

Bilderback Family

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Visit fortvance.org

Bilderback References in Pennsylvania Archives

Sixth Series, Vol. II

Pg. 91 Charles Bilderback was lieutenant under Captain Andrew Swearingen in Fourth Company, Third Battalion of the Washington County Militia. Colonel David Williamson. 25 Sept 1781.

Pg. 110, 111, 113 Classes of Captain Charles Bilderback's company in the Third Battalion of the Washington County Militia Fourth Class was September 4, 1782. Second Class 14 July 1782.

Pg. 122 Lieutenant Charles Bilderback listed in class roll of Captain Andrew Swearingen's company under Colonel David Williamson.

Pg. 220 Roll of militia service performed, Captain Charles Bilderback May 31, June 14, 1782. William Bruce June 14, 1782.

Pg. 221 Same as above. Captain Charles Bilderback served April 16-10, 1783.

Pg. 258 Private Charles Bilderback on roster of men who served under Colonel Williamson in the Gnadenhutten massacre.

Pg. 389 Captain Charles Bilderback was commander of a company in the Crawford Expedition to Sandusky. Serving under him were Lieutenant Thomas Hamilton, Herman (probably Harmon) Greathouse and John McDonald. McDonald was severely wounded, carried back to his home by Bilderback, but died. Captain William Bruce also has a company of Washington County Militia.

Pg. 238 Jacob Bilderback served as a private in Captain John Cotton's Company of Washington County Militia.

Pg. 243 Ephraim Bilderback was a private in Sgt. William Hav's Company in the Washington County Militia.

Third Series:

Charles Bilderback listed on Washington County supply tax list for 1781 in Cecil Township with 120 acres valued at 575.

Ephraim Bilderback is listed in Strabane Township with 300 acres, 2 horses, cattle, 6 sheep with a value of 186.

Thomas Bilderback also is mentioned. III 22:713

Ephraim and Charles Bilderback on a list of Frontier Rangers paid for their service with the Washington County Militia 1778-1783 period. 111 23:208 and 210.

Land warrant issued to Thomas Bilderback for 250 acres in Hanover Township March 2, 1809.

From G. Glenn Clift, The "Corn Stalk" Militia of Kentucky 1792-1811. (Frankfort, KY., 1957)

Lieutenant Jacob Bilderback in 18th Regiment of Captain Simon Adams, formed December 4, 1796. Pg. 51. Shelby County.

Captain Ephraim Bilderback in 15th Regiment of Mason County, formed November 11, 1796.

Researched by H. Liggett, Deceased.

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Thomas Bilderback of Hanover Township Washington ^{County} Pennsylvania Farmer
Applyeth for two hundred and fifty Acres of land on the waters of Kings-
Creek in the Township aforesaid joining lands of George McCaughling
John Lee Webster William McManamy and others, including his improvements
-ent of forty acres ^{less} Dwelling House Barn & Cleared and Improved by
the said Thomas Bilderback

To the Secretary of Land Office of
Pennsylvania

Washington County Pa
We the Subscribers Samuel Fleming and John Middle two of the
Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Do Certify that
it is this Day proved to us by Patrick McDonnell and George McCaughling
upon their Solem Oaths that the above Described tract of
Land was first improved in the fall of the year 1795 and com-
-menced on on the same in the summer of 1796 and not before and that
the said Thomas Bilderback has lived on the said Land with ^{sett} Inten-
-sion to their knowing ever since given under our hands and
Seals the 18th Day of Feb: 1809 Sam: Fleming Seal
John Middle Seal

W. ip: - a 5642

Feb. 1 September 1795

Washington County the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Before Me Samuel Fleming one of the Justices of the peace in and
for the said County County Thomas Bilderback and upon his Solem
Oath doth that to the best of his knowledge there has no
Warrant or other office right been obtained either by himself
or any other person for the aforesaid Land for which he now
applyeth for a warrant &c. Lawfully and Subscribed the 18th
Day of February 1809
Before Me
Samuel Fleming Justice of the peace
Thomas Bilderback

