



Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar; and allied families



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary

My ancestors did WHAT?

Genealogy is Hereditary

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WELCOME

Hello Everyone;

Welcome to the **Winter 2010** issue of the *Dellinger, Knecht, Pfeffer, Silar* (DKPS) family newsletter. I've included you on my mailing list because you are someone 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.

This issue's **Feature Article** discusses the reasons for German migration in the 19th century, and what life was like in the German community of Philadelphia at the turn of the 20th century.

News of Interest to the Family Historian contains links to worthwhile FREE websites for British Isles Researchers. Also there is news about several new books for sale at Genealogical.com.

A quarterly accounting of the **DKPS Database** at the *RootsWeb WorldConnect Project* indicates the addition of 7 new direct ancestral family line as well as 68 new individual records.

Take time to look at the new and revised web pages and image galleries recently uploaded to the **Maternal and Paternal Ancestors Website** at *RootsWeb's Freepages*. Included here are pages containing worthwhile information about individual surnames, and ancestral locations, as well as special topics such as military units, our genealogy reference book library, and historic American roads and trails.

You are reminded to check out the **Research Connections** to see if anyone else is researching your family or a similar surname.

The **STOBER** 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.

As always I will attempt to keep the newsletter brief but informative and hope you will enjoy reading it. If you do not wish to remain on the mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending it to you. To read my previous newsletters, see the link in the **Contact Information** section of this issue.

Fred Siler

A QUOTE TO NOTE

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history? -

Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

FEATURE ARTICLE

German Immigrants in Philadelphia during the 19th century

Past issues of this newsletter have presented many feature articles about my paternal family, the ancestors of my grandfather Sherman Silar, who settled in York County, Pennsylvania during the first half of the 18th century. In this article I will focus upon my paternal grandmother Florence Elizabeth Pfeffer and her ancestors. Unlike Sherman's German family Florence's family came to America more than 100 years later during the middle and final decades of the 19th century. While Sherman was raised in a predominately rural environment that had become well assimilated into the predominately English-speaking American culture of that time Florence, on the other hand, was raised in conservative German surroundings within the bustling city of Philadelphia. These contrasts regarding the upbringing of my grandparents bring forth several questions that have become the basis of this article. What factors brought this second wave of German immigrants to Philadelphia? What was life like for these city-dwelling German-Americans of the later part of the 19th century, and what lasting legacy did they leave us with?

What factors brought this second wave of German immigrants to Philadelphia?

During the mid-1800s, the part of Europe that is now considered "Germany" consisted of smaller German states controlled by princes. These princedoms were later controlled by empires that allowed little or no political power to remain in the hands of the princely leaders. By 1870s, a united German state was finally created by Otto von Bismarck. During this time the German economy was suffering. Foreign imports (especially cloth from England) flooded the German markets and German industry could not compete. In addition inheritance tradition of dividing farms among families was making farms so small that they were unsuccessful. The population had grown very large and was dependent on the potato to sustain it. In 1840 rural Germany was struck by the potato blight which led to famine. German princes sponsored societies (in the 1830's and 40's) that provided one way tickets to the poor with the idea that in the long run it was cheaper than long-term subsidies. In addition these Aid societies promoted immigration by supporting bettering the conditions of immigrants.

A result of this great influx of immigrants from 1850-1870 was that German became the most widely used language in the United States after English. Among

these millions of German immigrants were my MILDENBERG, KNECHT, and PFEFFER ancestors, all of whom settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Charles L. Mildenberg came from the German state of Hesse around 1858, Frederick Pfeffer also a native of Hesse took passage on the steamship "Olbers" and entered America at the port of New York on June 30, 1870. Catherine Clements emigrated to the United States aboard the steamship "Donau". She traveled in the steerage class along with 479 passengers and arrived in the port of New York on November 25, 1871. The last of these immigrant ancestors were Frederick Knecht, Sr, and his son Frederick, Jr. came to America from Prussia in 1873.

What was life like for these city-dwelling German-Americans of the later part of the 19th century?

Many Germans who came to American during the 19th century, especially those who arrived at the Castle Garden immigration center at New York choose to live in the several large cities on the east coast. Essentially these Germans would cluster together to form communities not unlike the Chinese Chinatowns.

By the mid 1870s Philadelphia was home to about three-quarters of a million people, and its economy was firmly based on dozens of major enterprises in the textile, metal products, machine goods, printing and chemical industries. Over a quarter of the population was foreign-born; 100,000 Irish and 50,000 Germans accounted for more than five-sixths of the city's immigrants, while almost all of the other immigrants were from England or Scotland.



