

Summer 2007

Issue: 04



Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar; and allied families

A Family History Newsletter



Genealogy is Hereditary



**FEATURE ARTICLE NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN
NEWS ON OUR "FAMILY TREE" WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEBSITE??
SURNAME SEARCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

WELCOME

Hello everyone;

Welcome to the SUMMER 2007 issue of this family newsletter. I've included you on my mailing list because you are either close family, a gen-cousin or genealogist who shares a common interest of searching for information on the surnames associated with my paternal family line.

In this issue the feature article is entitled "Our French Huguenot Ancestors". This piece of writing focuses upon the CHATEAU (Schatto) family and the circumstances that caused them to flee France and eventually come to America.

New to this issue is information regarding the York County Heritage Trust. I plan to present news from their web site in future newsletter in an effort to keep us all updated on any new information that may assist us with our future research into this locality.

The KNECHT 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 information relative to what has been updated on my paternal family database online at Rootsweb's WorldConnect Project, and recent happenings with regard to the website at RootsWeb's Freepages. A quarterly accounting of the database at Rootsweb shows that seven new direct ancestral family lines were uncovered. In addition new records on 15 individuals have been added.

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 my mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending to you. To read my previous newsletters, visit this link [Newsletter Archives](#).

A QUOTE TO NOTE

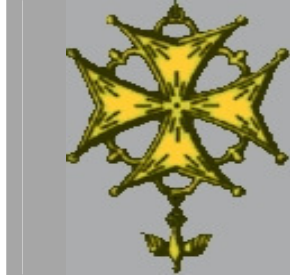
"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These are but trifles, to be sure; but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable." – Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

FEATURE ARTICLE

French Huguenot Ancestor's Search for a Better Life

Introduction

My Chateau (Schatto) family ancestors were Frenchmen who during the 16th and 17 centuries lived in the locality of Provence in southern France where they became Protestants during the Reformation in Europe. French Protestants were generally referred to as Huguenots, which during that time was the name, applied to a member of the [Protestant Reformed Church](#) of France, historically known as the French [Calvinists](#). As such this makes them rather unique among the other ancestors in my paternal family line, most of who are strictly Protestants from Germany.



The [Huguenot cross](#) is the distinctive emblem of the Huguenots. It is now an official symbol of the French Protestant church and Huguenot descendants are proud to display this piece of jewelery as a sign of recognition between them.

The direct descendants of this ancestral line are my 8th great-grandfather Nicholas Schatto (Nicol Chateau) born during the second half of the 17th century, and his daughter, my 7th great-grandmother, Anna Maria Barbara Chateau (Schatto). As previously noted, Nicholas was a French Huguenot, who because of his religious beliefs eventually fled, with his family, from Catholic controlled France to the Rhineland-Pflaz area of Germany where Protestantism was accepted. It was in Germany that he and his family took up the German spelling Schatto, of their French surname Chateau. Nicol's son Nicholas ultimately emigrated to America in 1739 and his daughter the aforementioned Anna Maria Barbara followed in 1740.

The following narrative illustrates the precarious life of French Huguenots such as the Chateau family, the circumstances that led them to Germany and their ambitious journey to America. In order to appreciate this one must understand some of the factors that influenced religious beliefs in both France and Germany during those tumultuous times.

Persecution of Huguenots in France

The Protestant Reformation, begun by Martin Luther in the early 16th century in Germany, soon found its way to France. Fueled by the protests of Luther against the abuses of the Catholic Church, Protestantism grew rapidly in a country stringently ruled by a Catholic king and government. In spite of intense persecutions Huguenot congregations were set up all over France starting in 1555. Very soon, there were more than a thousand congregations with more than two million converts. The largest number of churches being in southern France where the Chateau (Schatto) family lived.

In 1572 came the St. Bartholomew Day Massacre where more than 20,000 Huguenots were killed. Persecutions continued and were systematically carried out by Catholics while whole cities transferred to Protestant control. In the south of France a kind of Protestant Republic was even declared. It was opposed to royal power, possessing an army and with its own legislature and government. The town of Anduze, in Provence, became the center of Protestant resistance under the leadership of the Duc de Rohan.

The Protestants that remained with their faith were forced into secret worship ceremonies and endured constant alertness to avoid discovery. They disguised their pulpits as wine barrels or made them collapsible for easy concealment. They made miniature bibles that could be easily concealed

including in the buns of women's hair and their ministers had to hide in caves and secret compartments.

