



# *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 2011** 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** is about the York County Militia during the American Revolutionary War and my seven grandfathers who served in it.

**News of Interest to the Family Historian** presents items about the National Archives' new website, improvements in performing a basic search at Ancestry.com, and more "Best FREE Web-sites for USA Researchers".

A quarterly accounting of the **DKPS Database** at the *RootsWeb WorldConnect Project* indicates the addition of **nine** 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 a **NEW** special topic of Free Genealogy records as well as other topics such as military units, our genealogy reference book library, and historic American roads.

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

The **SCHAEFFER** 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

*People will never look forward to Posterity who never look backward to their ancestors.* - Edmund Burke

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### The York County Militia During the American Revolution

Many of us can trace our family history back to ancestors who lived in Province of Pennsylvania during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Undeniably the most important American event during that century was the Revolutionary War. As such if you have ancestors who lived in York County during it is most probable that they were in some way involved in this war. The populace was overwhelmingly sympathetic to the cause of Liberty. This was also most true with regard to the German population who clearly understood the need for freedom from uncompromising authority as this was one of the many reasons why they came to America in the first place. In 1778 this support is evident in that there were 4,621 militiamen out of a county population of about 25,000.

At least seven of my grandfathers took up arms during the American Revolution. Five of these men had been born in Germany. All served in one of the several York County Battalions of Associators, of the Pennsylvania Militia. They are George Abel (1744-1785); Jacob Dellinger (1751-1824), Andrew Gilbert (1728-1816), Anthony Keller (c.1744-1817); Frederick Lieberknecht (1732-97) all of Windsor Township who mostly mustered in early in the war with the 3rd Battalion in Capt. Jacob Bieber's 1<sup>st</sup> Company and later in the 1st Battalion, in Capt. Michael Kauffelt's Company. Johannes Arnold (1735-c.1806); George Ilges, a.k.a. Ellis (1745-1801), both of Chanceford Township, mustered with the 6th Battalion in Captain Thomas McNerry's Company.



As early as December, 1774 a company of "minutemen" was formed in the town of York, the object of which was to make soldiers who would be well disciplined for battle in case the disaffection then existing toward England should proceed to open hostilities. The officers of this first company were James Smith, Captain; Thomas Hartley, First Lieutenant; David Green, Second Lieutenant; and Henry Miller Ensign. Each of these officers, thus early on, were attached to the cause of liberty. Subsequently they would distinguish themselves in the history of our

country. The first was a signer of the Declaration of Independence; the second was a Colonel in the Revolution, and for eleven years a member of congress; and the third and fourth were each distinguished officers during the War for Independence.

At the outbreak of hostilities between the Crown and the colonies in 1775 the Pennsylvania Assembly opposed any form of mandatory military service. During this period, activist elements among York County's population organized local volunteer "associations". On July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 1775 a meeting of the Committee of Safety and officers of the militia companies of York County was conducted in York. The committee and officers divided the county into five districts or divisions and formed five battalions. The committee and officers then appointed judges and proceeded to vote by ballot for field officers to be commissioned.

The York County Associators were originally volunteers. In 1776 Congress recommended the organization of companies of militia. Thus the association became a compulsory militia, divided into classes, and then drafted by the county Lieutenants. Early in 1776 York County was required to raise four companies for the forming of a regiment with Cumberland County. These companies were enlisted for fifteen months and left the county at the end of March. In 1777 this unit formed the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line. In May 1776, a rifle company was formed and enlisted to serve fifteen months. It marched from York County to Philadelphia where it was attached to Col. Miles Rifle Regiment. In July 1776, five battalions of militia marched from York County to New Jersey. Six weeks later two battalions of the "Flying Camp" were formed from these units. The first



battalion was commanded by Col. Michael Swope, the second by Col. Richard McAllister. Each battalion consisted of eight companies. On August 27<sup>th</sup> Colonel Swope's and Col. McAllister's battalions fought in the Battle of Long Island. On November 16 1776 both

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battalions participated in the Battle of Fort Washington where much of Colonel Swope's battalion was taken prisoner by the British.

In 1777 the York County militia was employed in the summer and autumn of 1777 to oppose the British invasion at Brandywine and on the flanks at the battle of Germantown, though in neither case did they actually see action. During 1777 and 1778 many of the units in which my ancestors served were called out to guard supply depots as well as Hessian prisoners sent to the area after the Battle of Trenton. During the summer months of 1778 York County militia units were brought in to reinforce western frontier areas in Northumberland, Northampton, Bedford and Westmoreland counties.

