

Hezekiah Thomas (1825-1862)

My wife is Janelle Aileen Taylor. Her maternal grandfather, Paul Daniel Hines, was born December 9th 1903 to Harriet (Hattie) Vitter Thomas and Harry Hines in Mauch Chunk, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. Hattie's father, Daniel Stewart Thomas, was born June 2nd 1853 to Hezekiah Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Owens in Dorrance Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

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Hezekiah Thomas (1825-1862)

Hezekiah Thomas ⁱ was born 1825 in the town of Merthyr, South Wales, ¹ which is present day Merthyr Tydfil in the historic county of Glamorgan, Wales, England.

Hezekiah most likely came to this country during the early 1840, living in the Black Creek Township area, and the Shickshinny borough area of Salem Township, Luzerne County Pennsylvania. Hezekiah's civil war regimental description indicated that was a machinist, who was 5 feet and 11 inches tall, with light hair and blue eyes. ²

On December 20th 1846 ⁱⁱ 21-year-old Hezekiah travelled about 30 miles south of Black Creek to Mauch Chunk Carbon County, and was enrolled into the Mexican War by Captain Miller. Hezekiah entered duty as a private in Company K of the 2nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment (Volunteers), who were command by Lieutenant Robert Klotz of Carbon County Pennsylvania. ³

- Several years prior to the formation of Company K, the Mauch Chuck volunteers of Carbon County were known as the Stockton Artillerists; an organized corps with a reputation for patriotism, with roots in the Revolutionary War. Company K would continue Carbon Counties' patriotic and illustrious service in the Mexican War. ⁴

Hezekiah mustered-out in Pittsburg on July 12th 1848, ⁵ and returned to Mauch Chuck, Carbon County, Pennsylvania on July 28th. The regiment suffered 28 killed and 132 wounded in the war. Hezekiah himself was severely wounded in the right arm, ⁱⁱⁱ which was sustained in one of the final battles of the Mexican War; the battle of Chapultepec Castle. ⁶

On August 7th 1850 Hezekiah lived with his future wife, Elizabeth Owens, ^{iv} in the home of Elizabeth's sister Mary, and her husband George Cary ⁷ and their son George Carey Jr. Also living with them was Elizabeth's and Mary's bother, John Owens. ⁸ Living in the next house hold was Mary's, Elizabeth's and John's parents, Redmond and Christiana Owens. Also in another neighboring home was another brother, Edward Owens and his wife Mary. ^v

ⁱ The death certificate of Hezekiah's daughter, Melissa Stein, indicated that Hezekiah's name as H. E.

ⁱⁱ Another muster-in roll card indicated Hezekiah joined in Mauch Chunk December 24th 1846.

ⁱⁱⁱ Another muster roll card said it was his left shoulder that was injured.

^{iv} The August 7th 1850 census record identified Elizabeth as Elizabeth Thomas, who was reported to marry in December 5th 1850.

^v The Carey and Owens names will come up in Elizabeth's application for a Civil War Widow's pension application and claim in 1863.

During the late 1840's and 1850s the Owens, Thomas, and Carey families lived in Hanover Township, which is about 4 miles west of Wilkes-Barre in Wright Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania. These families would always live near each other.

Then on December 25th 1850 Hezekiah Thomas married Elizabeth Ann Owens at the Exchange Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, Wright Township Pennsylvania. They were married by Gilbert Borrowes-Esquire, Justice-of-the-Peace. At the wedding were John Owens and George Carey, who in 1863 both lived in the Post Office area of Albert, ^{vi} Wright Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania. ⁹

Elizabeth Ann Owens ¹⁰ was born August 30th 1832 ^{vii} to Redmond and Christiana Owens in Hanover Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania.

While living in the Hanover and Wright Townships of Luzerne County, Hezekiah and Elizabeth would start their family. Sometime after their 2nd child, Christie Ann was born in 1856, and before the birth of Emily in 1860, the family moved to the post office area of Sterling, Whiteside County, Illinois. Elizabeth's sister Margaret Owens, who married Harmon Sox, lived in this area since 1842. ¹¹

By April 1861 ^{viii} Elizabeth and her children had returned, from the west, back to Wright Township in Luzerne County Pennsylvania. ¹² Soon after, in early 1862, Hezekiah travelled 326 miles south to enlist in the Union Army at Mt Carmel, Wabash County Illinois.

