
Die Deutsche Ecke

The German Corner: #4

Cranberry Prairie

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I hope that all of you have had a good summer of digging and looking and that it turned up some treasures. One of my gems that I uncovered this summer in my research on the Oldenburg immigrants is that Mercer County has a second immigrant son who became a Catholic bishop. Casper Heinrich Waschefort genannt Borges (*1826, Essen, Oldenburg) in the early 1840's lived with his family on an uncle's farm north of Saint Henry near Philothea. Casper became the second bishop of Detroit and in 1890. The other immigrant son is Johann Heinrich Lüers from Lutten who became the first bishop of Fort Wayne. The Lüers family lived at Minster which was originally in Mercer County.

Following on our discussion of names, sometimes it appears in a family that all the names of the boys begin with *Johann* and all the girls begin with *Maria*. Do they all have the name of John and Mary? No, because it would be by their second name that they were known. It seems too that the Low Germans lacked creative originality in the giving of names. From generation to generation the same names repeat themselves. Which family does not have at least a *Herman* or an *Anna*? Other familiar names included Johann, Heinrich, Bernard, Friedrich, Gerhard, Joseph, Carl, Franz, Arnold, and Anton for the men; and Maria, Anna, Elisabetha, Margaretha, Catharina, Bernadina, Angela, Agnes, and Gertrud for the women. The name *Heinrich* or Henry was a favorite name for the second name, as in Herman Heinrich, Johann Heinrich, Gerhard Heinrich, and the like. It is not among the emigrants from Oldenburg, Hannover, and Westphalia, that we will find such names as Sebastian and Gottlieb or Barbara, Kunigunda, and Crescentia, but among those from the south of Germany, from Baden and Bavaria. Sometimes there will be encountered the Low German name forms. We may tend to think that these are misspellings, but they are not. Among them are *Bernd* for Bernard, *Harm* for Herman, *Hinirk* for Heinrich, and *Arnd* for Arnold. (Pronounced, the first two names sound like "Ben" and "Ham", familiar to many of us.) *Jenken* is used for Maria Anna or Anna Maria, and translated into English as "Jane". Other feminine names include *Setken* for Elisabetha, *Gretken* for Margaretha, *Nesken* for Agnes, *Engel* for Angela, and *Dina* for Bernadina. One women's name that is strikingly Low German is the name *Gesina*. The "-ke" and "-ken" are diminutive or endearing suffixes.

Many family names have been formed from first names with the addition of possessive suffixes such as: "-ing", "-er", "-en", and "-es". The "-ing" suffix means "the son of". Thus, the name Janning for instance, means "son of John". It turns out that sometimes our last names are not our "real" last names at all in the American way of thinking. We will continue with this though the next time.

<i>A German - Latin Lexicon:</i>	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
	<i>Filius</i>	Sohn	son
	<i>Filia</i>	Tochter	daughter
	<i>Puer/is</i>	Kind	child
	<i>Infans</i>	"	infant

<i>From whence they came...</i>	KINGDOM OF HANNOVER
Furstenau:	Albrecht, Sanders
Glandorf:	Brinkmann, Gadker, Göhr, Papenbrock (Gramann), Wiemann
Hagen:	Herkenshoff
Hardeburg:	Ernestes / Ernst
Harderberg:	Schmitmeyer
Hasselüne:	Kruse, Rohling
