



Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar; and allied families



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary

Genealogy is Hereditary

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What's New At The Website??	Research Connections	Surname Search	Contact Information

WELCOME

Hello Everyone;

Welcome to the SPRING 2008 issue of this family newsletter. You have been included on the mailing list because you are either family, a gen-cousin or genealogist who shares a common interest of searching for information on the Dellinger, Knecht, Pfeffer, Silar or allied family surnames.

Just when we think that we've included all of the topics appropriate for inclusion at our website we seem to come up with even more innovative ideas. For example, during the past months we've initiated a library of books we think are suitable for family history research. Another theme that has recently caught our interest is that of the American migration routes taken by our ancestors during the expansions of the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. Read more about these two initiatives at "What's New at the Website."

The feature article of this issue is about the origins of German names. The general use of surnames began in the medieval societies of central Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries. The article illustrates how the Dellinger, Knecht, Pfeffer, Seiler surnames exemplify several identified naming patterns used during this time.

In addition to some general topics of interest for the family historian, the ABEL 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 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 3 new direct ancestral family lines have been uncovered as well as the addition of 11 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 us know and we will stop sending to you. To read our previous newsletters, See the link in the Contact Information of this issue.

Fred Siler

A QUOTE TO NOTE

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." --- Benjamin Franklin

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Origins of German Names

Many German names have their roots in the Germanic middle ages. The process of forming family names began around the year 1100 and extended through 1600. All social classes and demographic strata aided in the development of names. First Names (*Rufnamen*) identified specific persons. Over time the first name began to be applied to the bearer's whole family. At first through verbal usage, family names (*Familiennamen*) were later fixed through writing. Until the 17th century, first names played a more important role.

The earliest family names derived from the first name of the first bearer (*Patronym*). Later names derived from the place of dwelling and location of the homestead. If a person of family migrated from one place to another they were identified by the place they came from. The Dellinger surname is an excellent example of this type of surname. Of more recent origin are names derived from the vocation of profession of the first bearer, such as my Knecht and Seiler surnames as described later within this article. These names comprise the largest group and the most easily recognizable, for they tell what the first bearer did for a living. Another group comprises names derived from a physical or other characteristic of the first bearer. My Pfeffer surname is an illustration of this as it is nickname for a small man. Finally, there are names which tell you the state or region a first bearer and his family came from; the age old division in tribes and regions (low German, middle German and upper German) is often reflected in names.

There are currently forty-six (46) direct ancestral surnames listed within my Paternal Family database. All but one, Hayes, appears to be German in origin. Although it is not feasible to address the source of every of them within this article you may review the information I've collected on each at the

webpage dedicated to each of the aforementioned direct ancestral surnames.

Dellinger is a variation of the German* habitational name Dillinger for someone from Dillingen near Augsburg or Tülingen in Baden. First found in Baden, where the name was anciently associated with the tribal conflicts of the area.

Knecht is a German and Swiss German occupational name for a journeyman, from Middle High German *kneht*, Middle Low German *knecht* 'knight's assistant', 'lad', 'servant', 'hired hand', 'apprentice', or 'helper'. First found in Austria where they were anciently seated. The family name emerged in the region lending their influence to the development from early tribal conflicts to a nation that would eventually become an integral part of the Habsburg Empire.

The Pfeffer surname originates from the Middle High German word *pfeffer*. Pfeffer the German word for 'pepper', is a metonymic occupational name for a spicer. Alternatively, it may also be a nickname for a small man (as if the size of a peppercorn) or one with a fiery temper, or for a dark-haired person (from the color of a peppercorn) or anecdotal for someone who paid a peppercorn rent. First found in Austria, where the name could be considered to make a great early contribution to the feudal society that became the backbone of early development of Europe.

