

Winter 2009

Issue: 10



Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar; and allied families



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary

My ancestors did WHAT?

Genealogy is Hereditary

Welcome	Feature Article	News Of Interest To The Family Historian	News On Our "Family Tree"
What's New At The Website??	Research Connections	Surname Search	Contact Information

WELCOME

Hello Everyone;

Welcome to the WINTER 2009 issue of the *Dellinger, Knecht, Pfeffer, Silar* family newsletter. I've included you on my mailing list because you are either, family, a gen-cousin or genealogist who shares a common interest of searching for information on the surnames associated with my paternal family line.

I hope that some of the topics addressed within this newsletter will assist you with your genealogical endeavors. For example, News of Interest to the Family Historian contains tips on researching immigrant ancestors. Also see what Google has done to expand its free newspaper archives.

At the website, I've added or revised 10 of the Surname Pages. Also take a look at the new web page dedicated to the 187th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment to see if any of your ancestors served in this Civil War military unit.

The feature article in this issue contains an Ancestor Profile of John Frederick Siler. Frederick is recognized as the progenitor of the Siler / Silar family of York County, Pennsylvania.

You are reminded to check out the Research Connections to see if anyone else is researching your family. The WAGNER surname is featured in the Surname Search section. "Surname Search" displays matches of a surname in our database to the huge resources found at RootsWeb.com.

Don't forget to review new and updated information on my paternal family database at the *RootsWeb World Connect Project*, and as well as recent happenings with regard to the website at *RootsWeb's Freepages*. A quarterly accounting of the database at RootsWeb shows one new direct ancestral family line has been uncovered as well as the addition of 25 new individual records.

As always we will attempt to keep the newsletter brief but informative and hope you will enjoy reading it. If you do not want to remain on our mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending to you. To read my previous newsletters, follow this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3vnd3b>.

Fred Siler

A QUOTE TO NOTE

"Stirring the pot brings all things to the surface" – contributed by Melissa Fitzkee

FEATURE ARTICLE

ANCESTOR PROFILE: John Frederick Siler

It is believed that [John Frederick Siler](#) is the progenitor of this branch of the Siler/Silar family in America. Frederick was born in Prussia around 1786. The [Kingdom of Prussia](#) at the time of his birth encompassed territory that today lies in northwestern Poland and northeastern Germany as seen in the following map.



Frederick's proper German name is probably Johann Friedrich which was then americanized to John Frederick. According to most records he usually used just his middle name Frederick. This is common in German families because at baptism, if two given names were given to the child, the first given name was a spiritual, saint's name. The second given name was the secular or call name, i.e., "rufnamen", which is the name the person was known by, both within the family and to the rest of the world.

Around 1805 Frederick married his life-long wife [Catharine](#) who was also a native of Prussia. It is likely that this event occurred in Prussia shortly before the young couple made the voyage to the United States to begin their life together.

Prior to 1809 they were living in [Pennsylvania](#) because it is known that their son [George W.](#) was born their sometime between 1807 and 1809. Between 1810 and 1820 Frederick and his wife Catharine had produced six more children. As such

it is most likely the family eventually consisted of at least seven children, (4 sons and 2 daughters). It is not known where in Pennsylvania Frederick and his family was living during the period when most of their children were born.

By 1830 Frederick and his family were living in [Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania](#). The family consisted of Frederick and his wife along with the six aforementioned sons and daughters.⁽²⁾ The names of Frederick and George Seyler also begin to appear in the Windsor Twp. Tax records between 1830 and 1837. The 1831 records identifies both

Frederick Seiler and George Seiler (a single-man), as both being blacksmiths, as such the evidence that they are father and son may be assumed at this point. Frederick worked as the blacksmith at Henry A. Slaymaker's foundry

during the mid-1830's as his name is shown in this capacity on the 1835-36 tax lists. It appears that, in 1837, he was replaced as the company's blacksmith by [Henry Seylor](#) (Siler), a single-man. This Henry, born c. 1814, is most probably another of his sons.

