a large stump which served as the family's table. Shafer's four children were all born in Stillwater—Peter (1744–1799), Margareta (1745–1815), Abraham (1754–1820) and Isaac (1760–1800).[7]:p.135

A few years after settling, Shafer erected a rudimentary grist mill along the Paulins Kill approximately 900 yards north of the site of the surviving larger mill he built in 1764. This first mill ground out three-to-five bushels of flour per day."In later years, Shafer built a saw mill, oil-mill and tannery at the site. To assist in the agricultural and industrial work, he acquired several African-American slaves, many of whom remained property of his descendents well into the 19th century. Shafer also established large orchards on his property in Stillwater, mostly of apple trees that were later described as growing to "a majestic size, some of them attaining to over three feet in diameter at the butt." When Sussex County was established in 1753, the first session of the Court of General Sessions granted licenses to Shafer and a few other early residents to operate taverns.

Casper Shafer (1711–1784) constructed Stillwater's second mill in 1764 replacing a small mill 900 yards north of the current site. After an 1844 fire, the mill was reconstructed.

Each year, Shafer would navigate down the Paulins Kill and Delaware River by flatboat "carrying flour and other produce down to the Philadelphia market" and returning with "such goods as the wants of the country in its primitive state seemed to demand." The pattern of trade in the region was focused toward Philadelphia, and for several years Shafer did not have any knowledge of English coastal cities in Newark Bay. The local Munsee tribe of the (Lenape) informed him of a town they called Lispatone—that is, Elizabethtown (present-day Elizabeth, New Jersey)—which he had not heard of. According to Schaeffer, "he journeyed in that direction some fifty miles over the mountains and through the almost trackless wilderness, until he finally arrived at the veritable town...where he commenced trading in his small way. And thus he was the pioneer in opening a profitable and important commercial intercourse between the south eastern sea-board, and that part of New Jersey."It was not until 1756-1757 that a military supply road built by Jonathan Hampton during the French & Indian War opened up a connection for trade between Elizabeth and Morristown with the northwestern frontier.

In 1775, Shafer was a member of the Committee of Safety for Sussex County, and was charged with raising £10,000 to "purchase arms and ammunition and for other exigencies of the Province." The following year, Shafer, Thomas Peterson and Abia Brown represented the County in the Provincial Congress whose session began at Burlington on 10 June 1776 establishing the government as the former colony became an independent state, deposed and imprisoned the Royal Governor, William Franklin, and established the state's first constitution. In August, the Provincial Congress met in Princeton and transformed into the state's first Legislature. According to Snell, on several occasions Shafer would rise to his feet exclaiming his dissent in German, saying "Das ist nicht recht! Das ist nicht recht!" (trans. "That is not right! That is not right!") and positing his argument in his adopted English. He represented the

county for the next three years, and was described as "faithful in his attendance at the various meetings at Princeton, Trenton, Burlington and Haddonfield. His vote is recorded on almost every question, and always in favor of the most vigorous and aggressive measures for carrying on the war."

Casper Shafer died on 7 February 1784 in Stillwater. Shafer disagreed on matters of doctrine with the German Reformed and Lutheran clergy who supplied the local church, the "Dutch Meeting House" (now a presbyterian congregation), and in his last years became cordially acquainted with Presbyterian clergyman Rev. Ira Conduct (1764–1811). Conduct, who would later become President of Queen's College (now Rutgers University) had been called to serve the nearby Presbyterian congregation of Upper Hardwick (now Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church). Shafer requested that Conduct perform his burial service, but because the German clergy objected to Conduct using the church building, Conduct eulogized Shafer from the church's front steps. Casper Shafer was buried in the churchyard at Stillwater. His tombstone reads:

C. S.  
In memory of  
Casper Shafer, who  
departed this life Dec.  
the 7th, 1784, in the 72  
year of his age.

On 10 December 2009, the grist mill built by Casper Shafer, and operated after his death by his son Abraham, was listed as the Casper and Abraham Shafer Grist Mill Complex on the state and National Register of Historic Places." (*www.wikipedia.com*)

While fighting for the cause of freedom for American citizens, Casper was also a slave owner. A history of his life on [www.historicstillwater.org](http://www.historicstillwater.org) provides a photograph of his slave quarters, while commenting on how well he treated his slaves. His property was left to his wife, sons Peter, Abraham, Isaac and daughter Margaret.

