

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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## Hans Peter Umstat

Most members of the Pannebakker Family Association know that Hendrick Pannebecker was the first of his name in America and that he married Eve Umstat in 1699. I am a proud member of this family that contains numerous famous and infamous characters who have contributed greatly to this country.

That is only half of the story, however. If we are descendants of Hendrick, we are also descendants of Eve, the daughter of Hans Peter Umstat. The Umstat (Umstead) bloodlines are just as rich and noteworthy as the Pannebakker.

I was recently contacted by Cris Hueneke, who is a descendant of Eve Umstat's brother, Johannes, and also maintains the very impressive Umstead web site at, [www.umstead.org](http://www.umstead.org). On one of the pages of the Umstead site, Cris states, "There is no longer any reason to believe that either Nicholas or Hans Peter Umstatt were from or were ever even in Krefeld, short of perhaps a customs stop en route from Kriegsheim to Rotterdam." So, "Why did Samuel W Pennypacker think that Hans Peter Umstat came from Krefeld?"

Here are excerpts from Cris's thoughts on the subject:

This study is based upon *THE SETTLEMENT OF GERMANTOWN* and the *Beginning of the German Emigration to North America*, by Hon. Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, LL.D., Philadelphia, 1899. As we work through the Hans Peter Bibliography, it becomes apparent that many later writers used Pennypacker's material without questioning it. Pennypacker was clearly convinced that Hans Peter came from Krefeld.

Before anything else, and with deep gratitude, I must commend Governor Pennypacker on this outstanding work and all that he put into it. In his own words, "for thirty years I have been gradually gathering the original materials from over the world." (Preface). His book was published in 1899, long before we had computers, copy machines, fax machines, or the Internet. The scope of the material presented is astounding.

My comments here are based solely on this book. The book is, as of this writing, the earliest and the most widely-quoted source I have found for the traditional belief that Hans Peter Umstat came from Krefeld. It has now been proven that Hans Peter resided in Kriegsheim just prior to his departure to America and that his Germantown land purchase was made in Rotterdam (Holland), not in Krefeld. Pennypacker states, on page 128: "October 12, 1685, there arrived in the ship "Francis and Dorothy," ... Hans Peter Umstat, from Crefeld, with his wife Barbara, his son, John, and his daughters, Anna Margareta and Eve. Umstat was the son of Nicholas Umstat, who died at Crefeld at four o'clock in the morning of October 4, 1682."

So, why did Pennypacker think that Hans Peter Umstat came from Krefeld and that Nicholas died there?

1. The book was written according to the subject as titled - THE SETTLEMENT OF GERMANTOWN. It was not meant to be book about Hans Peter Umstat nor his beginnings. Pennypacker lists his own ancestry in the preface: "As it seemed to be a duty which could not be avoided, I have written the following history of the settlement of one of the most interesting of the American burghs. A descendant of Hendrick Pannebecker, Abraham Op den Graeff, Paul Kuster, Cornelius Tyson, Peter Conrad, Hendrick

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Sellen, Hans Peter Umstat and probably of William Rittenhouse, all of them among the early residents of Germantown ..." Certainly with this lineup, it is easy to see why he perceived it as his personal duty to write the book. Not all of his ancestors were well known, and he presumably focused on those individuals whose information he could find. Logically it was those who came from Krefeld, as most of those listed did.

2. The fact that the majority of the early Germantown residents not only were from Krefeld, but that they were also known to be Quakers both in Germantown and in Krefeld, apparently led him to simply assume that Hans Peter Umstat was also a Quaker. And he may have been correct in that assumption - Hans Peter Umstat may have converted to Quakerism either in Germany just prior to coming to the U.S. or upon his arrival here. There has been nothing solid found to date to substantiate that or to disprove it.

3. At first I wondered whether Pennypacker even knew about Kriegsheim, but he did, since he discusses it in the book. The most ironic and tragic aspect of this is that Pennypacker visited Kriegsheim. He wrote, "When I was there, in 1890, it had a population of perhaps two or three hundred people who lived upon one street." (Page 111). He traveled the very street his ancestor Hans Peter Umstat had walked 200 years earlier and apparently didn't realize it. How long he stayed in Kriegsheim or his purpose there is not spelled out in the book. It may be that he only passed through it as it one would, en route to Flomborn from Worms. I think it simply never occurred to him to look in Kriegsheim for Hans Peter, or, if it did, he only looked at Quaker or Mennonite records and didn't find him listed.

