

Introduction

Research began by simply investigating the descendants of my paternal grandparents. Once it was determined that the Great-Grandfather, his siblings and his parents immigrated to America, it was only natural to research them as well. Ultimately all four sets of Great-Grandparents came under review:

Karl Friedrich Ernst Purfürst, a.k.a. **Charles Purfeerst**, (1828-1895) and **Mary Jane Brown** (1837-1919) of Rice County, Minnesota. Their son **Harmon Francis Purfeerst** (1873-1955) is my grandfather.

John Bostwick Johnson (1834-1915) and **Electra Mahala Swanger** (1856-1931) also of Rice County, Minnesota. Their daughter, **Jennie June Johnson**, (1878-1958) is my grandmother.

Christian Albrecht Keller (1851-1932) and **Katherine Carolina Heck** (1845-1891) of Morton County, North Dakota. Their daughter **Karoline Catherine Keller** (1877-1960) is my grandmother.

Johannes Weiss (1834-1911) and **Victoria Madlener** (1839-1917), of Aitrach, Württemberg, Germany. Their son, **Wilhelm Weiss** (1867-1959), is my grandfather.

Along the way, spelling variations of the Purfürst family German surname were encountered. Research eventually identified 22 worldwide locations where a Purfürst emigrant had established initial residence upon departure from Germany.

It was in the village of Neustadt an der Orla, Germany where the ancestors for myself and eight other of those ancestral family groups once lived. A 1740 marriage record indicated the initial Purfürst family came from a village outside the jurisdiction of the parish. Sensing that the next parish record would probably lead to yet another parish the decision was made to continue the research effort in the homeland.

A three week research trip to Germany was conducted in September 2001. The summarization of that trip will be found elsewhere in this volume. From the records of 62 churches it was determined that descendants from the German village of Dittersdorf would be the ancestral source for Purfürst emigrants to the American states of Indiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Texas, Hawaii, Illinois plus Canada and one of two families who resided in London, England. The German city of Plauen would, however, be the ancestral source for Purfürst emigrants to New Jersey, Wisconsin, The Netherlands and Sweden.

That left me with but one Purfürst family group with a yet unidentified German origin. That family had 17th century presence in London, England prior to moving to Brooklyn, New York. An earlier research trip to England failed to provide a hint as to the German origin and thus the absence of a starting point for use during the research trip in Germany.

As previously indicated, research encompassed all known worldwide instances of the Purfürst surname, including its variations of Purfurst, Purfuerst and Purfeerst. Efforts were then undertaken to find an ancestral connection between all of these geographically separated family groups. Where a common connection was found, the family groups were consolidated into what is referred to as The Purfürst Family Tree. The family tree, which essentially depicts all descendants of the earliest known Purfürst family, will be found in Volume One. The Surname Index for The Purfürst Family Tree will be found at the conclusion of Volume One.

Volume One also contains a listing of German cities where the presence of Purfürst family members was noted. Due to the absence of a connection, not all the surnames contained there-in are reflected in the Purfürst Family Tree. Therefore, each city listing should be examined for additional Purfürst family members as well as for other allied surnames of interest.

Volume Two contains a listing, by geographical location, where Purfürst emigrants established initial residence upon departure from Germany. Since The Purfürst Family Tree represents a consolidation of the geographical Family Groups, individuals reflected in the Volume One Surname Index will be repeated in the Volume Two Surname Index.

Volume Two also contains the previously mentioned England/Brooklyn family group for whom no ancestral connection was found. The individuals in that family group are listed neither in The Purfürst Family Tree nor its associated Volume One Surname Index but will be identified in the Volume Two Surname Index.

Volume Two also contains a chapter containing "Other" Purfürst individuals upon which little or no research had yet been initiated. With some exceptions, these individuals are not reflected in the Volume Two Surname Index.. Therefore, each family within that chapter must be examined for additional surnames.

