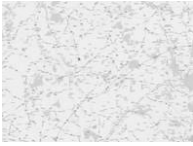


Jacob Pape Family History



001 – Grandfather Jacob Pape was born December 16, 1868 in the village of Meinstedt. That's in the northern part of the Province of Hanover, halfway between the northern port cities of Hamburg and Bremen. Most of the German emigrants departed either from Hamburg or primarily the port of Bremerhaven.



002 – If you zoom in on Google Maps, you can find the villages where our ancestors lived. Of 46 villages where many of our relatives were born in the last 5 or more centuries, all are less than 15 miles from Meinstedt. (Like from here to Higginsville.) The center for the community around Meinstedt was Heeslingen. Almost all of the people from the surrounding villages were baptized, confirmed, married, and buried at the Lutheran church in Heeslingen.) To give you an idea of distance, Meinstedt is only a mile and a half from Heeslingen.



003 – This is a recent photo of that church. It was built about 944 AD. Those are the original stone walls; however, the original steeple was a round turret (like the rook of a chess set) that burned in the late 1800s and was replaced by the current steeple.

Records of this parish dating back to the 1600s are available on microfilm so one can trace families back almost 400 years from them.

Don and Betty and maybe some others of you have seen this church. But for those of us that haven't, I have a video of it made by a Bredehoeft family member that you'll enjoy.

(Play church segment of Bredehoeft DVD – stop at shot of pew)

Herr Gerd Meyer was pastor of the church beginning in 1642. He just happens to be our eighth great-grandfather.

I also want to show you a little bit of Meinstedt.

(Play Meinstedt segment and stop at 4:00 minutes.)

This is the Pape farm in Meinstedt. Klaus Pape, a second cousin of ours, still operates a pig farm there. Klaus's house is fairly new, but the previous house is still standing behind it. I've been trying to find out how old that house is and whether Grandpa may have lived there.

As I mentioned earlier, one can go through the church records and trace our family back a number of centuries. I've generated a chart of our ancestors that you see on the wall. The chart was a little bulky to make copies for everyone, but you'll find a listing of the ancestors in the packet.

(Bring up the Jacob Pape ancestry.)

The earliest Pape entry in the Heeslingen church records is Gerd Pape's marriage to Anna Bredehoeft in 1682. Frank Bleck, a genealogist in Heeslingen, thinks Gerd was born in Selsingen, which is only about 5 miles northwest of Meinstedt and that he moved to Meinstedt about the time he was married. His father Johann was listed as living in Selsingen when he was a sponsor at the baptism of Gerd and Anna's first son Johann. I don't have a trace the Pape name any farther back. One may have to research the Selsingen church records to find anything earlier. But the Bredehoefts and many of our other ancestors were traced farther back because they lived in the Heeslingen area longer. You can see that in the family tree printout.

(Go back to the Claus Pape family)

Grandpa Jacob was one of 10 children. We knew about his sister Adelheid who also immigrated to Concordia, and also two brothers Claus and Peter from letters that they sent to Grandpa. Several letters mentioned another brother Johann, but other than that we didn't have any other information about the rest of the family,

Gr-grandfather Claus died one day before Grandpa's 9th birthday. Gr-grandmother Maria died when Grandpa was only 12 years old. So Grandpa was an orphan and lived with his older brother Claus's family in his teens.



004 – This is the only picture that I have of one of Grandpa's family. It's the youngest brother Peter Pape. The picture was taken when he was on leave from the Army. Because he was in the Army, we had always thought that he was killed in World War I.



005 – Don took this photo of a memorial to the World War I casualties in the Heeslingen area. Both a Klaus and Peter Pape listed under Meinstedt. However, Frank Bleck did some additional research and found out that Peter died in Wangersen in 1932. The last letter we have from Peter was sent from Wangersen in 1899 shortly after he got married. It turns out that Peter was mayor of Wangersen in the early 1900s after his father-in-law retired from the job.



006 – In 1884, when he was still only 15 years old, Grandpa Jacob decided to emigrate to the US. I don't know if he ever said exactly why he made this decision. He was an orphan by then. He didn't receive any land in Germany. The custom was that all of the parent's property was passed on to the oldest living son (or husband of the oldest daughter if there were no sons). Prussia had recently annexed Hanover and this was the beginning of the First Reich. Iron Chancellor Bismark was enforcing universal military training. A lot of the young boys didn't want to serve in the military and emigrated to America for that reason.

Farmers in the US were aware of the anti-draft sentiment and advertised in Germany that they would pay for the boat passage to America. In exchange, the boys had to work for them for a fixed period of time for to pay off the debt. This practice was outlawed by Congress in 1885, the year after Grandpa came over. Grandpa signed on with a farmer in Arkansas as a "sponsored immigrant", another term for indentured servitude. One of Grandpa's good friends, Bill Horman, was a ringleader of some of the boys that chose to emigrate. He also came to the US in 1884. Our dad always jokingly said that Grandpa was a draft dodger.

