



# Kisabeth Historical Review

KISSEBERTH / KISABETH / KISABERTH

Volume 1 No. 3 Gerald L. Kisabeth, Editor

Gordon W. Kisabeth, Publisher

## GREETINGS

Volume No. 3 is finally out. So very sorry for the long delay. So many things have come up that we had to put a short delay on our newsletter. We do not anticipate future delays. We have been hearing from

Some family members but would like all Kisseberths / Kisabeths / Kisaberths to write. Again free to send any family information you have. If you want any of your family pictures in our book, now is the time to contact us.

## GERMAN EMIGRATION AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

The Kisseberth / Kisabeth / Kisaberth story in America begin in 1832 when family members emigrated from Hessen Darmstadt, Germany. The correct spelling of our surname was once Kuschwert (to choose a sword) and with our clergyman ancestor Alexander it became Kisseberth in the 1500's, The Kisabeth spelling was changed over a gradual span of

about forty years and was purely unintentional and was a combination of pronunciation and census spellings. Since the 1880 Federal and Ohio State Census records this spelling has become permanent of all the descendants of the German Johann Philipp Kisseberth or as he was also known in his new home America, Philip Kisabeth Sr.. One of the Immigrating brothers Georg Enedrich (George Fred) Kisseberth II settled around the Bettsville / Burgoon area in Seneca County, Ohio. It **was** with his son John that the spelling Kisaberth was introduced. This variant again was accidental and is still used today by his descendants.

Discovered in the 1840 census was a listing for a George Kiesbert. This was in Clinton Township (location of Tiff in) Seneca County, Ohio. It shows 1 male 1 female between 30-40 years old with three children (2 males between 5-10 yrs.



old and 1 female under 5 yrs. old). I am positive that this Kisseberth showing is Georg (George) Kisseberth born July 26, 1609 in Nieder - Kinzig, Germany. Also the story on Philip Kisseberth written about 1900 in the Centennial Biographical History of Seneca County Ohio, mentions on page 481 that the father Johann Georg (George) some time in the 1830's came to the United States locating in Tiffin. A complete and thorough search of existing passenger lists and immigrations records for mention of our ancestors showed nothing. Main German ports of 19th century emigration were Bremen and Hamburg. Unfortunately all original 19th century Bremen ship lists have been destroyed, and only the Hamburg list from 1650 on is still preserved today.

On file in the Hessische Staatsarchiv Darmstadt there are thirteen pages of registration emigration for Georg Friedrich Kisseberth and sons. The last date mentioned in the German records is June 11, 1842 and the earliest American mention was the Seneca County marriage record of Philip and Elisabetha (Daum)

Kisabeth of August 31, 1842. The first land transaction shows Geo. Kisseberth as the grantor (seller) and a Valentine Sheer, grantee (buyer) transferring 8 units of land in Tiffin, Ohio for \$135.00 on December 28, 1842. So it is safe to assume that aside from Georg (George) and Anna Catharina Kisseberth and possibly a Adam



Kisseberth family the Majority of the Kisseberth family left their Germany for American soil in late summer of early fall (July or August) 1842. Gordon W. Kisseberth uncovered two Germany emigration index cards while visiting the Salt Lake City Genealogical Library in March 1990. They show that in February 1832 a Jg. Kisseberth and family from Nieder - Kinzig and in March 1832 an Adam Kisseberth from Kirch Brombach applied for emigration to the United States.

We can conclude with a great amount of certainty that one son, Johann Georg and his wife Anna Catharina Osmann, were the first Kisseberths to travel to America. This was probably in mid to late 1832. It was first thought that he made the trip in 1942 along with father Georg Friedrich and 3 brothers and one sister but with the 1840 census discovery he immigrated ten years prior. According to all available records, many that are pieced, there were 11 Kisseberths that crossed the Atlantic in 1842. A fifth son, Nikolaus remained in Germany as a shoemaker. Since one family member was already well established the entire family relocated in Seneca County, Ohio.

The largest part of the German emigrants of the 1840's left Europe via Dutch, Belgian or French ports. I would like to add that while traveling through rural Ohio in 1988 I contacted a distant relative, Harold Kisseberth in the small town of Gilboa. He had in his possession a very old and treasured storage trunk. It is said that his great grandfather Gabriel had brought this heirloom overseas to America from Holland many many years ago. According to my updated records Gabriel Kisseberth was born here in America but it could very well have been his

father Johann George who brought this antiqued trunk to America. This passed down story may in itself lead one to believe the our family left the small village of Nieder - Kinzig via Hessen - Darmstadt and a Dutch port, probably Rotterdam before arriving in America.

The newly arrived clan of Kisseberths settled in Seneca County, Ohio area for any one of several reasons. To understand the nature and scope of German emigration in the nineteenth century, and the Kisseberth emigrant himself, we must look at prevailing conditions, social, religious, political and economic and their influences upon the decision to leave their homeland. In the first half of the 19th century there was a noted increase in German emigration cause by population pressure, crop failures and bad weather. During this century a total of about three and one half million Germans landed in the United States. IN 1842 German emigration totaled 20,000. Due to this large number contributing to the population of the U.S., it has been estimated that one of every four Americans has a German ancestor. To personalize the occupational status of the German emigrant, we may look at the period from 181 5-1 865, and era called the pre-industrialization. This was a period of family migration, farmer and craftsman in pursuit of a better life, mostly from southwestern Germany, our ancestors' homeland. Conditions in America during this time accelerated immigration. America was full of unsettled areas at a time when over populations threatened Germany. America was a country in need of workers and settlers. The Germans

could afford to go about the business of settling at a more sedate pace unlike the Irish, the Germans left home not only because of economic disaster, but they wanted to better their lot. Consequently, they usually arrived with some savings, and a clear-cut destination: the rich farmlands of the Midwest, namely Seneca County, Ohio.