Will of Thomas Bilderback

In the name of God amen I Thomas Bilderback being in Perfect health and Memory do Constitute the is my Last Will and Testament and Desire it may be received as such first I will positively order that all my Lawful just Debts be paid then I give to my Dearly Beloved wife Margaret my Farm that I now Live on During hur Life time and all my household Furniture and all my horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs and all my farming Utentials to do with as she pleases for hur Support in this Life then what Ever may Remain at hur Death to be Eaquilly divided amongst my Children I order that my Farm of one hundred acres on the Creek be sold as soon as it is Can or Will Bring Six hundred Dollars which money to be Eaquilly divided amongst my Children But Untill Sold to be kept on rent for the Same use I further order that my wife Margaret shall have power to sell such property as She pleases to pay nay Debts then at her Death my Hole Estate to be Equilly Divided amongst my children with a Reduction to Charles part of Seventy fore Dollars of Daniels part Eighty Eight Dollars of Thomass part Ninty Eight Dollars of Susanah part Ninty nine Dollars of which they have Received I give to my son Ephriam the young horse called Coly and I give my Son Gabriel the Colt Called Babe After the above reductions to be Eaquilly Divided amongst my Nine children Charles Daniel Thomas Ephriam Susanah Gabriel Massom Rachel Margaret I do Constitute my wife Margaret and my son Ephriam my Executors of this my Last will and Testament in Witness wharof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 2nd Day of September in the year of our Lord Eighteen and Twenty fore.

Interlines before sign

Thomas Bilderback

Witness

Andrew Bruce

Will of Thomas Bilderback decd.

Washington County, Pa, be it remembered that on the 24th day of January A.D. 1832, before me John Grayson, Register for the probate of Wills and granting letters of Administration in and for said County, came Andrew Bruce, witness to the foregoing will of Thomas Bilderback decd. Who on his solemn oath deposits and faith that the name Andrew Bruce to the foregoing will is his own proper handwriting; that he signed it as a witness in the presence of the testator and at his request; that he heard the said testator publish, pronounce and seal as the same as and for his last will and testament, or words to that

effect; and that at the time thereof he was of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, to the best of his knowledge, observations and belief. And at the same time appeared Joseph Jenkins, who on his solem oath oath does depose and say that he was well acquainted with the deceased Thomas Bilderback for a period of 40 years previous to his deceased; that he was well aquainted with the handwriting of the said deceased and has often seen him write, and further that he believes the foregoing instrument purporing to be the last will and testament of the said deceased is, as well.. as the signature thereto annexed, is the handwriting of the said deceased, and is the proper signature of the said Thomas Bilderback; and no further doubt not.

Received, sworn to and subscribed before me.

And

Andrew Bruce

Jos

Joseph Jenkins
Jno. Grayson
Register

(Copied from the original recorded in Will Book 4, Page 640, Washington County, Pa Note: This will was probated January 24, 1832)

H. Liggett Note: Thomas was the son of Ephraim and Lydia Bilderback. Andrew Bruce is the father of Agnes "Nancy" Bruce who married Gabriel Bilderback, son of Thomas Bruce mentioned in the will above who was bequeathed a colt named Babe.

Researched by H. Liggett, Deceased

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

An elderly relative of Woodrow's said the McCauslands and others carried their long rifles to church and leaned them in the corner. Logs from this church, he said, were still in evidence about 1905.

The old burial ground is grown up in briars, weeds, and poison ivy and is among a grove of locust trees. It is northwest of Florence, west of Route 18. You drive north on Route 18 to the road that cuts off to the left at Grandview or old Florence Cemetery. The burial ground is about a half mile off a dirt road and across an open field.

I am forever grateful to Woodrow for leading me to the spot. When he noticed the Bilderback tombstone near McCausland's he decided to look for the name in the phone books and found George Bilderback listed in a Steubenville phone book. I was notified by Bilderback's son and got in touch with Woodrow for the visit to Mountaintee.

The will of Thomas Bilderback is on file in Washington County (Will Book 4, page 640). His death was reported in the Saturday, January 17, 1832, issue of the Western Telegraph and Washington (Pa.) Advertiser. The report said simply:

Died on Friday the 30th ult. of the head pleurisy, Thomas Bilderback of Hanover Township at an advanced age.