By 1840, most if not all of Frederick's offspring had grown and left to start their own families. His son George had married and produced three children of his own. Frederick, now about age 54, was residing in Windsor Township along with his wife and a male aged 5-9 who may have been a grandchild. According to tax records of this time period he appears to have prospered over the years as he owned a house on 90 acres of land along with several horses and cows.

Frederick was still living in Windsor Township in 1850 when his household consisted of his wife Catharine and a fourteen year old girl named Susan Snyder. He continued to work as a blacksmith. It is

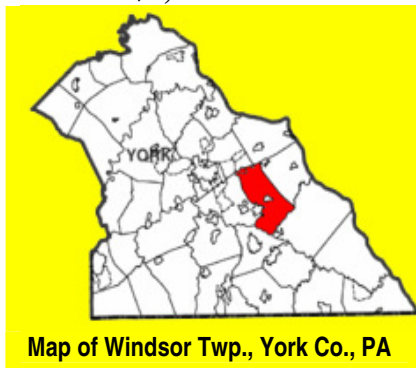
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likely that he had maintained his own business since 1838 as his real estate was worth \$1,000 at the time.

John Frederick Siler, of Windsor Township, had his last Will and Testament written on April 23, 1852, and filed in York County on July 21, 1857. According to this document his



Map of Windsor Twp., York Co., PA

wife was to receive one-third of his estate with the other two-thirds to be divided among his children. None of these children are named in the Will witnessed by George Anstine and [John Kise](#) (Keise). John Kise is known to be his son-in-law, the husband of [Catharine Siler](#).

On July 19, 1859 an Administrative Account of Frederick's estate, in Windsor Township, was filed at York County. Noted within this document is cash collected from George Syler who is most likely his son or grandson. Also noted is cash paid to a William Saylor who may be another of Frederick's sons, or a brother.

Based upon information found with the two aforementioned legal records Frederick's time of passing was probably sometime in June or July 1859. His final resting place is not known at this time.

Of his direct descendents, current information points to two sons George and Henry as well as one daughter Catherine. Possible persons for the other two sons are: Jacob Saylor (b. ca. 1813) of Chanceford Twp., York County; Samuel Saylor (b. ca. 1812) of York City; and Benjamin (b. ca. 1815) of Hopewell Twp., York County.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Worthwhile Research Tips and Websites

Overwhelmed by the number of family history-related Web sites popping up?

The folks at [FamilyTreeMagazine.com](#) have taken the time to sort through them to bring us the best. As a result they have recently identified the following worthwhile websites:

Finding Court Records

This tip comes from the [September 2008 Family Tree Magazine](#): See if abstracts or transcriptions exist for records of your ancestors' county court. These compilations likely will give you the volume and page number of the original record.

Local historical and genealogical societies may sell abstracts, and the [Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City has a good collection. (Many aren't microfilmed, so you may need to visit or hire a researcher who can check for you.)

National Archives Opens Online Digital Vault

The National Archives and Records Administration just launched a new Web site to display photos, documents and other ephemera that tell our nation's collective history.

See Vietnam Wall Names Free on Footnote

[Footnote](#) lets you search—free—at <http://go.footnote.com/thewall> for those whose names are etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The new interactive exhibit has a database of names linked to photos of each one—and information about that person.

Federal Tax Records on Ancestry.com

The subscription site Ancestry.com announced its new database of IRS tax assessment lists "for several US states covering the years 1862-1918." Actually, records are available for relatively few years within that range—but you'll get some good information if your ancestors are listed.

Footnote to Digitize Homesteaders' Case Files

Historical records subscription service Footnote is embarking upon a project to post hundreds of thousands of US homesteading records online. What can they tell you about your family? [Find out on the Genealogy Insider blog](#).

Google Expands News Archive By 20 Million Historical Pages

Google has enhanced its [historical newspaper initiative](#) by buying 20 million digitized historical newspaper pages from Canadian company *PaperofRecord*. The purchase price wasn't available. The pages—some dating back to the 1700s—will be part of the [Google News Archive Search](#), launched in early September “to make more old newspapers accessible and searchable online.” *PaperofRecord* has digitized newspapers from Canada, the United States, Mexico and Europe.

