

November 7, 1993

Dear Dan and Pat,

I was working on the family history and had some copies of things that I thought might interest you.

We are all fine... at least I think we are. Craig has been on 2 weeks vacation and he has been hunting. I haven't heard from him so I called his friend Cam and ask if he was still alive. He assured me he had seen him with in the last few days so I guess he hasn't froze in the mountains. It has been rather cold for this time of year. It has been about 10 degrees in the morning and we have about 6 inches of snow.... I must tell you that this has been the first year that I have had my snow tires on before the snow!!! I seams that I wait for the first big snow, which happens around Halloween, and then I spend 3 hours getting home because it is so hard to climb the canyons. Gary and I are going to get the points on the pump insulated before they freeze. Every year about Jan. 1 the points on the pump freeze and we don't have water. Maybe this year we will get it together before that happens!!

I Back to the purpose of this letter... You know I have worked on the Guisinger family history for years and correspond with other Guisingers all over the country. There are about 10 of us actively working on this at the current time. There are 3 or so main lines of Geisingers coming into the US. The earliest about 1725. He was Phillip , and I correspond with one of his descendents.. A John Geissinger in Lehigh county Pennsylvania. We do not descent from this John. Then there was a Adam Geisinger who came in 1749. Nothing has ever been found on him and it is presumed that he died soon after he came. Next came a Johannes Casper (German for John) that came in 1750. He settled in Frederick County Maryland. We could trace our Charles to Frederick County Maryland in 1794, so we presumed that the Johannes Casper Geissinger was his father. But Danny, it has never fit very well. There were always some questions that we could not answer. With the inclosed information we have now discovered where our Charles came from and how his family came to Ohio.

I know that Sue gave you a book of things but I am not sure what you have and I thought that I would send you this packet of things so you will know where your ancestor that settled in America came from.

The inclosed Ahnentafel Chart gives you a listing of your grand parents and I have highlighted them back to Charles. His baptized name was Joseph Carlos Geisinger.

I hope this letter finds you well and we'll see you at Christmas!

Take care and have a good Thanksgiving!

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Some history on Charles Geisinger in America and Austria

Family information has been gathered by Jerry Mower of Bedford County Wyoming, Nelson Eddy of Terre Haute Indiana, Early records of Libby (Elizabeth) Guisinger Winn of Ohio (now deceased), Clara Bell Motter of Florida, Marcella Cummings of Eureka Kansas, Evelyn Radabaugh of Middletown Ohio, Rosemary Leiden of Akron Ohio, Carol Josie of Fort Wayne Indiana, Carolyn (Sue) Guisinger Numbers of Lima Ohio, early records of John Guisinger (deceased) of Lima Ohio, and Paula and Gary Guisinger of Golden Colorado. Further contributions have been made by Elmer Guisinger of North Canton Ohio and Richard Guisinger of Coon Rapids Mn. John Geissinger of Zionsville Pennsylvania, a descendent of Phillip Geissinger who came to America in the early 1720's, has been very heedful in separating these two very distinct lines of Guisingers in America. I am sure many others not mentioned have contributed information to those listed above. It is through the hard work of these people that the Guisinger family has been researched to date. There work is not included here.

The following information primarily relates to the work done by Jerry Mower and records gathered by him and others that support his work on the early life of Charles. Jerry Mower is a member of the Mower Family Association and they have done much of the early research on Charles to his indenturing his children in 1794 and some of Charles's later life records prior to his death in 1810. The Mowers are a Mormon family that has hired a Professional Genealogist to research the Geisinger family back to Europe. With the work of the above families we have connected many children of Charles that connect to the early Ohio Guisingers and their descendents.

Jerry Mower descends from Catherine Geisinger who was a daughter of Charles Geisinger and wife Catherine. Early research in Europe was done by Trudy Shenk and has been done over a period of time from May 31 1993 until present. The research continues to date on the early Geisinger family that ties to our **PROVEN CHARLES GEISINGER**.

As you know there are several migrations of Geisingers to America until recently the only line that we could possible descend from is **Johannes Casper Geissinger** of Maryland. This new information proves that could not have been the father of our Charles, who sometimes singed his name Carl, and indentured John, his son, as a blacksmith. It is from this John that we descend. Charles/Karl also indentures another son Charles Jr. as a farmer. We know very little on Charles Jr. But, John the blacksmith can be traced to **Perry/Fairfield County Ohio**, from there his son Charles moved to Putnam County and from here the family is fairly well documented.

