

HEY GENEALOGY

1. John Hey, born Germany - no date
married
Margaret Kiefer - Germany - no date
2. Peter William Hey, Sr.
b. June 29, 1816 - Mühlhofen, Germany
d. Nov. 10, 1909 - buried Forest Hill Cemetery

married
Catherine Ottman Niederhorbach
b. June 29, 1816 - parents were Jacob and
Catherine (Buchfink) Ottman

left for America 1843 - Buried Forest Hill
3. Peter William Hey, Jr.
b. Sept. 23, 1843 - Mühlhofen, Germany
d. April 4, 1924 - buried Forest Hill

married
Minerva Ann Maple
b. Dec. 2, 1844
d. Dec. 18, 1913 - buried Forest Hill
4. Charles Frederick Hey
b. April 15, 1873
d. Oct. 24, 1954 - buried Forest Hill

married
Milda Frances Collins on Oct. 15, 1900
(daughter of Isley William Collins)
b. Jan. 31, 1877
d. May 21, 1958 - buried Forest Hill
5. Delores Irene Hey Toner
b. April 13, 1902

married
Sylvan Morris Toner
b. Nov. 24, 1898
d. March 7, 1966 - buried Forest Hill

6. Thayer Toner
b. June 24, 1929

married
Sharon Burch - Sept. 1, 1960

parents of Amy Cathleen Toner
b. Jan. 13, 1961

7. Spencer Toner
b. Dec. 4, 1934

married
Beverly Ann Greenwood - April 9, 1960
divorced 1970

parents of:

(1) Kevin Morris Toner
b. Jan. 21, 1961

(2) William Byron Toner
b. March 28, 1963

In September, 1963 Morris and I decided to go to Europe the following summer. During the winter I spent a lot of time reading travel books to decide which places were the most important to visit in the different cities.

Since I had always wondered where the Heys lived in Germany we decided to try to find the place.

Using village names given in a Shelby County Atlas, I wrote to the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City to verify the birth place. Many weeks went by and I didn't hear from them. Finally the second day before we were to leave I had a phone call from one of the librarians at Salt Lake City. Since they received 1000 inquiries weekly there wasn't time to mail the information to me before our sailing date, so she decided to phone.

Then she said the names in our county history were spelled wrong. She said the Heys were from Muhlhofen and the great-grandmother was from the nearby village of Niederhorbach. Thayer and I had looked many times for two villages but we had the wrong names. It was a very emotional experience for me. I had been looking for ten years and had attended lectures by genealogical experts.. It did bring out the tears.

Then I wrote to Mr. Henry Hey, Dixon, Illinois, who owned an ice cream factory. This was a reference from Gladys and Henry Hey, Shelby County. Mr. Hey very graciously answered with a friendly letter - but he turned my letter over to a sister, Mrs. Mary A. Harshman.

Mrs. Harshman, Aunt Mary, as the people in Germany, and I called her, was in her 80's and very active, a small, European motherly type of woman. We corresponded quite a lot and visited

her in her pretty home in Sterling, Illinois. She was a member of the Lutheran church there. At the end of WWII the church offered their help to the Lutheran churches in Germany. A list of names and addresses came and one was a widow Hey. So they became acquainted through correspondence. Later a nephew came to Illinois to work under her sponsorship in the ice cream factory.

As our journey progressed I wrote to these people in Kandel from Vienna and there was an answer when we arrived in Zurich. They invited us to come the following Saturday and spend the night. We cut one day off our trip to beautiful Switzerland and took the fast Helvetia train to Karlsruhe.

Our hosts Liesel and William Schwartz met us at the railroad station in Karlsruhe. Never shall I forget the beautiful bouquet of roses the lady carried and sure enough they were for me. We went south in their small car over the Rhine and the autobahn to their home in the quaint town of Kandel. The house was at least 200 years old. Across the driveway was a small building with equipment to make soap. His family before WWI were large soap manufacturers. When their father died the mother sold the factories for a large sum. But because of the terrible inflation in Germany in the 1920's her money was almost worthless. This was the widow Hey who asked for help through her Lutheran church. Now her son William made an Ivory type of soap and peddled it over the countryside. Everything was sparkling clean and their garden precise and beautiful.

They took us for lunch to his sister's home, Emilie and Heinrich Sachsenheimer. They lived in an almost new house. The basement was rented to a family, the first floor to another, and Sachsenheimers occupied the third floor. They had a large table set up to accommodate

about ten people in the living room. One of the meats was deer meat, the usual potato, and the salad of very tender lettuce leaves seasoned with a dressing. The coffee, a gift from America, was saved for a special occasion. At that time it was three dollars per pound in Germany.

