

Frerking Emigrations in the Niedersachsen Archives

While browsing the latest version of the website for the Niedersachsen Archives (Hannover, Germany) at <https://www.arcinsys.niedersachsen.de/arcinsys/start>, I did a search of the Frerkings from Esperke and found some interesting emigration records. (Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg Auswanderer). It is not clear when and by whom the records were recorded and indexed, but there are some inconsistencies in the listings.

The earliest emigration date in the archives is that for Johann “Friedrich” Frerking. (NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg. No. 4853) [The original German listings below are followed by rough machine translations into English by the Chrome browser.]

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: Frerking, Friedrich, Esperke
Geburtstag/Alter:
Beruf/Stand:
Eltern: Frerking, Johann Dietrich; Frerking, Marie Dorothee, geb. Sprengel
MitAuswanderer:
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Nordamerikanische Staaten
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: Frühjahr 1837
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges: als Deserteur mit seiner ganzen Montur

Name, first name, country of origin: Frerking, Friedrich, Esperke
Birthday / Age:
Occupation / status:
Parents: Frerking, Johann Dietrich; Frerking, Marie Dorothee, born Sprengel
Emigrating with:
Denomination:
Target (Country / City): North American States
Date emigration / passport issue: spring 1837
financial circumstances:
Other: as a deserter with his whole uniform

This is the record found by Robert Frizzell and detailed in the opening of his book *Independent Immigrants*. The spring of 1837 was probably a guess that was made because, being a deserter, he would not have submitted an application to emigrate.

The next record involves the departure of the four brothers with their uncle Friedrich Dierking, whose application was filed as shown below. (NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg. No. 4853)

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: Dierking, Friedrich, Esperke
Geburtstag/Alter:
Beruf/Stand: Großkötner
Eltern:
MitAuswanderer: Familie
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: Juli 1837

Vermögensverhältnisse:

Sonstiges: nehmen mit den 27jährigen zweiten Sohn und 2 noch schulpflichtige Söhne des Kleinkötners Frerking, Johann Dietrich, u. a. Frerking, Christian Wilhelm

Name, first name, country of origin: Dierking, Friedrich, **Esperke**

Birthday / Age:

Occupation / status: Großkötner

parents:

Emigrating with: Family

Faith:

Target (Country / City): America

Date of emigration / passport issue: July 1837

financial circumstances:

Other: take the 27 year-old second son and 2 school age children of Kleinkötters **Frerking**, Johann Dietrich, u. a. **Frerking**, Christian Wilhelm

Note that the Frerking children are listed as the 27 year-old (?) second son and 2 school age children of Johann Dietrich Frerking along with “Christian Wilhelm” Frerking. While the second son was Juergen Heinrich, he was only 24 years old in 1837, not 27. The two school age children would be Heinrich Ludewig and Adolph (my great-grandfather). Being 12 years old at that time, it's surprising that Adolph was allowed to go with his older brothers. He probably was not yet confirmed because Loberta Runge was unable to find an entry for that in the Esperke records. (She assumed that he was confirmed in St. Louis.) Ludewig was 17 and had been confirmed three years earlier, so it is unusual that he would be listed as “school age”. The fourth son is listed as “Christian Wilhelm”, undoubtedly Georg “Wilhelm”. He is listed “u.a.”, i.e. *unter anderem* or among others). The reason he is listed that way is that he may have filed a separate application to emigrate. There is another entry in the archives (NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rgb. No. 4853) listed as follows:

*Name, Vorname, Herkunft: **Frerking**, Christian Wilhelm, **Esperke***

Geburtstag/Alter: 22.12.1826

Beruf/Stand:

*Eltern: **Frerking**, Johann Dietrich; **Frerking**, Marie Dorothee, geb. Sprengel*

Mitauswanderer:

Konfession:

Ziel (Land/Ort): Nordamerikanische Staaten

Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: Juli 1837

Vermögensverhältnisse:

*Sonstiges: mit der Familie des Großkötters Dierking, Friedrich aus **Esperke** ausgewandert; der 27jährige Bruder sowie ein ebenfalls noch schulpflichtiger Bruder wandern mit aus auch: Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg. Nr. 4932 und Nr. 405*

