

# The Lippoldt Genes

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## The genealogy research trail leads in many directions

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### Update

I have decided to compile a newsletter as a way to keep you up-to-date on the search for our family roots. After talking with Meridy this morning, and sharing a small bit of information on what I have been able to gather so far on this family quest, I realized that I needed to communicate this with everyone. I hope that some of this will trigger memories you have that will keep us on the right paths, and lead us to more discoveries.

### Beginnings

As you know, Mona Lippoldt Amthor, who works for American Airlines, and lives in Arlington Texas, contacted sister Deb over the Internet on November 9, 1996 to see if the Lippoldt family genealogy she was working on connected with our family. Mona has been on her search for a little over a year. When I first contacted Mona in mid-December, I had very little information to share with her. In a pretty short time, we realized that her great-grandfather Frederick Lippoldt is our great-great-grandfather. Mona and I keep in touch over the Internet on a weekly basis, sharing where we are searching. Progress is slow and we keep hoping for that break that will link Frederick Lippoldt to his brothers and reveal when they all emigrated to the United States from Germany.

### Keeping track

In July, Marguerite Spivey gave us a promotional genealogy computer disk to input the Spivey data that Herb had collected. Ian & I worked on that project a little last summer. In December, Barry & Ian were able to finish the Spivey data. At that time I started adding information on the Lippoldt family. On January 1, I had a rude shock when I found that I had maxed the program with 750 individuals. I did go ahead and upgrade to REUNION 4.0. I was able to transfer the original files and have been adding individuals ever since. The nice thing about this genealogy program is that I can send you a copy of a "viewer" and a chart created by the program -- you can then see the chart on your own computer -- this will save a lot of trees!

### The Family History Center

The Mormans in Salt Lake City Utah have compiled a large number of genealogy records. They have set up libraries in many of their local churches to aid people researching their family history. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Latter Day Saints Church in Sarasota has such a library. It is staffed by volunteers and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and one evening a week. They have a couple of computers that access programs titled Ancestral Files and International Genealogy Index, as well as microfilm and microfiche readers. One of the volunteers who is there

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### *The Lippoldt Genes*

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every other week, Judy Perpente, was the librarian at the school Ian attends. She has been a great help to getting me off on the right foot.

## Letters

Uncle Otto was one of the first people I contacted to see if he had family records that would connect us to the Lippoldts that Mona wrote about. He admitted that Granddad did not reveal much about his family. A few days later, a second letter came from Otto with a little more information. Then he constructed a family history for the Tevault's, Grandmother's parent's, siblings and their spouses and children. I hear from Otto about once a week now, as I have been sending him copies of the materials I have received in the mail and that I have downloaded. A letter to Don drew a reply and a phone call. I have sent two mailings to Great Aunt Lila, the youngest sister to Leona. I heard from her yesterday, and since she gave me her phone number I plan to call her soon. Aunt Mary suggested that I write second cousin, Ruth Mary Nunn Martin who lives in Alabama. She wrote back right away with some stories about great-grandfather Jacob Fink. She also gave me the address of her niece who has done some genealogy. I have written to her - Pat Wilhelm in North Carolina. I have a letter out to Otto and Dad's cousins: DeWayne TeVault of Texas, Donald Katter, William Tevault and Hilbert Corn all of Indiana. I wrote Nancy Fink Carey, & Bonnie Barton (Nellie Fink's daughter), too.

## Memory letters

I knew that I had kept some correspondence from my grandparents, but was very surprised to discover the "clues" they held. I have already copied you with the letter from Grandad Lippoldt dated 6 Nov 1968 where he talked about his Grandfather Frederick coming to the US from Germany as a young boy, and that his Grandmother, also from Germany was a Dickman before her marriage. He mentioned his father's siblings: Well, that bit of information connected us to Mona. In another letter dated 6 Dec 1967 he mentioned talking with a maternal cousin age 85 who was living alone. The cousin had a sister, Dara in St. Petersburg, FL married to retired railroad man, Jesse Morrse. I also have a letter from Grandmother the day before she died. A couple of weeks ago, I looked through the letters I had from the Finks. One from Grandad dated 3 Dec 1969 includes quite an accounting of his father. He said that his father was a member of royalty, as Jacob's grandfather "was a high ranking officer in Kaiser Wilhelm's staff of Germany." Jacob's father came to the US from Germany and married here. Jacob was an only child as his father died of pneumonia before his birth. He went on to say that his grandmother gave birth to 11 children by her second husband, that Jacob did not receive the money he was entitled to from his father's estate. Grandad related another incident where Jacob gave an unscrupulous business partner a physical "licking of his life." He

