

“The Entire History of German Immigration to America” Video on YouTube

Hi KKC Extended Family,

I was trying to figure out what to write about this month, but Scott Lingle saved me by sending me a link to a YouTube video, “The Entire History of German Immigration to America.”

I am usually skeptical about these videos, as the AI graphics tend not be accurate. But since Scott is a history teacher, I watched it, and the video did not disappoint. It is only 15 minutes long, but it crams a lot of information into that short time span. It definitely provides topics for future research. Here is the link to it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuWDpe-jp_8

It is a good reminder that many German speaking immigrants came after the first wave in the late 1600s and early to mid-1700s, and the impact all Germans had on the United States and its culture.

The video’s synopsis reads:

“Over 45 million Americans have German ancestry — making it the largest ancestry group in the United States. More than Irish. More than Italian. More than English. But most of those 45 million people know almost nothing about where their family actually came from. Not because the history isn't there. But because someone buried it.

“In this video we trace the complete history of German immigration to America — from the first thirteen families who crossed the Atlantic on the Concord in 1683 and built Germantown, Pennsylvania, through the redemptioner ships, the revolutionary Forty-Eighters, the German Civil War regiments, all the way to the systematic cultural erasure of World War I that silenced an entire community within a single generation. And we look at what DNA testing is revealing now — including why so many German Americans are finding French, Polish, Czech, and Scandinavian ancestry in their results, and what it means for families who thought they knew exactly where they came from.

“If you have German roots, Pennsylvanian Dutch ancestry, Midwest German heritage, or a family name that was changed somewhere along the way — this video is for you.”

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Working on the bulletin to go out sometime about mid-May. For those receiving it via email, I will print enough copies to give out at the reunion.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on June 14th!!

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