

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE NIEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE ASSOCIATION

Family Origins	1
Obituary	3
Glen Echo Farm	3
President's Message	4

## Origins of the Pennsylvania Pannebeckers

*The following is the seventh and final 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 Johannes and Sibylla

A good case has already been made – some would call it a compelling case – that Hendrick came from the Pfannebecker family of Flomborn. It remains only to ask whether there is anything that ties him directly to Johannes and Sibylla, or whether he might be the son of some other Pfannebecker of Flomborn. There are five points of evidence bearing on this question of which only one was known by SWP

The first point is that which has already been mentioned in connection with Friedrich. Helmut Schmahl has searched the Flomborn church records for Pfannebeckers and has sent all that there are down to 1730 or thereabouts. The only Pfannebeckers mentioned are proven descendants of Johannes and Sibylla. This strongly suggests that there wasn't any other Pfannebecker family at Flomborn.

It is true that there was a Johann Hermann Pfannebecker at Ober-Floersheim, who is not quite a proven son of Johannes and Sibylla. But as a practical matter there is hardly any doubt about it. His age fits him nicely in between the two proven sons of Johannes and Sibylla. Ober-Floersheim is the next village to Flomborn, hardly more than a mile away. Most telling of all is that he named one of his daughters Sibylla, which was not at all a common name.

The second point, the one mentioned by SWP, is that Hendrick's birth date also fits nicely in between the two proven sons of Johannes and Sibylla. Strictly speaking, there are no real birth dates in this generation, because the church records do not begin until 1702. Such dates as we have were derived by Helmut Schmahl from dates of death and age of the deceased, just as SWP did with Hendrick. Taking the best dates we have, and including the probable sons as well as the proven ones, the sequence of births is like this:

J. Georg	about June 1671
Hendrick	about 21 Mar 1674
J. Hermann	about 1674
J. Werner	20 mar 1677
Friedrich	date unknown

It makes a good sequence except for the slight problem that there seem to be two sons born in 1674. Can that be true? Well, they might be twins, Hermann and Heinrich. Or the birth date of Hermann might be off by a year or so, since it is the least precise of the bunch. It looks as if they only recorded his age to the nearest year when he died. The "about 1674" was Helmut Schmahl's calculation, but in such cases the true date might easily be 1673 or 1675. The date of 1675 is probably more likely than twins.

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILIE NIEUWS

The third point is again one mentioned in connection with Friedrich. The most common names for boys among the grandchildren of Johannes and Sibylla, *counting only the sons in Germany*, were Friedrich and Heinrich. That is leaving out the Johann that most boys had tacked onto their names. Now when we find in Pennsylvania a Friedrich and Hendrick Pannebecker who seem by several indications to be closely related, the implication is obvious: two more from the same family. Not just from any Pfannebecker family that might have lived near Flomborn, but from this particular family where they liked the names Friedrich and Heinrich. This clue was first pointed out by Phyllis Pennebaker Gross of Guerneville, California.

The fourth point is a comparison of the names of Hendrick's children with those of his supposed brothers back in Germany. If they were really his brothers we ought to see some names repeated, because that is what you usually find in closely related families. This test cannot be applied to Friedrich, because he had only one known child. But it can be applied to Hendrick who had eight. You would not of course expect to find that all eight names are repeated in the families back in Flomborn, because Hendrick's wife had a voice in naming the children too. But we find that about half of them match the children back in Flomborn.

It so happens that four of the eight names match up: John, Henry, Susanna, Barbara. They occur in Hendrick's family and also in the family of J. Werner Pfannebecker of Flomborn, the 4<sup>th</sup> son in the list, and one of the proven sons on Johannes and Sibylla.

The names John and Henry are probably not significant. John is much too common, and Hendrick would probably have a son Henry no matter where he came from. It is different with Susanna and Barbara. Those are not exactly rare names in this period, but they are a lot less common than Anna, Maria, Margaret, Elizabeth and Catharine.

Something should be made of the fact that Hendrick passed over all these common names and instead picked two that match the daughters of J. Werner in Flomborn. Not a huge clue, but certainly a good one. Too bad Hendrick didn't name one of his daughters Sibylla. That would have clinched the case.

But now comes the fifth and final point. There *is* a Sibylla, not among Hendrick's children but among his grandchildren. She is Sibylla Pannebecker, a daughter of Hendrick's son Henry. The son made up for what the father failed to do. SWP never made anything of this, for the simple reason that he never knew about the first Sibylla, the wife of Johannes of Flomborn. We only learned of her through the efforts of Helmut Schmahl.

This clue would seem to outweigh them all. Why? Because Sibylla was a really rare name among the Pennsylvania Germans. It hardly exists outside the Pannebecker family. Obviously, no one surveyed all the Pennsylvania Germans, but the complete baptism records of the New Goshenhoppen Reformed Church, all the way from 1731 to 1850, were surveyed to see how many Sibyllas there were. There was exactly one in that church in all those years. And this is not just Sibylla Pannebeckers, but any Sibylla at all. There was just one.