goes on to relate a couple more remembrances before sharing that his father contracted bronchial pneumonia and died after caring for Wesley & Leila during the flu epidemic of 1918. The recent letter from Ruth Mary Nunn Martin (Stella Fink's daughter) told about her grandfather Jacob having to work as a laborer and the money earned going to his step-father. She was told that one day when Jacob walked home, his foot was bleeding and he left a trail in the snow. He got new shoes as a result of someone tracking his trail. She also told the story of Jacob being on a train and eating a banana for the first time. He was asked how he liked it and he said "he didn't like the outside, but the inside was pretty good." She also said that she was born three months after Jacob died, so there is a little discrepancy there between what I understood Grandad to say.

## Searching the Internet

The Internet seems to be made for the genealogists. There are social security death benefit records; listservs; telephone directories; maps; a project that includes many counties and list of resources and surnames being searched; and even international genealogy societies. Indiana has an extensive list of resources. Mona pointed out that the Willard Library in Evansville houses many documents that we will want to review. Each of us routinely search the Internet for our family names. Early in January, I heard from a Mike Tevault that he had an extensive record of Tevaults from Warrick County, IN in his

computer. Within a week he sent me the 48 page printout that he had on the family. Some of his information was from a book written by June Ricketts of Lynnville, IN, titled "The Devolt-Tevault Family, 1782-1982. Her book added three generations to what Otto had provided. Our line is

Charles LIPPOLDT

Leona TEVAULT

William Henry TEVAULT

Hiram Wiley TEVAULT

William Harrison TEVAULT

John TEVAULT (?Andrew DEVOLT) which takes us back to about 1776. I met another Tevault over the Internet through Mike.

George Tevault is a second cousin, as his grandfather was a brother to our great-grandfather William Henry. George and his wife Anita live in Petersburg. He contacted Nancy Carey for me and says that Nancy is now working for her daughter Debbie who is now Treasurer of Pike county (job Nancy used to have). George also is an alum of Stendal High where Great Aunt Lila attended. In fact George remembers some of our second cousins. I hope to meet both Mike and George in June.

Last week I sent an E-mail to the archives of the Depauw University Library because they house the records of the Methodist Church's Southern Conference. I also found the address for a Vaughn Lippoldt in Coffeysville, KS. I wrote to him because Otto remembers his Dad speaking of an Aunt Martha that lived outside of Coffeysville. In a search program called Switchboard, I found three different Karen Richardsons in Louisville. Otto & I think that is Karen's

married name. Did you know that there are Lippoldt Oil fields in Hodgemann, Kansas?

### **Martin's: 1836 - 1936**

Aunt Mary had sent Meridy a copy of "A History of the Peter Martin Family," which ended up in my hands and is now in the computer. Peter Martin was born in Germany and raised his family in Marrs Township, Posey County, Indiana. He is a maternal great-great-grandfather.

Our line here is :

Beth LIPPOLDT (IN)

Wesley FINK (IN)

Mary MARTIN (IN)

Peter MARTIN, Jr. (PA)

Peter MARTIN (GER).

Peter Martin married German born Maria Christina Grossman. When I was using the Ancestral File program at Venice Public Library last week, I think I came across her parents in Germany - Johann & Christina Grosman who would have been born in the late 1700's.

### **Baron or knight?**

Another search of the Ancestral File program has turned up some interesting possibilities. Our great-great-great-grandfather, William Harrison Tevault married Nancy Hunt. Her mother was Elizabeth Coats whose grandmother was Mary Langdale. Mary's parents can be traced back to England to Baron's and Knights. Will have to ask my mentor at the Family History Center how one can possibly verify such a lineage. Ian is pretty elated at the possibility that the contemporary English author of the Redwall series, Brian Jacques has the same surname as Elizabeth Coats' great-grandmother Beulah

Jacques born in England in 1659!

### **Where are the Whites?**

To date, I have not had any luck on getting a lead on Grandmother Fink's family. Aunt Mary gave me a list of the names of all of Grandmother's siblings: Hazel, Virgil, Sherman, Verle, Searle, Claiborn and Lowell. Leila had a half-brother Frank, raised by his maternal grandparent's, the MacDonalds. I have written for her death certificate to see if a birthplace is listed. We aren't sure if she was born in Indiana, the Ozarks or Arkansas. On Beth's birth certificate, it indicates that both parents were born in Indiana. Maybe Nellie or Stella's families will have some information to point us in the right direction. I do have that her parents were Frank White and Anna Bounds.