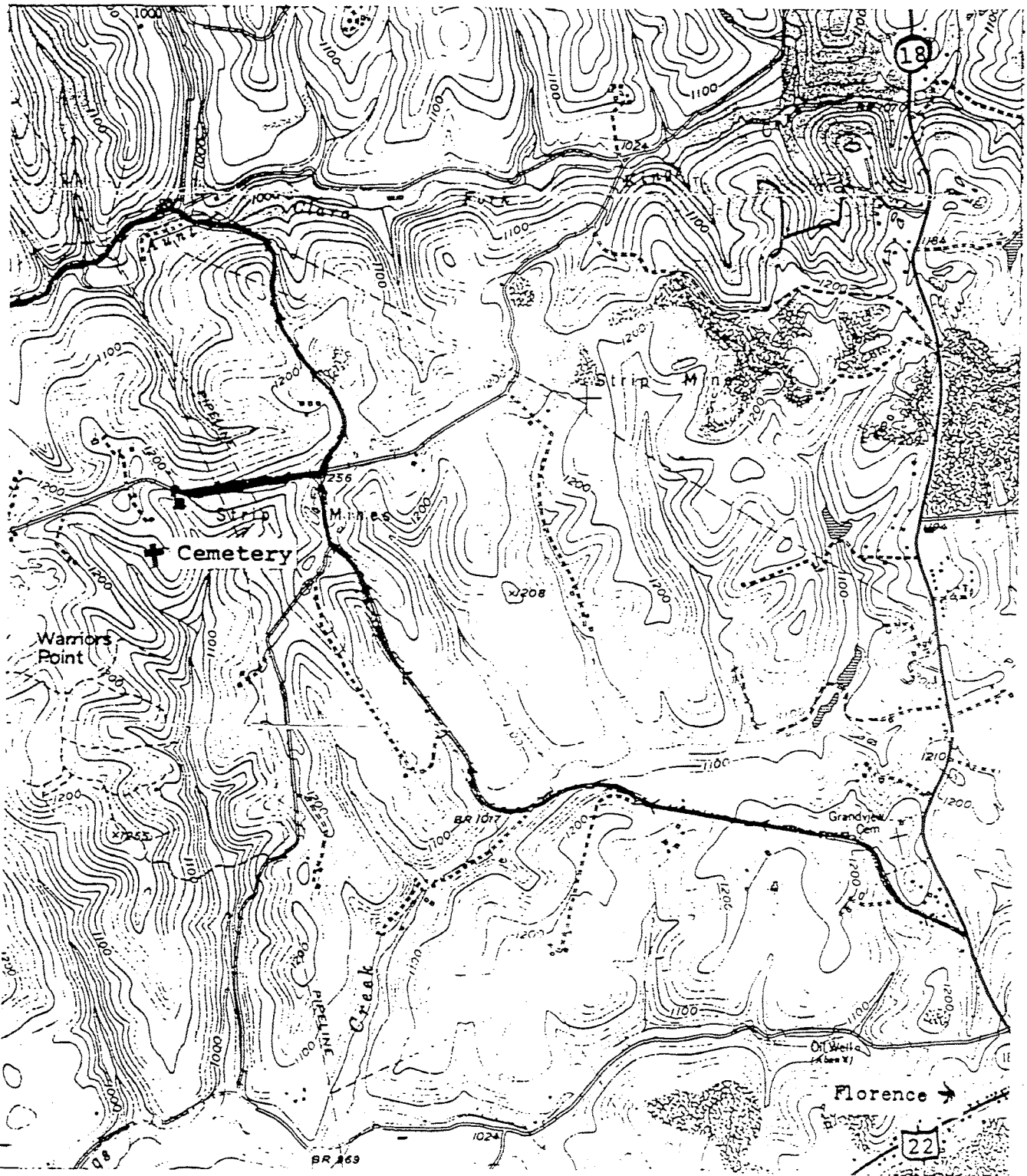
The simple gray stone which marks his burial spot is still remarkably well preserved. It simply states:

T Bilderback

Deceased

Dec th 30 A.D. 1831

But standing in front of the tombstone and reading those words provided me with a stirring moment. That is the lure of genealogy.





**Thomas Bilderback Headstone-Florence, PA.
Died-December 30, 1831**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Bilderback

EPHRAIM BILDERBACK married Lydia

The first record of Ephraim is on an undated pay list as a private serving in the French and Indian War under Captain Joseph Chapline of Frederick County, MD. Chapline commanded troops at Fort Frederick around 1757-58. (Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 9 (1914) pp. 260-280 and 348-70.) Ephraim and Lydia moved to Ohio County, VA., but sold land there on May 2, 1791 and went to Fleming County, KY. Seven sons are listed in his will written March 6, 1794 and recorded in Randolph County, IL, Deed Record J., page 203. It is believed, however, that he died in Kentucky. There are daughters no doubt, but only sons listed. Some speculate that the surname of his wife, Lydia, was Friend, but this has not been proved.

