(CAPTAIN) PETER HEDRICK (HEYDRICH)
1732 - 1798

The parents of Francis Hedrick were Peter Hedrick and Margaret Hoerchelradt. Peter was born 24 December 1732. (There is a date of birth given in 1733 but this is an error since the christening in the Parish Register gives 24 December 1732.) He was born in Oberalben, Ulmet Parish, Rhein-Phalz, Bavaria. Peter's father came to America with the Palatines to Philadelphia 11 September 1738. It is presumed that Peter, who was six years old at the time, accompanied his father. Peter was the eldest of six children born to his parents.

Peter was married to Margaret Hoerchelradt 23 October 1760 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His marriage is recorded in Johann Casper Stoever's Parish Register. The marriage says he was of Hanover, (Pa.) and Margaret was of Heidelberg (Pa.). Their first child, Peter, was born 12 June 1761 and christened the 26 July 1761 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Captain Peter named his children in quite a number of records. They were as follows:

Child	Birth	Married	Date
Johann Peter	12 June 1761	Barbar (Smith) Myers (daughter of Gasper Smith)	
		Prudence Grist	7 March 1806
John			
Jacob			
George	21 March 1762	Christine Sowers	
		Elizabeth Beck	
Gasper			
Margaret		Cornelius Peppinger	10 Dec. 1798
Barbara		Roling Shepherd	4 May 1798
*Francis		Elizabeth Howard	
Elizabeth		George Sowers	
Adam	7 Feb. 1788	Elizabeth Sowers	

Captain Peter Hedrick's widow made a will 17 July 1800 in Rowan, North Carolina, in which she mentioned "Francis, Elizabeth and Adam" her three youngest children.

Soon after the firth of his first son, the young family appears in Rowan County, North Carolina. On the 10 September 1768 the records show a business settlement in Rowan County. The exact date of his change of location is not known. "He took up 1465 acres of

land on a creek which he named Four Mile Branch. He gave the name to the stream because he had vast holdings on both sides of the stream for a length of four miles."

Peter was a loyal patriot and joined the Army during the War of the Revolution and attained rank of Captain which was an identification the remainder of his life. Once during his absence on military duty around the close of the war, the British and Tories burned his buildings, threatened his wife, drove off his best cattle and horses and killed the rest. On his return he took his wife and children to relatives in Virginia where they stayed until hostilities were over. During this stay in Virginia, Francis* was born about 1780 according to the records. Captain Peter returned to his home on Four Mile Branch where he lived until his death 24 January 1798. He was buried in Beck's Church Cemetery.

On the large soapstone tombstone at the grave of Captain Peter is this inscription in German: "Peter Hedrich ward geboren den 17 tag December, Ano 1733, (this correctly was 1732) und ist gestorbed den 24ten January 1798."

A celebration was held at Beck's Church cemetery, Davidson County, North Carolina 30 November 1933 and a monument was erected in memorial to Captain Peter Hedrick. It is three by four feet, nine feet high and stands on solid concrete base. It is constructed of beautiful flint stone laid in concrete. It was said of him, "He was a man of God, and a friend of man."

(Note: In many records Peter is referred to as Johan Peter. The names of "Hans" or "Johann" were attached to or were nearly always given names of males in German and Bavarian countries and were used interchangably. Many, when coming to America, dropped these first names.)

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* Ancestor of Lolabell Garner Oleson

Bibliography on Captain Peter Hedrick
1732 - 1798

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4. Land Records, Rowan County, North Carolina, Book 6, p. 287.

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6. "Centennial History of Davidson County" by Reverend Jacob Calvin Leonard.

7. Book E p. 113, Wills, Rowan, North Carolina.

8. Immigration Records (Straussberger) G.S.F.

9. Censuses 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, Rowan County North Carolina.

10. Census 1850, Washington County, Indiana.