

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE NIEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE ASSOCIATION

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## Origins of the Pennsylvania Pannebeckers

*The following is the first 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.*

There were three distinct lines of Pannebeckers in Pennsylvania in the 1700's. They were the descendants of three separate immigrants: Hendrick, Friedrich, and Lotharius. Hendrick came to Pennsylvania at an unknown date before 1700, but probably not too long before. Friedrich came at an unknown date between 1715 and 1736, but most likely about 1730. Lotharius arrived 15 Sep 1749 on the ship Edinburgh from Rotterdam.

It was the view of Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker that all three immigrants were from the Pfannebecker family of Flomborn in the Palatinate, that they were in fact sons and grandsons of Johannes Pfannebecker. His reasons for arriving at that conclusion were explained in part in his Pennypacker Reunion (1877) and his unpublished genealogy (1880). His fullest account of them was given in Hendrick Pannebecker (1894), Chapter 2.

To the lines of evidence mentioned by SWP, there can now be added a few others. They all go to reinforce his original conclusions except for one small point of detail. The immigrant Friedrich now appears to be a son of Johannes rather than a grandson as SWP had it.

The purpose here is to review all the evidence bearing on the subject: the lines of evidence mentioned by SWP, and also those that have come to light since his time. A full discussion requires several pages because most of the evidence is circumstantial. No record has been found of either Hendrick or Friedrich in Germany. There is no absolute proof that either one of them was a son of Johannes, or that they even came from Flomborn. It is all a matter of circumstantial evidence. Taken all together, the evidence makes a pretty strong case, but it cannot be adequately presented in a few lines.

When the suspect is seen and apprehended in the commission of his crime, then the trial is likely to be pretty short. But many cases are not that simple. We have here a case of three suspects, all suspected of the crime of being Flomborn Pfannebeckers. One of them, it turns out, was apprehended on the spot. That is Lotharius, and we can dispose of him quickly. For the other two, we have some circumstantial evidence linking them to the scene of the crime, and some more linking them to Lotharius and to each other. It is that chain of circumstantial evidence that requires a lengthy presentation to the jury.

### The Open-and-Shut Case of Lotharius

The records of the Reformed Church at Flomborn show the complete chain from Johannes and Sibylla Pfannebecker to their grandson Lotharius Pfannebecker, born 3 Oct 1705 in Flomborn. They also show Lotharius and his wife Anna Elizabetha having 3 sons and 2 daughters in Flomborn, 1726-1740. All this was found in the Flomborn church books by SWP in the 1870's, and found again by Helmut Schmahl in the 1980's. SWP also mentioned a third daughter born in 1746, and also a fourth son born in 1728. For the moment they are not important.

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A list of passengers of the ship Edinburgh, arrived in Philadelphia 15 Sep 1749 from Rotterdam, contains the signature Lotharius Pfannenbecker. It does not say where he was from, except that all the passengers were from the Palatinate in Germany. As a practical matter, it is impossible to doubt that this is the same Lotharius Pfannenbecker who was born in Flomborn in 1705. Lotharius was a very rare name, and so was Pfannenbecker. The combination of these two names is known only once in Europe and once in America. As further confirmation, Lotharius had a daughter, Anna Gertrud in Flomborn, and she shows up in Bucks County too, Getting married 18 years after she was born.

The reason Lotharius is so well documented, while the other two are not, is almost surely that he was born later and left Germany late. The church records at Flomborn go back only to 1702. Everything before that was destroyed in the long series of wars waged by Louis XIV.

## Links Between Lotharius and Friedrich

Because Lotharius is so solidly tied to the Flomborn family, anything that links him with Hendrick or Friedrich also links them to the same family. There is a strong link and a weak link between Lotharius and Friedrich.

The weak link is simple proximity of the two families in Pennsylvania. If Lotharius had been unrelated to Friedrich, or let us say a distant relation like a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> cousin, then he might have made his home in any of the German areas of Pennsylvania. And those areas in 1749 covered most of Pennsylvania east of Harrisburg and south of the mountains, a region roughly 90 miles by 60 miles.