Name, first name, country of origin: **Frerking**, Christian Wilhelm, Esperke

Birthday / Age 22.12.1826

Occupation / status:

Parents: **Frerking**, Johann Dietrich; **Frerking**, Marie Dorothee, born Sprengel

Emigrating with:

Denomination:

North American countries: Target (Country / City)

Date of emigration / passport issue: July 1837

financial circumstances:

Other: emigrated with the family of Großkötners Dierking, Friedrich from Esperke; the 27-year old brother and a likewise under school brother traveled with [der 27jährige Bruder sowie ein ebenfalls noch schulpflichtiger Bruder wandern mit aus auch] also: Hann. 74 Neustadt / Rbg. No. 4932 and no. 405

The birthday is wrong. Wilhelm was born 6 Oct 1814, so it is not clear where the 22 Dec 1826 date came from. (The latter date would have made him school-age and too young to be applying for a permit to emigrate.) The Frerking child born closest to that date was Maria "Christine", who was born 9 Oct 1826. One might guess that the Dec date was his confirmation date since people often used their confirmation certificate as proof of their birthdate. (There were no official birth certificates at that time.) But William was confirmed in the spring of 1829. The other possibility is that at some point a copy of his birth record from the church records was made and dated at that time.

The next record was for Charlotte Frerking. (NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rgb. No. 4932)

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: **Frerking, Charlotte, Esperke**
Geburtstag/Alter: 21 Jahre
Beruf/Stand:
Eltern:
Mitauswanderer:
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: 1844
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges:

Name, first name, country of origin: **Frerking, Charlotte, Esperke**
Birthday / Age: 21 years
Occupation / status:
Parents:
Emigrating with:
Denomination:
Target (Country / City): America
Date of emigration / passport issuance: 1844
financial circumstances:
Other:

As I had deduced earlier (see <http://concordia-memories.org/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=93>), Charlotte had emigrated alone a year before the rest of the family. She was found in the passenger list for the 1844 arrival of the *Astracan* in New Orleans.

As is well documented, the rest of the Frerking family immigrated to the US in 1845 on board the *Gen Washington*. The archive entry (NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rgb. No. 367) is as follows:

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: **Frerking, Marie Dorothee, geb. Sprengel, Witwe des Kleinkötners Frerking, Johann Dietrich, Esperke**

Geburtstag/Alter: 54 Jahre
Beruf/Stand: Altenteilerin
Eltern:
Mitauswanderer: 2 Söhne und 2 Töchter im Alter von 16, 16 (!), 14 und 12 Jahren
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: Herbst 1845
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges: folgt ihren dortigen 4 Söhnen, u. a. ihrem Juli 1837 ausgewanderten Sohn Frerking, Christian Wilhelm und ihrem im Frühjahr 1837 ausgewanderten Sohn Frerking, Friedrich auch: Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg. Nr. 4932

Name, first name, country of origin: Frerking, Marie Dorothee, born Sprengel, widow of Kleinkötner Frerking, Johann Dietrich, Esperke
Birthday / Age: 54 years old
Occupation / status: Altenteilerin [retiree]
parents:
Emigrating with: 2 sons and 2 daughters aged 16, 16 , 14 and 12 years (!)
Denomination:
target (country / City): America
date of emigration / passport issue: autumn 1845
financial circumstances:
Other: follows her local 4 sons, including their July 1837 emigrant son Frerking, Christian Wilhelm and her in the spring 1837 emigrated son Frerking, Friedrich also: Hann. 74 Neustadt / Rbg. No. 4932

Note that it lists only four children in Dorothee's family. They would be Marie "Christine", Dieterich "August", "Dieterich" Eduard", and Doris "Friedericke". The ages are relatively close although Christine was actually about 18 (perhaps a typo). Interestingly, someone must have researched the records and found the other sons (or she may have volunteered the information).

Older son "Georg" Heinrich was married by then and would have filed separately. There are several other entries in NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rbg. No. 367, both of which list a Georg Frerking, but with different ages and occupations.

