

the NAFZGER Heritage News

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Nafzgers Sail For America

The first Nafzger in America appears to have been a woman, Joanna, who was the wife of Andreas Bonney. They entered America in 1719 and settled in Pennsylvania. The second one to settle in America was Ulrich Naffzir who landed in Philadelphia in 1741. He settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He died in 1754 and intestate records on file at Lancaster seemed to indicate no male descendants who came to America with him.

The next three Nafzgers to sail for America were Rudolph, Matthew, and Peter in the year 1749. If the three Nafzgers brought their wives and families, probably a fairly substantial addition of Nafzgers occurred in that year. Some of the children of Rudolph were Samuel, Andrew, Peter and others not yet identified. Sons of Rudolph were clearly settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania by the year 1799. It would appear his widow is listed in the 1790 Census of Washington County although another Rudolph Nappzinger (Widower) was being married to Suzanna Kerin (Widow) in 1784 in Frederick, Maryland. We have been unable to identify or connect the Maryland "Rudolph" to any line as yet. The burial site of either Rudolph is not known.

Matthew Nafzger is featured in this issue of the Heritage News and a partial list of his long line of descendants have been listed on page 3 and 4. He was married twice, had a large family, resided in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and died in 1803.

Peter, who entered in 1749, settled in Berwick township of York County, Pennsylvania. Descendants of Peter can be found in Virginia just one year after his death in 1783. Some of his sons were John, Jacob, Samuel, David, Peter, Daniel and perhaps Thomas. The names of his daughters have not been clearly identified as yet. It is not known if any of his descendants remained behind in York County or if all his children made their way through the Cumberland Valley to Botetourt County, Virginia. Records of many of the descendants can be found throughout the Cumberland Valley as they made their way to Virginia.

The sixth Nafzger to sail was Jacob. He settled in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in 1750. He died in 1783 and is buried at Bindnagles churchyard near Palmyra. Jacob's sons remained in the area but all of his grandchildren except for one family appeared to move to Ohio. His long line of descendants will be listed in a future issue of the Nafzger Heritage News.

Hans George Naffzir arrived in 1752. Records relating to his residence or his family have not been

established. There is speculation that the spelling “Naffzir” as used by Hans George and Ulrich who entered in 1741 may not be a variation of the Nafzger name but of some other name similar to Nafzger.

Peter Nafziger (1789-1 885) and his family emigrated to the United States in 1826. Unlike the others, he landed in New York City. He proceeded to Canada where he remained for three years before returning to the States to settle in Butler County, Ohio. Later he moved to Woodford County, Illinois.

Daniel Nafziger. 25 years old, arrived in New York in the year 1828 on the Ship Caesar enroute to Canada.

Jacob Naffziger (1798-) was a full brother to Peter who entered in 1826, arrived and settled near Washington, Illinois. Two half brothers of the same Peter, Valentine and Peter, and sisters, Magdalena, Elizabeth, Barbara, Joanna, and Kate emigrated from 1830 to 1853. All were children of Peter of Groversheim of Germany.

Valentine Nafziger (1783-1 52) who was born near Weisenherg, Germany, sailed for the United States in 1831. He settled in Wayne County, Ohio. His wife and large family made the journey with him. Later, descendants of Valentine are found in Fulton County, Ohio. Valentine and his wife are buried northeast of Wooster, Ohio.

John Nafziger who was born in Bushing Lottering, Germany in 1802 made his journey to America along with his family in the fall of 1 837. The route was by the way of New Orleans up the Mississippi River, then on the Illinois River to Peoria, Illinois. His brother, Chris Nafziger was already living near Metamora, Illinois.

To add confusion, two brothers, John Nafziger and Christian Nafziger, emigrated to the United States in 1840. They also traveled by the way of New Orleans to Peoria and settled in Tazewell County, Illinois. A few years later, they helped their father, Christian, make the trip. The two sets of John and Christian Nafziger families who are brothers are not the same families.

Johannes Nofziger and his family emigrated to America in 1847 from Alsace-Lorraine near Metz, Germany. He settled in Fulton County, Ohio. Most of the Nofziger spelling presently living in the United States are descendants Johannes.

Christian Nafziger (1777-1849) lost his entire fortune during the Napoleonic wars. He and his sons and daughters emigrated to America from the 1835-1850 period to establish new homes for themselves. They settled in Wayne County, Ohio. Later, descendants are found in Fulton County, Ohio and other western states. Wayne County, Ohio appears to have been only a stop-over point for this family. Two other Nafzgers lines, descendants of Jacob who entered in 1831 were living in Wayne County at the time. It is the writer's belief that all three Families were related or knew each other very well.

Peter Naffziger was born in Uberau, Germany. He died in Germany as did one son and two daughters. The surviving sons, Christian, Peter, Valentine, and his widow, Catherine emigrated to the United States in about 1850. They landed at New York City and proceeded westward; first to Putnam County, Ohio and later to Danvers, Illinois. Some members of the family eventually settled near Columbus, Kansas. Members of the family emigrated during the 1853 to 1888 period.

Peter Naffziger (1790-) was born at Illback, Germany. He sailed for the United States in 1827. He died at sea as did one of his children. The family was headed for Canada but remained in the

Pennsylvania area after his death. Christian Nafziger, the youngest member of the Nafziger family in Germany, made the trip to the United States in 1846. He and his family arrived in New York. His mother, Elizabeth, and brother Jacob, arrived one year later.

Samuel Nafziger was born near Trebo, France in 1830. Samuel emigrated to America in 1856.

Christian Naffziger (1817-1872), emigrated with his family from Bavaria in 1855. They settled near Stanford, Illinois. Frederick Naffziger came in 1840. They lived in Ohio for 10 years and in 1850 moved to Illinois. Daniel Nafzger was born in 1836, moved with all of his family excepting one son to the United States in 1887, and settled in Green County, Wisconsin.

The family historian can trace the family line to the 1600's to Thun, Switzerland.

Other Nafzgers arriving in New York are as follows: Daniel Nafnizer, 25 years old on Ship Caesar in New York in 1828; Christian Nafzger, 35 years old on Ship Duchess Dorlean in New York in 1842; Barbara Nafzeiger, 22 years old on Ship Pieter de Conick in Boston in 1882; Jacob Nafzger, 24 years old on Ship Heola in Boston in 1869; Nicholas Naufeer, 24 years old on Ship Cornelia in New York enroute to Ohio in 1834; N. Nafzger, on the ship Gustav in New York in 1835.

On the Ship Nimrod at Philadelphia in 1826—Barbara, 6 years, Catherine, 14 years, Barbara, 36 years, Christian, 50 years and Christian, 12 years; Jacobina—42 years and her family: Johanas, 19 years, Johanas, 9 years, Joseph, 7 years, Magdalina, 8 years, Maria, 45 years, Peter, 2 years and Peter 38 years old. Some of the Nafzgers traveling on the Ship Nimrod in 1826 represent members of the Peter of Groversheim family.

The foregoing list is probably an incomplete list of Nafzgers entering the United States. It must be remembered that most of the travelers had their wives and children along. Only the names of the head of the family are usually listed on the passenger lists. How many other Nafzgers entered can be determined only through continued examination of passenger lists and genealogical search. Please write the editor of the Nafzger Heritage News about Nafzgers who we may have missed.

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