



Dillman *

Descendants and Ancestors

(*Including other known variations of Dillmann, Stillman, Tillman, Dielman, Dhyllmann, Dihlmann, Dillaman, Tighlman, Dieleman, etc.)

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1. How might a Dillmann become a Dillman who becomes a Tillman who has a son who becomes a Stillman?**
- 2. Musical Dillmans**
- 3. Immigrant Dillmans in Early American History—part 2**
- 4. Excelsior School in Winfield, Kansas**
- 5. Upcoming Reunions**
- 6. George Michael Dillman—Revolutionary War Soldier**

We are saddened to report on the passing of Nelson Edward “Tilly” Stillman, on January 31, 2011, at the age of 66. He was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was living in Malagash. He is buried in the MacKenzie Cemetery in Malagash.

We are saddened to report on the passing of Charles William (Mr. Bill) Dillman. He died on February 24, 2011 at the age of 90 in Brookville, not far from DuBois, Pennsylvania, where he visited years ago with some of the members of the DFA.

As of the officer’s meeting in January, the DFA treasury had \$2,230.53

Additional thanks to Christina Dillman and Louise McKinney for their corrections and suggestions along with Don’s and Andrew’s always necessary editing.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

1. How might a Dillmann become a Dillman who becomes a Tillman who has a son who becomes a Stillman? - by Don A. Dillman

Changes in how the Dillman name is spelled have been a challenge to researchers trying to trace their family lines. In today's world names change infrequently, and when they do change, they are usually accompanied by legal documentation. However, when one is tracing families across multiple generations and countries, as is a purpose of the Dillman Family Association, it's common to find changes made in how the surname for a family is spelled.

My mother tells the story of buying the Iowa farm where I was born. Her grandmother Williby came to visit shortly afterwards, and said simply that it was where she was born. My mother said that couldn't be because the name of a previous owner was actually named as John Willoughby. Her grandmother then explained that someone in the family had done something not approved of by other family members who then changed the spelling of their last name.

Family differences are only one of many reasons that the spelling of surnames might change. Some changes are associated with how names get recorded in birth, marriage, and death records. Some may be associated with immigration to another country, when speakers of different languages begin to interact. Land transfers may also be a source of change.

In the September 2010 (volume 3, no.1) Issue of *Dillman Descendants and Ancestors*, Marianne Fritz (nee Dihlmann) of Wurmberg, Germany, described a nearly five hundred year old family tree beginning with Michael Dillmann in 1536. She notes that in 1751 a Pastor in Wurmberg starting writing the name as Dihlmann, for reasons unknown to her, and the surname has been spelled that way ever since. However, descendants of this same family line who live in the United States, and are now named Dillman, trace their heritage to Georg Friedrich Dillmann, a descendant of Michael

Dillmann, who was born in 1535 and became an immigrant to North America. Like many other Dillmanns who migrated to the U.S., the common double consonant "nn" in Germany was changed to the use of a single n, more common in English. That spelling persists among hundreds of his descendants now known as the "Virginia Dillmans" (See September 2010 Newsletter for more information on this family line).

Many genealogists have searched for land records in Pennsylvania for Hans-Georg Dillmann who migrated to the U.S. in 1751, without proven success. Mallory Fitch recently found a land record for a George Tillman in present day Lebanon County close to where it was thought Hans-Georg Dillmann and his wife Margaretha (Murr) were thought to live. Could this be the record for our ancestor? We don't know, but the possibility is intriguing.

We also know that, although the sons of Hans-Georg and Margaretha are shown in later records as Dillman, and that spelling has appeared not to change since the late 1700's, that one son, who was captured by the British in the Revolutionary War, became a "Stillman". DNA research that shows several known descendants from Hans-Georg are descendants from the same male ancestor as the four Stillman participants provides confirmation.

Barbara Jensen who has contributed much to gaining an understanding of the Hans-Georg family line offered this explanation for the different spellings in a recent email:

In the German language d, t and th are interchangeable sounds. If a family is known, the name will be written by a German in the preferred spelling. But the English officials wrote what they heard: hence the T for Dillman. In the old German script T and D are not confused when written. The