According to the *Ottawa Business Journal*, the purchase—the end of a two-year agreement between the companies—will “essentially shut down” *PaperofRecord*. Its troubles started when companies such as ProQuest began paying newspapers to digitize pages—the opposite of what *PaperofRecord* was doing.

In another month or so, *PaperofRecord's* online database will redirect to Google.

Searching for Early Immigrants

Some researchers become discouraged when they search immigration records for ancestors who arrived in America during the 18th century. This is because the U.S. government did not require ships to keep passenger lists until 1820. As a result few immigration records exist before that time. Here are some sources you can check:

1. Philadelphia passengers from 1729-1808, at: <http://tinyurl.com/6b5gb6>, with the originals on microfilm at the Pennsylvania state archives.
2. Boston ship cargo logs from 1715-1716 and 1762-1769, published in *Port Arrivals and Immigrants to the City of Boston* at: <http://tinyurl.com/57qhu2>, by William H. Whitmore (Genealogical Publishing Co.). The subscription site Ancestry.com has a digitized version of this book at: <http://tinyurl.com/5q42zw>.
3. Though not passenger lists, records of an ancestor's court case could provide plenty of immigration information. Colonial court records often are in state archives; you also may find some microfilmed by the Family History Library at: <http://tinyurl.com/684hcr>.
4. Run a place search of the **online catalog** at: <http://tinyurl.com/yz5hqb> on your ancestor's county or town. Visit your local branch Family History Center to rent FHL microfilm.
5. During the British Colonial period, non-English immigrants had to apply for

citizenship, often by signing oaths of allegiance upon arrival. Look for these, too, at state archives and on FHL microfilm.

6. Newspapers in port cities such as Philadelphia and Boston may mention arriving ships. The subscription service GenealogyBank, at <http://tinyurl.com/5ku8q8>, has many Colonial-era papers; historical societies in those towns also are likely to have papers on microfilm. You can use the Library of Congress' Chronicling America site at <http://tinyurl.com/29e3kk> to identify newspaper titles to look for.
7. The [Great Migration project](#) at <http://www.greatmigration.org/> hosted by NewEnglandAncestors.org, publishes a Web site, book series and newsletter with information about early immigrants. A 1620-to-1640 surname index is free; most of the information is by subscription.

Keep in mind that ancestors' names aren't always recorded as we think they should be. Your immigrant relative may have been recorded under his middle name or a nickname rather than his first name; or the name you know him as may be the middle name. Continue researching your ancestor in whatever records you can find, even those unrelated to his immigration. If a resource helps you pinpoint his place of origin, you can start researching his life in his ancestral homeland—and then maybe you'll learn when he departed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have any ideas, and or information you might have regarding ways to enhance our researching experiences. Send them to me at silrem@comcast.net.



A "FAMILY TREE" TREE GROWS AT ROOTSWEB



LAUX, surname added to the *Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar Database*

An updated version of the database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **25** new records have been added over the past three months. We now have information on **1,711** persons. Since the database is completely updated quarterly to coincide with the publishing of this newsletter you are all reminded to take a look at what is new with regard to my family history research. If you do check the database site you may find some new information that will enhance your research or you may find some errors in my data that I need to know of. So please contact me as soon as

possible with your corrections.

To access the *Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar* database just click on the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/4hbsrt>. You may also access our family tree by going to: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>. On that page you will see on the left column a box entitled "jump to a specific tree". Type in *fgsilar* and click on "go", or just search for any name in the database and you will be taken to that record.

Of course we would always welcome any new information that you may have on our common ancestors.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEBSITE??

Our Maternal and Paternal Ancestors: 350 Years of History in America

York County Archives Produces Valuable Source Documents

Did Your Ancestor Serve in the 187th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment??

During the past three months I've put in many hours researching the [187th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment](#) of the American Civil War. This was the military unit in which my 2nd great-grandfather Jonathan Dellinger served. Those of you researching York County, Pennsylvania ancestors may find the information I've collected interesting because this regiment was organized at Harrisburg and as such contained many men from York County.