United German-Hungarian Club, at 2nd and Norris St., circa 1910

Philadelphia's physical expansion matched its population growth. In 1858 horse car lines had begun running on iron rails, and soon after the Civil War, developers had started to build large tracts of uniform row-houses east of Broad Street in North and South Philadelphia and across the Schuylkill in West Philadelphia.

In the 1870s, as at mid-century, German immigrants were much more common in the skilled trades than were other new arrivals such as the Irish or Italians. Thus the

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German-American areas of the city would house prominent German businesses such as the lager beer industry. German entrepreneurs such as bakers, butchers, cabinetmakers, cigar makers, distillers, machinists, and tailors also could be found in abundance in these "Miniature-Germany" neighborhoods. German women, however, were less likely than the average American woman to enter the labor force. Very few German women could be found holding jobs in a factory, or as a clerk. Instead, they sought after work as bakers, domestic workers, janitors, laundry workers, nurses, and seamstresses.

Most German immigrants during this time were Protestants, with Lutheranism by far the most prominent denomination; perhaps a third of German immigrants were Catholics, and around 250,000 were Jewish. Within the Lutheran community in the United States there was considerable friction. Nineteenth-century German Lutheran immigrants found that the existing German Lutheran churches in the US had developed into what, to them, were unwelcome tendencies. Most had been Americanized enough so that English was used for all or part of their services. Even worse, church doctrine had been liberalized. The older churches and their offshoots, established by immigrants who had come in the 18th century before the Revolution, had come closer to Reformed and even Anglican churches and in many instances had adopted preaching styles similar to that of the Methodists. These trends were, not surprisingly, more pronounced in the cities than in the country. In New York and Philadelphia, for example, Lutheran bodies had adopted new constitutions in which all reference to the Augsburg Confession had disappeared.

German immigrants assimilated more slowly than other immigrants. This was due to several factors such as their high numbers within the population which in turn created social and economic institutions that catered to their basic requirements. Thus the need for churches, schools, businesses, and stores were all met within the

German immigrant community. Therefore interaction with the native-born community was not as urgent.

The German-American Legacy

The legacy of this German-American society as it was before World War One is evident by the Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein of Philadelphia which is a German-American benevolent society founded in 1873 by a group of local businessmen including biscuit-maker Godfrey Keebler and brewer Christian Schmidt. The stated goals of the group from its inception were to uphold German culture, sociability, and charity through a yearly festival in the tradition of the annual harvest festival at Schwabian Spa in Bad Cannstatt, Germany. Funds raised at this event were donated to needy individuals and institutions such as hospitals and orphanages. With the decline in German immigration to the United States the Cannstatter has become more of a social and cultural organization rather than a mutual aid society. Another indicator

of the German- American community in Philadelphia today is German Society of Pennsylvania, located at 611 Spring Garden Street, is a nonprofit organization devoted to furthering the understanding of German and German-American



Horner Library & Reading Room at the German Society of PA

contributions to the growth of American history and culture. German focused events include the Phillies' German Heritage Celebration/ Oktoberfest at Citizens Bank Park held in October; the 40th Annual German - American Steuben Parade to be held on Saturday,



September 25, 2010; and German- American day in June at the grounds of the German-Hungarian Club in Oakton, Pennsylvania.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Some "Good News" submitted by our Readers

From time to time readers of our newsletter send us items that you may find interesting and informative. In an effort to not let "good ideas" go to waste we would like to share them with you.

(1) My Parents Were Awesome, a website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mt78ch>, submitted by Margaret Kerr Beckwith at margbeckwith@verizon.net.

If you have any research tips, recipes, photographs, web links, news articles, maps, etc. that you would like to share with our readers please feel free to send them to me at silrem@comcast.net.

Best FREE Web-sites for British Isles Researchers

Overwhelmed by the number of family history-related Web sites popping up? The folks at FamilyTreeMagazine <<http://tinyurl.com/re5ryu>> have taken the time to sort through them to bring us the best. As a result they have recently identified the following worthwhile websites:

Access to Archives –

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>

The latest update to this catalog of English records in 416 repositories brings its reach to 10.2 million records, dating from the eighth century to today.

FreeBMD - <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

This free volunteer site offers birth, marriage and death records—more than 186 million in all—from 1837 to 1933. Sibling sites are similarly generous with

Free REGisters - <http://www.freereg.org.uk/>

This web-site provides free Internet searches of 4.2 million baptism, marriage, and burial records, that have been transcribed from parish and non-conformist registers of the U.K.

UK Census Online - <http://www.freecen.org.uk/>

This site provides a "free-to-view" online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns.