Trudy Schenk has found a Geisinger family of Bauren, Goetzis,

Volarberg, Austria that may perhaps be the home town of our Charles. To date several indications point that way but to date there is no proof that this family is ours. There are several town or villages in the Germany/ Austrian area that carry the Geising name. They were probably the very earliest location of the family. A Joseph Carolus Geisinger is born in 1740, son of Mathaeus Geisinger and Maria Walser. They also had a son John. No other children have been proven to this marriage. There are many Geisingers in this area near France and this family looks the most likely to be ours. Research continues to work to prove this. It is most important to remember that this town of Goetzis is near France as our Charles can speak German, French and Perhaps some Portuguese. All Geisingers in this town are Catholic and most Geisingers that come to America are Lutheran and Minnonite. Catholics were not welcome in America at this time in history. For this reason people of that faith did not come to America. America offered religions freedom to many faiths but it was the Catholic rule of Europe that many were running away from so the Catholic religion was frowned on in this country. Several Guisingers that descend from our Charles state that the family was Catholic. Gary's father always said that the early Guisingers were Catholic. Another indicator that we have the right family is from the family history of Marcella Cummings states that there earliest ancestor was Joseph. Are they refereeing to Joseph Carlos? History from this family state that there were two brothers from Austria, but there are several versions of what happens to this other brother. One must wonder if the other brother was John but this is not proved to date. This is all that we have on the above family. Note there are many family oral and written histories relating to our connected Charles and none of them match each other completely. They all have the same thread- soldier - Catholic -brother - and Austria. Some descendents relate large sums of money in the early family history but none proven to date. There is no record of this Joseph Carolus Geisinger after 1766, the date that we know our Charles/Carl came to America. Also, there is a John Meyer that is also from this town. A John Meyer connects with our Charles, and will be mentioned later.

There are records that state this part of Austria was at war with Portugal at this time, and many young boys joined the army. Austrian records have been checked and there are no rosters of men of those that served in this war. One must remember that the records available come from churches, which were written by the Priests of the area and they have been recorded in Latin. The Local records of the area are recorded in old German script. To understand these records they must be translated to English. Then, as now, many people were christened with one name and used another in day to day living. An example that we would use in our American culture would be the name Richard for a baptism record and then going by the name Dick on your

checking account. But, when you pay your federal income tax you use the name Richard. Gary's sister has the legal name of Carolyn Darleen. She has been called Sue since a baby by family and friends. She has her checking account in the name of Carolyn but uses Sue in her personal life. For instance she would take the dog to the vet she uses the name Sue when she registered the dog and give this name as the person to be called. Then she would sign the check for payment Carolyn. Imagine a person working on her genealogy 250 years from now and researching her life. Only after finding several documents showing Sue and Carolyn together would they ever figure out that she was the same person. Remember there are no birth records for a Sue Guisinger but you would find the name Carolyn Guisinger and Sue Guisinger Numbers being used interchangeable in her town of residence.

We know from several versions of our early family history that our earliest ancestor, no matter what his name was, was a soldier upon coming to America and that he was Catholic.

You will note included in this package a sheet of paper listing the passengers on the Cullodian. This ship sailed to Philadelphia from Lisbon Spain and landed in America on October 15, 1766. You will note written in German Script the name of Carl Geisinger. You will also note that our Charles/Carl signs his own name so we know that he can write. Look at the bottom of the page of the passenger list of the Cullodian Ship and you will see the name John Meyer. Is he the John Meyer that was born in the same Austrian town as Joseph Carolus Geisinger was? Did they join the army together? We will probably never know. It might be fun to see what happens to this John Meyer when he gets to America. But, all of the men who came on the ship Cullodian have names that connect to families in the Goetzis area of Austria. Was a company of men captured and sent to America? Again one can only guess.

Upon the Arrival of the Ship Cullodian Charles Geisinger was taken to the home of the Mayor of Philadelphia. Trudy Schenk states that there are only two reason why Charles would be taken to the Mayor. 1. He was catholic and Catholics were not welcome in Pennsylvania. 2. (This is the most probable.) Charles was a prisoner of war. It was the usual practice to take prisoners to the mayor and then the prisoner were sold into servitude. It appears that this is what happened to our Charles. Many countries sold their prisoners into servitude in America as it was costly to feed and house them and by this practice they could use the prisoner as labor on a cargo ship and then sell them for cash when they reached America.

The next record we find on Charles is where he has been sold into servitude. Charles must have ran way from his master as we see several newspaper adds for his capture. Some of the newspaper extracts advertising for his capture are included

here. Note that this most certainly is our Charles. They state that the run away was named Charles Geisinger and arrived last fall from Lisbon and was a soldier. We know that the Cullodian was from Lisbon and arrives October 15 1766. The adds were placed in the spring and summer of 1767. The add also states that he is a dutch servant man (so we know that his native language is German) and that he "can speak French and perhaps some Portuguese". The fact that he can speak French makes one look closer to Goetzis Austria as this borders France. Two adds relating this event are included here. Later another add was placed in a different paper. It seems that Charles was captured the first time and ran away again. The following year in 1768 on May 9th a add was ran in the Pennsylvania Chronicle. This add states (I do not have a copy of this add, just it's wording and where it may be copied from. The next Time I get to the Denver Library I will get the copy.) "Run away from the Subscriber, living in Salem County West-New Jersey, a Dutch servant man, named Charles Geisinger"..... it continues to describe Charles and the clothes he was wearing. It appears that this time Charles escaped and there are no further records of him anywhere in New Jersey or Eastern Pennsylvania found to date.