In 1781, Congress acted to create Camp Security,

one of only a handful of prisoner-of-war camps established during this war. It was built just east of the City of York in Springettsbury Township. Camp Security housed over 1,000 British and Canadian

prisoners of war between the summer of 1781 and the spring of 1783. Many of these men were General Burgoyne's troops, captured at the Battle of Saratoga.



Others were prisoners taken in Virginia and Maryland. Because Camp Security was in close proximity to both Chanceford and Windsor Townships most of the militiamen from these towns were ordered out to guard these prisoners-of-war.

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

### Take a Look at the National Archives' New Website

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the agency that houses federal records including censuses, passenger lists, military service papers and more, launched its redesigned website at <http://archives.gov/>, on Dec. 13th. NARA developed the new site with help from users through surveys, voting, card sorts (*a way of figuring out how users would organize the site*) and usability testing. The newly revised site features the following: a new home page selected by public vote in July; a new interactive map

of NARA's facilities nationwide; historical documents and streamlined access to military service records; topically organized sections focused on the needs of both casual browsers and professional researchers (*the current site divides articles for genealogists, researchers, members of the general public, etc., leading to multiple sections on the same topic*); and easy links to NARA's social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and blogs.

### Ancestry.com Improves Basic Search Flexibility

Ancestry.com, the subscription genealogy website at <http://www.ancestry.com/>, has made changes to its basic search form. Ancestry.com says its users asked for more flexibility in entering place and date information: What if you don't know when and where an ancestor was born, but you do know he lived in a certain place at a certain time?

Now you should be able to enter a place into a "Name a place your ancestor might have lived" field. That will search Ancestry.com records for any life events, such as birth, residence, marriage, military service and death records that match that location. User testing revealed this moved relevant matches up in

search results.

The new form also adds a "Calculate it" button, which will estimate a birth year based on when your ancestor lived in the place you specify. If you do know when your ancestor was born, married, died, served in the military or lived someplace else, you can click an "Add an event" link to add one of these life events and the place and date of that event.

Finally, the links to clear the form and show the Advanced Search form have moved to the bottom of the Basic Search form, next to the Search button. The changes will become available to all users over the next few weeks.

## Best **FREE** Web-sites for U.S. 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:

**Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative** - This new site, located at <http://tinyurl.com/768tq> is a one-stop shop for digitized historical records, abstracts and indexes from the state archives and other repositories throughout Missouri. Use the links under Collections to access the Missouri Soldiers Database, historical photos, maps, birth and death records, naturalizations, coroner's inquest abstracts, a state supreme court case index, newspapers and more. The record you need isn't digitized? Click the link to the Local Records Inventory

Database, which can help you find out where to write for copies of your ancestors' county-level records.

### **National Archives and Records Administration**

This site at <http://archives.gov/> will not only help you get started researching in person at the National Archives' Washington, DC, headquarters and its regional facilities around the country, but it increasingly lets you tap its treasures from home. Access to Archival Databases encompasses more than 85 million historical records, including extracts from WWII Army enlistment papers and 19th-century arrivals of German, Italian, Irish and Russian immigrants. For historical photos and maps and American Indian records, try the Archival Research Catalog.

## Some "Good News" submitted by our Readers

### **Obama is related to WHO??**

And you thought it was strange to hear that Barack Obama was related to Dick Cheney. Well, betcha can't guess who he's related to now!

Yup — the president has family ties to none other than Sarah Palin, according to the genealogists at Ancestry.com, a discovery the family history site made when looking for connections between political foes.

And that's not all — Obama also is apparently related to radio host and relentless critic Rush Limbaugh. Might you want to reconsider some of your recent comments, Mr. Limbaugh, now that you're apparently family?

A genealogist at the Utah-based Ancestry.com, Anastasia Tyler, said Obama and Palin are 10th cousins through a common ancestor named John Smith, a pastor and early settler in 17th-century Massachusetts. Obama is related to Smith through his mother, as is Palin, Tyler said.

"Smith was against the persecution of the Quakers," Tyler said in an interview. "He was a very socially conscious man."

As for Limbaugh, he's also a 10th cousin of the president — one time removed — through a common ancestor named Richmond Terrell, who Tyler said was a large landowner in Virginia, also in the 17th century. "His history is a little more nebulous," Tyler said.

Submitted by Margaret Kerr Beckwith, at: [margbeckwith@verizon.net](mailto:margbeckwith@verizon.net), along with the following words of wisdom, "As a genealogist/family historian, I always find these facts very interesting! As the saying goes: "Be careful what you say because you may be talking about your relatives!"