THOMAS BILDERBACK married **MARGARET PRESTON**

There is no record of his birth or age, but he died in Hanover Township, Washington County, PA on December 30, 1831 of pleurisy. He received a land patent on 233 acres in Hanover Township, Washington County, PA, on March 2, 1809. He is buried in the abandoned King's Creek cemetery northwest of Florence in Hanover Township. His wife was born April 28, 1774, the daughter of David Preston and Ann Rigdon.

GABRIEL BILDERBACK married **AGNES "NANCY" BRUCE**

He was born about 1805 in Brooke County, WV, and died September 20, 1874 in Smith Township, Washington County, PA. He married to Agnes "Nancy" Bruce, the daughter of Andrew Bruce and Agnes Reney. Gabriel died September 20, 1874 in Washington County, PA. His wife was born January 20, 1802 and died February 28, 1866. They are buried at Raccoon Presbyterian Church Cemetery at Candor, PA, near Midway, PA.

ANDREW BRUCE married **AMANDA PYLES**

He was born June 21, 1840 at Smith Township, Washington County, PA and died June 21, 1917. He was married to Amanda Amelia Pyles, born July 29, 1844 in Washington County, PA, the daughter of William Pyles and Mary Louisa Shipley. She died July 23, 1916 at Burgettstown, Smith Township, Washington County, PA. They are buried in Three Springs Cemetery at Weirton, WV.

WILLIAM FENTON BILDERBACK married **LILLIAN MARY BAKER**

He was born July 6, 1867 at Bulger, Smith Township, Washington County, PA and died December 12, 1952 at Dennison, Tuscarawas County, OH. He is buried in Union Cemetery at Uhrichsville, Tuscarawas County, OH. He was married March 2, 1892 in Demorestville, Sophiaburg Township, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada to Lillian Mary Baker, daughter of William Baker and Mary Garrison, who was born in 1867 in Demorestville and died October 26, 1898 at Colliers, Brooke County, WV. She is buried in the old Burgettstown, PA cemetery in Washington County, PA.

LILLIAN MARY BIKDERBACK married HARRY DOYLE LIGGETT

She was born June 1, 1898 at Colliers, Brooke County, WV, died July 6, 1973 at her home in McKee Road, Dennison, Tuscarawas County, OH. She was married November 7, 1917 at Steubenville, Jefferson County, OH, to Harry Doyle Liggett born September 7, 1895 at Cadiz Junction, German Township, OH, the son of Frank A. and Nora Dell (Penn) Liggett. He died February 11, 1983 at Twin City Hospital, Dennison, OH. They are buried in Ridgecrest Memory Gardens at Dover, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

HARRY DOYLE CURTISS LIGGETT married HELEN SMOLAK

He was born March 3, 1930 at home, W, Court Street, Dennison, Tuscarawas County, OH. He was married September 7, 1957 to Helen Cornelia Smolak, born near Carrollton County, OH, November 15, 1930, the daughter of John Smolak and Ross Gedeon.

Researched by H. Liggett, Deceased

Petitions for Forming a New State called Westsylvania

A petition for a new state to be named Westsylvania was circulated about 1776 in what is now southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The settlers were disturbed by the conflicting claims of Pennsylvania and Virginia to jurisdiction over them and by claims of the land companies and private persons to ownership in their lands. They asked Congress to create "a separate, distinct, and independent Province and Government by the title and under the Name of "Province and Government of Westsylvania."

The petition bears no date, but no doubt was circulated in 1776. The petition is referred to in a letter dated August 1, 1776 and petition itself refers to the treaty of Pittsburgh in October, 1775. The petition was from "the inhabitants of the County West of the Allegheny Mountains."

The boundaries of Westsylvania are described as "beginning at the Eastern Branch (bank) of the Ohio opposite the Mouth of the Scioto, and running thence in a direct line to the Owasioto Pass (Cumberland Gap), thence to the Top of the Allegheny Mountain, thence with the Top of the said Mountain to the Northern limits of the Purchase made from the Indians in 1768 at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix aforesaid, thence with the said Limits to the Allegheny or Ohio River, and thence down said River...to the Beginning. "(See Boyd Crumrine, *History of Washington County, Pa.*, Philadelphia, 1882, pp. 187-188.)