The next records that we find related to our Charles/Carl/Karl are from the Revolutionary War. They are included here and there are so many spellings in so many books it would take a page to list them all. You see each person reading the Rosters of Soldiers reads the name different. My favorite is Charles Gyfinger. (I have seen my last name spelled many ways on my mail but this is the best one ever. When you say Guyfinger it even sounds like Guisinger.) The diversity of spelling comes from the fact that many persons of different nationalities were recording these records and they spelled the name as it sounded. If you have problems excepting this try this experiment. Keep your mail for 6 months and then record all of the different spellings. Remember all of these documents relate to you and were sent by persons that are literate and of your nationality. With this understanding you will better see how this research is done. This spelling is enough to make one crazy! Also some enlistments were short and only for a few months and then they were out for a few months and then re-enlisted, then you see another spelling of the name. This is terrible to trace. There are very few Guisingers (or any spelling of the name) that served in the Rev. War. Most of the Geisinger family in America were either Lutheran or Minnonite. The Minnonites and were opposed to war so they did not fight. Only one that I can find is a John Geissinger but he states that he is from Lehigh County Pennsylvania and we know that these people descend from Phillip who came to America in 1725 or so. In 1832 men who served in the Rev. war were eligible for pension. There widows were also eligible. This man filed for pension. No other Guisinger/Geisingers

filed for pension. Men were also eligible for land opening in the western part of Pennsylvania and Ohio after the war. Our Charles/Carl filed for this land grant. On the rosters where Karl Giesinger joins Freiherr Von Ottendorf's company there is a John Geisinger that joined about the same time as Karl. Remember this company was primarily formed out of Adams County Pennsylvania. Who is this John? Remember some descendents of Charles state in family histories that there were two brothers. Also, remember that Joseph Carolus Geisinger in Austria had a brother named John (Johannes is German for John). Could Charles have written him and he came to America? We know that Charles could write and there is no further record for John/Johannes in Austria after this time. This John showing up with Charles/Karl/Carl is not the John that was mentioned out of Lehigh county as his records show that he never served in this company. One must wonder who this John was and if these two Geisinger men were related. No other Rev. record can be found to date on who John out of Adams County and served in the 6th. was.

We find Carl Geisinger listed in the 1780 Census of Adams County. This is really a tax census as the Federal census as we know today did not start until 1790. This has to be our Charles as we know that our Charles and the above mentioned John were the only two Geisingers in that company that formed out of this county. Interestingly enough there is a John Kissinger who died in Adams County Pennsylvania in 1806. One can only **guess** if he is the Johannes (John) that served with Charles in the Rev. in Adams County or if they are related.

Next, we have Charles/Carl indenturing his children Charles Jr. and John our Grandfather in 1794. Look at the signature on John's indenture paper. The father is listed as Charles by the court recorder writing the document but when he asks the father to sign the document, the father signs in German script as Carl Geisinger. This is absolute proof that Charles also went by the name Carl. This signature matches the signature on the Cullodian. **So, this proves that the man the Cullodian is our grand father.** This also helps understand the **Carl/Karl/Charles names on the Rev. war documents.** But look at the end of the indenture of Charles Jr. Charles is mentioned in the document as the father but he signs with an X.

In 1806 a Charles Kissinger obtains land for serving in the Rev. war. Charles lived in Bedford Pa. and he dies in the fall of 1810. Now this Kissinger spelling threw me for a loop as this is the first time I ever saw Kissinger listed for the name Geisinger. There are Kissinger families in Maryland. I thought maybe this Charles was from that family. But, search of records never show a Charles Kissinger ever listed on a Rev. War rosters, and there are no records of a Charles in the Kissinger family of Maryland that was of correct age to serve. Then Jerry Mower sent me a document

for a known Guisinger with the spelling of Kissinger. This record is for George Guisinger. This document is inclosed and shows where George is listed as Kyessinger on the records for the war of 1812 and there is no Kissinger family in Fairfield county at this time. Also a John was listed as a Kissinger in these records. I have sent these for you to see. After seeing this it became more clear to me. I had been saying the name Kissinger like "Kiss" your husband. If you say it like "Kite" you see how easily the name can be corrupted. Remember that John the Blacksmith could not write, at least we only have X's where he signs his name so he could care less how the name was spelled. He could not read.

If you are interested on what we have gathered on the descendents of Charles and our Grandfather John Guisinger Sr. who settled in Fairfield county and later in Perry County Ohio, (Perry County pulled out of Fairfield in about 1816.) please let me know. Also if you have information or suggestion to add to this family history please contact me.

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