So Grandpa packed up his trunk with a bolt of linen cloth from his mother and his framed confirmation certificate and headed for Bremerhaven. He had received a 600 Mark inheritance after his parents death but, because he was a minor, that was left in trust for him in Germany. According to one of the letters, Claus finally sent the money to him eleven years later in 1895.

Note that he wrote Concordia Missouri on the trunk, even though he was headed to Arkansas. We'll see a little later why.



007 – He went to Bremerhaven where he boarded the SS Neckar. This is a photo of the actual ship on which he crossed the Atlantic. It was a steamship, even though it still had a mast.



008 – His name shows up in the passenger manifest for that voyage. He was one of the last to board the ship.

009 (pdf) – This transcription is a little easier to read. I don't know if Peter Eckhoff was from the same area and possibly Grandpa's friend. There were a number of Eckhoffs in the Heeslingen area. (The Papes were

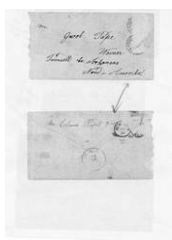
related to some of them.) According to US census records, Peter wound up in Calhoun County, Iowa, probably working for another farmer.



010 – The ship arrived in New York City on May 2, 1884 at the Castle Garden immigration station. This was the predecessor of Ellis Island.

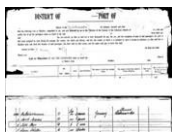


011 – And Grandpa finally set foot on American soil here. Can you imagine being 15 years old and suddenly stepping out in a strange new country all alone?



012 – I don't know how he made his way to the Midwest, probably by train, but he had to report to a farmer in Weiner, Arkansas to work in the rice fields there in order to pay off his obligation. We know the address because of this envelope. Weiner is in a large rice growing area close to the Mississippi River in northeastern Arkansas. In Aunt Anna's memoirs, she said that he went to Stuttgart, Ark. but that's quite a bit south of the rice fields.

On the way, however, he stopped in Concordia, MO. Why Concordia?



013 – That was because his sister Adelheid had immigrated here two years earlier. Adelheid came over to the US with her boyfriend Peter Schlesselmann and their friend Jacob Martens. They came over on the SS Baltimore that arrived in Baltimore, MD on May 8, 1882. For some reason, they declared on the passenger manifest that they were going to Illinois but they probably headed directly to Concordia because Peter had a younger brother Henry who was already living there. Henry Schlesselmann was the father of Arthur Schlesselman and Mrs. Amelia Luecht and grandfather of Wilbur and Vernon Schlesselman. Peter and Adelheid got married in Concordia the next year after they arrived in the US. So the Schlesselman family is most likely the reason why Grandpa eventually wound up in Concordia.



014 – This is a picture of Peter and Adelheid and their first child Anna. They also had two other children, August and Ella. August married Lillie Hensiek, Uncle Henry's sister. Some of you should remember August and the big old sedan he used to drive. He lived just off old Highway 40 outside of Concordia. He would drive very slowly and never signal when he turned off the busy highway. When Dad told him that he should signal to avoid an accident, August said "Ach, everybody knows I live there."

Aunt Anna told an interesting story about the two sisters. John Martens, son of Jacob Martens who came over from Germany with Peter and Adelheid, dated both girls. One day, Grandpa came home very upset. John announced that he was going to marry the younger daughter Ella instead of Anna. The family wanted him to marry Anna. Poor jilted Anna never married after that. In later years, John told his boys not to name any of their sons Jacob. Father Jacob Martens was notorious in the area as the bootlegger from Hamburger Hill.



015 – This is a later picture of Adelheid. I don't know if any of you remember her. She died in 1938.

Of course, Grandpa and Adelheid weren't the only Papes to come to Concordia. There were other Papes living in the area when Grandpa arrived. There was the Henry Pape family that lived on a farm just west of

Emma. The other Henry Pape, who was a merchant in Concordia and father of Ralph and Everett Pape, came to Concordia a month after Grandpa. There were also some Papes living between Alma and Blackburn. (August Pape apparently moved into that area from Stover, MO.) But, as far as can be determined, none of these families were related. As Henry Pape used to tell Uncle Louis, “It’s funny. You’re a Pape, I’m a Pape and we ain’t got no religion.”



