

Heinrich Julius Purfürst
a.k.a.
Henry Purfurst
London, England
Later
Brooklyn, New York

Heinrich Julius Purfürst, hereafter referred by his chosen Anglicized name of Henry Purfurst was born about 1836 in Germany. His wife Amelia Öfer (Hofer?) was born about 1835 in Germany.

Worldwide records pertaining to family members are in extreme conflict.

The first American record found of Henry Purfurst was his October 22, 1867 Naturalization order in the County Court of King County, New York. This was followed by the US Federal 1870 census where the family was noted living in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Julius was stated as age 34, thus born about 1836; Amelia age 35/about 1835; daughter "Poanger", age 12/about 1858; daughter Emeline, age 8/about 1862; son Julius, age 6/about 1864. Henry's occupation was a paperhanger.

The American census stated all children were born in England.

Five years later the June 20, 1875 New York State Census indicates Henry, age 40 (born about 1835), wife Amelia (age 45/about 1830) and three children: daughters Jane Purfurst (age 17/about 1858); Emeline Purfurst (age 14/about 1861) and son Julius Purfurst (age 11/about 1864). Henry's occupation was a painter.

That American census stated that all children were born in England.

Fourteen years earlier, the April 1861 United Kingdom census indicates Henry and family were living in the St George in the East section of London. Henry's occupation was a paperhanger. It states Henry's age at 30 (thus born about 1831) and wife Emily at age 33 (about 1828) along with three daughters: Emma Purfurst, age 10/about 1851, Susan Purfurst, age 3/about 1858 and Emiline Purfurst, age 8 months/about 1860,

Contrary to the aforementioned American census' that were to follow, this England census states that daughters Emma and Susan were born in America with only daughter Emiline born in St Georges of the East section of London, England. (son Henry had not yet been born)

Civil Registration in the United Kingdom began July 1, 1837. Search of The Family Record Center in London, England reveals the following:

- There was not a United Kingdom record indicating the approximate 1851 birth of "Emma Purfurst" in an attempt to contradict the 1861 England census which stated she was born in America.
- There was also not a United Kingdom record indicating the death of "Emma Purfurst" in an attempt to account for her absence on the family's American 1870 and 1875 census.

- There was not a United Kingdom record indicating the approximate 1858 birth of “Susan Purfurst” in an attempt to contradict 1861 England census which stated she was born in America and thus confirm the England birth location specified in the American 1870 and 1875 Census.
- An English record of birth was found for Theodora Emiline Purfurst, born July 4, 1860 to parents Henry Purfürst and Amelia Hofer. The daughter was born at the family residence; number 2 Bath Terrace, St. George in the East, County of Middlesex, England. Henry's occupation was paperhanger.
- An English record of birth was found for Heinrich Julius Purfurst (Jr.), born November 14, 1863 to parents Heinrich Purfürst and Amelia Oefer (Öfer). The son was born in the family residence; number 10 Ann Street, St George in the East, Middlesex, England. Henry's occupation was house decorator.

Civil registration in New York City began about 1868. Records prior to that date are very scattered and birth records would not indicate parent's names in any case. A search of New York records revealed the following:

- There was not a New York record for an “Emma Purfurst” having been born about 1851, in an attempt to substantiate the American birth place specified in the 1861 England census.
- There was also not a New York record indicating the death of “Emma Purfurst”, in an attempt to account for her absence by the time of the family's American 1870 and 1875 census.
- There was not a New York record for a “Susan Purfurst” having been born about 1858, in an attempt to substantiate the American birthplace specified in the 1861 England census and contradict the American 1870 and 1875 census which stated she was born in England.

The search of other New York City records reveal the following:

- A death certificate was found for Henry Julius Purfurst (Sr) who, at age 45, died July 28, 1882 at St Peters Hospital, Brooklyn, New York. He was interred in The Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. The death certificate stated that he had been a resident of the city for 30 years (thus arrived about 1852).
- The record of death for his wife Amelia (Hofer/ Öfer) Purfurst has not yet been found.
- A death record was found for “Beunen” Jane Purfurst who died August 4, 1879 at 53 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. She also was interred in the Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Her death certificate stated she was age 21 years and 4 month (thus born about April 1858), was born in England and had been a resident for 13 years (which corresponds to an arrival date of 1866 - some 14 years after her father's stated arrival.)

It is concluded the "Beunen" Jane Purfurst mentioned in the 1879 US death record, the "Susan" Purfurst mentioned in the 1861 UK census, the "Poanger" Purfurst mentioned in the 1870 US Census and the "Jane" Purfurst mentioned in the 1875 US Census are one in the same person.

Aliens interested in becoming American citizens had a specified time period in which to complete the naturalization process. If they did not comply they had to start all over again. There were two steps. The Declaration of Intention was the first step and was generally initiated by the alien soon after arrival. Not less than 2, or more than 7 years after the date the original Intention was filed, and after having lived in the United States for at least 5 years, the alien may file a Petition for Naturalization. If the Petition is not initiated prior to the expiration of the 7 year window the entire process must be started over again.

