

Hans Adam Klein – 1680-1748

Hans Adam Klein was a cousin of Capt. Daniel's father (Johann Heinrich Klein) and Daniel's uncle (Johann Ludwig Klein). He was born in Bubach, Germany, on March 7, 1680. He immigrated to Georgia in 1709 and died there in 1748. Records show that he initially went to Holland, without governmental approval. From there he went to St. Catherine's Island in England, where he arrived on June 11, 1709. Thereafter, he went on the ship "Queen Anne" to America, settling in Georgia. (It is not known if he planned to go to America all along, but it is assumed that he was in contact with people who planned to immigrate.) Before leaving Germany, he made an agreement with his brother Wendel, who had given him 70 fl (money?) and allowed Wendel to farm his land in his absence. It was further agreed that Hans Adam would have his land returned to him, in the event that he would return to Germany in three or four years. A contract was signed on 22.5.1709, in Albessen. Upon leaving his home, Hans Adam's brother Jakob accompanied him part of the way and then returned back home.

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Three years after Hans Adam's arrival in America, he married a German widow (Anna Katharina Hahn) and moved to West Camp in the State of New York. From there he moved to New Heidelberg and then to Canastote near Albany. He had a son and three daughters and made his living as a wheelwright, for which he was trained in Germany. As he grew older his health declined. He was sick many times and eventually lost his hearing. He finally had to quit his job (which had afforded him a great living) due to his illnesses. At that time (1742), he thought of his land in Bubach and wrote a letter to his brother Wendel, with the request that his land would be returned to him. During that year, his cousin Johann Ludwig Klein (Daniel's uncle) had arrived from Germany on the ship "Loyal Judith" (Sept. 1742) and brought a letter for Hans Adam with him. It was from his brother Jakob to let him know that his brother Wendel had died and that Wendel's heirs did not want to return Hans Adam's land to him. Jakob was the only surviving sibling aside from Hans Adam.

Hans Adam and his son-in-law, Johann Nickel Stern, took a 400 mile trip to Lancaster, PA, to seek advice from his two cousins, Johann Heinrich Klein (Daniel's

father) and Johann Ludwig Klein. Daniel's father had immigrated to Pennsylvania with his family in 1739 on the ship "Samuel". Before coming to America, he had been a school principal in Wolfersweiler, near Bubach and Konken. While in Lancaster, Hans Adam obtained a 'power of attorney' in the German language, which was to allow Daniel's father to represent him in the 'land dispute/inheritance process' in court, with his German relatives. Daniel's father had agreed to go back to Germany. Hans Adam also gave Daniel's father a letter to take to Germany, to give to his brother Jakob, to explain that he was unable to travel due to health reasons. He would have liked to send one of his son-in-laws to Germany, but since they were born in America and not familiar with such a hard journey, did not have the money, had to work and had family obligations, they were unable to travel. He further wrote that he would have liked for one of his German relatives to come to America before he died, or at least to receive a letter. If Wendel's heirs did not release his property, in spite of all his attempts, he would give them half of it and the other half to the heirs of his sister Katharina. In this letter he further mentioned that he had just spent four days with his cousin Johann Heinrich and that he was so happy to see him, but also sad and moved to tears to find out that his brother Wendel and sister Katharina, as well as other family members had died. He further wrote: "for those of us who are still alive may God make us aware of our finality and prepare us for our ultimate death in Christ". He mentioned his early life in Bubach, his parent's and his wife's family (who still had brothers living in the area) and the circumstances of his departure from Germany. Besides sending the notarized authorization for Johann Heinrich Klein to represent him in court, he also sent a certified copy from Pfarrer (priest) Morian, to reflect his confession and communion, before leaving Germany. While in Germany, Daniel's father lived with his father-in-law, Johann Daniel Grimm, in Kusel for several years, to conduct the legal processes for his cousin. Thereafter, he went back to Lancaster.

Wendel's heirs were stubborn and did not want to release the land. They did not acknowledge the documents that Johann Heinrich Klein had brought, although Jakob Klein had recognized his brother's handwriting. The Oberamt Lichtenberg (the governing district office) did not agree with it, refused to accept the legalized

American documents and decided in favor of Wendal's heirs. Thereafter, Daniel's father appealed the decision. To prepare himself better for the appeal, he wrote a letter to Hans Adam in 1747 and requested a 'better-worded' power-of-attorney. The Justice of Peace, Peter Worrall, of Mowhawk County in the province of Albany, sent a revised certificate in English to the German government offices. When questioned why Hans Adam waited such a long time to claim his property, Daniel's father told them that his cousin lived inland in the wilderness and had little contact with Germany.

The negation process in the year 1748 lasted a long time. Both parties finally came to an agreement to settle the dispute. Daniel's father declined the interest Hans Adam would have been entitled to. Wendal's heirs paid 275 fl, as well as the court fees. Johann Heinrich had to pay his cousin's immigration fees, for leaving the country illegally 40 years before. He left his father-in-law, Johann Daniel Grimm, a local citizen, in charge of any follow-up negotiations and returned to America.

This information was provided by Hans Zimmer and Hans Kirsch (historians) and is an excerpt from the 'Chronik des Mittleren Ostertals' 1993. It was translated and summarized from German into English by Inge Lance, February 2020.