On February 25th 1862 Hezekiah enrolled for a three-year service at Mt. Carmel Illinois in Company C of the Illinois, 12th Regiment Calvary (Volunteers), commanded by Captain S. Branson. ^{ix} Hezekiah mustered-in as a private February 28th 1862 at Springfield Illinois. ^x The 12th was commanded by Colonel Amos Voss and Colonel Hasbrouck Davis. ¹³

On June 25th 1862, after training and drills at Camp Butler in Illinois, Hezekiah's regiment was ordered to Martinsburg, West Virginia, where they were attached to the District of Martinsburg, for duty at Martinsburg and on the Upper Potomac. ¹⁴

^{vi} Albert is about 12 miles south of Wilkes-Barre and about 6 miles south of Mountain Top.

^{vii} I lost the source for her birth date.

^{viii} The record of April 1861 may be an error, and could be April 1862, which is soon after Hezekiah Civil War enlistment in February 1862.

^{ix} Hezekiah was enrolled as Henry Thomas, which was later changed to reflect his name Hezekiah Thomas.

^x Residence of Du Page County, Illinois made up of Company C, 12th Illinois Cavalry, which formed February 24th 1862, and ended May 29th 1866.

By September 19th 1862, two days after the last shot was fired at Antietam in Maryland, Lee began his plans to retreat across the Potomac near Shepherdstown West Virginia. The 12th Illinois was moved to meet Jeb Stuart and the Confederate Army that remained north of Sharpsburg in Williamsport Maryland; the extreme right flank of the Union Army.

On September 20th 1862 Hezekiah was mortally wounded with a gunshot to the head during a small skirmish on the outskirts of Williamsburg Maryland. ¹⁵ His burial site is presently unknown.

- Details of Hezekiah's death were cited in a letter written by William Redman. The letter was dated as the morning of September 21st 1862, and written to William's sisters. In the letter William wrote that H. Thomas died September 19th 1862. ¹⁶ However, in Hezekiah's pension file, he died September 22nd 1862, of a gunshot wound suffered in a charge during the skirmish in Williamsport. ¹⁷ Using the account of the Redman letter, we believe Hezekiah died instantly on September 20th 1862. William Redman was a neighbor of the Thomas family in Sterling Whiteside County Illinois.

On July 9th 1863, Hezekiah's wife, Elizabeth Ann was 33 years old, when she filed for a Civil War widow pension. During this time, she and her family lived in the Post Office area of Alberts, Wrights Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania. ¹⁸

- In the pension her marriage date, place of marriage, who presided over her marriage was identified, the names of her children who were under sixteen, and their ages and month of their 1862 birth date. Elizabeth signed the pension application in her own hand writing; Elizabeth Ann Thomas.

On September 14th 1864, Elizabeth was provided with \$8.00 per month, which was to include the time since her husband's death on September 21st 1862. ¹⁹ This would be about \$192.00

By 1870 Elizabeth, two of her five children, Melissa and Christiana, and Elizabeth's 81 year old mother, Christiana, were living in the Mount Top post office area of Wright Township in Luzerne County Pennsylvania. Living next door was Elizabeth's sister Mary Carey and her husband George.

Living with Elizabeth in 1870 were two other children who were identified as Thomas; Adaline Thomas, age 5 (b.1865), and Abbie Thomas, age 1 (b.1869). Elizabeth's two older children, daughter Mary and son Daniel were living in the Solders Orphan School, in the borough of Mount Joy, Lancaster County Pennsylvania.

- Who are Adaline and Abbie Thomas? They probably are not the children of Elizabeth. They may be the children of a sister or brother.

Also in 1870 Elizabeth's son Daniel Thomas and his wife Jane Kishbaugh, were living a few houses away. They live next door to George and Mary Carey and their family.

In 1880, Elizabeth is still living in Wright Township, along with her two daughters, Melissa and Christiana. Also living with them is Elizabeth's grandson, Samuel Cleary, who is the son of Elizabeth's daughter Christiana. There was also a Redmond Thomas living with Elizabeth.^{xi} About four homes away where Elizabeth's sister, Mary Carey, and in another home was Elizabeth's son Daniel Thomas and his family.

- Redmond is most likely Redmond Carey who, in 1870, lived with his parent Mary and George Carey; Elizabeth's sister, Mary Carey.

Hezekiah died September 20th 1862 from a gunshot to the head during a small skirmish on the outskirts of Williamsburg Maryland.²⁰ His burial site is presently unknown.

Elizabeth died after 1880, and we cannot locate her death or burial. May have remained Elizabeth Williams

Hezekiah and Elizabeth had five children.

