

Hi KKC Extended Family,

The following section, “The Immigrants” written by Avery Kolb, appeared in Mary Francis Beasley’s *Culp and Related Families* 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 this interesting, but it is rather lengthy, so I will be sending this out over the next few weeks in four parts.

Jack Oberholtzer
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>)

The Immigrants (Part 1 of 4)

The era of great maritime adventure which began with Columbus, mounted in the seventeenth century under the compulsion to colonize. Western Europe, from the Iberian to the Scandinavian peninsulas, entered upon the seizure and division of new lands. Wonder tales were held up before the oppressed millions by idealists and schemers alike who, for good cause or profits, sought to induce them to cross the Atlantic.

To William Penn goes the credit for diverting the largest part of the German immigration to America to his own province. There came to these people in 1671 and again in 1677, a young man named Benjamin Furley, the agent of Penn, who preached a doctrine of good will. Penn’s Quaker tenets differed very little from those held by the followers of Menno Simon, and the news that he offered them a home where they could live without wars and persecutions brought hope to many a household.

By March 1682, Penn had sold several 5000-acre tracts to merchants of Crefeld, Germany. The following year Germans bought 24,000 acres upon which the city of Germantown was to be located. This was the beginning of a mighty Teutonic wave of immigration which, commencing with the Crefelders, continued to come until it outgrew and, in a measure, displaced some of the nationalities that preceded it.

The principal port of embarkation was Rotterdam, hence to Cowes, in the Isle of Wright. Scows, brigantines, brigs, every kind of craft and vessel was employed. The late winter and early autumn months were generally chosen for passage.

While many of the immigrants had, at one time, been well-to-do, most were now reduced to poverty. Whatever property they had been able to gather together was used up in expenses for descending the Rhine and crossing the ocean, or was stolen on the

way. The deliberate diversion of their chests by unscrupulous merchants was one of the greatest hardships these people had to endure, as they depended upon these not only for meager clothing but for dried fruit and meat, butter, preserved food, brandy and medicines they needed for nourishment and health on the way.

The journey took weeks, sometimes months. Sitting on boxes and bundles which were piled high in the middle of the craft could be seen gray-haired men and women, old and feeble, along the sides, gazing at the shores as they slipped away, stood the young. Despite the comforts of religion and communion, the passage of the Atlantic was one continual series of discomfort, suffering, disease and death.

To be continued with Part 2.....