



KUMP FAMILY ROOTS

Volume 2 Number 1

August 2006

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!!!

Our German Heritage

Research over the years has shown the Kump family name was originally written and pronounced here in the United States as “Kumpf.” Until recently our Kump heritage in Germany has only been speculation. Based on recent research it appears our family originated in Beerfelden, Germany. In order to establish this connection let's review a short history of our find centered on our grandfather, Wilhelm Kumpf of Pennsylvania.

First Clue: Up to the current time, it was a common understanding by many in our family that our Wilhelm Kumpf was a passenger on the ship Tygr, arriving at Philadelphia 17 Nov 1771. This is not a solid fact, but rather an assumption based on three facts: 1) No birth record has been identified within the United States for Wilhelm's eldest son, Zacharias, 2) Wilhelm's second child, Maria, was born 3 Jan 1773 at Rockland Twp, Berks Co, Pennsylvania, and 3) No other individual named Wilhelm Kumpf was a passenger on a ship in this time period.

Second Clue: In late 2004 one of our cousins, Gary Uresk, indicated that he had identified various Kumpf records in Beerfelden, Germany. Soon thereafter a search began on microfilm records by Chad & Sietske Nichols. A record was found in Kirchenbuch, 1677-1875 (“Church Book,” FHL 1346437). The register indicated there was a “Johann Wilhelm Kumpf” who was born 4 Sep 1745. He was the son of Johannes Kumpf and Kunigunda Margretha Rauhenzahner. Interestingly, many records in the church register listed a “†,” clearly indicating a deathdate. However, on Johann Wilhelm Kumpf's record in place of a deathdate was a different symbol, a “‡.” And

next to this symbol was written “1771.” Could this symbol interpret into an emigration record?

Third Clue: In the spring of 2006 research was begun by Universal Genealogy Center in 2006 (funded by G. Rlynn & La Ree B. Anderson). Universal searched unsuccessfully through numerous immigration publications and then finally found a series called “Auswanderungen aus dem Odenwaldkreis.” Within one of the volumes they found this entry: “Kumpf, Johann Wilhelm born 4.9.1745, of the Ship ‘Tyger,’ per the Shp List 290 C. page 737. To America in 1771.” This was the first record identified which linked Wilhelm Kumpf, the 1771 passenger, to Beerfelden, Germany.

Fourth Clue: The last clue available at the time of this printing which establishes this particular Johan Wilhelm Kumpf to the family is his father's trade. Johann Wilhelm's father, Johannes, was a “tuchmacher” (clothmaker). We must then consider the family's carried-on trade of being clothmarkers. There are certain census records here in the United States that are most helpful. Taken John Kumpf (1776-1857), the grandson of Johannes Kumpf, for example. In the 1820 census John was listed as a “weaver” at Dover Twp, Pennsylvania. And another grandson, Andreas (Andrew) Kump, was listed as a “coverlet weaver” in the 1850 census. This clearly establishes a family trade that was carried-on to America.

Final Analysis: In review, although we don't have a primary record linking Wilhelm Kumpf to his wife, Eva Margaretha, circumstantial evidence has established a relatively firm link to Germany: John (Johannes) Kumpf born in Pennsylvania to Johan Wilhelm Kumpf born in Beerfelden, Germany.

We appreciate all who have helped contribute over the years to this grand mystery in our family, particularly Rlynn & La Ree Anderson who utilized extensive personal funds in this endeavor!

We Need Your Help

Please contribute to our association by making a monetary contribution or donating your time by scanning old photographs, taking digital images of old homes and grave markers, or researching new leads. Please contact our webmaster at webmaster@kump.org for details.