The York County web page has been revised and now includes Gen-Site updates for the following ancestral locations: Canadochly Church; Ebenezer Methodist Church Cemetery; Fairview Cemetery; Home of George and Magdalena Silar; New Harmony Church; Riverview Cemetery; Saint Luke's Church and Cemetery;

You are invited to take a look at **10** revised surname pages found on the [DKPS Home Page](#) at: <http://tinyurl.com/46qxlr>.

Several months ago I took a trip out to the [York County Archives](#). While there I obtained copies of Wills, Administrative Bonds and Estate Inventories of several ancestors. These documents have been processed and placed within the appropriate [Source Documents](#) archives for your review.

Because we usually update this site several times between the publishing of this Newsletter you are reminded and encouraged to take a look at what is new with regard to the family information and genealogical resources contained at our internet web site entitled, [Our Maternal & Paternal Ancestors 350 Years of History in America: An Archive of Genealogical Information](#), at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>.

As with the database you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise of some new information that we can include at the site. Either way I would appreciate an email from you just to let me know that you've found your way to our online website.

NEW AND REVISED "DKPS" SURNAME PAGES:

[Beck](#); [Born](#); [Gilbert](#); [Heidecker](#); [Keller](#); [Lieberknecht](#); [Pfeffer](#); [Schmid](#); [Schuster](#); [Ulrich](#)

NEW "DKPS" SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

[Adam Arnold \(1851 Admin. Bond\)](#); [Adam Arnold \(1851 Inventory\)](#); [Andrew Gilbert, Sr \(1816 Admin. Bond\)](#); [Andrew Gilbert, Sr. \(1816 Inventory\)](#); [David Ilges \(1842 Will\)](#); [George Ilges \(1801 Admin. Bond\)](#); [John F. Seiler \(Inventory 1859\)](#); [John Frederick Siler \(Last Will 1852\)](#); [John Schall \(1814 Will\)](#)

NEW "DKPS" FAMILY PHOTOS / IMAGES:**NEW AND REVISED "DKPS" SPECIALTY PAGES:**

[DKPS War Veterans](#);

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATION" PAGES

U.S.A.: [Alaska](#); [Augusta Co., VA](#); [Connecticut](#); [Crawford Co., MO](#); [Daviness Co., IN](#); [Hawaii](#); [Indiana](#); [LosAngeles, Co, CA](#); [New Mexico](#); [York Co., PA](#)

FRANCE: [Mayenne](#) *UNITED KINGDOM:* [Berkshire](#)

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATIONS" PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES

U.S.A.: [Crawford Co., MO](#); [Daviness Co., IN](#) *FRANCE:* [Mayenne](#); *UNITED KINGDOM:* [Berkshire](#)

"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PAGES:

[110th Inf. Regt. \(WWI\)](#); [187th PA Inf. Regt. \(Civil War\)](#); [2nd NJ Regt. Continental Line \(Rev. War\)](#); [10th VA Regt. Cont. Line \(Rev. War\)](#); [5th VA Cavalry \(Civil War\)](#); [6th Spec. Naval Const. Battalion \(WWII\)](#); [American Migration Routes](#); [Gist's Trace](#); [Great Genesee Road](#); [Mohawk Turnpike](#); [National Road](#); [Research Reference Library \(USA\)](#); [Santa Fe Trail](#); [Zane's Trace](#)

"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES:

[2nd NJ Regt. \(Rev. War\)](#); [10 VA Regt. \(Rev. War\)](#); [187th PA Inf. Regt.\(Civil War\)](#); [110th Inf. Regt. \(WWI\)](#); [Great Genesee Road](#); [Mohawk Turnpike](#); [National Road](#); [5th VA Cavalry \(Civil War\)](#); [6th Spec. Naval Const. Battalion \(WWII\)](#); [Santa Fe Trail](#); [Zane's Trace](#)

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Since the first issue of this newsletter was created back in the Fall of 2006 its distribution list has tripled. Along the way I have interacted with many genealogists that have expressed an interest in one or more of the family lines contained within my DKPS Database at Roots Web. Because networking is a key to the success of any family historian I feel that it is important for this newsletter to help in making that connection. Below is a listing of several subscribers and the common family lines they are researching.