016 – Grandpa Jacob spent his first night in Concordia in this house, he didn’t stay with the Schlesselmanns. This is the Stuenkel homestead., built by our gr-gr-grandfather Conrad Stuenkel. This picture was taken about 10 years after Grandpa arrived. The Stuenkels frequently housed people that visited the area as well as usually boarding a hired hand. This house stood just a few hundred yards from where we are now, about where the dining hall stands now. In this picture are gr-grandparents Louis and Sophia Stuenkel. And there is Grandma Mary. Edward Stuenkel married Martha Holsten and took over the homestead later and his son Otto after him. I believe that Henry Meyer was a hired hand. The girl seated on ground is Grandma’s sister Pauline. She married Henry Schumacher and they lived on a farm next to Grandpa Pape’s farm. Louis’s older sister Dorinda married Gustav Freund, so the young boy seated in the front is “Tader” Freund. Tader was Grandma Pape’s cousin. How do you like the house plants they used to dress up the photo?



017 – This is an earlier picture of Grandmother Marie Pape. She was only 9 years old when Grandpa arrived in the U. S.

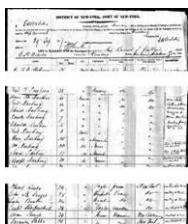


018 – This is another picture of the Stuenkel farm. In the far left background is the old brick church that stood on the cemetery grounds. Shady Rest was built somewhere behind that barn. Where we now are is in the left foreground.

It’s a little hard to see the picket fence around the house, but Aunt Anna told a funny story about it. This is what she was told. (**Play the Anna Pape Dieckhoff Memories, Aunt Martha’s Picket Fence.**) Tom sent me a CD with a collection of Aunt Anna’s remembrances. You’ll find a copy of the CD in the packet.



019 – This farm was built by Louis’ father. This is a picture of gr-gr-grandfather Conrad Stuenkel and his wife Marie Gerberding. Conrad was one of the early pioneers of Concordia. He had been a blacksmith in the Hanoverian cavalry, shoeing horses.



020 – He emigrated from his home of Metel in Hanover, Germany on the sailing ship Burmah that arrived in New York City on Sept. 28, 1837 along with other original settlers of Concordia, including the Dierkings and some of the Frerking brothers, nephews of the Dierkings. (Twelve year old Adolph is Don, Mary and my gr-grandfather.) Conrad may not have known the Dierkings and Frerking when he emigrated even though Metel was only 6 1/2 miles from Esperke where the Frerking lived.

I can’t decipher what Conrad gave as his destination but he stayed in NYC over the winter. He then traveled to St. Louis and on to southern Illinois where he worked for a few years. In early 1840 he then returned to St. Louis, where he married Marie Gerberding at Holy Ghost German Protestant Church.



021 – I haven’t found much information about the Gerberdings other than this certificate of birth for Marie. Note that this was issued when she was 6 years old. This is the type of certificate people would have drawn up by the pastor to certify “sub fide pastorali” their date and place of birth. Conrad may have known the Gerberdings back in Germany because Evensen is only a couple of miles from his home in Metel.



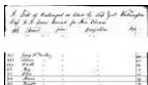
022 – Shortly after Conrad and Marie were married, he set off for Concordia where he bought land directly from the government at \$1.25/acre as shown in this land patent. Note that the date on the document is not when the land was purchased (Jun 13, 1840) but when it was recorded in Washington, DC three years later. This land was just east of what is now Highway 23 across from the cemetery.



023 – Conrad continued to buy more land. This is the patent for the land we are now sitting on. Notice that it is a military grant to a Mexican war veteran that was assigned to Conrad. Conrad sold the first piece of land to his younger brother Fritz when he arrived in the US. Fritz, in turn, sold a part of that land to St. Paul's for Rev. Biltz's parsonage.



024 – This is a nice portrait of our gr-grandparents Louis and Sophie Stuenkel. Sophie was a Bruns. Her parents were John Henry and Christine Frerking Bruns. Christine was the sister of Adolph Frerking. There have been a number of connections between the Stuenkel and Frerking families through the years.



025 – Christine came to the U.S. in 1845 with the rest of the Frerking family. (She was christened "Maria Christine" but was generally known as Christine.)

(Back up to the Louis and Sophia Stuenkel photo 024)

As you may know, Sophie's father John Henry was one of the victims of the Oct 10, 1864 bushwacker massacre. The Bruns family was relatively well-to-do back in Germany and bought a lot of land in the Concordia area.



026 – I haven't been able to find out exactly when the Bruns family came to the U.S. but, when John Henry's father Henry Bruns arrived, one of the plots he bought is shown in this land patent (purchased May 20, 1840). This is part of what eventually became the Jacob Pape homestead. But Henry donated the southwest corner of this land to St. Paul's in 1842 when the church was first formed. This is right across the road where the cemetery now stands. John Henry inherited the rest of this land, and he and Christine lived on it in a house where the summer kitchen of the

Pape home stood. Family legend says that, before John Henry was killed by the bushwackers, he hid his valuables in the yard somewhere around the house. Grandma Pape used to tell the kids to dig in the garden and they might find the buried treasure. Aunt Anna finally caught on that it was a trick to get the kids to dig up the garden for Grandma.