GENUKI - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>

Think of this classic site as the RootsWeb for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. You get how-to help, a nifty mapping gazetteer, databases and more. GENUKI is a must-bookmark for genealogy in the UK and Ireland.

Ireland's History in Maps -

<http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm>

A history lesson through cartography, this collection of nearly 300,000 words in 80 documents spans BC to the 1840s.

National Archives of Ireland -

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

The archives is digitizing the Irish national censuses of 1901 and 1911, beginning with the 1911 Dublin city and county enumerations. The whole project, totaling about 9 million entries, aims to be complete by mid-2009.

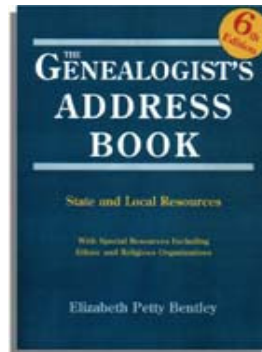
Ordnance Survey: Get-a-Map -

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap/>

Pinpoint your UK ancestors on the map with this slick site that combines six separate data products to generate printable color maps.

2009 Books from Genealogical.com

The Genealogist's Address Book, 6th ed., by Elizabeth Petty Bentley, gives you access to all the key sources of genealogical information, providing names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, websites, names of contact persons, and other pertinent information for more than 27,000 genealogical and historical repositories in the U.S.

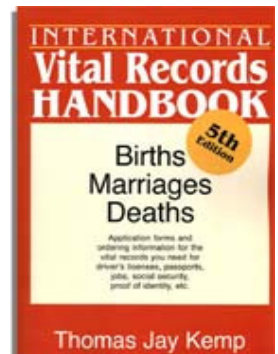


The *County Courthouse Book* is Mrs. Bentley's companion volume to *The Genealogist's Address Book*. Now available in a spanking new 3rd edition, it is a concise guide to county courthouses and their records throughout America. In it you will find up-to-date addresses and phone numbers; information

about the coverage and availability of key records such as probate, land, naturalization, and vital records; and more.

If you are researching Canadian or Irish ancestors, don't overlook the outstanding second volume of *Erin's Sons*, by Terrence Punch.

At one time or another all of us need copies of birth, marriage, or death certificates. The brand new 5th edition of the *International Vital Records Handbook*, by Thomas J. Kemp, has the latest application forms and ordering information for all fifty states, as well as other countries of the world.



For more information about these new publications, go to the following website at www.genealogical.com.

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.



Database Updates



Seven Family Lines Discovered 68 New Records Added

You will now find our family trees at the *Ancestry.com* website. One is named Ancestors of Sherman R. Silar and contains the records of **647** persons. The other tree is Ancestors of Florence E. Pfeffer with **58** records.

An updated version of the database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at *RootsWeb.com*. **68** new records have been added over the past three months. We now have information on **1,843** persons.

Since the databases are 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 either 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 **Database at Roots.web** click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/4hbsrt>. You may also access our family tree by going to: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>, about the coverage and availability of key records such as probate, land, naturalization, and vital records; and more The two **Databases at Ancestry.com** are located at the Home Page <http://www.ancestry.com/> in the "Search" pull-down button under "Public Member Trees".

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

Histories of each county in New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, added to the "Genealogy Reference Library"

Because we usually update this site several times between the publishing of this Newsletter you are reminded and encouraged to periodically review 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>.

Over the past three months **17** new and revised surname pages, and two source documents have been uploaded to the **DKPS Subsite**. The Immigrant Ancestors page has also been updated and some Mildenberg photos have been added to the picture gallery.

31 new or revised web pages have been created and added at to our **Ancestral Locations** sub-site. We've completed our goal of having a webpage dedicated to each of the 50 U.S. states. In addition a page has been created to identify genealogy resources for researching in the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. Additional pictures have been added to the several locations "Image Galleries".

The scope and volume of the various sub-sites created for our **Special Topics** continued to increase since the last issue of this newsletter. If you're currently researching ancestors in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia take a look at our **Genealogy Reference Library** where we've created new pages for each of the aforementioned states. Since the last newsletter we've added well over 100 new books. Most of these books are fully searchable and can be downloaded to your computer. In addition text may be cut & pasted directly to your family tree software or other document. Readers who have an interest in **Historic American Roads And Migration Routes** should take a look at the new updates and revisions at the pages, which address routes in the Western Mountain States and trails to the Pacific Coast. Our **War Veterans** sub-site has basic accounts about each of the eleven most important American war periods in which our ancestors may have participated. The 5th Virginia Cavalry page has been updated. We've also added a full-roster of the 187th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the American Civil War.