The 1790 federal census shows Peter B. Shafer of Stillwater as the owner of two female slaves, ages 24-35, and six free colored persons as members of the household.

Name:	<b>Peter B Shafer</b>
Home in 1830 (City, County, State):	Stillwater, Sussex, New Jersey
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:	2
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39:	3
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:	1
Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:	1
Free Colored Persons - Males - 10 thru 23:	3
Free Colored Persons - Females - 10 thru 23:	3
Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35:	2
Free White Persons - Under 20:	1
Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:	6
Total Free White Persons:	7
Total Slaves:	2



*Casper Shaeffer's slave quarters – built about 1780 to house his slaves.*

The website <http://www.historicstillwater.org/abshafer.com/cs.html> give details about Casper Shaeffer's life:

*His grandson said of him, "he was a man naturally of a strong mind, of strict integrity, not lacking in sagacity, of great industry and indomitable perseverance, guided in all his actions by a principle of moral rectitude; a strict disciplinarian, and rather intolerant of what he believed to be wrong." He had a religious zeal, and was very motivated for high achievement in every endeavor. He saw a need for a grist mill, so he built one. As soon as he had the capacity to make more flour than what he need he established a trade route to distant cities. Additionally he found the time to travel to various sites to represent the people. The fact that he had not acquired a command of the English language did not slow him down.*

*He was reportedly one of the strongest men in Stillwater. How did he get so strong you ask. He was a farmer who toiled in the soil. Surely, if you know any farmers you have observed their great strength. Additionally, as a miller, he constantly carried large bags of grain up and down the stairs to and from the second and third levels of the mill.*

*I am reminded of the story about his house being completely surround by Indian who were definitely on the war path. Being alone at the time Casper believed he had better go get some reinforcements. As he dashed across the field to get his brother-in-law, George Wintermute's assistance an Indian was close on his heels. Casper turned and in a moment had thrown the Indian to the ground, and left him prostrate on the ground by tying him up with one of his garter's.*



*So precious little is known of Casper's wife, our 5th great grandmother. All that we have is the recordings of her grandson, Doctor Casper Schaeffer in the Memories and Reminiscences book. He states: My grandmother Schaeffer had received an education somewhat above the ordinary standard of her day. She was of refined taste and cultivated manners, as well as exemplary piety. She was overheard explaining that she had read her German bible through three times since her "old man's death."*



**His Bible front page**

*Then, ten years had gone by since his death, this being near the close of her life. She had bought with her from Germany what was rare in those days, many rich silk dresses, embroidery, jewelry and trinkets, which were carefully preserved as keepsakes during her life, carefully locked up in chest and casket. But in the lapse of time and over tunings, these relics have all unhappily become squandered.*

#### **Casper's Original Home.**

*Casper Schaeffer was born about 1711 somewhere in the Palatinate region of Germany. I believe he was born and raised somewhere near the vicinity of Worms. I will explain my reasoning for this belief next.*

*It is recorded on Johan Peter Bernhardt's tombstone (Casper's father-in-law) that he was born in Kzenheim, County of Bolanden. Kerzenheim is located South West of Worms. Similarly, it is known that John Georg Windermuth (Casper's brother-in-law) was from Pfungstadt, which is located North East of Worms. The exact location of Casper origin in Germany is unknown to us. However his grandson, whose notes became the book "Memoirs and Reminiscences" theorized that the Schaeffers, Windermuth, and Bernhardts were all from the same general area and knew each other in Germany.*

#### **Reasons for leaving.**

*Wars, famine, severe winters and a strong desire for freedom all contributed to his decision to leave his family and come to this land so far away.*