- Except for Emma and Melissa, all of the children were born in Hanover and Wright Townships of Luzerne County Pennsylvania.^{21_22}
- Children birth dates were all provided by Elizabeth in her final affidavit for a Civil war claim, and which corrected other birth dates in the affidavits of George and Mary Carey, John Owen, and Martha Handlong.^{xii}
- An affidavit by Mary Carey, age 50 on July 23rd 1867, indicated she was present at the birth of two children: Mary Margaret and Christie Ann. Another pension affidavit, dated August 8th 1867, by Martha Handlong, indicated that she saw Melissa A. Thomas, the day after she was born.

^{xi} There is no record of Redmond as a child of Hezekiah in the 1867 Civil War Pension affidavits.

^{xii} Thomas Children Birthdates: Other birth dates were provided by John Qwens, George and Mary Carey, and Martha Handlong affidavits with the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Pension File: Application Number 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

- On Elizabeth’s affidavit to the discrepancies, dated September 5th 1866, she explained birthdates. In this document, Emily’s name, age, and birth date were crossed out. The number of children was also crossed out from 5 to 4, indicating children under the age of 16 still living.
- i. Mary Margaret Owens (1851-1922).²³ She married Henry C. Husted.
- ii. Daniel Stewart Thomas (1853-1924).²⁴ He married Martha Jane Kishbaugh.
- iii. Christiana Thomas (1855-1925).²⁵ She 1st married John Cleary, and 2nd to Thomas Morrison.
- iv. Emily Thomas was born April 22nd 1858 to Hezekiah Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Owens in Illinois.²⁶ Emily was in the July 31st 1860 Illinois census record.

On January 3rd 1863, when Elizabeth filed for her Civil war pension, Emily was living with the family in Wright Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania.

Then on September 5th 1866, George and Mary Carey provided an affidavit on Elizabeth Thomas’s Civil War claim, stating “...that one “Emma “has died since his death, and four are still living as foresaid...” I interpret this as Emma died sometime after the death of Emma’s father, Hezekiah Thomas in September 1862.

By November 18th 1867, Elizabeth made her final statement; that “...Emily died about two years ago, and before the passage of the act giving increased pension...”^{xiii}

- July 14th 1862 a law provided a Civil War pension of \$8.00 a month.
- July 9th 1863, Elizabeth filed for a widows pension, and Emily was listed.
- June 6th 1866 the 1st pension increase was passed, from \$8 to \$20 a month.
- November 18th 1867 Elizabeth made her final statement on her children’s births, and Emily was identified as having died. It appears Emily died sometime between January 1865 and June 6th 1866 in Wright Township Luzerne County Pennsylvania.

- v. Melissa Ann Thomas (1860 – 1930).²⁷ She married Conrad Stein.

^{xiii} The act of July 14, 1862, provided an \$8 a month pension to private soldiers for "total disability" for the performance of manual labor, while the act of June 6, 1866, provided a pension of \$20 a month (increased to \$24 a month by the act of June 8, 1872) for a disability incapacitating for the performance of "any manual labor."

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2. Part Two, Carbon County, Pages 629 & 630, Chapter VII, Carbon County in the Mexican War, Illustrated History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by Alfred Mathews and Austin N. Hungerford, publishing Philadelphia, Everts and Richards, 1884, Press of J. B. Lippincott and Company, Philadelphia, The Mauch Chunk Historical Society, P.O. Box 273, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania 18229.
3. Hezekiah Thomas Mexican War Muster Cards, File Number 1707: Cards 23303698, 23303787, 23303875, 23303963, 23304044, 23304108, 23304195, 23304272, 23304329, 23304389, 36710469, 40535595, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.
4. Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension Application Claim#: 10222 and Pension Certificate #: 30229, National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.
5. Hezekiah Thomas 12th Illinois Calvary: In The First Line of Battle, The 12th Illinois Calvary, in the Civil War, by Samuel M. Blackwell, Jr. Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb Illinois, 2002; Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd St, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
6. W. H. Redman Letters, dated September 21st 1862, on the Battlefield in Maryland; University of Virginia Library, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, P.O. Box 400110, Charlottesville VA 22904-4110.
7. Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Pension File: Application Number, Additional Evidence 10222, Pension Certificate Number: 30229, Box 37143; Book B, Vol. 5, Page 97, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.
8. 1820 Rosmond (Redmond) Owens Census: Sugarloaf, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Fourth Census of the United States, 1820; (NARA microfilm publication M33, 142 rolls); Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

