

NEWSLETTER OF THE KOLB, KULP, CULP FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2007  
Lower Skippack Mennonite Church, 12:30 P.M.

*Three hundred years ago*, three brothers of the Kolb family left Germany from the town of Wolfsheim in the Palatinate, to make new homes in America. They came to take up the challenge Penn's colony offered freedom to worship as they chose and to pursue economic opportunity. They landed at Philadelphia where they arranged to purchase farm-land mainly to the North and West of the city. Over the years they were successful in agriculture, in the trades; built meeting houses for worship around which their communities centered. Their spiritual guidance enabled them to make a worthy contribution to American culture.

*For more than two hundred years* they spoke and wrote mainly in German influenced by the English spoken in Penn's colony; their language became known as "Pennsylvania Dutch". Our German name, Kolb, was often anglicized as Kulp or Culp. To honor these brave pioneers, their traditions, & their contributions to American culture, the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion of your Kolb, Kulp, Culp Family Association will commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first members of our family in Philadelphia.

*We invite you to join our celebration* of this anniversary at the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church, where our immigrant ancestors built their meeting house, and where they & members of following generations, were buried. The history of the Lower Skippack congregation is intertwined with that of the early Kolb family. We plan an old-fashioned reunion with food and music in the Deutsch style and with the well-known historian of our local, south-eastern Pennsylvania heritage and culture, John L. Ruth, as our speaker. He has researched and written extensively about the history of south-eastern Pennsylvania German families including the Kolbs; his knowledge of this material is unequalled.

*John L. Ruth will present an overview of our family story* beginning from first glimpses of the Thielmann Kolb Family at Wolfsheim. He plans to discuss the 1685-1707 migration of Thielman's sons, first to Germantown and then to Skippack; the coming of Henry and Barbara Kolb to Skippack in 1709, and that of another Kolb brother in 1717; he will also discuss several subsequent Kolb religious leaders at Skippack & Salford, as well as the master fraktur artist, Andreas Kolb.

*Mark the date, Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.* Come to Kulp Country, meet your family, dine & sing, explore your history, and pay your respects to those folks who helped make the United States the home of the brave and the land of the free. Please let us know by May 31<sup>st</sup> if you plan to join us for lunch. Also let us know if you have questions or if we can be of assistance. For more information: e-mail Mrs. Grace Muscarella, [gracefreed@aol.com](mailto:gracefreed@aol.com), or contact Mrs. Ruth Oberholtzer, 209 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. North Wales, PA 19454, phone 215-699-3940. To order Kulp items by mail, send the tear off below. ---*Your President, Ned Kulp*

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Mail this form with check to the Kolb, Kulp, Culp Association, Inc. to Ruth Oberholtzer, 209 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., North Wales, PA 19454

## The First Kolb Brothers to America

In early 1707, three Kolb brothers of Wolfsheim, Hess, Germany, set out on an adventure that most of us can barely imagine. They were the sons of Mennonite parents, Dielman Kolb and Agnes Schumacher, and they were seeking a home where they would be free to worship and to make a living as they best saw fit. They had been preceded by their grandfather, Peter Schumacher in 1685, but he died in 1707, the year of their arrival. Peter Schumacher had been a Mennonite, but he had converted to the Quaker faith.

Martin (1680 – 1761) was the oldest of the three and probably brought a wife. Johannes, the next in line, born in 1683, was single and would seem to have been the most adventurous of the brothers. Jacob (1685-1739) would marry three years later in the new country.

Two older brothers stayed behind in Germany. Heinrich would follow two years later with his wife and three children, and Peter, a bishop in the Mennonite Church, died in Mannheim, Germany in 1727. A fifth and younger brother Dielman Jr. would follow in 1717.

Johannes, Jacob and Martin arrived in Germantown in 1707 but did not join the other Mennonites at the Germantown Church until 1708. A 1708 listing of members shows Johannes and Jacob as single men and Martin as married. By 1710 the three brothers would own adjoining farms in Skippack and be part of the new Skippack Mennonite Church there.

Johannes was the only one of the five brothers who did not stay in Montgomery County. He sold most of his land in Skippack in 1712 and moved to Coventry Township, Chester County. He paid taxes there until 1735 and then moved to South Carolina by 1737 and sold the last of his land in Skippack by 1739. He joined the Welsh Neck Baptists on the Pee Dee River in South Carolina. There are many Kolbs in the South who are descendants of Johannes.

Jacob was married on May 2, 1710, to Sarah Van Sintern in the Germantown Mennonite Church by Dirck Keyser. Sarah was the daughter of Isaac and Neeltje (Classen) Van Sintern, who had been married in Amsterdam. Isaac Van Sintern was a deacon of the church and had brought his four daughters to Germantown from Hamburg, Germany, in 1700. Jacob and Sarah Kolb moved to Skippack in 1710 and Jacob was chosen as a deacon of the new church at Skippack. Nine children are known, among them "Strong Isaac Kolb," a bishop of the Mennonite Church and ancestor of many of the local Kolbs. Jacob was killed in an accident with a cider press beam, on October 4, 1739 and is buried at the Skippack Mennonite Church.

Martin was ordained a minister of the Germantown Mennonite Church in 1708, but was soon to become part of the new Skippack branch of the church. He married his second wife, Magdalena Van Sintern, on May 19, 1709, in the home of her father, Isaac Van Sintern. She was a sister of Jacob's wife, Sarah, and would eventually become the family historian for the Van Sintern descendants. Martin and Magdalena had seven children, and many of their descendants are buried at the Skippack Church.

The Kolb brothers, including older brother Peter, who was a Mennonite Bishop at Manheim in Germany, were very influential in the early Mennonite Church, and their descendants can be found in all the Mennonite Churches of the Franconia Conference in Pennsylvania, though many have moved on to other areas and denominations.

Glenn. H. Landis, Lititz, PA