027 – You may not recognize this man but this is Pastor Adolph Franke, the first ordained pastor of St. Paul's. He married Christine's youngest sister Friedericke and they were living with John Henry and Christine in that house according to the 1850 census.



028 – Just to give you an idea of the land that was owned by the family, this is an 1877 plat map of the area. You can see that Conrad Stuenkel owned most of the north side of Concordia, down to what is now 4th Street as well as a lot of the east side of Concordia. Fritz Stuenkel owned Conrad's original plot of land and expanded his holdings to the east. Louis Stuenkel inherited the Bruns land that became the Jacob Pape farm.



029 – The 1930 plat map shows what was now the Jacob Pape farm. Edward Stuenkel took over most of the various Stuenkel property. Part of it had been sold to St. Paul's College and others. He had several sons, Walter and Omar, who became pastors and Herbert, who became a teacher, so he sold some of the land to St. Paul's to pay for their education. Note that he still had

a plot of land north of 4th Street and east of Bismark. This is what we remember as Stuenkel's pasture. That's where Johnny Allen eventually built his lake.



030 – Getting back to Grandpa Jacob's initial visit to Concordia, Grandma Marie must have made quite an impression on Grandpa. You have to remember that she was less than 9 years old at the time. But all through Grandpa's travels in Arkansas and the state of Washington, he wrote letters to her signed as "Your long-legged friend Jacob". You probably are all familiar with the stories about those years. I'm not sure how long he spent in Arkansas and Washington, but eventually he returned to Concordia. This may be the earliest picture of Grandpa. Does anyone have the original?



031 – This is an early picture of Grandpa and his friend John Mueller who also came from the Heeslingen area. When Christina Pape contacted me from Meinstedt, Germany, she e-mailed me a copy of this picture. The Pape family there had held on to this picture for over 100 years.

Grandpa worked several years for his future father-in-law to obtain the farm we knew as the Pape homestead.



032 – By now, Grandma had grown up.



033 – And Jacob and Marie married on Feb. 28, 1897.



034 – So here is a timeline of how the Jacob and Mary Pape family converged in Concordia, MO.



035 – This is an early photo of the Pape home that most of us may still remember.



036 – And a longer range view.



037 – This is Grandpa's first car. It's a Dort, somewhere between a 1915 and 1920 model. Aunt Anna's reminiscences include an interesting story about a trip they made in it.



038 – This is my favorite picture of Grandpa, the way I remember him puffing on a White Owl cigar in that rubber cigar holder.



039 – And a picture the Dad got of camera-shy Grandma. These pictures are from an old movie that Dad took of the home place. Some of you may not have seen those movies so I want to show this clip.

(Show Pape Homestead video and comment about various scenes.)

Note the farm where Aunt Flora and Uncle Henry lived. There is a legend that some of the Jesse James gang stayed overnight in a barn on that farm and left a message thanking for the use of the barn.



040 – After Uncle Elmer died and wouldn't inherit the farm, Grandpa retired and bought this house on Orange St. from his old friend Bill Horman, the ringleader of the boys that came over from Germany in the 1880s. For a while, Bill lived upstairs until he moved to Marshall, MO to live with one of his sons who started the Horman Meat Plant there.

Aunt Flora and Uncle Henry took over the Pape homestead and finally Aunt Flora lived in this house on Orange St.



041 – This is one of the last pictures of Grandpa and Grandma taken at their golden wedding celebration in 1947. According to a letter that Dorothy sent me, they sent this picture to their niece Anna Pape Meyer back in Germany. She said that she could see from it that Grandpa was her father's brother.

Grandma died Sept. 11, 1951 and Grandpa died Jan 5, 1956 (coincidentally 20 days before his friend Bill Horman).

Postscript.

If you are familiar with early Roman Catholic Church history, you may be aware that the papacy moved from Rome to southern France in the 14th century because of a dispute within the church hierarchy as well as somewhat unsafe conditions in Rome. They lived there for about 70 years which is why the period is tongue-in-cheek referred to as the Babylonian Captivity of the Pope. (The early Jews were held in captivity in Babylon for that same amount of time.)

The Pope settled in the Avignon area on the Rhone River of France. He built a new palace there named *Châteauneuf-du-Pape* (new home of the Pope) and immediately planted a lot of grape vines there for sacramental wine. A famous variety of Rhone wine bearing that name is still being produced from those grapes.



042 – When the Pope left Rome, he packed up the church relics in a chest referred to as *La Chasse du Pape* (the chest of the Pope).



043 – Let's open it up and see what's inside.

(See <http://www.lachassewines.com/home.html>)