Volume Two, and its corresponding Surname Index, also reflects considerable research on my maternal ancestral German surnames of Keller and Weiss and my wife's French surname of Tanguay. Of significance, however, is the research associated with the ancestors of Grandmother Jennie June Johnson. Descending from a youth who was orphaned as a result of a Indian raid in 1655, her Dutch surname of Johnson had its 15th century American origin in the Dutch West Indies Colony on Long Island, New York. Her grandmother, in turn, was a descendant of a Connecticut 15th century English immigrant whose Bostock ancestors have been traced back to the infamous Domesday Book, commissioned by the King of England, William the Conqueror, in the year 1085. Due to her connection to William's son, King Henry I, Grandmother's ancestors actually trace back to the year 1700BC and to 16 Presidents of the United States. The appropriate chapter in Volume One will outline the family's ancestral connection to the European Monarchs. The corresponding biblical connection to Adam and Eve should be treated with a fair amount of skepticism.

The Source Documentation chapter in Volume One should be examined in detail. Essentially constituting research evidence, the extracts from obituaries, census, birth and death records will be found to be extremely informative. Information is arranged in surname-sequence; however, marriage information is grouped separately to the rear.

Volume One

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Purfürst Family Groups

Anton Purfürst, a.k.a. Anton Purfuerst
Arno Walter Purfürst, a.k.a. Walter Purfurst
August Bernard Purfürst, a.k.a. August Purfurst
Carl Friedrich August Purfürst, a.k.a. Charles Purfeerst
Carl Friedrich Hermann Purfürst, a.k.a. Herman Purfeerst
Ernst August Purfürst, a.k.a. Ernest Purfurst
Gustav Adolph Purfürst
Gustav Albin Purfürst, a.k.a., Gustave Purfuerst
Heinrich Julius Purfürst, a.k.a. Henry Purfurst

Hulda Clementine (Purfürst) Kunz
Johann David Ernst Purfürst, a.k.a. Ernest Purfurst
Christiana Paulina Purfürst, a.k.a. Paulina Purfurst
Ida Francisca Purfürst, a.k.a. Ida Purfurst
Robert Richard Purfürst, a.k.a. Richard Purfurst
Johann Friedrich Purfürst, a.k.a. Frederick Purfeerst
Johann Friedrich Jacob Purfürst, a.k.a. Frederick Purfurst
Karl Friedrich Ernst Purfürst, a.k.a. Charles Purfeerst
Maria Auguste (Geier) Purfürst, a.k.a. Maria Purfuerst
Reinhard Arno Purfürst, a.k.a., Reinhard Purfurst
Werner Alfred Purfürst
Wilhelm August Eugen Purfürst, a.k.a. William Purfurst

Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Cook County, Illinois
Hilo, Hawaii
Fountain County, Indiana
Steele County, Minnesota
Harris County, Texas
Gelderland, The Netherlands
Bergen County, New Kersey
London, England..... later
Brooklyn, New York
Morton County, North Dakota
Essex County, New Jersey
Essex County, New Jersey
Essex County, New Jersey
Essex County, New Jersey
Fountain County, Indiana
St. Louis County, Missouri
Rice County, Minnesota
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Ontario Province, Canada
Scania County, Sweden
Middlesex County, England

Other Purfürst Family Members

Purfürst War Dead
Carl Wilhelm Alfred Purfürst
Celeste Purfürst, a.k.a., Celeste Purfurst
Friederike Purfürst
Herman Purfürst, a.k.a., Herman Purfurst
Otto Purfürst
Wilhelmine Purfürst, a.k.a., Wilhelmine Purfurst

Germany
Helsinki, Finland
New York
Rome, Italy
New York City
Leipzig, Germany
Cook County, Illinois

Major Allied Families

Bostwick/Bostock Family
Johnson Family
Keller/Weiss Families
Tanguay Family

England and America
Holland and America
Germany and America
France, Canada and America

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