Bio of Hellen Livers

Born: About 1769 Probably Frederick County, Maryland, USA

Died: Oct. 14, 1823 Frederick County, Maryland, USA

hellen hapen

Hellen Livers was born in about 1769, probably in Frederick County, Md. - a western Maryland county that borders the state of Pennsylvania.

She was the daughter of Arnold Livers "the 2nd son" and Mary Ann Owings. The Livers and Owings were among the most prominent early families of Frederick County.

Hellen's father Arnold Livers (1737-1779) was the 2nd namesake son of the Arnold Livers (who probably was born in 1669 in Belgium of English parentage.). The elder Arnold immigrated from England to America as an adult and was the progenitor of the Livers family in America; he had grown up in the household of England's King James II, working as page of the backstairs in the private quarters.

Unusually, the progenitor Arnold had two sons named after him. The first was the Rev. Arnold Livers (by wife Hellen Gordon), who was not likely to pass on the name as a Jesuit priest who never married. So a second son with a later wife (Mary Ann Drane) also was named Arnold Livers (the 2nd).

Arnold Livers the progenitor and Mary Ann Drane were married in 1729 in Frederick County, Md., after the death of Hellen Gordon. They had five children together: Robert, Anthony, Arnold (the 2nd), Mary and Rachel.

Arnold Livers (the 2nd) was born in 1737, in Emmitsburg in Frederick County and died in 1779 in Frederick County. Some sources say he died in 1777, probably because his will was written then.

Arnold (the 2nd) married Mary Ann Owings (1738-1802) in about 1757 in Maryland. Her parents were Col. Robert Owings and Hannah Farquhar.

Arnold (the 2nd) and Mary Ann reportedly had 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls, including Hellen, their sixth child.

Hellen Livers (whose name also was spelled Helen in historical accounts) married Isaac Keepers II in about 1790 – and certainly by October 1792, when the couple was mentioned in a deed. They were married in Emmitsburg.

It is estimated the Isaac Keepers II was born in 1765, probably in Frederick County. He was the eldest child of Isaac Keepers, Sr. and Catherine.

Children of Hellen and Isaac II included: Isaac M. Keepers III,; Joseph; James; Mary Ann; Catherine; and John B., the youngest, who was born shortly after his father's death. Their first son, Isaac M. Keepers III, is not mentioned in all accounts, but a letter documents that they had four sons when Isaac II died. All children were born in Frederick County, but John, who was born in Pennsylvania.

By 1803, Isaac II and Hellen were living with their children in Pennsylvania. In 1804, they were living on a farm where the city of Latrobe, Pa., now stands.

In 1804, Isaac II died in a hunting accident in Pennsylvania and was buried in Saint Anthony Catholic Church Cemetery in Frederick County, Md.

When he died, family accounts say that Hellen, with four young sons, returned to Frederick County, Maryland, her former home, to live with her widowed mother, Mary Ann Owings Livers. Hellen's father, Arnold Livers (the 2nd son) had died by then.

Hellen died Oct. 14, 1823 in Frederick County. She was buried in Elder Cemetery in Emmitsburg.

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