

PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE NIEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE ASSOCIATION

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Origins of the Pennsylvania Pannebeckers

The following is the sixth in a series of articles based on the writings of Edward Upton and edited by Bruce Pennypacker. Recent discoveries may call into question some of the assumptions made in the articles.

Evidence Linking Hendrick to Flomborn

Already mentioned were the mixture of German and Dutch elements in Hendrick's writing and speech, and in the way he wrote his name. SWP took this as a sign of Hendrick's connection with the family that had moved from Holland to Flomborn about 25 years before Hendrick was born. That seems to make good sense and fit the case pretty well, but not too much weight should be given as specifically indicating Flomborn. There are too many other ways that it could have come about.

More impressive is another argument advanced by SWP, namely that most of the early German immigrants to Pennsylvania (i.e. before 1700) had come from the neighborhood of either Krefeld or Kriegsheim, and that Hendrick is likely to have come from one of those areas. There was no Pannebecker family at Krefeld; at least none in the 1870's when SWP checked that out himself. But he found a whole nest of them living at Flomborn, just 5 ½ miles NW of Kriegsheim. And he found that all those Pfannebeckers of Flomborn traced their ancestry back to Johannes Pfannebecker who had sons born at Flomborn in the 1670's, and to a legendary previous ancestor who had come from Holland about the end of the Thirty Years War (1648). All this struck SWP as just what he was looking for. It still looks mighty good today.

These early immigrants from Kriegsheim were discussed at length by SWP in his scholarly treatise, The Settlement of Germantown (1899). They were three families: Kassel, Hendricks and Schumacher. They were all originally Dutch families who had emigrated from Holland to Kriegsheim about the end of the Thirty Years War. They were related to each other by marriage, and it is a fair guess that some of them were also related to the Pfannebeckers whose history was so similar, and who lived so near at Flomborn. Before coming to Pennsylvania in the 1680's they had all been converted from Mennonite to Quaker by the preaching of several English missionaries and finally by William Penn himself, who came to Kriegsheim in 1677.

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It seems reasonably plausible that Hendrick Pannebecker of Flomborn was a nephew of one of those families, and that he either came with them as a boy of 11 or 12 or else he came later on his own to join them at Germantown. That is all guesswork, but at least it offers some explanation of why this young man left his family and sailed with no other close relatives to America. There were few if any young Germans who came all alone before 1700. It was almost always with families.

These speculations are getting ahead of the evidence, so let's back up. The clue here is that there were other families of Dutch origin besides the Pfannebeckers living very close to Flomborn, and three of those families came to Pennsylvania in the 1680's. When SWP looked at where other German families had come from in the same period he found no Pannebeckers in the neighborhood. That is the clue, and it looks like a pretty good one. Not conclusive of course, but very strongly suggestive.

SWP had one more clue pointing to Flomborn, and he seems to have considered it the strongest clue of all. In 1721 there was living in Neustadt, a city about 25 miles south of Flomborn, one Agnes Hoster, wife of Peter Hochter. Agnes had never been in America, but she had come into possession of some Pennsylvania land through her deceased brother William Hoster of Germantown. Agnes did not want land in Pennsylvania, so she arranged for Hendrick Pannebecker to sell it for her under power of attorney, which he did on 3 Jan 1721.

How did it happen that Agnes, who had never been out of Germany, entrusted this sale to Hendrick Pannebecker? Here is what SWP wrote about it in 1894:

"I have always thought that if the home of Hoster could be found abroad, it would afford a clue to that of Pannebecker, because his selection as attorney-in-fact by the sister was in all probability due to a previous acquaintance. When in Flomborn I inquired of a resident whether there were and Hosters living there, and was answered in the negative; that they lived a Ober-Florsheim, two miles nearer to Kriegsheim, which was the place of the family Stamm, or where they had always been known."

Or, to put it in words of one syllable: Agnes must have trusted Hendrick with the sale of her land because she knew him, and that could only be from the days when he lived in Flomborn and her in Ober-Florsheim.

A powerful clue indeed, except for its obvious weak spot: no one has proved that Agnes herself ever lived in Ober-Florsheim. It is only proved that a Hoster family lived there. Even so, this clue is worth at least a 30 on the 100 point scale. Agnes was *not far* from Flomborn and Ober-Florsheim even when she lived in Neustadt. Besides that, Pfannebecker was a rare name in Germany, and Hoster was no very common either. There cannot have been many places where Hosters and

Pfannebeckers ever met. We know that one place they met was at Flomborn/Ober-Florsheim, and that is near to where we find Agnes living in 1721.