On October 22, 1867 Henry Purfurst obtained his American Naturalization order (Citizenship) in the County Court of King County, New York. A record of his preceding Naturalization Petition has not been located thus it is difficult to state with certainty as to when his citizenship clock started which would have confirmed his initial arrival in America. The 1867 date of his Order, coupled with the requirement to have been a resident for at least five years, would generally indicate that he arrived in America prior to late 1862. His death record said he arrived in 1852 and historically emigrants were anxious to become citizens of the new country and would not have 15 years to have done so.

However, the UK birth certificate indicated son Henry, Jr. was born in London on November 14, 1863.

Daughter Jane/Susan's death record stated she had been a resident of the state only since 1866. This arrival date closely resembles the known 1863 birth in England of her brother Henry, Jr. but is long after her father's stated arrival and even follows the 5-year residency rule governing 1867 granting of Henry Sr.'s citizenship which would have began in 1862.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that Henry, Jr. also found it necessary to file for his own citizenship which was granted on March 11, 1884 by the Court of Common Pleas, Hudson County, New Jersey. Historically, citizenship is granted simultaneously for all family members who accompanied the head of family. The necessity for Henry Jr. to process his own citizenship supports the theory that he was born out of country and thus did not receive automatic citizenship as a result of his father's 1867 citizenship decree.

As previously mentioned, the 1860 UK birth certificate for Theodora Emiline Henrietta Purfurst and the 1863 UK birth certificate for son Heinrich Julius Purfurst (Jr.) have been located in England. The aforementioned situations, therefore, suggest that Henry and Amelia first emigrated from Germany to America (about 1850) where Emma (about 1851) and Jane (1858) were born. Shortly thereafter, the family departed America for England (about 1859) where Theodora Emiline Henrietta (1860) and Henry, Jr. (1863) were born. Soon thereafter the family returned to America (about 1866).

This sequence of events is supported by the death certificate for the Henry, Sr. in which it was stated that he arrived in America in 1852 (a date that approximates the estimated US birth date for Emma stated in the 1861 UK census) and Henry's Oct 1867 Naturalization Petition (a date that follows the 1863 UK birth date of son Henry and closely follows the stated immigration of daughter Susan).

The search for more evidence continues.

Records on both sides of the ocean fail to provide a clue as to the identity of Henry's home of origin in Germany or the names of their respective parents. The absence of this ancestral information thus far prevents their connection to the Purfurst Family Tree.

The search for the identity of this ancestral connection also continues.

Author's Comment: Research has shown the presence of another Purfurst family having established their permanent home in London, England. (See Middlesex County, England family). That German emigrant, William Eugen Purfurst, arrived in England in 1835 which would be some 24 years prior to Henry's arrival about 1859. The elder members of both families were residing in London at the same time but of different professions; William being a shoemaker and Henry a decorator. There are no indications they were aware of each others presence but William was listed in local business directories. It is of interest to note that both Purfurst families had daughters born in England whom they named Henrietta.

After their return to America the Henry Purfurst (Sr.) family initially lived in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Henry Julius Purfurst (Sr.), age 45, died July 28, 1882 at St Peters Hospital, Brooklyn, New York. He was interred in The Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York along with his daughter Susan.

At the time of the 1885 New Jersey State Census, "Emilia" Purfurst was living in Weehawken, Hudson County, New Jersey. Also residing in Weehawken was her married son Henry Jr. as well as her married daughter Henrietta Haggstrom). "Amelia" Purfurst was also listed in the 1889-1890 Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey Business Directory (as was son Henry). Neither was listed in the 1890-1891 Directory. (Henry died in 1890). By the time of the 1895 New Jersey State Census Amelia Purfurst was still residing in Weehawken, Hudson County, New Jersey as was the Haggstrom family. (Henry's widow remarried to Gardner Miller and was residing in Manhattan)

The death record and place of interment for Amelia Purfurst has not yet been located.

Henry and Amelia Purfurst, Sr. had three surviving children in America: Susan Jane Purfurst, Theodora Emiline Henrietta Purfurst and Henry Julius Purfurst, Jr.

1. Henry and Amelia Purfurst Sr.'s first child, Susan Jane Purfurst, was born about April 1858. Although a birth certificate has not been located, the consensus of American documents indicates that birth took place in England. At the age of 21 years and 4 months she died in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York on August 5, 1879. She was interred in Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.
2. Henry and Amelia Purfurst Sr.'s second child, Theodora Emiline Henrietta Purfurst, was born July 4, 1860 in St George of the East, Middlesex County, London England. The birth location was confirmed by registration records located in London, England. On September 6, 1883 in Seabright, New Jersey she married Frederick E. Haggstrom. Born about 1862 in Sweden, he was the son of Ahlberg Haggstrom and Olivia Olson. Frederick and Henrietta, or "Etta" as she preferred to be known by, would initially live in Hudson County, New Jersey. Frederick would die between 1900-- 1910. They would have four children: Sarah Haggstrom, Harold Haggstrom; Martha Haggstrom and Hilda Haggstrom.
 - 2.1. At the time of the 1900 Census the entire Haggstrom family was living in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. At the time of the 1910 census we find that Henrietta Haggstrom, as a widow, living in Brooklyn, New York. Residing with her were children Harold, Martha and Sadie (sic). Also residing with them was daughter Hilda with her husband Clifford J. Mosbacher and their daughter Edith, age 4 months.
 - 2.2. At the time of the 1920 Census Henrietta Haggstrom is now living in Manhattan, New York with daughter Martha and her husband Ray Mize.