Our interpreter had spent many years as a chauffeur, and his wife worked as a maid in New York for the Vanderbilts and other rich families. They were back in their home country living on Social Security in the basement of this house.

It was just after the meal when others left the room that the boy Wilfried, about sixteen, who was now studying English and his mother and I talked about the Huguenots. They had several large illustrated books on the subject and told me they were a part of the Heys who escaped from France across the border into Germany. In fact they were living only ten or fifteen miles north of the French border.

According to history, Martin Luther led the reform movement in the Catholic church. I shall not here state the pros and cons of the Catholic religion. However, Luther's teachings began in Germany, spread to France, Scandinavia, and the Netherlands. By 1520 there were 400,000 French Protestants who were called Huguenots.

On the night of August 24, 1572, 70,000 Huguenots were killed at different places in France. Catherine de Medici, close friend of the Pope and the mother of the king, gave the order for the massacre. It was then that two Hey brothers escaped across the sealed border.

In the afternoon Morris and I, the interpreter and Wilhelm Schwartz drove over to the village of Mühlhofen. It was June 6, and the world seemed to be in technicolor. Had my picture taken by the Mühlhofen road sign. The buildings were many stucco or plaster-type houses with heavy strips of wood that made them look like early English homes. Most were two and three hundred years old. They told us that the house my great-grandfather lived in was torn down about 1900. In its place was a large garden, called Hey's garden. It had a brick wall across the front and an iron gate. Beautiful climbing roses were blooming around the gate.

The owner's house adjoining this had large gates at the entry in the driveway, the frame of which was as high as the house. It could be closed at night for safety. The streets were winding and walled. This young farmer wore lederhosen, short leather pants. The wife, pretty and shy, was from another village, the only Hey in town. They had a six-year old son. In his barn were about twenty head of cattle, tied up in stalls and as many as twenty sows and pigs. He had 37 acres of land. As is the custom all the farms lie outside the village. Also he had 50,000 gallons of wine. He is considered a wealthy man. Our great-grandfather had only two acres and if he could have added only one acre he would not have come to America.

We talked and visited awhile in the living room and had a taste of their delicious Rhine wine. It was early in June, the best time of summer. Out in the driveway hitched to the tractor was a large tank of liquid manure ready to haul out a mile or two away on his farm acreage.

Finally we left this picturesque village with its winding streets and travelled to the village of Niederhorbach where our great-grandmother Catherine Ottman was born in 1816. The streets were cobblestone and the town looked older than Mühlhofen. We met a young farmer taking a large tank of liquid manure to his fields pulled by a pair of oxen. The man looked clean and neat.

From there we drove to the town of Bad Bergzabern, a sort of county seat town. It was more modern, more white paint, all fixed up for summer visitors. The word Bad tells one that it is a health spa. There were many flowers and attractions, simple but appealing, as is seen all over Europe.

Here we saw the home of the mother of Emilie Sachsenheimer and Wilhelm Schwartz, Mrs. Hey. It was a large stucco and wood-beamed house. She was not at home. I would have been very interested in seeing inside.

Back at Sachsenheimers all were ready for picture taking and supper. But we spent the night at the Schwartz home. For breakfast on Sunday morning they had breads, cheese, coffee, fruit and large cold sausage cakes - cooked the day before. It was all delicious, and accompanied by the usual small glass of delicious wine, as is in all Europe.

After a lot of toasting to our health and much smiling we had to leave these charming people. They seemed so proud and honored to entertain their relatives from America. They made us seem very close to them. I don't think my husband ever enjoyed any visit more than with them, and I was very happy. This made our trip to Europe very worthwhile.

Always at Christmas I receive greetings and a note of their progress. The young Sachsenheimer boy, Wilfried, is now graduating in science from the university in Karlsruhe. Usually I cannot get any one to translate one of the Christmas messages, which is usually in German script.

All this is a part of the larger area Rhinepfalz called Pfalz.

Their addresses are:

Heinrich and Emilie Sachsenheimer, and son Wilfried
Birkenstrasse 5, Kandel/Pfalz, West Germany; and

Liesel and William Schwartz, and two daughters
Wiltraut and Irene
6747 Kandel/Pfalz, Bahnhofstrasse, 29, West Germany.

The daughters have worked in England to better learn the language. Both work in children's hospitals.

They had an important looking gold embellished paper on which their ancestors were listed:

1. Peter de la Hey - born 1675, died 1746 in Winden/Pfalz
2. Peter de la Hey - born 1708, died 1746 in Winden
3. Johannes Hey - born 1739, died 1814 in Winden
4. Johannes Philip Hey - born 1774, died 1813
5. Jacob Hey - born 1813, died 1898 - to America 1813
6. John Philip Hey - born Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 1856 - died 1945
the father of
7. Mrs. Mary Harshman, Sterling, Ill. and Henry Hey of Dixon,
Ill. and numerous other brothers and sisters.