#### **The Route.**

*He traveled down the Rhine to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, then sailed from Rotterdam to Deal, England. Later, he continued from Deal, England to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was 27 when he arrived at Philadelphia on the 16th of September, 1738 on the ship "Queen Elizabeth." Alexander Hope was the Master.*

#### **The spelling of our name.**

*Our immigrant grandfather originally used the German spelling of the family's name, Schaeffer. However, immediately upon docking in Philadelphia, the spelling was phonetically altered to Shaver by those who documented his arrival. He and his three sons, and most of their descendants accepted that spelling (Shaver or Shafer) through out their life times.*

*However, one grandson, Rev. Casper Schaeffer, M.D., was opposed to this change to the American way of spelling. He very strongly advocated that the entire family should revert to the old German spelling, as he had done.*

*Obviously, his father, Abraham, did not share those feelings. Of special interest is the fact that as late as 1820 he was identified as Doctor Casper **Shaver** in his father's will.*

*A few of the descendants did change the spelling to Schaeffer or Shaffer. But, by far, the most common spelling today, of Casper Shaver's descendants is Shafer.*

*It should be noted that during this period of time, people could change their name simply by writing it the way they wanted it to be. Unlike today when name changes must go through a very formal and controlled procedure.*

### **1738~1741**

*Casper Shaver's activities are unknown for the period between his arrival in Philadelphia, PA (in 1738) and his arrival in Stillwater, NJ. (about 1741) He may have been working in servitude to pay for the trip from Germany.*

#### **Arrival in Stillwater.**

*We don't know if a certain party arrived first at Stillwater or whether everyone arrived together; however, it is generally thought that they all knew each other in Germany.*

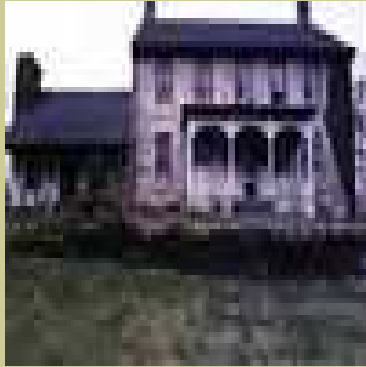
*About 1742, we find Johan Peter Bernhardt's, and his three daughters, Johanna Margarita Elizabeth, Maria Catrina and Jacobina in the wilderness now known as the village of Stillwater. Sadly, we do not have any record of Mr. Bernhardt's wife, who came to Philadelphia with him. She may be buried in the Germantown, PA area. This was the area where they lived prior to moving to Stillwater, NJ.*

#### **Marriage.**

*Casper Shaver married Maria Catrina Bernhardt. Johan Georg Windermuth married Johanna Margaretha. Elizabetha Bernhardt, The youngest daughter, Jacobina Bernhardt, married Jan Arrison.*

#### **The Log Cabin.**

*In Stillwater, Casper first built a small, one-room log cabin near the river at the foot of the hill, below where the house stands today. A large stump, with the top smoothed off served as their first table. By about 1750 a beautiful two story, stone house had been built further up the hill.*



**Shafer House**

### **The Shaver Home.**

*Can you imagine the joy and happiness the family experienced as they moved from the cramped cabin into this spacious stone house? This home is still being used to this day, some 250 years later?*

### **Log Cabin Attached.**

*Being of good German stock and not wanting to waste anything, the log cabin was torn down and moved, log by log, to its present site adjoining the stone mansion. The log cabin can be seen on the left side of the house. Near the door way, each log has a sequential Roman number carved into it. Interesting fact - there is no number XIII. These numbers were thought to be a clear indication that each log was moved, from its original site, and then restored to its original position at the new location. Now we learn that this habit of marking the logs was done whether the logs were moved or not.*

*So these are the facts as we know them. Their first habitat was the log cabin which was located beside the river. About 1749 the stone house was built We know that at some point in time the cabin was moved to it's present location. Whether the cabin was moved then the house was built next to it or the house was built then the cabin moved next to it, is a subject often debated. At this point in time (2004) no one knows for sure.*