9. 1830 Redman (Redmond) Owen Census: Hanover, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830; (NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
10. 1840 Redman (Redmond) Owens Census: Newport, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
11. 1850 Hezekiah Thomas Census: Hanover, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
12. 1850 Redmond Owen Census: Hanover, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
13. 1860 Rodman (Redmond) Owen Census: Wright, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; 1860 U.S. census, population schedule; NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
14. 1860 Hezekiah Thomas Census: Sterling, Whiteside, Illinois; 1860 U.S. census, population schedule; NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
15. 1870 Elizabeth A. Thomas Census: Wright, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls; Minnesota census schedules for 1870; NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
16. 1870 Daniel and Mary Thomas Census: Mount Joy, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; 1870 U.S. census, population schedules; NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls; Minnesota census schedules for 1870; NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

17. 1870 Mary Thomas Census: Mahanoy, Schuylkill, Pennsylvania; 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls; Minnesota census schedules for 1870; NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
18. 1880 Elizabeth Ann Thomas Census: Wright, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
19. 1900 Christine (Thomas) Morrison Census: Fairview, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, T623, 1854 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.
20. 1920 Redmond Thomas Census: Wilkes-Barre Ward 14, Luzerne, Pennsylvania; Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920; (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

End Notes

¹ Hezekiah Thomas Place of Birth, Merthyr, South Wales: The location came from the hand written family notes, by Paul Daniel Hines, Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

² Hezekiah Thomas's 1840s Residence, Occupation, and Physical Description: The information came from the Hezekiah Thomas, Mexican War, Muster Roll Cards, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

³ Hezekiah Thomas Mexican War Timeline Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

⁴ Pre-Mexican War Account of Company K: The information came from Part Two, Carbon County, Pages 629 & 630, Chapter VII, Carbon County in the Mexican War, Illustrated History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by Alfred Mathews and Austin N. Hungerford, publishing Philadelphia, Everts and Richards, 1884, Press of J. B. Lippincott and Company, Philadelphia, The Mauch Chunk Historical Society, P.O. Box 273, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania 18229.

⁵ Hezekiah Thomas, Mexican War, Muster Roll Cards, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

⁶ Hezekiah Thomas Mexican War Timeline Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

⁷ Mary Owens-Carey (1818-) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

⁸ Redmond Owens (1792-1863) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

⁹ Hezekiah Thomas and Elizabeth Owens Marriage and Details: The information came from the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹⁰ Redmond Owens (1792-1863) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

¹¹ Margaret Owens-Sox (1814-1902) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

¹² Elizabeth Returns to Pennsylvania in April 1861: The information came from the George Carey November 19th 1867 affidavit, attached to Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹³ Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Enrollment and 12th Illinois Details: The information came from the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #:10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹⁴ Hezekiah's Civil War Timeline and Details: The information came from the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Timeline, Taylor ~ Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania 17372.

¹⁵ Hezekiah Thomas Date of Death, Place of Death, and Other Details: The information came from affidavits and Letters in the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹⁶ W. H. Redman Letters dated September 21st 1862, on the Battlefield in Maryland; University of Virginia Library, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, P.O. Box 400110, Charlottesville Virginia 22904-4110.

¹⁷ Hezekiah Thomas Date of Death, Place of Death, and Other Details: The information came from a Letter, dated June 12th 1864, attached to Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹⁸ Elizabeth Thomas 1863 Residence and Civil War Pension Application: The information came from the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

¹⁹ Elizabeth Thomas 1864 Civil War Pension Amount: The information came from a Letter, dated June 12th 1864, attached to Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

²⁰ Hezekiah Thomas Date of Death, Place of Death, and Other Details: The information came from affidavits and Letters in the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

²¹ Thomas Children Birthdates: The dates came from an affidavit by Elizabeth Thomas dated November 19th 1867; Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

²² Thomas Children and Place of Birth: Some of the information came from Paul Daniel Hines family notes, Taylor-Graham Library, 479 County Line Rd, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

²³ Mary Thomas (1851-1922) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁴ Daniel Thomas (1853-1924) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁵ Christiana Thomas (1855-1925) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

²⁶ Emily Thomas Birth Date and Parent's Names: The name and April 2nd 1858 birthrate came from the Hezekiah Thomas Civil War Widow Pension File, Application Claim #: 10222, and Certificate #: 30229, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

²⁷ Melissa Thomas-Stein (1860-1930) Research Paper: Taylor-Graham Library, c/o Bob Graham, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.