Who	Researching Surname(s)	Who	Researching Surname(s)
Debbie Quinlan dgpeds@hughes.net	John Keller (d.1802)	Melissa Fitzkee Mzfitz40@aol.com	Ilges
Marie Shaffer marieshaffer@verizon.net	Shaffer, Shaver	Jim Gilbert jmgil@ptd.net	Gilbert, (DNA Project)
Guy B. Frick gfrick@kns.com	Pfeffer, Knauf	Erika Lieberknecht enl113@psu.edu	Lieberknecht
Roger Dellinger radellinger@argothor.net	Dellinger	Patricia Baron p2e7b5@texasbb.com	Knecht
Monica Lacy ironduck2000@yahoo.com	Margaretha Bard. b. 1824, Hesse Darm, Prussia, m. Augustin Meyer	Sivia Neublum sneublum@uol.com.br	Mildenberg

If you would like to be included into this list, or should any of the above named persons would like their information deleted or revised please contact me.

GRANDSON OF GEORGE SILAR ??

Melissa Fitzkee recently spent some time working on her husband's Fitzkee line of Lower Windsor Twp. While gathering census records she found a Kenneth Silar listed in the 1920 census with the family of Simon Fitzkee. Kenneth is 11 months old and is listed as a foster son. But in 1930 he is now 11 years old and is given as a grand-son.

John Simon Fitzkee was the son of Peter Wilhelm Fitzkee who can be traced back through the 1850-1900 census as living beside George Silar/Saylor of Lower Windsor Twp. Melissa has tried SSDI, WWII

records, Ancestry, Rootsweb etc., but has been unable to find information that would place Kenneth Silar with his biological parents.

Melissa believes that another possible connection of Kenneth to the Silar family is through the Anstine line. Lizzie Houseal was married first to Harry Anstine leaving her with 8 small children when she married the much older and never married John Simon Fitzkee.

We are wondering if you or any family members might not hold a key to who the parents of Kenneth Silar might be??

SURNAME SEARCH

WAGNER

Featured Databases	Matches	Other Searches	Matches
WorldConnect	220,161	Alumni Lists	216
Social Security Death Index	57,741	Book Indexes	449
Rootsweb Surname List	559	Cemetery Listings	905
Vital Records	Matches	Census Records	180
California Death Index	5,898	Church Records	23
Texas Death Index	1,762	BLM/GRO Land Records	439
Kentucky Death Index	1,357	Naturalization Records	34
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	636	Obituaries	145
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	640	Plat Records	5
Maine Death Index	87	POW/MIA Records	8
South Dakota Birth Index	104	British, UK and Ireland Data	1
World War One Draft Index	267	Atlas/Gazetteer Listings	13
Early Death Records	244	Military Records	48
Pre-1920 Marriages	367	Newspaper Indexes	295
Pre-1920 Births	71	One-Name Studies	5
Other Searches	Matches	Tax and Voter Lists	6
Web Site Search	58,359	Utah State Archives	7
Swedish Records	17	Professional, Society, Religious Groups	22
Australia and New Zealand Records	190	Obituary Daily Times	14,673

"Surname Search" features matches of a direct ancestral surname, from my database, found at RootsWeb.com(<http://searches.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>). Follow the links to information that may be useful and hopefully rekindle your own research into this family as well as other topics at RootsWeb. To see what information I have uncovered on this family follow the links to my Website at <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>, and Database at <http://tinyurl.com/4a2ck4>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

"Dellinger, Knecht, Pfeffer, Silar, and allied families" is a family-history newsletter published quarterly by Frederick G. Siler, 889 Dante Court, Mantua, New Jersey 08051. It is available both in print and online. Print copies may be obtained through written correspondence that includes a SASE. The online version is sent as an attachment to an email message. Issues are also posted into my DKPS Newsletter Archives at <http://tinyurl.com/3vnd3b>. Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.

Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!

