



KUMP FAMILY ROOTS

Volume 1 Number 1

May 2005

Where Can You Find Us?

You can find us online at www.kump.org – Membership is free, although donations are encouraged to further study the family line. We focus research on identifying the ancestors and descendants of John Kump and Barbara Bentzel. Another related resource is www.bentzel.org where you'll find focused research on Johannes Bentzel including his ancestors and descendants. Please come visit us online!!!

The Zachariah Kump Mystery

In 1830 Zachariah was born to David Kump and Barbara NAYLOR Kump in a rural Pennsylvania town. By 1832 the family had migrated to Mahoning County, Ohio. The family remained in Ohio through the 1840s and by 1850 had migrated again, this time to Wisconsin. After 1850 recent histories of Zachariah Kump, Sr. portray a “hole” in his personal timeline through 1868 during which it is assumed he traveled to California and eventually ended up at Sanpete County, Utah. Specific timeframes during these 18 years are unproven however, and therefore Zachariah’s story has traveled many roads from a “mystery life” marrying a “Permelia Snively” to a challenging life faced with charges of larceny. What is the truth?

Countless hours of research have shed light on this tale developing an intriguing story of two distinct individuals both named Zachariah Kump who lived nearly parallel lives through the mid 1840s. Check out these similarities:

- Both born in Pennsylvania in 1830
- Both migrated to Ohio during the 1830s and remained there through the 1840s
- Only a single Zachariah Kump is listed in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses

So what is this other Zachariah Kump’s life timeline? Here are the highlights of our research:

- Serves in the Mexican War in the 2d Ohio Infantry (Jun 1846 to Jun 1847)

- Charged with larceny in 1860. Fails to show for his hearing and flees to Michigan
- Serves in the Civil War in the 2d Michigan Cavalry (1861-1864)

Interestingly enough, these dates still match the “hole” within Zachariah Kump, Sr.’s life history so still no solid disconnection between the two can be established. So how are we able to separate these two individuals from living the same lives?

- Both are found in the 1880 and 1900 census, one living in Utah, the other in Michigan
- Grave markers are found in two distinct cemeteries, one in Utah, the other in Michigan

So there you have it, a picture of the lives of two distinct men, both named Zachariah Kump. In summation they both start their lives at precisely the same part of the country (Pennsylvania) in the same year (1830) and migrate to Ohio about the same time. Both do NOT show up in a census record at the same time until 1880. It is easy to see how some could believe there is only one Zachariah Kump. Regardless



we believe we have clearly demonstrated evidence portraying two distinct individuals.

Headstone of Zachariah Kump, Sr at the Moroni Cemetery.

We Need Your Help

How can you help us further study the Kump lineage? Sure you can contribute money which will help greatly, but you can also contribute your time by scanning old photographs, taking digital images of old homes and grave markers, or even spending time researching online trying to find new leads. Please contact our webmaster at webmaster@kump.org for details.