
Die Deutsche Gefte

The German Corner: #9

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

If I find in the census that my ancestor came from Prussia, does this mean that he or she came from the environs of Berlin or from the state of Brandenburg? No, not at all. Good chances are that this ancestor came from Westphalia, which was a province of the Kingdom of Prussia, or he or she could even had come from Hannover, which in 1866 became a province of Prussia. The states of Germany, which before 1802 numbered in the hundreds, were always in a state of flux. An identification which holds for one period does not hold for another. Wars and marriages were the causes of this flux. The histories of the various German states are thus very complicated matters and so it is often difficult to grasp a sense of the histories of the various German states. It is probably best to begin with the *Amt* or *Grafschaft* (County) from which the ancestor came, and then to gradually expand. Hannover, for example is a conglomerate of principalities, duchies, and counties, that coalesced over a number of centuries. The nucleus of the Hannover state is found in the the Welfish Lands which began in 1137. These lands were partitioned in 1569. The Duchy of Braunschweig-Lüneburg along with several principalities was raised in 1692 to the dignity of an Electorate and became known then as Hannover. To Hannover there was added the County of Hoya and the County of Diepholz among others. In 1802 the Prince-Bishopric of Osnabrück was added to the newly designated kingdom, and among later additions were the Duchy of Aremberg-Meppen and the County of Lingen. The greatest portion of Hannoverian immigrants in west-central Ohio came from the Prince-Bishopric of Osnabrück. Catholic immigrants came especially from the villages of Ankum, Alfhausen, Merzen, Neuenkirchen, and Bersenbrück. Evangelical immigrants were particularly from Gehrde, Bramsche, Schleddehausen, and Wittlage. Evangelical immigrants who settled at New Bremen came also from the Counties of Diepholz and of Hoya, and the Principality of Göttingen. Therefore, to know the history of one's Hannoverian ancestors one needs to first determine from which former county or principality they originated - Osnabrück, Hoya, Diepholz, Göttingen, etc., and then focus in on the history of that state. Each has its own particular history and culture, something that a generic article on Hannover will not do justice to.

<i>A German - Latin Lexicon:</i>	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
	<i>Morior</i>	Sterben	to die
		Gestorben	died
	<i>Mortuus/a</i>		dead
	<i>Mors</i>	Tod	death
	<i>Obiit</i>		went to meet
	<i>Sepultare</i>	Begraben	to bury
	<i>Sepultus/a</i>		buried
	<i>Sepulvi</i>		I buried
	<i>Sepultura</i>	Begräbnis	burial
	<i>sacramentis reflectis</i>		having received the Sacraments
	<i>viatico reflectus est</i>		he/she received Viaticum

From whence they came... KINGDOM OF HANNOVER

Rieste:	Dickmann, Imwalle, Kramer, Luttmer, Mehmert
Rulle:	Meßering/Meiring, Sprehe
Schepsdorf:	Kampschulte, Kösters, Lambers
Schapen:	Brunswick, Keeven
Schleddehausen:	Knost, Lanfersieke