- 2.3. The 1930 census finds Henrietta Haggstrom back living with daughter Hilda and Clifford Mosbacher who now had children Edith Mosbacher, Dorothy Mosbacher and Clifford Mosbacher, Jr. The family is now living in Freeport, Nassau County, Long Island, New York
3. Henry and Amelia Purfürst Sr.'s third child, Henry Julius Purfürst, Jr. was born November 14, 1863 in St. George of the East, Middlesex County, London England. On November 22, 1883 in Long Branch, New Jersey he would marry Mary Elizabeth Little. The daughter of Henry Little and Eleanor Parker, she was born May 1885 in Red Bank, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Henry would die March 12, 1890 in Weehawken, Hudson County, New Jersey. He was interred in Flower Hill Cemetery, North Bergen, Hudson County, New Jersey. Mary would die February 7, 1926 in New York City. She was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, New York. They would have three children: Ernest Purfürst, Irving Henry Purfürst and Lester Purfürst.
 - 3.1. Henry (Jr.) and Mary Purfürst's first child, Ernest Purfürst, was born April 1884 in Weehawken, New Jersey. He died shortly thereafter on February 19, 1885 in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey. He was interred in Little Silver Cemetery, Monmouth County, New Jersey
 - 3.2. Henry (Jr.) and Mary Purfürst's second child, Irving Henry Purfürst, was born August 7, 1886 in Hoboken, Hudson County, New Jersey. On March 26, 1911 in Manhattan, New York he married Elizabeth Anna Muller. The daughter of Ernst Muller and Elise Gunderman, she was born April 4, 1889 in Manhattan, New York. Irving would die December 24, 1916 in Manhattan, New York. He was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, New York. Elizabeth would die July 1967 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. She was interred in Fairmont Cemetery, Denver, Denver County, Colorado. They would have a son, Kenneth Lincoln Purfürst.
 - 3.2.1. Irving and Elizabeth Purfürst's son, Kenneth Lincoln Purfürst, was born February 12, 1914 in New York City. On Jul 18, 1942 in Denver, Colorado, he would marry Catherine Guilfoyle. She was born August 21, 1911 in Neola, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Kenneth would die December 19, 1990 in Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County, California. They would have three children: Stephanie Josephine Purfürst, Karel Purfürst and Barbara Marie Purfürst.
 - 3.2.1.1. Stephanie Josephine Purfürst married Manuel Baca
 - 3.2.1.2. Karel Purfürst married Ronald Scott
 - 3.2.1.3. Barbara Marie Purfürst married John Pieper
 - 3.3. Henry (Jr.) and Mary Purfürst's third child, Lester Purfürst, was born October 22, 1888 in Weehawken, Hudson County, New Jersey. About 1912 in New Jersey he married Adele Cecelia Bahrenburg. The daughter of Richard Bahrenburg and Mary McAnany, she was born February 15, 1892 in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. Lester would die May 24, 1928 in Sterling, Logan County, Colorado. Adele would die November 14, 1982 in Brighton, Adams County, Colorado. They would have two children: Leland Richard Purfürst and Nadine M. Purfürst.

3.3.1. Lester and Adele Purfurst's first child, Leland Richard Purfurst, was born September 18, 1913 in the Bronx, New York. On April 18, 1936 in Denver, Colorado he would marry Elizabeth Dorothy Greene. The daughter of Holley Greene and Clara Dean, she was born November 4, 1915 in Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio. Leland would die April 10, 1995 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. Elizabeth would die July 4, 1997 in Denver, Denver County, Colorado. They would have three children: James Richard Purfurst, Patty Dean Purfurst and Robert Lester Purfurst.

3.3.1.1. James Richard Purfurst married Carol Stracheim.

3.3.1.2. Patty Dean Purfurst first married William Pruitt and later married Rod Earhard.

3.3.1.3. Robert Lester Purfurst married Laurette Spaulding.

3.3.2. Lester and Adele Purfurst's second child, Nadine M. Purfurst, was born May 25, 1917 in the Bronx, New York. On May 7, 1941 in San Francisco, California she would marry William Joseph Walsh. He was born March 13, 1913 in Pennsylvania. William would die March 9, 1978 in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. They would have a daughter Joan Adele Walsh.

3.3.2.1. Joan Adele Walsh married William Lane.