In 1780, the settlers sent a second petition to Congress in which they designated themselves as "the Inhabitants of the West side of the Laurel Hill and Western Waters." Laurel Hill was the most westerly of range of the Alleghenies in southwestern Pennsylvania. The settlers petitioned the Congress to "lay off a new State upon the Western Waters of such Extent of Territory as in your Judgment shall seem meet." The second petition was signed by five Bilderbacks. There were 39 columns of signatures. Ephraim Bilderback and Jacob Bilderback signed in Column 12. Thomas Bilderback and Ephraim Bilderback in Column 12, Thomas Bilderback and Ephraim Bilderback in Column 20 and Charles Bilderback in column 27. (See *Papers on Continental Congress Item No. 48*, pp 251-256, National Archives Microfilm M247, Roll 62. There is a map of the proposed Westsylvania.)

On May 15, 1780, the "people" of Kentucky and Illinois counties asked Congress to form them into a separate state or grant them such rules and regulation as Congress in its wisdom should think most proper. Kentucky County was the territory that is now the state of Kentucky, and Illinois County lay north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River without definite bounds on the north and east. The signatures on this petition are difficult to read, but Charles and Jacob Bilderback signed together on page 239 and perhaps other Bilderbacks also signed. (See *Papers of the Continental Congress Item No. 42*, pp. 237-243. National Archives Microfilm M247, Roll 62.)

Signers of petition of Laurel Hill inhabitants:

There were 39 columns of names.

Column 12

Jacob Mayley at top
Harmon Greathouse
William Greathouse
Wm. Lore
James Foreman
Ephraim Bilderback
Jacob Bilderback
William Morris
Jacob Morris
William Johnson Jr.

Column 20

Alexander Moling at top
James Adderson
William Wals
Wm. Armstrong
Thomas Bilderback
Ephraim Bilderback
Francis Morrison
William Morrison
William Murphy
Mordecai Buckhart
William Lamb
Hartley Sappington
John Sappington
George Sappington
Caleb Sappington
Japitha Sappington

Column 27

Richard Yates at top
George McCormick
Gerrad Warfield
Charles Bilderback
Andrew Swearingen
Lewis Duvall

Research by H. Liggett, Deceased

Bilderback

Heritage Quest Index for Bilderback 1870 Federal Census:

Indiana	19
Illinois	18
New Jersey	17
Ohio	10
Iowa	9
Missouri	7
Pennsylvania	5
Tennessee	2
California	1
Delaware	1
Idaho	1
Michigan	1
Mississippi	1
Wisconsin	1
Wyoming	1

Researched by H. Liggett, Deceased

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Massom Bilderback and Rebecca Jackson

Massom Bilderback was born abt. 1810 Brooke County, WV, died in Dallas County, Iowa. He married Rebecca Jackson, daughter of Joseph Jackson and Hanna. She was born in Washington County, PA., and died April 3, 1890 in Wayne County, Ohio.

Children of Massom Bilderback and Rebecca Jackson are:

- I. Hannah Bilderback
- II. Margaret Bilderback, born 1831, Washington County, PA;
married Daniel M. Snyder, September 5, 1850, Holmes County, OH
- III. Thomas Bilderback, born 1840, Holmes County, OH
- IV. Mary Jane Bilderback, born 1840, Holmes County, OH
Married Cornelius Glick, October 10, 1861, Wayne County, OH
- V. Sarah Ann Bilderback, born 1842, Holmes County, OH
Married Rollin V. Bowers, February 6, 1866, Wooster, OH
- VI. Joseph Bilderback, born October 1844, Holmes County, OH
He went to California
- VII. Massom Bilderback, born March 3, 1847, near Millersburg,
Holmes County, OH. Died January 7, 1929, Broderick, Yolo County,
CA.

Research by H. Liggett, Deceased

 THOMAS BILDERBACK.

The farming interests of Adams township find a prominent representative in Thomas Bilderback, one of the extensive landowners of this part of the county. His property interests comprise six hundred and forty acres and his farm is splendidly improved, indicating the spirit of enterprise and progress which has ever dominated him in his business life, making him one of the prosperous and leading agriculturists of this part of the state. He has now reached the age of three score years and ten and is still actively engaged in the supervision of his farming interests. He has been closely identified with the county and its upbuilding since 1856, and prior to that time had resided here for a long period, so that he is numbered among its oldest settlers.