Lotharius didn't settle just anywhere in that 60-by-90 mile area. He settled in the next township to Friedrich, within a distance of 7 or 8 miles at the most and possibly as close as 3 miles. Friedrich and his family lived in Upper Hanover Township. When Lotharius arrived some years after Friedrich, he settled in what is now Upper or Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County. In 1750 when Lotharius purchased his land, those townships were part of Bucks County, and they were lumped together as Upper Milford to distinguish them from the other Milford Township that is still in Bucks County today. The record of purchase, as found by SWP in the account book of the Penns, said:

Lotharius Pennebaker – 25 acres adjoining land surveyed to the Honble Prop<sup>r</sup>. in Upper Milford Township, Bucks – 13 Jun 1750.

Another record of the same purchase is in the Pennsylvania Archives, 3<sup>rd</sup> series vol. 24, under the same date. The location might be either Upper or Lower Milford Township on the present-day map. It doesn't matter which it was. Lotharius was evidently settling down purposely in close proximity to his "Uncle" Friedrich.

The "Uncle" is an interpretation of the relationship. There is nothing in the record that says uncle or nephew, or that even says there was a family connection. There is another, stronger link in the next generation that certainly seems to show that Friedrich and Lotharius were closely related.

It was the misfortune of Lotharius that most of his children died young. Of three sons known from the Flomborn church records, none lived past the age of 6. The only children who appear in Pennsylvania records are the daughter, Anna Gertrud, and a fourth son, William. It is William who is involved in the strong link to Friedrich's family.

This William has a small question mark about him. There is no record of his birth in Flomborn. There is no absolute proof that he was a son of Lotharius. It is easy to show that he was no descendant of Hendrick, where family in this generation is established by a complete set of wills. He might conceivably

be a late son of Friedrich – i.e. a younger brother of Weiant, but he seems tied with high probability to Lotharius by:

- 1) His residence in Bucks County
- 2) His membership in the Tohickon Reformed Church. That is about 15 miles east of where Lotharius had bought his land in 1750. It is the same church where Lotharius' daughter Anna Gertrud was married in 1755. William and his children are the only other Pannebeckers in the records of that church before 1800.
- 3) The spelling of his name, Pannenbecker, in his first appearance in the church records in 1751. That extra "N" in the middle is a German characteristic that is hardly ever found in Hendrick's family, or in Friedrich's after 1736. It disappeared quickly in America. It makes sense for a son of Lotharius who had been in America only two years.
- 4) The fact that he can fit neatly into Lotharius' family if he was born in 1728 and married for the first time at the age of 22. There is otherwise a 4-year gap in Lotharius' family, and Lotharius had no other son named William.

The preceding explains why William is regarded as a son of Lotharius with something better than 90% probability. Now to the link between William and one of Friedrich's grandsons. In 1768, William had his 6<sup>th</sup> child of record, and she was baptized 9 Oct 1768 in the Tohickon Reformed Church. In accordance with the German custom of the time, two relatives – a man and a woman – were present as official witnesses to the baptism. The woman was Anna Elizabeth Kern, a niece of William's wife. The man was Peter Pannebecker, a grandson of Friedrich.

Again, strictly speaking, there is nothing in the record that says it was the particular Peter Pannebecker. It might conceivably have been someone else of the same name. But, that particular Peter married Anna Elizabeth Kern about a year later, so there is no real doubt he is the one. The only other known Peter Pannebecker of that time was Hendrick's son, who was 58 years old.

This William – Peter link was never mentioned by SWP. The central point is that William felt close enough to Peter to invite him as the Pannebecker representative at a baptism. Since William was a known descendant of the Flomborn Pfannebeckers, this amounts to strong and direct evidence that Peter was also descended from that family.

Going back two generations, this means that Peter's grandfather, Friedrich and William's grandfather, Johann Georg must have been very closely related indeed, possibly brothers. That makes William and Peter second cousins. If they had been more remote than that, it is hard to imagine enough feeling of kinship for Peter to be chosen as witness to the baptism of William's child.

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## Obituary

### **June T. (Pennypacker) Jones**

June T. (Pennypacker) Jones, nee Haws, 90, of Limerick Twp., widow of Howard L. Jones, died Thursday at her residence.

Born in Linfield, PA, she was a daughter of the late Walter Llwellyn and Elsie Irma (Reppert) Haws. Mrs. Jones was raised by her grandparents, James & Mary Ann (Schollenberger) Reppert.

