Samuel Hunsberger, weaver of Franconia Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Only scattered references to Samuel Hunsberger exist, and it is from these that this sketchy biography is drawn. He was the third child of Christian and Hannah [Sellers] Hunsberger, and was born in Franconia Township, Montgomery county about 1799. His great grandfather Hunsberger came to Pennsylvania from Switzerland about 1730 and settled within a few miles of Samuel’s home.

Samuel was first taxed as a single man in March of 1821, so from this it is likely that he had just turned twenty-one and was born some time between March 1799 and March of 1800. In 1822 he is still listed as single, but by 1824 he is taxed for a 20 acre farm, which he probably rented, and finally bought from Christian Benner in 1835. By the time he was first taxed for the 20 acre farm, he had probably married Maria Erdman who seems to have been born about 1794. Their first child, Aaron was born about 1825. In 1873, Aaron was declared “insolvent and not competent to administer” his father’s estate. Aaron was a stone mason and died single. The second child was Sarah, born March 22, 1827 and died December 29, 1901, who had married William Bloom. The Blooms had three children, none of whom had descendants who survived. The third child was Hannah who was born about 1830 and married Samuel Wentzel. They had nine children who have left a large progeny.

In 1819 Samuel bought a blank folio size book [12.5”x8”] that was to become his account book and weaving pattern book. The earliest dated notation is from that year and says “Dieses schriebuch Gehöret Mier Samuel Hunsberger Wan es Verloren Solgehn So Kan Man Hiermein namen Sehen So Viel Von Mir 1819”. [Trans. This writing book belongs to me Samuel Hunsberger. Should it be lost you may see my name here. So much from me 1819.] The earliest transactions recorded are for day laboring for Jesse Franz, Johannes Herz, Abraham Cob, and Fridrich Hunsberger are for the year 1821. In 1822 he records his first weaving for Johannes Clemmer, and Abraham Schwarz. His weaving in that year totaled only 96 yards, and consisted of 21 ½ yards of linsey, 40 yards of linen, 20 yards of coarse tow, and another 14 ½ yards of linsey. All the while he was day laboring.

The following year he increased his weaving activity, weaving for nine customers. For them he produced coverlets, of which one was a goose eye, and four were “point work” [beint work]. He made fabric for tablecloths, 27 ¼ yards [one piece 17 ¼ and another of 10 yards] which he called “Flauerhockelbeck,” [spot weave], 14 ½ yards of goose eye, 17 ¼ yards of
table cloth of an unidentified weave. He wove 55 yards of linen sheeting, 11 yards of fine tow stripe, 9 ½ yards of fine tow, and 16 yards of coarse tow. His production in 1823 totaled 5 coverlets, and 150 ¼ yards of linen and tow yardage.

The book records nothing after 1823, so it is possible that when he married in 1824, he started another account book, which is now lost. He certainly continued to weave for he is listed as a weaver in the tax lists of 1831 and 1838. He is also listed as a weaver in the Federal Census for 1850 and 1860, however by the 1870 census he was listed as a farmer. It seems more likely that by this time he was a retired weaver rather than a farmer, because by this time the demand for custom hand weaving had waned and Samuel had grown old. Since he was never taxed for more that 20 acres, at times had no live stock, at others had one or two cows, sometimes had a horse, and at others did not, it is not likely that he was ever a farmer in the true sense of the word.

The weaving patterns consist of those in the book and loose scraps of paper lying in the front of the book. Many of the drafts are duplicates of others on the same page, that differ from the one above it only by giving the total number of dents in the 45 inch reed. As many Pennsylvania German weavers did in their pattern books, he gives tie-ups for turned twill and double cloth. He gives the drafts first. All have a number that in some instances relates to the tie up given in the succeeding section. The tie-ups range from four to twenty shafts, and include point twill, turned twill, gebrochene und gesteint, double cloth and float work. There are nearly sixty tie-ups, and about 110 threading drafts. The book contains twenty some five-block turned twill drafts, so it would appear that Samuel Hunsberger learned to weave on a twenty shaft loom.

In January of 1987, Jake Frederick gave The Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania an eight shaft float-work coverlet that had come down in the Frederick family of Souderton, Pennsylvania. It has a white cotton tabby ground, red and blue wool filling, and is in fair condition with some heavily worn areas. A look into Jake Frederick’s ancestry showed that his grandfather, John H. Frederick, married Samuel Hunsberger’s niece Hannah Benner in the early 1840s. So it is probable that Samuel wove this coverlet as part of his niece’s wedding dowry in the late 1830s. The coverlet is woven in the eight shaft float-work pattern on page [19] of Samuel’s book labeled “Nom 7 Rosa Muster” [Number 7, Rose pattern]. The table on the coverlet is one twelve-ends unit smaller than the pattern drafted in the book. There is a red, white and blue hand loomed, applied fringe on two sides and the bottom.