*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](mailto:silrem@comcast.net).*

**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](mailto:silrem@comcast.net).*



# Database Updates



## New Records Added To the Database at Rootsweb

Our **Pfeffer - Silar Family Line** database at *Ancestry.com* currently contains the records of **2,098** persons. The database can be viewed by all Ancestry subscribers. This tree will change every three months as we edit, remove, or otherwise modify the data therein.

An updated version of our **DKPS** Database was recently uploaded to the, open to all and **FREE**, World Connect site at *RootsWeb.com*. **Nine** new records have been added over the past three months. We now have information on **1,887** persons. Since we update the database quarterly to coincide with the publishing of this newsletter our readers are all reminded to take a look at what is new with our family history research. If you do check out the website you

may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may find some errors in ours that we need to know of.

The **Database at Rootsweb** free for all to use. It is located at: <http://tinyurl.com/4z3ky6>. You may also access our family tree by going to: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>.

The **Database at Ancestry.com** can only be accessed by subscribers. It is located at the Home Page <http://www.ancestry.com/> in the "Search" pull-down button under "Public Member Trees".

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

## What's New at the Website? *Our Ancestors: 380 Years of History in America*

Since we usually update our website 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 Ancestors: 380 Years of History in America**. To access the site's Home Page use the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>.

Over the past three months several revised pages, have been uploaded to the **DKPS Subsite**. These include the DKPS **Home Page** and **Newsletter** pages which have been updated with new information. In the near future revised surname pages at our **DKPS Subsite** will include two new research topics. The first will be "Migrations of An American Family" which includes a narrative and corresponding map of that family's migration in the U.S. The other new topic area contains maps and information about where the surname is distributed in the United States as well as the European country of origin for that family.

At our **Ancestral Locations** sub-site **nine** new or revised web pages have been created and added. Pages for all of our ancestral states have now been completed as well as all U.S. counties. All of the Ancestral

Locations images galleries have been revised and uploaded during the past three months.

The scope and volume of the various sub-sites created for our **Special Topics** continued to increase since the last issue of this newsletter. We have created a **NEW** special topic sub-site that contains hundreds of links to **Free Genealogy Records and Databases**. Here you will find separate web pages for each of fourteen subject areas that include: biographies, birth, cemetery, census, church, court, death, immigration & naturalization, land, marriage, military, newspapers, occupational, and tax records. Most of these free records come from websites such as Family Search, Ancestry.com, Distant Cousin, and various U.S. State archives.

We have continued to upgrade and increase the number of volumes within our **Genealogy Reference Library**. As a result of our growing library of books we've added a separate page for the North Carolina collection. 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.

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Readers who have an interest in Historic American Roads And Migration Routes should take a look at the new and updated image galleries that have recently been uploaded to the website. Major revisions have been accomplished to the page that addresses routes taken by pioneers to settle in the Northeastern U.S. states such as New York and Pennsylvania. We also posted a revised page on the Mohawk Turnpike.

We've revised our Research Tools webpage by creating links to the many forms, worksheets and letter

formats offer for use at the "Family Search" website. We are especially pleased about the complete overhaul of our "Source and Citation Formats" webpage. We believe that it will be beneficial to our readers who truly believe in citing their sources.

As with the database you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise us of some new information that we can include at the site. Either way we 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/mpyqar>>.

**SURNAME INDEX:**

**SOURCE DOCUMENTS:**

**FAMILY PHOTOS / IMAGES: OTHER:**

### **NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATION" PAGES**

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

**UNITED STATES: States** – Arizona; Delaware **Counties** – Henrico Co., VA<sup>NEW</sup>; Kent Co., DE<sup>NEW</sup>; Loudoun Co., VA; Montgomery Co., VA<sup>NEW</sup>; New Castle Co., DE<sup>NEW</sup>; Talbot Co., MD<sup>NEW</sup>; Washington Co., VA<sup>NEW</sup>

**GERMANY:**

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

### **NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATIONS" PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES**

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

**UNITED STATES:** All have been revised

**GERMANY:** All have been revised

**UNITED KINGDOM:** All have been revised

### **"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PAGES**

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

**FREE GENEALOGY RECORDS & DATABASES:** Biography & Obituary; Cemetery; Census; Church; Court; Death; Immigration & Naturalization; Land; Marriage; Military; Newspaper; Occupational; Tax

**GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY:** General Reference Collection; United Kingdom Reference;

United Kingdom Locations; France Reference; Germany Reference; USA Reference; USA Locations; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Jersey; New York; Pennsylvania; North Carolina<sup>NEW</sup>; South Carolina; Virginia