An Eyewitness Account of the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre by **François Dubois** (1790 - 1871). The painting hangs at the Musée Cantonal Des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne Switzerland



"The Clandestine Baptism," by Jeanne Lombard
Musée du désert,
Anduze, France

King Louis XIV revoked the Edicts of Nantes in 1685 and then took efforts at the forced conversion of any remaining members of the Protestant sects. Ministers of the faith were given two weeks to leave France while their congregation was denied the right to exit. Protestant reaction to this event was swift. Since the Huguenots controlled entire industries and because their wealth and industry was important to the economy, it was very important to keep these people in France. Soldiers were stationed at the borders of France to prevent their emigration. They were then pushed back to their villages and forced to convert to Catholicism. Never the less, an estimated 300,000 people, like the Chateau (Schatto) family were able to get out of the country and took their money, skills and industry to the other countries which profited from these new immigrants.

Escape to Germany

Prior to 1560, the area in the current German state of Rhenland-Pflaz was entirely Roman Catholic, but with the transfer of rulership to Elector Friedrich III, it became "Calvinist". Due to these strong Protestant beliefs, the Palatinate became desirable to the French Huguenots living in France. Because the French Catholic Church had persecuted the Huguenots for over 100 years they saw this area as a haven for religious freedom.

It is believed that the Chateau family settled in or near the town of Meinsenheim prior to 1720 and took up the name Schatto. Upon arrival in Germany what they found, however, was that although they gained religious freedom, they had lost civil rights and were at the employ and, at times, the whim of the Prince of the Electorate. They were heavily taxed, could not become landowners, and could be pressed into military service by the Electorate. As such they had to pay a significant price for their newfound freedom. It was during this time, in 1730, that Anna Maria Chateau married Anthony Keller of Lettweiler. As their daily lives do not indicate improvement they eventually made a decision to go to America to find a better life. To finance their trip they

most likely borrowed what money they could, sold much of what they possessed, and only packed what would be deemed as essential to their survival for next six months or more.

Emigration to America

The highway out of Germany in those times was the Rhine River. Anna Maria and Anthony Keller spent at least four weeks on their journey, in a wooden raft floating down this river to Rotterdam in Holland. Along the way they were subjected to various departure taxes and to frequent tolls. This severely depleted the meager funds generated from the resources they had planned to live on during the trip. Upon arrival in Rotterdam they encamped for a time, while awaiting a ship that would take them on their long journey to the "New World." Their stay at this port may have been as long as six weeks. Eventually they boarded a ship named the "Loyal Judith" where the family was allotted a small space to live in the ship's hold. Soon after the ship left Rotterdam for England, a journey of almost two weeks. In England the ship would wait at least a week for the ship to make ready for the Atlantic Crossing. Following a three-month ordeal on the high seas hampered by the storms and cursed by the high mortality and sickness among the passengers, under adverse sanitary and eating conditions, the Keller family eventually docked at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 25 November 1740. Thankfully their search for a better life had been fulfilled. For this we, as their descendents, can be more appreciative of the ordeals they encountered along they way.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

York County Heritage Trust

As you all are well aware York county, Pennsylvania is the epicenter for research into our common family history. One important resource in that endeavor is the York County Heritage Trust. The York County Heritage Trust is a not-for-profit educational institution that preserves and uses its collections, historic sites and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of York County, Pennsylvania.

The Trust's web site is designed to be an introduction into the rich and diverse heritage of York County and can be located at <http://www.yorkheritage.org/>.

THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Historical Society of York County was founded in 1895 and became part of the York County Heritage Trust in 1999. The Heritage Trust's Library/Archives houses an extensive and varied collection covering a wide range of topics including genealogy and family history, local history, the decorative arts and military history.

Johnson Imaging Systems, Inc recently completed a large archiving project for York County Heritage Trust. The York County Heritage Trust received a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that funded the photographing of almost 2,000 original architectural drawings dating from the 1880's to the 1930's. The total project cost was \$28,564, with \$10,975 coming from PHMC and \$17,589 in matching funds coming from the Trust.

Family Photograph Finds A Home

I recently received an email from a woman named Michelle Petrilla concerning a wedding photograph of Allen and Helen Heim. Even though she is not any kin to either person it was her desire to reunite the photograph with the family of either [Allen Heim](#) or Helen Reinaman. She located me through my database at Rootsweb where I have posted a record of Allen Heim. Allen is a son of [Clara E. Silar](#), and my first cousin (twice removed). Records show that the couple was married on October 26, 1947 at Episcopal Trinity Church in Towson, Maryland.

According to Michelle the photo was in the possession of her grandmother, Mary Thomas Forry. When Ms. Forry passed away in December 2006, Michelle's step-Grandfather brought a bag of pictures with him from Florida to his wife's funeral. In the bag was the aforementioned photograph. Luckily her Grandmother wrote names on the back of every photo. On the reverse of this photo she wrote "Helen & Allen Heim (Wedding)".

Michelle related to me that many times she has attempted to reunite photos with the individual's family and has had very little success. This time she found the right person and place, as this piece of the Silar family story will have a home in our "[Image Gallery Archive](#)".