### **Industrious**

*Casper cleared the land, farmed, and planted a lovely apple orchard and German style garden. It has been recorded that some of his trees grew to three feet in diameter at the base! He recognized the need for a gristmill, to grind wheat into flour, as well as a saw mill, so he built them. He then developed a trade route to Philadelphia, Pa. He would haul freshly ground flour by flat bottom boat to the city and then return with finished goods to sell in Stillwater. When dams started to block his route, Casper traded at Elizabeth Town, NJ. Today called Elizabeth, NJ This was an overland route across mountains, and through the wilderness, some fifty-seven miles South/East from Stillwater.*

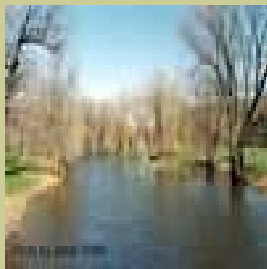




**Grist Mill**

***Casper's Mill in Stillwater.***

*The Stillwater Historical Society has a video of this mill in operation. It is a very interesting to see and hear. This mill is much larger and greatly improved over than the original mill.*



**Paulinskill River**

*The swollen Paulinskill River. Looking North, up stream from the mill. This river was Casper's "delivery highway" to Philadelphia.*

*The river provided all of the power needed...*



**Mill Stones**

*... to turn these massive mill stones.*

***Brief chronology of the gristmill's  
built by the Shaver Family***

*1743 - First mill. Very small. Single run of stones Output 3-5 bushels per day. Located one-half mile upstream from present mill site*

1764-Second, improved mill. Built at present day site. More power. Two runs of stones. Excess Capacity. This led to trading outside Sussex County.

1796/1797-Third mill. This was a major overhaul and upgrade of the previous mill. Three runs of stones. Machinery to hoist the grain up into the mill. In 1840 this mill was completely destroyed by fire.

1844 Fourth mill built. Essentially a rebuild of the 1796 model. Used the same stones. This is the mill standing today at the center of Stillwater

11 Jan. 1861 - William A. Shafer & Robert F. Shafer sold the 18 A. Grist Mill Lot. This sale represents the end of the involvement of the Shafer Family with the mill.

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### **A True Patriot**

Casper had a true sense of patriotism, a very strong will, and great perseverance. These traits earned him the trust and respect of those around him. In 1775, he participated in Sussex County's Committee of Safety. A delegate from Hardwick Township, he was appointed Collector of the County, becoming responsible for raising money to buy weaponry for the Province. Casper also served as a Sussex County delegate to the Provincial Congress of 1776, 1777, 1778, and 1779. The Provincial Congress of 1776 was, of all New Jersey's Provincial Congresses, the most valuable, as it was responsible for the creation of a "free and independent commonwealth."



**Indian King Tavern**

### **Meeting Places.**

One of the meeting places was at the "Indian King Tavern" at 233 Kings Highway, East Haddenfield, NJ. Built in 1750 as an inn. The New Jersey Legislature held sessions here during the Revolutionary War at the time that the British forces occupied Trenton. Other meeting places included Princeton, Trenton, and Burlington.

### **Tavern Licenses**

On 20 November, 1753 the first Courts of General Sessions of the Peace and of Common Pleas for Sussex County were held. At this session some men were commissioned to be judges and justices of the peace. Others were appointed to be a clerk and a high sheriff for the county. Another man was sworn in as constable and the organization of the courts was established. Casper Shaver was one of only seven men selected to be a tavern owner. The business of tavern keeping was a stepping-stone to public distinction, as well as a source of profit.