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES:** Northeastern Migration Routes; Mohawk Turnpike

**RESEARCHING OUR WAR VETERANS:**

**OTHER:** Research Tools; Source and Citation Formats<sup>NEW</sup>; Immigrant Ancestors Research

### **"SPECIAL TOPICS" NEW & REVISED PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES**

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

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES:**

**MILITARY Image Galleries:**

**OTHER Image Galleries:**

## 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 <a href="mailto:dqpeds@centurylink.net">dqpeds@centurylink.net</a>	John Keller d.1802 in Lower Windsor Twp., York Co., PA	Melissa Fitzkee <a href="mailto:Mzfitz40@aol.com">Mzfitz40@aol.com</a>	Ilges
Marie Shaffer <a href="mailto:marieshaffer@verizon.net">marieshaffer@verizon.net</a>	Shaffer, Shaver	Jim Gilbert <a href="mailto:jmgil@ptd.net">jmgil@ptd.net</a>	Gilbert, (DNA Project)
Guy B. Frick <a href="mailto:gfrick@kns.com">gfrick@kns.com</a>	Pfeffer, Knauf	Erika Leiberknecht <a href="mailto:enl113@psu.edu">enl113@psu.edu</a>	Leiberknecht Surname
Roger Dellinger <a href="mailto:radellinger@argothor.net">radellinger@argothor.net</a>	Dellinger	Patricia Baron <a href="mailto:p2e7b5@texasbb.com">p2e7b5@texasbb.com</a>	Knecht Surname
Monica Lacy <a href="mailto:ironduck2000@yahoo.com">ironduck2000@yahoo.com</a>	Margaretha Bard. b. 1824, Hesse Darm, Prussia, m. Augustin Meyer	Sivia Neublum <a href="mailto:sneublum@uol.com.br">sneublum@uol.com.br</a>	Looking for Mildenberg in Germany
Edleen Garrett Rodriguez <a href="mailto:esqr60@msn.com">esqr60@msn.com</a>	Benjamin F. Arnold b. 1858 Chanceford Twp.	Scott Robertson <a href="mailto:aircaraccess@millenicom.com">aircaraccess@millenicom.com</a>	Quickel Family of York Co. PA
Verna McDowell <a href="mailto:vernamae@smnet.net">vernamae@smnet.net</a>	Pfeffer from Mecklenburg Ger. Hartmann from Saxony	Wendy Howard <a href="mailto:wendynai@att.net">wendynai@att.net</a>	Hauer Ancestors of George Howard (1836-1908)
George Howard <a href="mailto:g-howard@charter.net">g-howard@charter.net</a>	Need direct male ancestors George Howard (1836-1908) for DNA project	Dave Barnett <a href="mailto:dtb1322@yahoo.com">dtb1322@yahoo.com</a>	Parents of Sarah Abel, Philadelphia c. 1820-50 (possible John – Mary)

*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

“Surname Search” features matches of a direct ancestral surname from our database to records that can be found at RootsWeb.com that may be useful and hopefully rekindle your own research into this family as well as other topics at RootsWeb. To see what information we have uncovered on this family surname follow the links to our Website at <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>. and Database at <http://tinyurl.com/4z3ky6>.

Search RootsWeb.com

	<b>Schaeffer</b>	Search
First Name	Last Name	By Keyword

To access the databases listed below  
Follow this address:

<http://searches.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>.

At the Rootsweb Home Page type this or any other surname into the “Last Name” box and click “Search”.

## SCHAEFFER

FEATURED DATABASES	MATCHES	OTHER SEARCHES	MATCHES
WorldConnect	43,819	Web Site Search	7,599
Social Security Death Index	6,871	Swedish Records	1
Rootsweb Surname List	96	Australia and New Zealand Records	13
VITAL RECORDS	MATCHES	Alumni Lists	16
California Death Index	567	Book Indexes	33
Texas Death Index	88	Church Records	7
Kentucky Death Index	78	BLM/GRO Land Records	9
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	31	Naturalization Records	3
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	37	Obituaries	19
Maine Death Index	3	Plat Records	1
South Dakota Birth Index	20	Military Records	4
World War One Draft Index	23	Newspaper Indexes	8
Early Death Records	20	Tax and Voter Lists	2
Pre-1920 Marriages	23	Utah State Archives	2
Pre-1920 Births	6	Professional, Society, Religious Groups	1

“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](http://tinyurl.com/3vnd3b) at <http://tinyurl.com/3vnd3b>. Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to [silrem@comcast.net](mailto:silrem@comcast.net).



Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!