Research Tips

In this section we will pass along some tips and tricks that may assist you in breaking down those "brick walls" that all of us encounter during our research. We intend to present a new idea or two in each subsequent newsletter so please feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions for tips & time saving tricks to add to include in future columns.

Use Tax Records

Death and taxes may be the only two certainties in life, but it seems that even genealogists try to avoid them. Where they survive (usually found in municipal archives or court houses), tax records can be a fantastic resource, because unlike censuses, they are generally created every year. This means that you can track your ancestor year by year and mark his progress, or lack thereof. All sorts of information can be included in tax records, but generally you will find your ancestor's address or place of residence, the amount of land he owned or rented, and its value. You may also find his age, the rough ages of the other members of his household (in age ranges, such as "females, over age 45"), his occupation, his religion, the amount of livestock he owned (and its value) and the numbers of dogs, carriages, windows (or whatever else was being taxed at the time!) he had.

Submitted by Tom Peiffe

Keep Track of Your Objective

Random research may be fun, but eventually you'll look back on your pile of research notes and wonder where you've gotten and how you got there, and whether you'll have to do it all over again to figure it out. So try to focus from the start and keep careful records of your objectives for each research session, and for each record you searched. This way you'll make more noticeable progress and when you review your work, you'll be able to tell what you searched for and why, and what you might have missed. This will help you determine whether or not you need to re-examine the same records once new information comes to light or whether you can safely say you've covered that base and move on. *Submitted by Tom Peiffer*



A "FAMILY TREE" TREE GROWS AT ROOTSWEB



BLAU, CAMMERER, HEIDECKER; MULLER; PRECHT; REINHARDT, And RUPPERT Surnames Added.

An updated version of my paternal lineage database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **15** new names have been added during the past three months. It now has information on **1,337** persons, which include, not only ancestral grandparents, but also aunts, uncles, and cousins. Since the database is updated quarterly to coincide with the publishing of this newsletter you are all reminded to take a look at what is new with our family history research. If you do check the database site you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may find some errors in ours that I need to know of.

To access the database just click on the following link: [My Paternal Ancestors: Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar and allied families](#). 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

New Images of SILAR headstones from Riverview Cemetery Surname Locator Page Revised

If you are looking for any surname that may be in our online databases click on the link from the website's home page to our newly revised Surname Locator web page. Here you can access an index to the surnames of the almost 5,000 individual records we have placed online. In addition this page now contains links to the five major surname research links at RootsWeb.

The York County a web page has been updated and new photographs have been added to it's archives. The discovery of new family information regarding my Katterman and Haug ancestors has lead to research on the German village of Michelfeld. As such a new webpage about Angelbachtal, Baden-Wurttemberg has been created and added to the Ancestral Locations.

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 site, Our Maternal & Paternal Ancestors 350 Years of History in America: An Archive of Genealogical Information. 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 SURNAME PAGES:

[Chateau \(Schatto\)](#); [Katterman](#); [Kuffer \(Keuffer\)](#);

NEW SOURCE DOCUMENTS:**NEW FAMILY IMAGES:**

[Allen & Helen Heim Wedding photo](#);
[Home of George W. Silar, Sr.](#);
[Silar Family Gravestones at the Riverview Cemetery, East Prospect, PA](#)

NEW & REVISED ANCESTRAL LOCATION PAGES:**USA STATES & COUNTIES:**

[Delaware](#); [Campbell Co., VA](#); [Charles Co., MD](#); [Fluvanna Co., VA](#); [Ross Co., OH](#); [York Co., PA](#)

WORLD STATES & LOCALITIES:

[Angelbachtal, GER](#); [England, UK](#); [Lancashire, UK](#); [Chipping, UK](#);

PHOTO AND IMAGE ARCHIVES developed or updated for the following localities:

[Augusta Co., VA](#); [Ross Co., OH](#); [Angelbachtal, GER](#); [Chipping, ENG.](#);
[Susquehanna River at York Co., PA](#);

SURNAME SEARCH**KNECHT**

Featured Databases	Matches	Other Searches	Matches
WorldConnect	10,733	Alumni Lists	7
Social Security Death Index	1,986	Book Indexes	14
Rootsweb Surname List	34	Cemetery Listings	13
		Census Records	1
Vital Records	Matches	BLM/GRO Land Records	19
California Death Index	218	Naturalization Records	3
Texas Death Index	22	Obituaries	7
Kentucky Death Index	64	POW/MIA Records	1
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	22	Military Records	3
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	17	Newspaper Indexes	6
Maine Death Index	2	Obituary Daily Times	368
South Dakota Birth Index	1		
Early Death Records	3		
Pre-1920 Marriages	9		
Pre-1920 Births	1		

“Surname Search” features matches, found at RootsWeb.com, of a surname from my database. 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](#), and [database](#).

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 at: [DKPS Newsletter TOC](#) . Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.

Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!