

Daniel Kolb Cassel, Part 3

Hi KKC Extended Family,

This is the final installment of Daniel Kolb Cassel, Part 3. I will attach a full copy with this email along with the sources.

Final extra note: Daryl Culp of Ontario, Canada, had sent me an email about his book on *Culp Family Genealogy* being available on Amazon last spring. Please forgive me Daryl, but I finally got it. It has a well-researched narrative about Kolbs in the Palatinate in great detail. But what I was most surprised at, and wish to research further, is the prospect of ANOTHER son of Dielman Kolb, not talked about, but mentioned by John Ruth in his *Maintaining the Right Fellowship* book, Arnold Kolb, born in 1688, the second youngest. It is believed he came to America in 1709, but died the same year. Please let me know if you have any information on him.

Jack Oberholtzer

Secretary, Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Association

So how do all these different aspects of Cassel's life connect and why is it important to us?

Being a devout Mennonite explains Daniel's motivation for writing the *History of the Mennonites*, because in its Introduction he offers a quote by Lancaster lawyer E. K. Martin, "While the German Church people have some written history in America, the sect people have yet very little of their history written." The task was difficult, he explains, "because few collections of their (Mennonite) books exist in America; in many of their churches no records have been kept, or have been lost; and many old and valuable papers and records that did exist, which would have been the ordinary source of information, have been destroyed or lost, not being regarded at the time of any value."

Daniel was proud of his heritage, because of four connections in HIS genealogy:

Hupert Cassel, grandson of Yelles Cassel and the first of the Cassel line to come to America in 1715 or 1720 and was his second great-grandfather;

Martin Kolb, one of the first Kolb brothers in America in 1707, was a second great grandfather; and

William Rittenhouse, arriving in America in 1688, was his third great-grandfather [to be exact, his maternal grandfather, Dielman Kolb (1719-1799) married Wilhelmina Rittenhouse (1721-1891)].

Plus, Elizabeth Kolb's (his wife) third great-grandfather was another Kolb brother, Heinrich, who also arrived in 1707.

When an organization was formed in 1890 to remember the astronomer David Rittenhouse, Daniel Cassel was the chairman of the genealogy committee, and was very active in their meetings, according to newspaper accounts.

In his Introduction for the Kolb book, he again noted, “the history of the Kolb family in America has hitherto been unpreserved save personal recollection transmitted from generation to generation and by such information as may be found in family Bibles, church archives, public records, etc., and was fast being lost to the world.” He said, “the collection of the information it was at once apparent would prove to be a gigantic undertaking,” praising his brother, Samuel, for being “one peculiarly fitted for that kind of work.” Samuel took on both the Kolb and Cassel projects, but his failing health and death forced Daniel to take them finished. It was completed, after “grandfathers and grandmothers interviewed, family Bibles and old documents rummaged, public records searched, hundreds of letters written, years of labor bestowed...” So, almost 4000 people were cited in the Kolb book, over 3000 in the Cassel book and 700 in the Rittenhouse book. Quite a monumental task, indeed.

Daniel passed away on 19 February 1898 at his home in the Nicetown section of Philadelphia at 4333 Germantown Avenue, not that far away from the Germantown Mennonite Church, where he was a member. He happens to be the last person to be buried in the church cemetery, where many of the Kolbs, Rittenhouses and other early American Mennonites before him, were laid to rest.

Without Daniel Kolb Cassel, there would be an unfilled gap of knowledge about the Mennonites and some of their early Mennonite family histories. His work is not perfect, as there is little in the Kulp book on the Johannes and Dielman, Jr. lines. But consider he did this in a time when it was labor intensive and time consuming to collect and collate genealogical information. Just consider all of the interviews, letters, churches and government offices he and others had to visit to collect this information. Then organize the paper files into a presentable format. Often mistakes were made and the information could not be verified in that time period. But with today’s ability to access information, and detective work, we can remedy that. So, we thank him, and his brother Samuel, for preserving these legacies in the past so we can build upon them in the present.

What interesting connections are waiting for you to discover?

Sources:

Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Record Book, Daniel Cassel Kolb, Author of the First Kulp Family History, pages 26-27

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[A Genealogical History of the Cassel Family in America, Being the Descendants of Julius Kassel or Yelles Cassel, of Kreisheim, Baden, Germany, Published 1996](#)

[The Family Record of David Rittenhouse, published 1897](#)

[Global Anabaptist Encyclopedia Online, Cassel \(Kassel\) Family](#)

[Wikipedia, William Rittenhouse](#)

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[Newspapers, The Philadelphia Times, Feb 22, 1898, Daniel K. Cassel's Funeral](#)