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Finally, the tavern licenses and the rates of entertainment were issued. The rates allowed were as follows:

Services	Charges
<b>For each person, dinner, hot meals, three dishes</b>	<i>one shilling</i>
<b>For cold dinner</b>	<i>nine pence</i>
<b>Wine per pint</b>	<i>eighteen pence</i>
<b>Metheglin per ditto</b>	<i>seven pence</i>
<b>Strong Beer per quart</b>	<i>five pence</i>
<b>Ship ditto</b>	<i>three pence</i>
<b>Rum per gill</b>	<i>four pence</i>
<b>Punch per quart, of load sugar</b>	<i>one shilling</i>
<b>Ditto, of brown sugar</b>	<i>ten pence</i>
<b>Flip per quart</b>	<i>ten pence</i>
<b>Lodging each person per night</b>	<i>three pence</i>
<b>Horses, oats per quart</b>	<i>penny-half-penny</i>
<b>Stabling horses</b>	<i>one shilling</i>
<b>Pasturing ditto</b>	<i>six pence</i>

*This information is from J.P. Snell's work. " History of Sussex& Warren Cos., NJ"*

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### **Their Children.**

*Casper and Maria Catrina (Bernhardt) Shaver had at least six children (some references suggest there were eight). Four grew to adulthood. Three had large families. Isaac, his youngest son, only had four children. All of Casper's adult children, and some of his grandchildren, are named in his will. The children of Casper and Maria Shaver that we know of were:*

*Peter Bernhardt Shaver b. 28 July 1744 d. 6 April 1799.*

*Margaretta Shaver b. 1745 d. 5 June 1815, married John Roy Jr.*

*Valentyn Shaver Baptized 9 March 1747 b./d. unknown.*

*Maria Susanna Shaver Baptized 30 June 1754 b./d. unknown*

*Abraham Shaver b. 17 December 1754 d. 11 August 1820.*

*Isaac Shaver b. 4 June 1760 d. 27 March 1800.*



**Peter B. Shafer's Home**

*The two older Shaver brothers (Peter B. and Abraham) built beautiful homes. Peter built at Fall Mills, five miles down stream from Stillwater (now Alena Lodge). Abraham built just across Main Street from his parents home (now known as Whitehall).*

*E. T. H. Shaffer wrote this about Peter. B's property. "..., even more spacious [than Whitehall?] with lovely carving and exquisitely turned stair banisters and wall panels of polished walnut."*



**Abraham Shafer's home.**

*Abraham built "Whitehall" directly across the road from the home place. "This house , built in 1785 is a much finer structure, [than the home place?] with delicate interior wood carving", wrote Edward T. H. Shaffer I.*



**Casper's grave**

### **Graves at Stillwater.**

*Casper, his wife, Maria, their son Peter B. and Peter's wife Elizabeth are buried at the "old graveyard" at Stillwater. Mr. Bernhardt is buried just above and to the right of them.*

*The graves, from L to R: Elizabeth Simpson Shafer, Peter B., Casper and Maria Catrina.*

*Elizabeth, wife of Peter B., died 19 May 1823, 76 years.*

*Peter B. died 6 April 1799. 55 years. Note his Revolutionary War Marker.*

*Casper, died 7 December 1784, 72 years.*

*Maria Catrina, Casper's wife, died 1 December 1794, 73 years.*

*Johan Peter Bernhardt, died 28 August, 1748. He is buried just above and to the right of his daughter, Maria Catrina.*



*Casper's grave*

### **Casper Shaver's grave marker.**

*Tina Keppler covered the stone in baking powder so that the details could be seen and read. Note, what appears to be an "l" in Casper's name is really an "s". They frequently made the letter "s" that way in the eighteenth century.*



*Yellow Frame Church*

### **Graves at The Yellow Frame Church.**

*Casper's other three adult children; Margaretta, Abraham, Isaac, and many of his grandchildren are buried at the [Yellow Frame Church](#). We do not know the location of Valentyne's or Maria Susanna's graves. Apparently, Margaretta lies in an unmarked grave, her husband's grave (John Roy Jr.) has been located.*

The same website provides additional information about Casper and his family in a description of Stillwater:

