

Peter Kuhn (1748-1807) of Greencastle, Pennsylvania

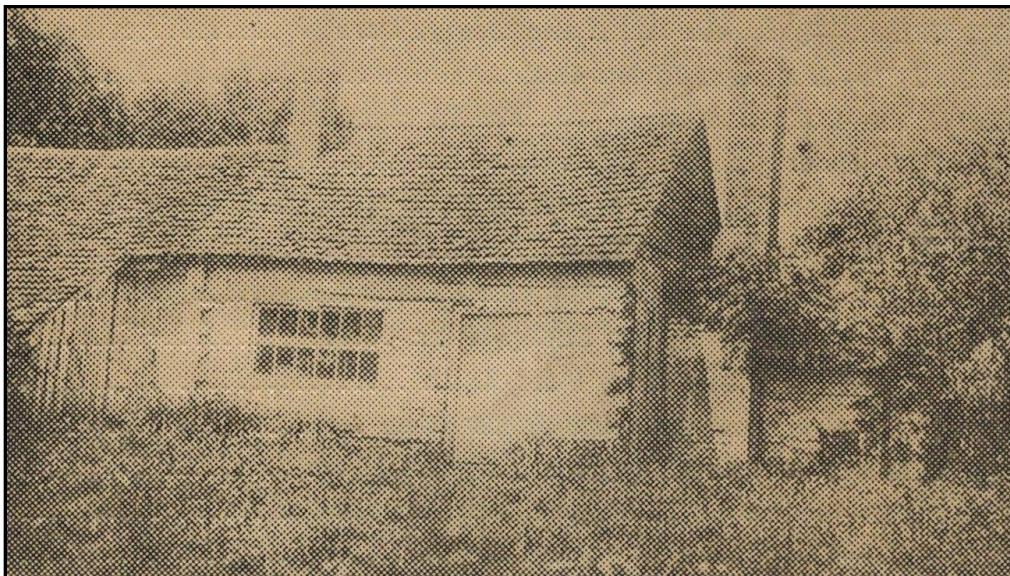
His 18th-century homestead is now a Bed & Breakfast Inn

Little is known about the eighteenth-century German immigrant Peter Kuhn. Most of what we do know comes from Samuel Kuhn, grandson of Peter and Catherine (Appler) Kuhn and son of Samuel and Catherine Smith, who wrote the following brief sketch of Peter's life. The piece was found in Peter Kuhn's family bible which was handed down from generation to generation and was cited in *The History and Roster of the Peter Kuhn Family in the U.S.A.*, printed at Shelby, Ohio in 1932 on page 13. (An update to the original book was the *Peter Kuhn Family History and Records*, edited by Clara M. Venable and published in 1953 in Harrisburg, PA.)

Peter Kuhn, my grandfather, was born in Wurtemberg [Württemberg], Germany in 1748 and came to America in 1760. For a living, hired to a farmer in Lancaster County, PA, was a cooper by trade, and mostly followed teaming from Lancaster to Philadelphia. After being in America five or six years, he resolved to visit his native country in Germany and to receive a small fortune. He had a safe passage out but on his return, the Captain was to sail to London and already in sight of the lighthouse, their ship was overtaken in a storm and badly wrecked and damaged to the extent that it took twenty-four days to repair the wrecked ship and to get into the London port where they remained some days. From there they crossed the Atlantic to Philadelphia.

He again followed the old occupation for a few years, then married a lady by the name of Catherine Appler in 1768 and in 1771 he moved, with his little family to Franklin County PA, arriving on August the 18, and followed farming to the end of his days in 1807, having raised a family of seven children, five boys and two girls, David, Samuel, John, Peter, George, Elizabeth and Catherine. Grandma, Catherine Kuhn, died in 1810 in Mercer County, PA. They both lived to a good old age and were highly respected for honesty, industry and Christianity! [It was noted in the bible that Peter Kuhn had 10 children, but three died in childhood.]

Also recorded from the library in Harrisburg, Pa., "On the list of foreigners who took the oath of allegiance, Peter Kuhn, arrived from Rotterdam and Portsmouth, September 20, 1764, on the ship *Sarah*, Cap't. Francis Stanfell."



The log cabin erected by Peter Kuhn on his homestead in Greencastle as it appeared in 1932. (From the publication "History and Roster of the Peter Kuhn Family, printed in 1932) The log cabin survived until 1952. At that time it was declared unfit for restoration and was razed.



(Photo by SAM, 2010)

A permanent granite marker, with a bronze plaque, was installed at the site of this original Kuhn family homestead and dedicated on August 3, 1952. The inscription read, "In memory of Peter Kuhn who came to this county August 1771 and founded a homestead on this site before 1790. Erected August 3, 1952 by the Kuhn Family Association." The memorial is located near Greencastle, PA, on Kuhn Road near Rabbit Road. (Note that the date of 1771 appears to refer to Peter's arrival in Greencastle, not his arrival in America.)



Entrance to the Peter Kuhn property, showing the memorial plaque on the left. (Photo by SAM, 2010)



The Inn at Birches Garden, on the Peter Kuhn Property, is located at 7982 Kuhn Road. Nearby road sign bearing the Kuhn surname (Photo by SAM. 2010)

With respect to Peter's property, a Peter Coon is listed on the List of Taxables for Antrim Township, Franklin County, PA in 1786. (Source: *History of Franklin County, PA*. Warner, Beers and Co. 1887. Contributed to the U.S. GenWeb Archives. Downloaded 2/2008) According to a list of Land Warrantees for Franklin County, PA, Peter Kuhn had 62 acres of land surveyed on November 28, 1788. (Source: "Franklin County Pennsylvania Land Warrantees". Pennsylvania Archives. State Printer of PA. Third Series, Vol. 25. 1898. Available online in the U.S. GenWeb Archives for Franklin Co. PA). At the turn of the twenty-first century, the property has been extensively renovated and features a beautiful Bed and Breakfast Inn, named *The Inn at Birches Garden*. The Kuhn Family Plaque remains at the entrance to the property.



The Peter Kuhn Property, with the Inn in the background (Photo by SAM, 2010)



(Photo by SAM, 2010)

Above: "The Peter Kuhn room, named for the original settler has lush red walls that offset the exposed log walls and wide plank floors of the original farm house structure." (Quoted from the Inn's website)



The Inn at Birches Garden as it appeared in 2010 (Photo by SAM, 2010)

If Peter Kuhn were to visit his homestead today he would not recognize the structures on his land, but he would certainly be gratified to find that the property is in such beautiful condition. He would be pleased, as well, to find that his name and efforts have not been lost to history. Peter Kuhn has been memorialized in the naming of the road, on the plaque at the entrance to the property, and in the room at the Inn designated the "Peter Kuhn Room."

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