She was a 1941 graduate of Spring City High School and was employed as a nurses aid at the former Pennhurst State Hospital and a machine operator at Spring City Hosiery. She was a member of Saint James Lutheran Church, Limerick. Mrs. Jones was active with the senior fellowship at Saint James Lutheran Church. She loved reading, her many pets, and traveling with her late husband. She was a special warm and loving mother, grandmother and friend that was an awesome cook and baker. Her wealth of knowledge and wisdom would often impress her grandchildren.

She is survived by one daughter, Karen S. wife of John F. Russo, Limerick Twp.; two sons Ronald F. Pennypacker, Ambler; Bruce A. Pennypacker and his wife Sandra, Langhorne; grandchildren, Kristen Zawislak; Lee Ann Gravinese; Erin Barr; Ethan Pennypacker; Rhonda Bealer; Michele Zurek; Denise Rapp; Sandy Holmes; Stephanie Moyer; Eric Pennypacker; Leslie Pennypacker; and Tina Pennypacker; Great Grandchildren, Kaitlynn; Brianna; Miranda; Sarah; Austin; Billy; Ian; Elizabeth; Chase; Shawn; Sawyer; and Makena. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Ernest Haws and Robert Meagher; one sister Mildred Carter and one grandson Matthew Pennypacker.

Contributions may be made in her memory to Alzheimer's Assoc., 399 Market Street, Suite 102, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

## **Annual Dues for April 2012 – March 2013**

Hello to all the Pennebacker's out there. I do hope you all had a wonderful year. It is 'Membership Dues Renewal' time again and I like to send a friendly reminder of the due dates. In order to remain a Member in the Pannebakker Family Association, kindly remit your payment payable to PFA (\$10 for an individual, \$17 for a couple) for your annual membership by **May 30, 2012**. Members attaining the age of 80 will be dues free. While we really value your membership, we must inform you that it is unfair to the balance of the members to continue any benefits to those members who are seriously in arrears. Again, out of fairness to the paying members, we must receive payment of your dues by **July 15, 2012** to continue your active membership. This wonderful association would not be possible without your support in the past years. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your continued support.

### **Please send your dues payment to:**

Pannebakker Family Association, Inc.  
N202 County Road B  
Kewaunee, WI 54216-9520

**NOTE:** Please include your current email address with your check so that we may update our records accordingly. In an effort to cut back on expenses we would like to send the Pannebakker Newsletters via email as opposed to US mailings. Please help us in this endeavor by informing us of your wish to have email delivery. We will continue to send newsletters by email to those who have already informed us of their decision to do so. However, if you do not have an email address, we will continue to send the newsletter via US Mail.

Sandie Miller  
[Smil105@sc.rr.com](mailto:Smil105@sc.rr.com)  
Membership Coordinator

## Message from the President

It looks like spring here. Many of the flowers are blooming and we have some of the spring birds back. It is truly a strange but welcome year.

I want to remind everyone that resources are available here to help with your lineage back to either Wiegand or Hendrick. We are not getting any queries to act upon. So give us a chance to help you. I personally subscribe to Ancestry.com and can do searches for census or other records if you are not a subscriber.

We are going to try the Penny website for one more year to give you a chance to look it over and use it. If we don't get hits, then we will call it a waste of money and cancel it.

Sandie is handling the dues collection so won't get into that except to assure you we want you and really want to see you remain a member.

We are always open to suggestions as to how to make our association more interesting and helpful to you. Please remember we really would like input from you. Anything is great, funny stories, historical facts, trials and problems our ancestors faced in settling our great country.

Still looking for a volunteer to head up a reunion event in the near future. Please use that email you have to contact us for this or any other item.

Till next time,

Ron, President Pannebakker Family Assn, Inc

## *Pannebakker Familie Association Web Site*

For those of you who are not aware, we now have a web site. The site contains back issues of the newsletter, photos, to which we would love to have you add, genealogy links and membership information. If there is anything else you would like to see on the site, please contact us.

Below is the URL for the web site:

<http://www.pannebakkerfamilyassociation.com>

## Officers

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## Board of Directors

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Jack Pennybacker, Decatur, AL  
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Patricia Rutins, Arlington, VT

## *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."