

Hi KKC Extended Family,

This month, I am taking another section, written by Avery E. Kolb, from a genealogy book, *Culp and Related Families*, written by Mary Frances Beasley, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and published in 1986. The sections she used describing the background of the Kolb family were taken from first revised draft 1978 of Avery E. Kolb ‘s book: *Kolb Families and Relatives in the South – Johannes Kolb and Sons Progenitors of Southern Families*.

I hope you find these sections interesting.

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Secretary, Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Association

P.S. Be sure to follow the website (<http://kolb-kulp-culp.org>) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Kolb-Kulp-Culp-Family-Reunion-111440337655136>).

P.P.S <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25173136/mary-frances-beasley>

War in the Palatinate

In Germany, meanwhile, the Mennonites were caught up with other Protestants in the general disorder of religious wars. The Thirty Years’ War, precipitated by Frederick V in 1618, was one of the most destructive in history. Cities, towns and villages were devastated, and the country which had been so prosperous became a wilderness of uncultivated land, marked with blackened ruins.

The sufferings of country folk were pitiable indeed. “Not only were horses and cattle carried away by the various armies which shifted back and forth over the land, not only were houses, barns, and crops burned, but the mast of the house was frequently subjected to torture in order that he might be forced to disclose the hiding place of his gold or, as often happened, as a punishment for having nothing to give.

“At the approach of a hostile army the whole village would take flight, and would live for weeks in the midst of forest and marshes. The enemy having departed, the wretched survivors would return to their ruined homes and carry on a painful existence until they were forced to fly again. Many were slain, many of the young men were lured away to swell the ranks of the armies, many fled to the cities for safety and never returned to their native village.”

A period of comparative peace followed the war; but then, in 1685, Louis XIV made claim to the Palatinate, and finding himself opposed by England and Holland as well as Germany, determined that “if the soil of the Palatinate was not to furnish supplies to the French, it should be so wasted that it would at least furnish none to the Germans.” He thereafter approved the famous order to “bruler le Palatinat.”

Macaulay described the scenes that followed: “The commander announced to near half a million human beings that he granted them three days grace...Soon the roads and fields, which then lay deep in snow, were blackened by innumerable multitudes of men, women and children flying from their homes...Flames went up from every market place, every parish church, every county seat, with the devoted province. The fields where corn had been sowed were ploughed up. The orchards were hewn down. No promise of a harvest was left on the fertile plains near what had been Frankenthal. Not a vine, nor an almond tree was to be seen on the slopes of the sunny hills round what had once been Heidelberg.”

The war ended in 1697, but not the troubles of the crushed and helpless people. Churches were reopened, but only those of the Catholics; and all were required to “bend the knee to the passing of the Host.” While the country lay in ruin, extravagant rulers built costly palaces, and while villagers were starving, Court officers lived in luxury and idleness. The remaining Mennonites, along with Walloons and Huguenots, now abandoned their homes to seek refuge with their brothers in Holland. But some, including a family of Kolbs of particular interest to us, were not to stay there.

They would go much further.

The German-Dutch Koln family connection, like the Swedish-German connections half a century earlier, stem from the 17th and 18th Century protestant migrations. Peter Kolb was an elder of the Kriegsheim Mennonite congregation in the Palatinate during the first half of the 18th Century. This was no doubt Peter the elder son of Dielman Kolb and brother to the American immigrants who were to maintain their contacts in Holland. In 1709 Peter visited the Netherlands; presumably as the confidential agent to the Dutch Mennonite Committee of Foreign Needs of Amsterdam. In 1731, he was invited to give information to the Amsterdam Committee concerning the needs of the congregation in the Palatinate, per information in the Mennonite Encyclopedia.

But, a word of caution. One must not suppose that all Kolbs came from Bavaria, nor that all were Protestant. Our records of those by the name indicate that Kolbs were also in other principalities of Central Europe and Prussia and what was to become Austria and Czechoslovakia. Charles R. Kolb of Vicksburg, Miss. says his parents came from Platten in eastern Europe. At a Kolb family reunion in Dallas, Texas in 1969, a musical composition by an early 18th Century German Kolb was displayed. He was a Catholic Monk, Carlman. Well, you might say, but he had no descendants.¹

¹Kolb Families and Relatives in the South – Johannes Kolb and Sons Progenitors of Southern Families. Author Avery E. Kolb