

Early Kolb Settler, Hans Casper Kolb

Hi KKC Extended Family,

This is hopefully the first of a series of newsletters devoted to the many different “Kolb” families that came to America in the 18th Century. We know a lot about the sons of Dielman Kolb, so maybe it’s time to see how the many others fit into the settlement of what became the United States and Canada (yes, Canada!).

As always, this research has led me down many rabbit holes to explore. For example, we live in Bucks County southeast of Doylestown, where we regularly use a road called “Swamp Road” but never gave the name’s origin a second thought...until I researched Casper Kolb.

Hope you find this interesting. As always, any corrects, comments, questions or suggestions are welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 8th for the next reunion, featuring Rodney Kulp and the family of Georg Michael Kolb!!

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Hans Casper Kolb (Culp) (1692-1770)

The following article is a compilation and summary of the information presented by the sources listed below:

Hans Casper Kolb was born in Schwarzenau, Palatinate, Germany in 1692 ⁽⁴⁾, although another source gives his birth year as 1716 ⁽²⁾. He arrived in Philadelphia on September 15, 1729 aboard the ship "**Allen**", James Craigie, Master, which had ‘sailed from Rotterdam, but last came from Cowes (England) as by Clearance thence dated 7 July 1729.’ ⁽¹⁾ Casper Kolb immigrated along with Rev. Alexander Mack and 124 other men, women and children. Rev. Mack founded the German Baptist Brethren in 1708 in Schwarzenau. ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾ “It is probable that some of those listed were not members of the Brethren group, but merely passengers on the same ship.” ⁽¹⁾

Also listed on the ship's manifest is Anna (Alcordas?) (Felicitas?) (Phyllis?) Kulp (1701/15-1764). Some believe she may have been Hans Casper Kolb's wife, but other evidence suggests that, in fact, Anna Phyllis may have been a sister. There is recorded a Phyllis Kolb living in New Castle, Delaware at the time Hans Casper was residing in Pennsylvania. ⁽⁴⁾

Some researchers believe that Peter Kolb (Dielman Kolb’s eldest son and Mennonite minister, who never traveled to America) is the father of Hans Casper Kolb, but recent evidence suggest this is not the case. As pointed out by Glenn Landis at his web site (<http://kolb-kulp-culp.org>), the Dielman Kolb family's religious foundation was Mennonite while Hans Casper Kolb's was that of the German Baptist Brethren. Additionally, it is

reported that through DNA analysis the two lines are not connected (at least in their generational period). ⁽²⁾

Like many of the new German immigrants, Casper probably initially lived in Germantown or lower Bucks County. We know he married but his wife's name has been lost to time. His first child, Mary Culp, was born in Pennsylvania in 1731, with a second daughter, Barbara born in 1733 in Bucks County. In total, he and his wife had nine children.

But on 8 May 1735, Casper 'Kolp' received a land warrant in Bucks County for 150 acres "about five miles beyond the Grand Swamp and adjoining to Michael Everard and Ludowick Shutz." ⁽⁵⁾ Many of Casper's children trace their place of birth in Bucks County, even a Tohickon Township. ⁽¹⁾ [Note: This is probably an area east to southeast of Quakertown. There is not a "Tohickon Township" in that area, but the Tohickon Creek headwaters is in this vicinity.] Casper and his family stayed in Bucks County for 19 years.

However, on 27 November 1753, the Bucks County land warrants were returned and Casper 'Culp' moved south to the Carolinas. ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁶⁾

To be continued.....

Sources:

- 1- Passengers Who Arrived With Alexander Mack in 1729 on the ship 'ALLEN'
https://www.cob-net.org/text/history_allen.htm
- 2- Parentage, from <http://mendheim-usa.com/culp.html>
- 3- Information on Hans Casper Kolb (Ancestry Story)
- 4- Life In America by David Culp from <http://www.davidculp.com/genealogy.htm>
- 5- Casper Culp, Chester SC Heritage Book, p149
- 6- Kolp, Casper; Warrant; Pennsylvania, U.S., Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952.
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2350/images/33019_b078813-00740?pId=199196

Biography of Alexander Mack: <https://www.cob-net.org/mack/honors.htm>