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: Frerking, Georg, Esperke
Geburtstag/Alter: 28 Jahre
Beruf/Stand: Kötnner und Schuhmacher
Eltern:
Mitauswanderer: Ehefrau von 28 Jahren
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: 1845
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges:

Name, first name, country of origin: Frerking, Georg, Esperke
Birthday / Age: 28 years old
Occupation / status: Kötnner and Shoemaker
parents:
Emigrating with: wife of 28 years
Denomination:

Target (Country / City): America
Date of emigration / passport issuance: 1845
financial circumstances :
Other:

This is most likely “Georg” Heinrich. Age 28 would be consistent, although his wife Charlotte “Louise” was several years younger. Being the oldest son on the Esperke farm at that time, he is listed as “Kötner”. Note that he was also a shoemaker to provide additional income.

The other entry listing a Geog Frerking is:

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: **Frerking, Georg, Esperke**
Geburtstag/Alter: 26 Jahre
Beruf/Stand: Schneider
Eltern:
Mitauswanderer: Ehefrau von 23 Jahren; Sohn von 1/2 Jahr
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: 1845
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges:

Name, first name, country of origin: **Frerking, Georg, Esperke**
Birthday / Age: 26 Years
Professional / Stand: Schneider [tailor]
parents:
Emigrating with: wife of 23 years; Son of 1/2 year
Denomination:
Target (Country / City): America
Date of emigration / passport issuance: 1845
financial circumstances:
Other:

Could there have been another Frerking family in Esperke that immigrated in the same year? Or was it Otto Georg (“Scharze”) Frerking, the last of the Frerking sons not yet accounted for?

There is another unusual entry is found in NLA HA Hann. 74 Neustadt/Rgb. No. 4863, i.e.:

Name, Vorname, Herkunft: **Frerking, Dorothee, Esperke**
Geburtstag/Alter:
Beruf/Stand:
Eltern:
Mitauswanderer: **Frerking, Heinrich Wilhelm** (05.03.1845 in Hannover)
Konfession:
Ziel (Land/Ort): Amerika
Datum der Auswanderung/Passerteilung: 1847
Vermögensverhältnisse:
Sonstiges: Name des Vaters in der Generalliste nicht angegeben, laut Vermerk auf einer Anlage haben die Eltern sich später vermählt und sind mit dem Sohn ausgewandert

Name, first name, country of origin: Frerking, Dorothee, Esperke
Birthday / Age:
Occupation / status:
Parents:
Emigrating with: Frerking, Heinrich Wilhelm (05.03.1845 in Hannover)
Denomination:
Target (Country / City): America
Date of emigration / passport issue: 1847
financial circumstances:
Other: the father in the General list name is not specified, according to note on a disposition(?), the parents have married later and emigrated with son

Note that son Heinrich Wilhelm was born 5 Mar 1845. Unfortunately, the entry does not list any other relatives. It does mention that no father was given in the "General list" and that "the parents have married later and emigrated with son".

One of Dorothee Sprengel Frerking's sons, Otto Georg ("Scharze"), was not accounted for in the earlier listings. Some have thought that Scharze came to the US on 1845 Gen Washington voyage with the remainder of the family. However, the emigration records and ship records rule that out. As I pointed out in my earlier posting, he and his family appear to be listed in passenger list for the 4 Dec 1845 voyage of the ship *Edgar*. The age matches that for Scharze and his wife was Dorothea nee Tschirping, with a ½ year old son Henry by the latter part of 1845. This "Georg" is listed as a tailor, the occupation that Scharze continued when he arrived in St. Louis. They left Germany in 1845, not 1847. The later date may be when the release papers were finally issued. So, while Scharze may have intended to come to the US with the rest of the family, it seems reasonable that he waited a little longer until his wife and son were ready for the voyage.

Given the occupations listed for Georg and Scharze, one can surmise that the Frerking farm in Esperke was not large enough to support a large family with 13 children. So the boys in the family had additional jobs to provide for the family. This might also explain why Ludewig was eager to head for the gold fields in California after coming to Missouri.

Finally, one can conclude that the emigration records in the Niedersachsen Archives are consistent with the tentative conclusions reached in early postings.