My cousin Dan Hey verified our great-grandmother's birthplace as Niederhorbach, by getting her birth certificate on his last day in Germany. Also through a lovely letter which I received on my ship, at Algeciris, he told me of spending time at the Hey home in Mühlhofen.

I have tried several times to find out more information. One of my correspondents was a Prof. Dr. E. Christmen of Eberstrasse 78, Kaiserslauten, Germany. He was about eighty and a retired professor from Heidelberg University.

He said that the name de la Hey in the 17th and 18th century told him "This is a French name and means the one living by the fence, or the one from Haye; there are two towns in France by that name, one in the Jura province of France near the Swiss border - the other in the Department Seine - Inferieure - which is on the river on which Paris lies. How the name came from these locations to Alsace Lorraine on the German border I don't know. From here the name remained de la Hey in the South Pfalz in the vicinity of Bad Bergzabern. According to an address book of 1932 the names were found in many towns near Bergzabern; Two families of Johann Hey; 2 of Johannes Hey, Ludwig Hey, Susanne Hey, Wilhelm Hey in Birkenhardt. Two families of August Hey in Dorrenbach. One group in Insheim. Frederick Hey in Kandel; Adam Hey, Frederick Hey and Jakob in Oberrotterbach; Michael Hey and Otto Hey in Rechtenbach, Michael Hey in Schweighofen and Michael Hey in Winden." Landau is also mentioned. He adds that he is not able to check names of more ancient dates but the information could be checked in the state archives at Speyer."

All these people were Ackersmann which means farmers.

This location is near the south border of Germany and France - east of Belgium. On only a few detailed maps, and some French maps have I found Mühlhofen and some others.

I had hoped to find that our line of Heys was related to their line but that will have to be done by some of my younger relatives.

Although this paper may not seem to be too interesting, it is true and much more than I had hoped for.

I would like to include a copy of excerpts of their letters to me which hopefully will acquaint you with your European relatives - and French at that.

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Kandel/Pfalz 12,2,64

Our dear relatives,

Heartfelt thanks for your dear letter. It made us very happy. The beautiful tablecloth and napkins were a big surprise. It will always be a wonderful memory for the nice hours we spent together. Many heartfelt thanks.

Our two daughters came last Sunday for a visit, and this is always a holiday for all of us. We have music, sing and play and we are happy together. They will come back for Christmas. Emily, Heiner and Winifred will be here too. It will be wonderful here.

We wish you and your children a happy blessed Christmas and for the New Year 1965 from all our hearts the best.

Many dear Greetings, your relatives Wilhelm and Liesel (Schwartz)

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Mid-winter, 1964-1965

Our dear ones,

We are happy that you got back to your home alright. We talk about you often and want to thank you very much for your dear visit. We are very sorry that we couldn't talk to each other without an interpreter; it would have been so much nicer. But after all we are very thankful for the fine hours we spent together. We go occasionally to Saarbineken to visit with our children. They are too busy to come to see us, but they have happiness and faith in their work. Irene is an Evangelical young people's leader, and Wilmud an assistant medical technician in a University Children's Clinic. They are very nice and saving and it makes us very happy. Irene came back from Spain yesterday and will start for England next Saturday. She was over there for a year at age 18.

Both of us are busy in the soap business. Wages are too high to hire help. My husband drives to the country a lot to sell. Modern laundries and new soap products make it harder for him to sell.

God be with you,

Heartfelt Greetings

Liesel (Schwartz)

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Rand 11-28-64

My dear ones,

We received your letter dear Delores. We were happy to hear that you arrived back home in good health. No doubt your trip was very enjoyable but strenuous and therefore I was worried about your health.

We are happy that you felt at home with us and we too felt close to you. It must have been the blood of our ancestors in us. It would have been a lot nicer if we could have talked directly to each other without an interpreter. If I were young I would learn your language.

We received the package with the beautiful tablecloth and napkins. They were beautiful and made us very happy but your gift will always be a dear memory of you. You didn't owe us a thing. We were just too glad to have you with us. I am with you in my thoughts often, and it seems impossible to me that we are miles apart. I am sitting in the living room writing this letter. Wilfried is in bed asleep and Dad is taking a nap in great-grandfather's chair.

How far does Aunt Mary live from you?

Emilie, Heiner, Wilfried.

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March 1965

I think that all the Heys in America originate from one family group but this is hard to ascertain considering all the branches of the originate family. It was a great experience for you to visit the country of your origin, France, and the second country of their choice and the country of their offspring and to meet your relatives.

Emilie Sachsenheimer

Delores Hey Toner - February 1977.