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Revisions have also been accomplished upon some **Other** web pages. A section on the topic of "Surname Heraldry" has been added to our Surname Locator & Surname Resources.

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

To access these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/mpygar>>.

SURNAME INDEX: Leyonberger; Longenecker; Muller (1); Muller (2); Nagel; Precht; Reinhard; Ruppert; Schieck; Stober (1); Stober (2); Wambold; Wagner; Zeiter; Ziegler; Zimmerman

SOURCE DOCUMENTS: Reinhard (St. Andrews Galley, 1737 passenger list); Keiffer (Townsend Billender, 1737 passenger list);

FAMILY PHOTOS / IMAGES: Mildenberg **OTHER:** Immigrant Ancestors

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATION" PAGES

To access these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/5rcafv>>.

UNITED STATES: States - Florida; Illinois; Michigan; Minnesota; Mississippi; Montana; Nebraska; Nevada; New Hampshire; North Dakota; Ohio; Oregon; Rhode Island; South Dakota; Territories & Districts USA; Texas; United States; Utah; Vermont; Virginia; Washington; West Virginia; Wisconsin; Wyoming

Counties - Jackson Co., AL; McMinn Co., TN; Middlesex Co., VA; Nelson Co., VA; New Castle Co., DE;

GERMANY: Darmstadt-Dieberg

UNITED KINGDOM: Kent

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATIONS" PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES

To access these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/nczbsj>>.

UNITED STATES: Campbell Co., VA; Charles Co., MD; Frederick Co., MD; Hocking Co., OH; New Castle Co., DE; Philadelphia, PA; York Co., PA

GERMANY: Darmstadt-Dieberg; Hesse

UNITED KINGDOM: Kent

"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PAGES

To access these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>>.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY: General Reference & Location; United Kingdom Reference; United Kingdom Locations; USA Reference; USA Locations; New Jersey; Pennsylvania; Virginia

HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES: California Trail; Routes to the Central Plains States; Routes to the Southwest; The Old Spanish Trail; Trails to the Pacific Coast; Trails to the Western Mountain States

RESEARCHING OUR WAR VETERANS: Researching Our War Veterans; 5th Virginia Cavalry (Civil War); 187th Pennsylvania Infantry Regt. (Civil War);

OTHER: Our Surname Locator & Surname Resources

"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES

To access these pages follow this [link](http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly) <<http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>>.

HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES: Applegate Trail; Boone's Lick Road; Butterfield Overland Trail; California Trail; Central Plains States; Child's Cutoff; De Anza Trail; Goodale's Cutoff; Hudspeth's Cutoff; Kelton Road; Lander Road; Old Spanish Trail; Old Yankton Road; Oregon Trail Alternate Routes in the Western Mountain States; Red River Trails; Sublette-Greenwood Cutoff; The Chisholm Trail; Trails to the Pacific Coast

MILITARY Image Galleries: 2nd Virginia Cavalry (Civil War); 6th Special Naval construction Battalion (WW2); 110th Inf. Regt. (WWI); 187th Pennsylvania Infantry Regt. (Civil War)

OTHER:

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Since the first issue of this newsletter back in the Fall of 2006 its distribution list has grown significantly. 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 RootsWeb. 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 dqpeds@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 Leiberknecht enl113@psu.edu	Leiberknecht
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
Edleen Garrett Rodriguez esgr60@msn.com	Benjamin F. Arnold b. 1858 Chanceford Twp.	Scott Robertson aircaraccess@millenicom.com	Quickel Family of York Co. PA
Verna McDowell vernamae@smnet.net	Pfeffer from Mecklenburg Ger. Hartmann from Saxony, Ger.		

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.

SURNAME SEARCH

STOBER

Featured Databases	Matches	Vital Records (continued)	Matches
WorldConnect	7,238	California Death Index	64
Social Security Death Index	407	Texas Death Index	3
Rootsweb Surname List	12	Kentucky Death Index	33
Vital Records	Matches	Other Searches	Matches
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	18	Web Site Search	527
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	13	Alumni Lists	2
South Dakota Birth Index	2	Book Indexes	3
World War One Draft Index	2	Cemetery Listings	4
Early Death Records	2	BLM/GRO Land Records	2
Pre-1920 Marriages	1	Obituary Daily Times	108
Pre-1920 Births	2		

“Surname Search” features matches of a direct ancestral surname from my database to records that can be found at RootsWeb.com(<http://searches.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>). At the Rootsweb Home Page type this or any other surname and 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 surname follow the links to my website at <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>, and database at <http://tinyurl.com/4hbsrt>.

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/3ynd3b>. Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.



Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!