His birth occurred in Holmes county, Ohio, on the 24th of May, 1837, his parents being Masson and Rebecca (Jackson) Bilderback, both of whom were natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, the father's birth having there occurred in 1810, while the mother first opened her eyes to the light of day in 1814. Masson Bilderback became a resident of Ohio in 1830 and there remained for two decades. In the meantime he married and several children were added to the family during their residence in the Buckeye state. The year 1850 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, at which time he settled in Dallas county, entering a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Adams township. He established the first blacksmith shop of the district and began the development of his farm, but his life's labors were ended in death in 1851, when he was but forty-one years of age. In 1853 the mother returned with her family to Ohio, where her remaining days

were passed, her death occurring in 1890, when she had reached the advanced age of seventy-six years. The members of their family were: Hannah, now the wife of John Metzler, a resident of Ohio; Thomas, of this review; Mary Jane, the wife of Cornelius Glick, also living in Ohio; Sarah Ann, the wife of Rollin Bowers, of the Buckeye state; Joseph, whose home is in California; Masson, a resident of Newton, Iowa; and one deceased, Margaret, wife of D. W. Snyder, who died in Madison county, Iowa, June 6, 1899.

Thomas Bilderback was a youth of thirteen when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa and was about sixteen years of age at the time of their return to Ohio. He had formed a liking for the Hawkeye state, however, and in 1853 he came again to Dallas county, where he started in business life as a farm hand, working by the month until 1865. Being the eldest son of his father's family he had previously provided for the support of the other children and although this was a heavy responsibility he faithfully discharged the trust that devolved upon him. Strenuous toil was his lot but he met his duty unflinchingly and the same spirit of determination and courage has characterized him throughout his entire life. In Iowa he bore the hardships and trials incident to life on the frontier and has contributed his full share to the transformation of wild land for the uses of civilization. In 1862 he made two trips to Denver, Colorado, with an ox-team, carrying loads of flour. The next year he crossed the plains of California with a mule team and in 1865 returned on horseback.

It was on the 26th of December, that year, that Mr. Bilderback made preparations for having a home of his own through his marriage to Miss Susan Meads, a native of Sangamon county, Illinois, born February 6, 1838, and a daughter of William and Sarah (Johnson) Meads, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Kentucky. Her father died in his native state and the mother afterward removed to Missouri, where she lived until 1852, when

Thomas Bilderback (Pg. 1)

Past and Present Dallas County, Iowa by Professor Robert W. Wood-Published 1907

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS BILDERBACK

Thomas Bilderback (Pg. 2)
Past and Present Dallas County, Iowa by Professor Robert W. Wood-Published 1907
Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

she came to Dallas county, Iowa, residing here up to the time of her death. Mr. and Mrs. Bilderback have become the parents of two sons and a daughter: J. E., who now operates a part of the home farm; Eva Jane, the widow of B. C. Reeves, now living with her father; and F. C., who resides on one of his father's farms in Colfax township, Dallas county.

The success which Mr. Bilderback has achieved in his business life is due entirely to his own efforts. He started out with few advantages but he possessed the perseverance, ambition and diligence so necessary to success and as the years have gone by he has gradually worked his way upward until he now occupies a prominent position among the leading agriculturists of the community. He made his first purchase of land in July, 1861, securing eighty acres of the old homestead, whereon he built a little house fourteen by twenty feet. In 1882 he erected a fine residence and he has many modern buildings and equipments upon his place, all of which are indicative of his progressive spirit. As the years have gone by he has added to his possessions until he is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Adams, Adel and Colfax townships, from which he derives an excellent income.

Mr. Bilderback has always been interested in the welfare of the community and has done much for the cause of public education. For twenty-three years he has held the office of school treasurer and has ever advocated the employment of good teachers and the maintenance of excellent schools. He is a democrat in politics and cast his first presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas. He and his wife attend the United Brethren church and his influence is ever on the side of right and improvement. His name is a synonym for honor and integrity in business circles, for he has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in business transactions and on the contrary has ever been found just and fair in his dealings. His example should serve to encourage others who start out in life as he did—without capital—for his history

shows what may be accomplished when one has the perseverance to continue in a chosen line of life, wresting fortune from the hand of fate.

Thomas Bilderback (Pg. 3)

Past and Present Dallas County, Iowa by Professor Robert W. Wood-Published 1907

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society