There were three great waves of German migration. The second wave began in 1820 and continued to increase until the Civil war in 1860. Unsettled conditions in the German States after the fall of Napoleon in 1815, and the Congress of Vienna in

1815, a great wave of conservatism swept throughout Europe. As a result, earlier political freedoms were withdrawn and the people were under the strict rule of an Authoritarian State. Thus, they migrated to seek greater personal freedom and liberty. Many of the Seneca County Germans came during this period. The Germans were mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits. In Seneca County, Families such as Egbert, Gross, Hotz, Rumschlaud and of course Kisseberth settled. There was a large concentration of Germans around New Riegel, but one finds German names in every township in the country. The townships of Loudon, Hopewell, Clinton and Liberty all had early Kisseberths farming their rich soil. The Germans preferred to build with brick, as they had done in the homeland. Their large brick houses and churches are almost a distinctive feature of Seneca County. These farmers were thrifty and industrious and soon acquired financial stability in a gentile farm country.

According to a 1900 centennial biographical history of Philip Kisseberth, son of George

Kisseberth, the newly arrived families first settled in Tiffin. Not knowing the English language they undoubtedly gathered in the German section. As mentioned earlier the Kisseberths sold eight units in Tiffin in December 1942. The first farmland purchased by our ancestors was the acquisition of 80 acres of land on April 4, 1843. This rich soil was located two miles south of the city of Fostoria in section 19, Loudon Township, the east one half of the southeast one quarter.

In 1850 there were 591 Germans out of 709 emigrants for a total of 26% of the population while in 1860 the percentage rose to 28% in the city of Tiffin. Religious affiliations of the Germans had been pre-determined by the principality from which they had migrated. Those areas, which had embraced the teachings of Martin Luther and his follower, namely our yen own Alexander

Kisseberth, were Protestant. The first Lutheran church in Tiffin was founded in 1835. Known as the "truths" it was at the corner of Jefferson and Main. This church was probably the first place of worship in America for our family.



After buying their respective farms south of Fostoria the Kisseberths joined the closer, smaller German Lutheran Church, St. John Evangelical Church. This small structure was located at which is now Ohio Road 587 and County Road 18 in the northeast corner of section 28.

This is the church where Rev. John G. Neuschmidt baptized my great grandfather William Kisabeth in February 1860.

Until well into the 20th century, the Germans continued to refer to themselves as Hessian, Bavarians, Alacians or Prussians. Obituaries always referred to a German principality as the place of birth. Many of our early Kisseberth / Kisabeth ancestors census records showed place of birth as Hesse Darmstrdt. Also by the turn of the century, there were fewer and fewer people who could speak or read German. Case in point; in just three short generations not only could the majority of the Kisseberth / Kisaberths / Kisabeths speak German they didn't even know Deutschland was their country of origin.

Perhaps to summarize our emigration from the fatherland we can use the words of the German poet, Goethe, "Amenka ku hast es besser", (America you have it better.) For whatever the reason we came, the journey to America was the fulfillment of a dream.

## MEMO



## REUNION

Our 1st annual Kisseberth I Kisabeth I Kisaberth family reunion is again temporarily on hold. We have no news on a specific date an place. We are in urgent need of volunteers for a small committee. There has been some interest generated but we need a little help. My brother and I will keep working on this project with the hope of a late summer reunion in the Fostoria I Tiff in area of Ohio.

I was very much saddened by the passing of Roscoe P. Kisseberth of McCutchenville, Ohio on January 21. He had supplied much information to this project. Our prayers and thoughts go to his wife Mary and son Paul

**A BRAND NEW KISABETH**  
He's Lucas McClellan Kisabeth son of Steve and Pamela A. Kisabeth of Cincinnati

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank all who have sent information, pictures and donations since our last newsletter. We have been receiving letters from relatives all over the USA and even our German Kisseberths write to us regularly.

**SPECIAL THANKS GO TO-**  
Clyde and son William Kisseberth of Toledo; Richard Kisseberth of Baltimore; Virginia Beck of Bryan, Ohio; and cousin Fred Kisabeth of Boise, Idaho

## FAMILY HISTORY BOOK

We have reached a printer who will copy our pictures. We are still looking into the least expensive method. We hope to keep the price of the books around \$20 - \$25. We will keep you informed.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The October 27 marriage of Kelly M. Coleman to Thomas Patrick Kisabeth in Turlock California. Tom is the son of Philip and Kathy Kisabeth of San Jose, Ca.

**GET WELL** wishes go out to the following: William Burdette Kisabeth of Lansing, Mi.; Dr. Calvin Cotrell of Haines City, Fl.; Glen D. Kisabeth of New Boston, Mi.; Mrs. Garland Wolf of Fostoria and Mrs. Clyde Kisseberth of Toledo.

## **NEXT ISSUE**

**-COUNT LEONARD KISSEBERTH  
AND CASTLE BREUBERG  
-REUNION UPDATE  
-HISTORY BOOK UPDATE**

## **MAIL ALL**

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