*Since my first visit to this quaint little village, in 1984, I have wanted to share its beauty, and its importance to the Shafer family, with the rest of the world. Now through the magic of the internet I am delighted to take you on a virtual tour of the village. Take your time and enjoy its beauty.*

*Stillwater, in Sussex county, NJ. is where Casper (Schaeffer/Shafer) Shaver settled sometime after his arrival in Philadelphia, PA in 1738. At that time Stillwater was simply a location in the wilderness. His first home there was a cabin located near the river. It was made by carefully selecting the right size trees. Then each log was worked by hand, for a perfect fit, and then carefully assembled into the structure. Adding to the survival needs was the fact that this was Indian country. This presented some additional problems for the family. This humble abode, with a tree stump for a table, was replaced about 1750.*

*Now the family could move from the cramped quarters of the cabin into a large, two story home, made entirely of field stone, that he had built. This new home was built much higher, above the spring flood plain of the river. The cabin was moved to the left end of the house and reassembled.*

*Stillwater was a center of commerce. It was for a time, considered for becoming the county seat. But free land, donated by a wealthy land owner, for a court house in Newton, caused the switch to Newton as the county seat. The mill provided flour for the community. Additionally, Casper was one, of only a few, who were granted tavern licenses.*



**Slave Quarters**

*Just below the Hill house is the Slave house. It was built about 1780 with a unique two-story porch on the front of the house which faces the new road, route 610. This house was used by Casper Shafer to house his slaves.*

*This house stands as a testament to how his slaves were treated. While some housed their slaves in inhumane conditions including being chained up in the basement, Casper provided a lovely two story home for his slaves.*



**The Mill**

*The original Grist Mill at this location, which was built in 1764 was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt in 1844 by William A. Shafer and Robert F. Shafer. The mill was used from then until the 1950's when it's operation ceased. In 1970 it was patiently restored and repaired and used for over a decade until its operation fell victim to the high cost of liability insurance. Past operators include: A. D. Cornell, Victor Hendershot, and the McCords.*





**Shafer House**

*On your left stands the Casper Shafer house now owned by Augustus (Gus) S. Roof and his wife Elsie. There have only been three owners of this property. First the Shafer's owned it until 1874 when it was purchased by Dr. C. V. Moore. In 1904 Dr. Moore's son Emmett sold the property to Augustus Roof, who was the grandfather and namesake of the present owners, Augustus Roof and wife, Elsie.*

*The house was built about 1749 of field stone construction. Attached to the left end of the house is their cabin which was moved from its original location, near the river. A previous owner, Augustus Case Roof, Gus' grandfather was overseer of the poor in 1879. The present owner Elsie Roof, was the Township's Welfare Director from 1979 to 1989.*



**John Peter Bernhardt**

*Further along is the Stillwater Cemetery with the earliest grave dated 1748, marking the final resting place of Johan Peter Bernhardt, a German immigrant to Philadelphia who had retired to Stillwater with his three daughters.*



**Location of Original Church**

*The location of the original church was just inside this gate, on the right, as you look at this picture. The site is easily identified by the lack of graves in that area. [There is one grave there.] When the old stone church was demolished, its stones were used to erect the cemetery's stone wall enclosure. As you enter the cemetery you will see on your right the corner stone from the church. It is very faded with time, but you can still read the date 1771*

Casper died in 1784, and left a will:

*In the name of God, Amen, I, Casper Shaver, of Upper Hardwick, in the county of Sussex, in the Province of New Jersey, Yeoman, being sick and in a low state of health but of perfect understanding, mind and memory, and considering the uncertain continuance of my life and the many dangers and accidents it is liable to, and being desirous to leave the small estate which God has been pleased to bless me with, in my family with as much peace and union as may be, and that I may have no cares of this world to entangle me at my going out of it, I do make this my last will and testament in manner as followeth, viz: and first, I resign my soul to the most Merciful God that made it in hopes thro' the alone merits of my blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to have a joyful resurrection to life eternal in heaven. And my body I*