Samuel Hunsberger died on December 17, 1873, and according to family tradition was buried in the Rockhill Mennonite Cemetery east of Telford, Pennsylvania. However, neither Samuel nor his wife has a grave stone. His pattern book, one coverlet, and his descendants are his only surviving memorial.
This page and the next six sheets are lying loose in S. Hinse's book.
Jser Josef 1826

Jser England

Sog wurd 1 Schilling gesetzt

Es wurd 1 Schilling gesetzt

Eine Viereck wonct
Jfrn. Jahr 1822

Laut Annalen bewogen
sie von sich wegführen
Arbeit mit Behörden 1 December 15 Stde.

gesagt Arnulph
Von Rhode aus Fußst.

Jfrn. Jahr 1822
Getan in der Stammwe
unserer Familien genannt
Mai 21 jahr im 11. jahr
Einig sind genannt genannt. Der 40 jahr
Ende pulieren 15 füret die jahr
Ein 45. Jahrsmale genannt genannt
Nachtsg jahr 6 die jahr

Getragen von der Input von jahr
<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Førre forså 1823**

**hans**

Eier 2 fuller gnevbarn.

17 jøft 1 forstl. plakken sørsk

15 jøft inn jøft.

**Gjor**

**Hans**

En þreð forstl. sørsk.

18 jøft inn jøft.

**Svaka**

3 fuller gnevbarn.

17 jøft inn 1 forstl.

18 jøft inn jøft.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Ludwig Jung</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Ludwig Gering</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the names and quantities of goods, with the corresponding prices. The diagram likely represents a layout or plan, possibly related to the goods listed. The document appears to be from 1828.
Am Jahre 1823

8

Am Jahre 1822

8

Gesammtsum: 8

2. 20

36

4. 42

20
Først 1821
Samuel Bürgel
Jørn Staving

1 bag gafflet
1/4 bag tind i saltvare gafflet
1 bag gafflet
6 bag gafflet
4/5 bag gafflet
4/9 bag gafflet

176.77
8

9

Først 1822
Samuel Lundig
1 og 1/2 salommer gafflet

1/4 bag gafflet
2
1½
0

Først 1822

Svend Anker Hansen Sweden
2.50
1/4 bag gafflet
0.25
0.50

Først 1823
Jøn Hansen Jørgen Bugge
12.63
Herrn Herrn 1812
Herrn Herrn 1812
2d. V. und 1. Schuler wird gedacht.

Herrn Herrn 1822
Lebten namens
1. Schuler unserer Gemeinde
Wor 14 Jahre und 11 Monat.
Ein von geehrt.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Tafel</td>
<td>1/2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Schinken</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Für Johr 1823

gegen Sandgrube

Eins Tonnen Gewicht für 12 gründig

Eins Tonnen Gewicht wäscht weg

Für 1/3 Stunde 8 gründig

33 Tonnen 5/16 für 1 Tonnen in je oft

Für 1/4 Tonne 1/2 gründig

10 Volt in 1 Tonnen 1 Tonnen in je oft

1 Volt 1/3 Tonnen 1/3 Tonnen in je oft
Daniel Edmond zum 10. Februar 1650. 
Festliche Zeit, wie das eine Vater. 
Nicht fest, weil nicht Ziegler oder 
Ehren, Edmond Josias Jöchling. Angestellt ist. 
Dass dies auch Elizabeth teilweise gesagt hat, 
dass sie auch Elizabeth teilweise gesagt hat. 
Denn als sie auch Elizabeth Edmond, 
yarn, werde nicht wissen, was war 
sein Bruder sie hat. 
Und gesagt, weil das Ding, 
wer war er recht und die 
Jaumes mit gesagt das. 
Warum nicht gesagt das. 

Jahr 1650.
Thought is known to those who meditate daily
Thought is known by those who meditate hard

All that would yield must mind his wish
Literate Fridge experienced many woes, 13/234

Point your side by reason not by fancy

Chop your promises and you are always free
Sam. Sam. Sam. Sam. Men to 0.320

Hens. Miller, Niles 1.76 2

$83.33$

$100$

Jackie Feb 16 1823

1/4 50 95
1 25 28
16 25 38
25

$59.1$

1200 6000

Cows! Only sit here no grass to eat

Lea