Silar/Siler is an Americanized spelling of Seiler a German occupational name for either a rope or harness maker. The origins of this surname comes from an agent derivative of the Middle High German words *seil* for 'rope', or *sil* 'harness for draught animals'. First found in Bale in Switzerland, where the name came from humble beginnings but gained a significant reputation for its contribution to the emerging medieval society.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Worthwhile 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:

FamilyLink at familylink.com. This free social networking site lets you get in touch with other researchers who share your genealogical interests.
German Originality at germanoriginality.com/

This German-American heritage site, (from the German National Tourist Office and the German Information Center USA), has information on different regions of Germany, interactive maps, tourism information and more.

MortalitySchedules at www.mortalityschedules.com
A free site where you can search transcribed US census mortality schedules for hundreds of counties from 1850 through 1880.

Request A Search For Your Ancestors At The Family History Library

“ANCESTOR SEEKERS” researchers at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will search this vast collection for your ancestors from the USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Poland, Russia, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Italy. If you commission the work (there's no obligation to do that!) prices start

from \$55 (US).

For a FREE! Initial e-mail consultation visit: <http://www.ancestorseekers.com/research/rwr/>

For help in finding ancestors from England or Scotland request a FREE e-mail assessment from <http://www.britishancestors.com/>

Are You Spending Too Much for Online Subscriptions?

A surprisingly large amount of information on subscription database sites is available free on other sites. For example, Ancestry.com charges you for WWII enlistments, 1938-1946, but they're free in the National Archives' Access to Archival Databases at: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=3360>.

But no-cost versions of databases can be tricky to find. Since I like you guys so much, I'm going to let you

in on a good thing and that is the [Alternative Access chart](#) from the November 2007 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. This chart features links to free sources of 20-plus databases from paid sites (such as Ancestry.com). After you look at the See the chart, I suggest that you then visit the [Family Tree Magazine Products Forum](#) to share information about any subscription databases that you have found free elsewhere online (and where you've found them).

Ever Had the “Genealogy Pox”?

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates, and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouses and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters and emails. Swears at mailman if he leaves no mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night phone calls. Hides phone bill from spouse.

Mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is---the sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

Contributed by Debbie Johnson, angellady862@hotmail.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.



A "FAMILY TREE" TREE GROWS AT ROOTSWEB



Eleven New Records Added to the *Dellinger; Knecht; Pfeffer; Silar* Database

An updated version of my paternal lineage database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **11** new records have been added during the past three months. It now has information on **1,426** persons. 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 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. If so please contact me as soon as possible.

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

<http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=fgsiler&I11.x=20&I11.y=3>

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 *fgsiler* 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 Web Pages about American Migration Routes Our Genealogy Reference Book Library is Now Open Three New Surname Pages Added

Tracing your own family's paths of migration can prove crucial in identifying previous generations and eventually, figuring out where and how they arrived in the New World as well as where they eventually settled. Knowing the network of trails American pioneers traveled can help you guess where to start looking. The trail descriptions on our new [American Migration Routes, Trails, and Roads](#) webpage will assist you in understanding the routes your ancestors may have taken to find new homes and opportunities in the vast area now encompassed by the United States.

As a follow-up to the article, in our previous newsletter, about free books at Google we have created a [Genealogy Reference Library](#). This web page is dedicated to the compilation of books that have shown to be of value in the furtherance of research into the families names identified within the three sub-sites of this website. The collection is primarily derived from [Google Book Search](#) a **FREE** access website and [Ancestry.com](#), a subscription site.

You are invited to take a look at **3** new surname pages found on the DKPS Home Page at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tqpeiffer/>

Recent research has uncovered the following new ancestors: (1) Martin GAMER born c. 1661 in the village of Staffort, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, and his daughter Anna Margaretha Gamer; (2) Martin NAGLE born around 1634, who lived in the village of Blankenloch located in the Karlsruhe district in Baden-Wurttemberg; and (3) Johann Michael PFISTER born 1600 in Iggingen, Germany a town located on the [Neckar River](#) in Baden-Wurttemberg.