4. Pennypacker's discussion of Kriegsheim is limited to that of general information. Had he read his own work focusing only on Hans Peter Umstat, he might have seen some clues. One is found on page 56, where he is discussing the travels of Pastorius: "He presented his books to his brother, John Samuel, and after many letters obtained the consent of his father, together with two hundred rix dollars, and thereupon went to Kriegsheim, where he saw Peter Schumacher, Gerhard Hendricks, and Arnold Kassel, and made ready for the long journey."

Had he compared the above with his own text from page 118, Pennypacker might have considered Kriegsheim as the possible home of Hans Peter. He states: "October 12, 1685, having crossed the sea in the 'Francis and Dorothy' there arrived in Germantown Peter Schumacher .... Gerhard Hendricks .... " It's interesting that Pennypacker does not include Hans Peter Umstatt as a passenger on the ship on this page. He does mention Hans Peter's arrival on the "Francis and Dorothy" on page 128, but on that page he does not mention Schumacher or Hendricks.

He states further on page 118: "Peter Schumacher, an early Quaker convert from the Mennonites is the first person definitely ascertained to have come from Kriegsheim. Fortunately we know under what auspices he arrived. By an agreement with Dirck Sipman, of Crefeld, dated August 16th, 1685, he was to proceed with the first good wind to Pennsylvania, and there receive two hundred acres from Herman Op den Graeff, on which he should erect a dwelling, and for which he should pay a rent of two rix dollars a year. Gerhard Hendricks also had bought two hundred acres from Sipman. He came from Kriegsheim ..." Schumacher and Hendricks were clearly contemporaries of Hans Peter Umstat and traveled together with him in the same ship, two years later than the Krefelders.

In the above reference, Dirck Sipman is shown to be of Crefeld, which may also have led Pennypacker to assume that the land transactions of Schumacher, Hendricks and Hans Peter Umstat were actually made in Crefeld. Most references use the phrase "of Krefeld," as regards Sipman, but we now know that the transactions took place in Rotterdam. The fact that Hans Peter's deed was never recorded in the "Germantown Grund- und Lager Buch" [Ground and Lot Book] didn't help.

It appears that Pennypacker believed Hans Peter to have come from Krefeld and that that was as far as he thought about it. Although he writes quite a bit about Kriegsheim itself, Hans Peter Umstat is never mentioned in those passages, with the single exception of his discussion of Flomborn as the birthplace of Hendrick Pannebecker: (Page 122) "On the road leading from Worms out through Kriegsheim, but

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perhaps five miles further from the city, is the village of Flomborn. Thither, about twenty years before the period we are considering, a Dutch family named Pannebecker, whose arms, three tiles gules on a shield argent, were cut in glass in the church window at Gorcum in Holland, came to escape the wars still raging in the Netherlands. There March 21, 1674, was born Hendrick Pannebecker. He came as a young man to Germantown, where, in 1699, he married Eve, the daughter of Hans Peter Umstat."

Hendrick Pannebecker was a learned man and apparently made his Flomborn origins known to his family, since, to the best of my knowledge, there is no original documentation to prove Hendrick's having come from Flomborn. Had he not done so, Pennypacker might just as easily have assumed that Hendrick too was from Krefeld. Krefeld was certainly full of displaced people from the Netherlands. In fact, Krefeld was part of the Netherlands (Holland) until 1702, when it became a part of Prussia (Germany). Gorcum, mentioned above, is in the Netherlands.

There are various items in Pennypacker's material that show how general information could have led him to believe that Germantown was made up almost exclusively of Mennonites and Quakers from Krefeld. One example can be found on page 141: "In 1702 began the settlement on the Skipack. This first outgrowth of Germantown also had its origin at Crefeld ... " Another is on page 142, "Van Bebber immediately began to colonize it, most of the settlers being Mennonites. Among these settlers were Hendrick Pannebecker, Johannes Kuster, Johannes Umstat ..."

Pennypacker himself alludes to this being an assumption in the following, which actually refers to the "Original 13" families from Krefeld, but still speaks to his mind set:

From page 5: "It is now ascertained definitely that eleven of these thirteen immigrants were from Crefeld, and the presumption that their two companions, Jan Luken and Abraham Tunes, came from the same city is consequently strong."