Appeal to the Membership

The following is an appeal to the membership by Georgeann Sprague, a new member to the Association. She is trying to establish a firm connection in her line for the purpose of gaining membership in the DAR.

I am attempting to attach William Vanderslice (1807- 1843) to his father, John Vanderslice (1770-1846) conclusively on a family tree. John was Martha Pannebecker's (1700-1761) grandson through Henry Vanderslice (1726-1797) William died before John did so wills won't work. They were apparently part of a 'free-thinking' group of German-speaking people in the 1700-1800s who didn't baptize their kids (including Henry) although they married in churches. I have records on those and an scathing account of a Rev Muhlenberg blasting the Van der Sluys family AND Hendrick Pannebecker for being drinking buddies and not god-fearing people- it's quite nasty for the time in 1751. John and Catherine, his wife, and William are buried in Zion's Lutheran and Reformed Church graveyard in Womelsdorf, Pa, within 4 graves of each other and the style on their stones is an exact match for each other. Unfortunately, although I am convinced that this is proof, I'm not sure others would be convinced.

Anyway, I was hoping that one of the other Pannebecker's children or another of the Vanderslice children's lines might have mentioned in a letter or diary or something, "my cousin, John's son, William" or "William, my brother, John, son died", etc. It's really a shot in the dark at this point but I'm moving toward no options of written proof at this point (Other than the Pennypacker journal in the Pa Archives which shows the lineage.)

The family, of course, lived originally in Skippack Twp, Pa, moved to Reading, Berks co, PA, and then John and William (and his brother, Thomas, a bachelor) lived all of their lives in Womelsdorf, Berks Co, Pa, which is a little burg west of Reading, PA. William and Thomas had a mercantile business there called W & T Vanderslice. The court documents list them as brothers.

If you have any information that might help Georgeann, please contact either Ron Mitchell or Bruce Pennypacker.

DAR

Our cousin Rita has done a great deal of work to get DAR for her granddaughter. She sent this email urging other family members to give it a go!

Interest in The Daughters of the American Revolution has made us do some very interesting research of the Pennybakers. We first went to our files and came up with enough proof of family ties for five generations : Kent, Dale, Earl, Isaac, and George Pennybaker. Birth, marriage, military and death certificates as well as pictures of cemetery tombstones are being used for proof of relationship.

The DAR chapter in Lawrence, Kansas has a very good researcher who located wills, census and church records of Mark, Benjamin D. and Dirck (our Patriot)Pennybaker. She found many different spellings of Pennybaker. She is typing up the proper papers to tie all the generations together. Our granddaughter is very excited about all the history collected.

We hope many of you members of the Pannebakker Association will take on the task to be a member of DAR or SAR and learn about your ancestors.

Dale & Rita Pennybaker

Message From The President

Greetings all.

In the words of one of our country music artists: "If We Make it Through December.....". Well, we did. Temps have crawled above 50 degrees and we are happy. Mosquitoes have decided this might be a good place to hang out and wait for that 'Big 'Un' to come out of the house.

Well, we have a couple changes. The bank where we had our business account closed the doors on it's branch near me. I solicited help in what to do and our Secretary Marcy agreed to do the banking at a bank near her. For this I thank her and others who shared ideas and offers to help. We got a unexpected fringe benefit that came in the last bank statement. Seems they want to charge \$12 a month for an account in addition to 11 cents for every transaction, (checks written, deposits made, etc). As you can see, it would take the dues of just over 14 people to just pay for the account. I am delighted the account is moved and to get out of the extra charges they proposed for all business account was icing on the cake.

**I mentioned Marcy is now doing the banking. As such, please send dues checks to her at:
4170 Summit Way, Marietta GA, 30056-2346.**

All other functions remain as before.

You know we are in the dues renewal period and have a few who have not sent a check. Just a reminder to please send your dues to Marcy. As you know, we do not charge much for membership and we are holding our own by providing the newsletter electronically as much as we can. There are additional charges for our incorporation representative, fees to Delaware, US Mail newsletter printing and postage and our website.

Please don't let your membership lapse. We need you.

Till next time,

Ron Mitchell, President, Pannebakker Familie Association

Pannebakker Familie Association Web Site

The web site has been changed a bit! Still the same contents, however to access the newsletter section you will need to enter a user name and password. If you would like a user name and password, you must contact Bruce Pennypacker at, throwcoach@gmail.com and the necessary information will be sent to you. Below is the URL for the web site:

<http://www.pannebakkerfamilyassociation.com>

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Pannebakker Familie Association



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."