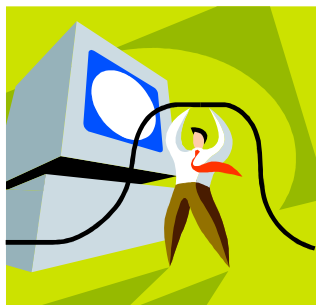
Over the past three months many web pages and images have been revised or created and added to [Ancestral Locations](#). In addition, new image galleries have been constructed for Heilbronn District of Baden-Wurttemberg, and the Sudwestpflaz District of the Rheinland-Pflaz.

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see page 4

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](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tqpeiffer/index.htm), at the following link:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tqpeiffer/index.htm>



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.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

We are currently experiencing various technical difficulties with the links to several of our web pages. If you would like a copy of any page listed below Fred will send one out to you, see contact information at the end of this newsletter.

It is hoped that you will find new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise me 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 my online website.

NEW AND REVISED "DKPS" SURNAME PAGES:

[Dellinger](#); [Gamer](#); [Nagel](#); [Pfister](#); [Schaffer](#)

NEW "DKPS" SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

William & Sarah 1727 Passenger List (Bard)

NEW "DKPS" FAMILY PHOTOS AND IMAGES:

No News is NOT good news! Please consider researching your files for any photos or images that are appropriate for the "Image Galleries"

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATION" PAGES:

U.S.A.:

[Arizona](#); [Indiana](#); [North Carolina](#);
[Fluvanna Co., VA](#); [Guernsey Co., OH](#); [Guilford Co., NC](#); [Harrison Co., OH](#); [Pittsylvania Co., VA](#);
[Ross Co., OH](#); [Sedgwick Co., KS](#); [Tulare Co., CA](#); [Tuscarawas Co., OH](#)

GERMANY:

[Heilbronn District](#); [Rhineland-Palatinate](#); [Sudwestflaz District](#)

UNITED KINGDOM:

[Scotland](#); [United Kingdom](#); [Kent Co., England](#)

NEW & REVISED “ANCESTRAL LOCATIONS” PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES:

U.S.A

Guernsey Co., OH; [Guilford Co., NC](#); Harrison Co., OH; [Pittsylvania Co., VA](#);
[Ross Co., OH](#); [Sedgwick Co., KS](#); [Tulare Co., CA](#); Tuscarawas Co., OH

GERMANY

[Heilbronn District](#); [Sudwestpflaz District](#)

“SPECIAL TOPICS” NEW & REVISED PAGES:

[American Migration Routes](#); [Reference Library](#); [10th VA Regiment \(Continental Line\)](#)

“SPECIAL TOPICS” NEW & REVISED PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES:

[American Migration Routes](#); [10th VA Regiment \(Continental Line\)](#)

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](#) located 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 dqpeds@hughes.net	John Keller (d.1802)	Melissa Fitzkee Mzfitz40@aol.com	Ilges
Marie Shaffer marieshaffer@verizon.net	Shaffer, Shaver	Jim Gilbert jimgil@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
Douglass Hocker douglass_hocker@yahoo.com	Benner, Hocker		

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

ABEL

Featured Databases	Matches	Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	91
WorldConnect	37,403	Maine Death Index	6
Social Security Death Index	6,845	South Dakota Birth Index	4
Vital Records	Matches	World War One Draft Index	2,133
California Death Index	743	Other Searches	Matches
Texas Death Index	305	Web Site Search	68,441
Kentucky Death Index	211	Obituary Daily Times	2,298
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	76		

“Surname Search” features matches, found at RootsWeb.com, of a direct ancestral 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 at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~tqpeiffer/index.htm>, and database at <http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=fgsiler&I11.x=20&I11.y=3>.



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. This current newsletter as well as back issues are posted at:

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/NEWSLETTER%20Archive%20DKPS%20\(ToC\).htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/NEWSLETTER%20Archive%20DKPS%20(ToC).htm).

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

My ancestors did WHAT?