*commit to the grave to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named. And as for my temporal goods I give, devise and dispose of as follows.*

*First. I give unto my beloved wife Catherine her choice of any two rooms on the lower floor in the house where I now live. Also the choice of two rooms above, and as much beds and bedding and household furniture as she shall think necessary for her use. Also one riding horse or mare, side saddle, and two cows and to be kept on the place she now lives on at the expense of said place as they keep their own. It is my will and order that my loving wife have also after my decease the privileges of the orchards to use as much apples as she stands in need of at her discretion. And my son or sons to make her as much cider as she wants for her own use, and as much of the garden as she shall think necessary.*

*I also order my said three sons Peter, Abraham and Isaac to pay out of my estate each of them annually, yearly and every year, the sum of twelve pounds in gold or silver during her widowhood or bearing my name. or if she should see cause to alter her condition after my decease she must be denied all the aforesaid privileges. but in case my said widow should see cause to alter her condition and marry I do order she be paid yearly and every year, four pounds money as aforesaid a piece by my three sons for her support during her life. And to have one bed and furniture sufficient for said bed and cupboard, one chest of drawers and kitchen furniture, and at her decease all the aforesaid chests and furniture to return to my aforesaid three sons.*

*I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret A. [Shaver] Roy a certain tract of land lying on the South side of the Road leading from Sussex Court House to East Town purchased from John Corson containing one hundred and sixty-eight acres.*

*I also order my three sons, Peter, Abraham and Isaac to pay unto my aforesaid daughter Margaret after my decease, the sum of Fifty-seven pounds within one year after my decease to be equally paid by them that is to say, nineteen pounds apiece money as aforesaid. It is my will that my executors pay out of my estate in the first place the several sums of money or legacies respectively, that as follows to my son Abraham's son Casper, the sum of Twenty pounds in gold or silver. Also the sum of Forty pounds money aforesaid unto Mary Caroline Roy. Also twenty pounds money as aforesaid unto Catrin Shaver daughter of my son Peter Shaver money as aforesaid. Also twenty pounds to Mary Shaver daughter of Abraham Shaver money as aforesaid. All which said sums I order to be paid to those my grand-children by my executors when they come of age. It is also my will that if any of said children should die before they come of age their part of said legacies be equally divided amongst my heirs.*

*I do also give and bequeath for a charitable and pious use the sums of money as followeth:*

*Fourteen pounds I give and bequeath unto the Dutch Meeting House to be on interest, and said interest annually to repair the breaches of the aforesaid house. It is also my desire that the frame school house built near the aforesaid Dutch Meeting House for the use of both Dutch and English learning be finished by the aforesaid estate and assistance of the neighbors. Said money for said houses to be paid out of my moveable estate and said school house to be kept in repair by said estate twenty-five years, accidents of fire excepted.*

*It is my will and order that after my decease the remainder of my real estate consisting of both lands and mills be equally divided amongst my three sons Peter, Abraham and Isaac, according to quantity and quality as they can agree when all debts and lawful demands are discharged according to this my last will and testament, to them and their heirs forever.*

*It is also my will and order that my moveable estate be equally divided between my son Peter, Abraham, Isaac and my daughter Margaret to them and their heirs forever.*

*Lastly I make, constitute and appoint my three sons Peter, Abraham and Isaac, Executors of this my last will and testament.*

*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.*

*CASPER SHAVER. (L. S.)*

*Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the Testator to be his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have in the Testator's presence and at his request hereunto set our names.*

*Isaac Pettit,*

*Thomas Hunt,*

*Wm. Hankinson.*

*N. B. The riding horse or mare and cows within mentioned it is my will my wife shall have during her life.*

*That is, \$10 by each, or \$35 in all.*

*SOURCES: [www.new.familysearch.org](http://www.new.familysearch.org); [www.ancestry.org](http://www.ancestry.org); 1790 federal census;*

*[www.historicstillwater.org/abshafer.com/cs.html](http://www.historicstillwater.org/abshafer.com/cs.html).*