It seems that when Henry Pannebecker gives his daughter a really rare name like Sibylla there ought to be some special reason for it. He didn't give his other children strange names like that. They are all good everyday names: John, Benjamin, Magdalena, etc. The only other name you might consider a bit odd in that family is Harman, but that is just a variation of Herman. And there was a Herman in the family back in Flomborn too.

Could there be any other reason for the name Sibylla, if it wasn't for Henry's grandmother back in Flomborn? Could it have come from the family of Henry's wife instead? It seems pretty unlikely. His wife was Rebecca Kuster. Her mother was Isabella, and one of her grandmothers was Gertrude. There is another grandmother of unknown name on that side, so there is some kind of chance there but it seems pretty slim. The odds seem overwhelming that Sibylla was named for her great-grandmother Pfannebecker, the wife of Johannes.

This concludes the evidence on the ancestry of the three Pannebecker immigrants. Every known clue that seems worth anything at all has been mentioned. If you have had the patience to read through the whole discussion you are in a good position to reach your own verdict.

## Obituary

### Harry Tyler Pennypacker

HERINGTON -- Harry Tyler Pennypacker, 73, died Saturday, June 22, 2013, at the Salina Regional Medical Center. He was born Oct. 12, 1939, at Wichita, the son of Harry H. and Gaddy Mae (Rogers) Pennypacker.

Mr. Pennypacker was a retired aircraft machinist.

He is survived by his sister Nancy Kern of McPherson, a granddaughter, two great-grandchildren, his daughter-in-law Pearl Pennypacker Zimmermann, sister-in-law Sue Pennypacker.

Preceded in death by his son Dan Pennypacker, his companion Thelma Turley, a brother Billie Pennypacker, brother-in-law Dennis Kern, and his parents.

A graveside service will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 27, 2013, at the Sunset Hill Cemetery, Herington; under the direction of the Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home, Herington Chapel. Memorials to the donor's choice; and they may be sent in care of the Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home & Crematory, Herington Chapel, 404 S. Broadway, Herington, KS 67449-3038. For more information or to leave a special message for the family online, visit

### Glen Echo Farm

Glen Echo farm in Harford County MD was purchased by Isaac A. Pennypacker, along with his wife Louise, in 1929. They used the property as a summer residence. In 1942 the farm and surrounding land was acquired by the Department of War in support of the war effort at nearby Edgewood Barracks. In 1948, the War Assets Administration transferred land from this acquisition to the Harford County Board of Education. Part of this transfer included a parcel of the Pennypacker farm.

Glen Echo was renamed Harford Glen and now functions as an Environmental Education Center for Harford County Public Schools. The residence, which has undergone some restoration, smokehouse and ice house remain on the property. The Education Center would like to restore the landscape to some historic context. They are beginning with the gardens surrounding the residence. The plan is to recreate a 1820's kitchen garden on the south side of the house and a 1920's ornamental garden on the east side.

Harford Glen would appreciate any copies of period photographs or written description of the house and surrounding landscape. They would like to ensure an accurate historical account of the farm and the people who lived there. There is particular interest in knowing when the north addition was completed and when the garden wall was erected.

We are two Harford County Master Gardener interns who love gardening and history and have become entranced by Harford Glen's story and the people who lived there. We are grateful for any knowledge of the farm and your memories. Please forward any information to:

Harford Glen Environmental Education Center

Attn: Ruth Eisenhour

502 West Wheel Road

Bel Air MD 21015

or scan and email to Mer Pattin [merpattin@aol.com](mailto:merpattin@aol.com) or Diane Mitchell [dichatte@yahoo.com](mailto:dichatte@yahoo.com)

## Message From The President

Thanks again for the support from all our members. Welcome to our new members, Judy and Constance.

My message for this news letter is asking for input on selecting and installing a new president. I have been at this for many years and shortly will attain the age of 79. The job that I do is not all that hard because of officers like we have. I have never been refused a request from any one of them. But it is time to get a bit of new blood in the system.

I would like anyone interested to volunteer and the officers and board of directors can act upon whom to chose. The main reason for my decision is because of my age and tenure at the job. I will be happy to remain in the position until properly relieved as we would say in the Navy.

So all you nice folks who aspire to do your organization a service and do me a favor, please volunteer. Send a message to any of our officers listed in this newsletter.

My functions primarily are maintaining the data base of members, the address list for those receiving a USPS newsletter, and a database of previous members. I also maintain the file of the applications members have submitted over the years. I also have the envelopes annotated with the amount of dues paid as sometimes that is the only documentation that comes with a dues check. There are a couple books in my possession that should go with the other records to the new president or whomever he/she selects.

As I said, I will continue in my role but want some serious thought as to a replacement. I would like to see the new year come in with a new person at the helm.

Thanks to all again.

Sincerely,

Ron Mitchell

President, Pannebakker Family Association, Inc.

## *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](mailto:throwcoach@gmail.com) and the necessary information will be sent to you. Below is the URL for the web site:

<http://www.pannebakkerfamilyassociation.com>

## Officers

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## Board of Directors

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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."