Korns Family Tree by Gladys (Bittner) Korns

(see scan of handwritten document on last page of this pdf)

My grandparents Allen and Gladys (Bittner) Korns lived on the Daniel Korns, Jr. farm, within walking distance of the Michael Korns, Sr. farm. When I was still a child (circa 1968), I asked my grandmother Korns about my ancestors. She stopped whatever she was doing in the kitchen and grabbed a sheet of paper. Using the ironing board as a desk, she very quickly wrote out a remarkably accurate list of my ancestors from memory. In places where I couldn’t read her writing, or where she conveyed the information orally, I asked for clarification and printed it down. Afterwards, she briefly showed me her personal copy of the 1949 book “The Genealogy of Michael Korns, Sr.”

Here is a typed copy of the list that she made for me, her grandson L. Dietle. The ahnentafel numbering was added by me for my children, where I am individual no. 2:

2: Lannie
4: Roy
5: Estalene K.
10: Allen Korns
11: Gladys Bittner
20: John Wilson Korns
21: Mary Geiger
22: Calvin Bittner
23: Ida Ada Petenbrink
40: Daniel K. Jr.
41: Caroline Tressler
42: Aaron Geiger
43: Lavina
44: Joseph Bittner
45: Drucilla Beal
46: Peter Frederick Petenbrink
47: Flora Kennel
80: Daniel Korns Sr.
81: Elizabeth Reiver
88: Franklin Bittner
89: Mary Beachly
90: Owen Beal
91: Elizabeth Klingaman
92: Christian Peepepenbrink
93: Elizabeth Winters (NOTE: I found out in 2006 that her name was probably really Coleman)
94: Andrew Kennel
95: Lidia Boyer
160: Michael Korns
161: Susana Basher
185: Annie?
320: Carl Korn
321: Otillia

This is obviously a remarkable genealogy list to be able to create from memory on the spur of the moment. The only relevant error that I knew of for years “Annie” for individual no. 185, and
Grammy had indicated at the time that she was uncertain about that person (note the question mark on the scanned document). It wasn’t until 2006 that I learned that "Winters" was probably the wrong maiden name for individual no. 93; but “Winters“ has been accepted by many for a long time.

In regards to individual no. 161, the book by C. B. Korns gives her maiden name as Baker, but there are more recent Korns scholars who believe the name may have been Boucher / Bauscher, and Joseph Korns’ 1917 affidavit (only made public last week) gives the name as Boucher / Bouchner. Since my grandmother Korns had the Korns genealogy book, and had an obviously good memory, she would have written “Baker” if she thought the last name was Baker.

I wish I would have followed up with many questions, but I didn’t become interested in genealogy again until the 1990’s, long after her and Pappy had died. One question in particular is whether the name “Basher” for the maiden name of the wife of Michael Korns, Sr. was local oral tradition. I strongly believe that it was local oral tradition. She obviously she had an excellent memory, so if she had been told the Boucher / Bauscher theory in correspondence with some genealogy buff, I believe that she would have captured the spelling correctly for me. For example, I recall that she was very careful to emphasize the “Peepenbrink” spelling for individual 92.

L. Dietle
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