



An Open Invitation To A Celebration
Of A Unique Family History --

Peter Hazelbaker's 250th Anniversary

Saturday – Sunday August 8 & 9, 2009

Champaign and Danville, Illinois

**Sponsored by the Central Illinois
Hazelbaker Family**

March 21, 2009 is Peter Hazelbaker's 250th Birthday. He is the ancestor of every person named Hazelbaker. We want to mark that milestone by bringing the many branches of the family together to share our common heritage and learn about the diverse paths the branches of our family line have followed.

Peter Hazelbaker, 1759-1800, was the founder of the Hazelbaker family. Born in Munchsteinach, Bavaria under the name Peter Hasselbacher, Peter was conscripted into the Anspach-Bayreuth Regiment of Hessian soldiers sent to fight for the British in the American Revolutionary War. Peter remained in America after the war. He anglicized his name to Hazelbaker, married Elizabeth Shively and settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He fathered six children whose descendants have spread across the United States and throughout the world. Many groups of people named Hazelbaker live throughout North America. With the internet, we have found one another and come to realize the common heritage we share.

Thanks to the work and study of family historians such as Jack White, Imogene Sawvell Davis and Dr. Peter Hasselbacher, we now know the incredible story of our family. Our history is an amazing journey through some of the most turbulent passages in the past 400 years, of survival and thriving in a new country.

The Central Illinois branch of the Hazelbaker family (descended from Peter's son Abraham) has a large reunion in Danville, Illinois, every year in August. 2009 is the 75th anniversary of our reunion, which usually draws 125 to 200 people. Because we already have a reunion going, we thought we would invite everyone else to join us and host some special events to look back on 250 years of family history. [By the way, we would welcome any Hazelbaker relation, no matter how distant, to any of our reunions, as long as you like to eat].

The Illinois Hazelbaker Reunion has been held on the second Sunday in August starting at noon every year since 1933. We gather at Kickapoo State Park [<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/R3/kickapoo.htm>] for a pot-luck picnic. There's lots of food, fellowship and fun. We see cousins we often miss, and enjoy visits from Hazelbaker kin who moved out of the area.

Last year, we added a family history event on the Saturday night preceding the reunion. This year, we're hoping to draw Hazelbakers from around North America and the world to share our stories, celebrate our common history, and bring this unique extended family together.

We are, therefore, inviting everyone with the name Hazelbaker or Hazelbaker

ancestry to join us! We're still in the process of figuring out how we'll do this. We are looking for people from various Hazelbaker clans around the country to join in planning the events. We may wind up deciding to hold a family history event in a location more accessible to people like Chicago or Indianapolis. That's what planning will determine.

But, the one thing we do know is that the Illinois Hazelbakers will be getting together August 8 and 9, 2009, and you are welcome.

So that we can begin planning, please let us know now if you are interested in planning or attending. We will then arrange a block rooms as needed and get full directions to you.

Please respond to express your interest or questions to:

Mark Hazelbaker, 608-237-8723, mhazel@tds.net

John Hazelbaker
Tammy Clow,

Co-Chairs of Hazelbaker Reunion

Mark Hazelbaker,
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