On page 6, regarding Pastorius, Pennypacker states: "In his reference to the places in which he stopped on his journey down the Rhine he nowhere mentions emigrants except at Crefeld, where he says, "I talked with Tunes Kunders and his wife, Dirck Hermann and Abraham Op den Graeff, and many others who six weeks later followed me."

The Kriegsheimers came to America two years later than Pastorius, so Pastorius would not have discussed them as emigrants at the time he made that statement, even though he did mention having been to Worms. Although Pennypacker was aware of Pastorius's having made earlier trips to Worms and Kriegsheim, he apparently did not consider that as regards Hans Peter. Since he did deem the above worth mentioning, it may have clouded his thinking in general.

On page 6, discussing letters from James Claypoole, Pennypacker further states: "As he had the names of the thirty-three persons, this contemporary evidence is very strong, and it would seem safe to conclude that all of this pioneer band, which, with Pastorius, founded Germantown, came from Crefeld." This is based on a letter written during the time when the Krefeld immigrants of 1683 were delayed between Rotterdam and London, again prior to the emigration of Hans Peter Umstat in 1685. Claypoole, a Quaker merchant from London, traveled on the ship "Concord" with the Krefeld immigrants. These items demonstrate the mind set with which Pennypacker was working as a whole.

5. Pennypacker does not mention nor does he appear to have known about the passport requests made by Schumacher, Hendricks, and Hans Peter Umstat, together, in Hochheim, near Kriegsheim, just prior to their leaving Germany. It would not have made sense, had Hans Peter been living in Krefeld, which was part of Holland in 1685, for him to travel to Kriegsheim, Germany, to apply for a passport to go to Holland. Krefeld is about 300 km (220 miles) northwest of Kriegsheim, down the Rhine River. Had Hans Peter been in Krefeld and had he returned to Kriegsheim to obtain the passport, he'd have had a very long journey up the Rhine River to get there.

6. Pennypacker was evidently not aware of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church records of the Umbstatts in Monsheim/Kriegsheim, nor of the Umstadt family that had been living in the area since about 1625, a

remnant of which is still there today. There was no visible evidence of the Umstadt family, such as graves, in Kriegsheim or in Monsheim when I visited there in 1997. It was only by asking around that I was directed to Hohen-Sülzen, where I found old Umstadt graves from the late 1700's and the 1800's. Hohen-Sülzen is a tiny village about 5 km outside of Monsheim. Had Pennypacker been aware of these last two items, I feel quite certain that he would have reconsidered his belief that the Umstats were from Krefeld.

"Unfortunately, due to the many authors who have quoted as fact Governor Pennypacker's assumption that Hans Peter and family were from Krefeld, we need to get the word out that it's not true!"

You can read the full article by Cris Hueneke at [www.umstead.org](http://www.umstead.org).

## Message From The President

At least by the calendar, it is spring. Last evening and this morning, we had 3 inches of snow. The good part is, it melted before I could get the snow blower out there. Spent the past few days pruning our apple trees. We have 6 and they desperately needed the attention. Two are 50+ years old and do have good fruit. We did survive the winter with very little precipitation. I suspect that may affect the crops this year.

I have essentially no genealogical news to report. Had a couple queries and they were taken care of. I would encourage all of you to utilize the query feature. Just ask your questions and the staff will do their best to help answer it.

We have had a few people who have failed to renew their membership by paying their dues so we have no alternative but to deactivate their membership. I really hate doing that but some are 11 months delinquent so in fairness to the paying members, I have no real options.

I would like to ask members who are actively pursuing their lineage and other ancestral people to tell me if you use a genealogical program and if so, which one. What are your likes and dislikes about it? Also do you have a tree on Ancestry or other internet site?

Sandie will be sending out messages re payment of dues shortly. Remember the dues year runs from 1 May to April 30. There are several who have paid ahead and we appreciate that. The dues remain at \$10 per year or \$17 for a couple. Those attaining 80 years old in the coming dues year are exempt. Just let us know and we won't be bothering you with a renewal letter. Anyone wishing to get a head start can send their checks to our secretary Marcy (address listed on back page).

Till next time.

## *Pannebakker Family Association Web Site*

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>

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## *Pannebakker Family 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."