### **Mona & contacts**

Mona and her sister were raised by her maternal grandparents. Her mother Ramona, died at age 31 in a car accident. Her father Robert, had many medical problems, and died in 1994. Mona & her older sister, Sonja (now living in Alabama) were born in Kansas. Besides her grandfather Ed Lippoldt, she knew his sister Lizzie because Ed & Lizzie were in the same nursing home. Lizzie Lippoldt and Carrie Lippoldt each married Meyerholtz brothers. We have some Meyerholtz cousins in Huntingburg, IN, Iowa and Kansas. Mona has heard from them as well as Feldmeyers and Moores. Another contact is a daughter of a Rev. J.J. Lippoldt, son of Bertha Lippoldt. He was a Lutheran minister and died in

Wisconsin in 1974. And of course, Mona is searching her other relatives, too. Her grandfather married Ethel Powers, who was the daughter of Sarah Elizabeth Scales and Thomas Jefferson Powers. Well, we know that our great-grandfather, Louis married Jane Scales -- maybe another connection.

**The facts**

In a family Bible belonging to Carrie Lippoldt Meyerholtz was a copy of Frederick Lippoldt's obituary. That is how Mona was able to know when he came to the United States, who he married and his children. She has been to a National Archives and looked at Census reports for 1860 and 1870. Frederick's parents Henry and Elizabeth came to the US from Germany in 1843. They first settled in Cincinnati where they lived for five years. They moved to Hanging Rock, OH (which is near Russell, KY) for two years and then settled in Pike County, IN. Frederick married Mary Elizabeth Dickman in 1856. Their oldest son, Louis (our great-grandfather) was born in 1857. Three more sons, Henry, Johan and Fred died very young, as did a sister Matilda. The other children were John, Emma, Lizzie, Carrie, Nora, Bertha and Ed, the youngest.

**Tri-State Genealogical Society, Evansville, IN**

I thought it made more sense to join a genealogy group in Indiana rather than one here in Florida. This organization is starting their 20th year, and mail a quarterly publication. I have just received the first mailing which included the September and December

issues. Besides announcements, they have a listing of books and other resources new to the Willard Library and various "lists." Some are records from churches, funeral home, passenger lists as well as events listed in the Evansville Journal more than 100 years ago. The really nice thing is that they index the names in each issue. You won't believe that in the December 1996 issue, I found the marriage of great-great-grandfather Jacob Fink of Posey Co. with Miss Anna Maria Jordan of Evansville at the St. John's German Evangelical Church (UCC) -- 3rd & Ingle, Evansville, IN on 3 Feb 1857. Of course I cannot be 100% certain that is our relatives, however, I would bet on it. Until getting the Tri-State publication, I only knew the surnames of Fink and Jordan. It was common for the first born son to be named after the father's father -- so I will not be surprised if there is yet another Jacob Fink in our family who died in Germany. In the same issue I found a reference to a Peter Maier who made a speech at the Democratic meeting at Mozart Hall on 7 Oct 1867 -- could that have been a relative to Anna Maria's second husband?

**Pedigree?**

I am having to learn some new vocabulary with this hobby. First of all, there are descendant charts and pedigree charts. The descendant chart starts from the top -- as far back as you can trace one particular family, and branches down. In the case of the Lippoldts, we start with Henry Lippoldt who married Elizabeth Schults and all of their offspring.

A pedigree chart starts with an individual at the far left of the page, then branches out to the right to show parent, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. So starting with Ian, he will have Barry branching off with his parents and his grandparents, etc. and me with my parents, grandparents, etc. for as far as you can trace the different families. The commonly used numbering system for pedigree charts is called "ahmentafel" by genealogists, after the title of a book where it was first used. By looking on a chart you can see that the number for any individual's father is 2 times that of the individual and that person's mothers number is 2 times plus 1. You need a system like this when you are dealing with multiple families and the many charts that are created.

**Fieldings & Spiveys**

We are not neglecting Ian's paternal side, and are very fortunate that the Spiveys have been documenting their genealogy having already compiled several notebooks of records. I hope our contribution can be to document the Spiveys prior to the mid-1700s, and the Stanley, Gladdish, Perryman, Boulton families. I can see another trip to Virginia to Halifax, County!! I just sent Marguerite a printout of the Fielding records that we have in the computer. Surnames also include Barnett, Lee, and Wall.

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I appreciate all leads you can give me -- see if you, too have a letter from a relative squirreled away that can give us some more clues for this fascinating journey.