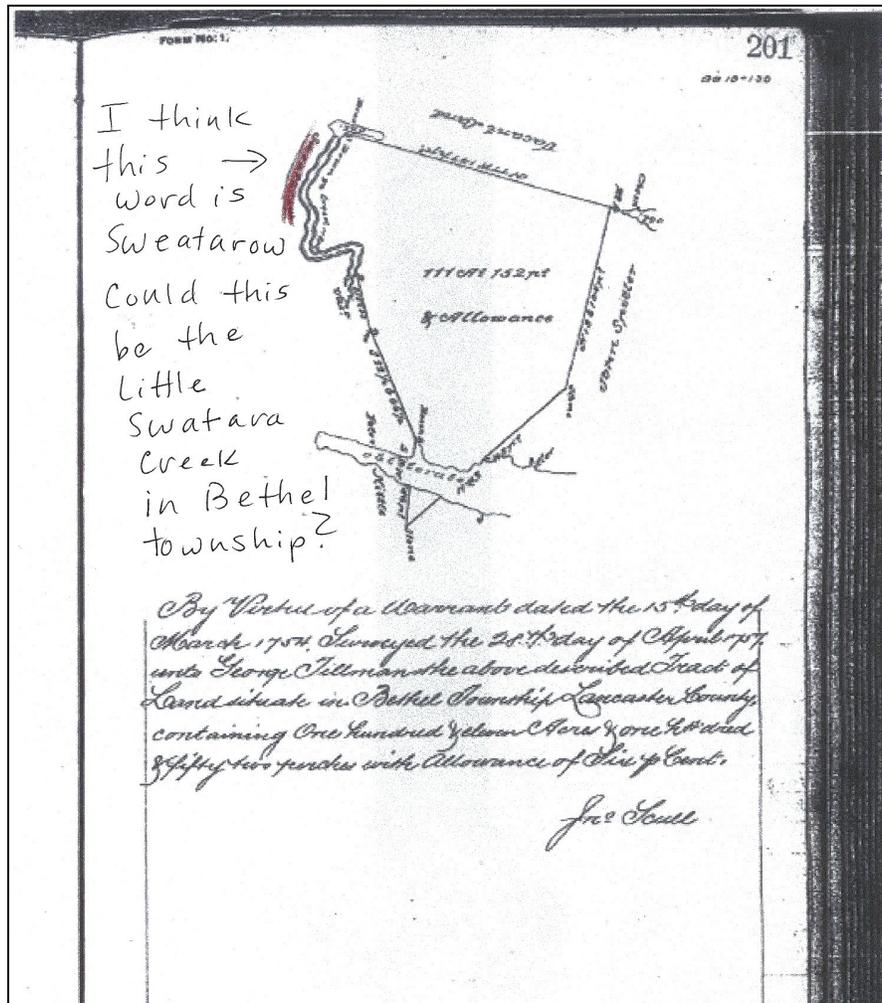
DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

Stillman name only appears after George Adam was captured by an Englishman who wrote what he heard: "My name is Dillman." And, in another example, on the May 1783 muster roll, the name is Mich. Tillman and is thought to represent George Michael Dillman.

Perhaps the recorder of the land record spoke mostly English and Hans-Georg and his family had continued to speak mostly German

so that what one said the other heard differently. Perhaps literacy and the ability to read and write was not yet well developed.

It's likely that we'll never know exactly what happened, and perhaps other evidence, yet to be found, will suggest to us later that Dillmann became Tillman for this father of different sons who became Stillman and Dillman, spellings that continue to exist in present day Canada and the United States.



Could the George Tillman listed on this land map be the same person as Hans Georg Dillmann, born 1724 in Germany?

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

2. “Musical Dillmans” - by Phil Dillman

I'm sure you have some of these folks in your family. The young ones that travel with the family only to go off into a corner and getting lost in their own musical world while learning to play their guitar or to play on the piano in another room rather than visit with the relatives (I was one of those with my 12-string guitar). Or, maybe you have one of those family members

that enjoys entertaining anyone that will listen as they play an instrument like a piano (I have an uncle like that and my dad was like that). Whatever the case, here are some photos of some of those musical Dillmans. If you have similar photos, send them to me and I'll include them in a future issue of DD&A.



Albert Dillman



Clara Dillman



Christine Dillman



Phil Dillman



Dwight Dillman (father of Derek) on Banjo in 1974



Mack Dillman—Yale (IL)

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

3. Immigrant Dillmans in Early American History—by Louise McKinney Part 2

After the end of European Wars, Germans again came from Southwest Germany to Rotterdam/Amsterdam, then to Philadelphia as Redemptioners (*immigrants too poor to travel to the colonies on their own but without labor contracts. If no friend or relative paid for their passage, the ship's captain would sell them to the highest bidder for whom they would work to "redeem" themselves and pay off their debt.*)

Because of the depression in the United States in 1818-1819, the Redemptioner system went bankrupt. This caused New York to become more important than Philadelphia as an entry port.



The opening of the Erie Canal boosted this, and by 1845 75% of US immigrants were coming into New York. Canals were being dug all across New York and Pennsylvania. From the pages of the Berks-Schuylkill Journal

we find the following advertisement: "Wanted Immediately, On the Union Canal, five miles above Reading, Carpenters and Laborers to whom liberal wages will be given by Raush & Dillman."

A newspaper article in 1832 gives the following account "CASUALTY.— We understand that a very distressing occurrence took place on the 30th section of the canal, in Pittston on Tuesday last. It seems that Mr. Henry Dillman, one of the contractors on that section, was engaged with a number of hands in blasting a rock, when, by some means, fire was accidentally communicated to a keg of powder which Mr. D. was holding in his hands. He was dreadfully mangled by the explosion, and survived but a few minutes. Three of the hands (whose names we have not learned) were likewise so seriously injured that their lives are despaired of.—Wyoming Herald."

In the late 1820s, Bremen, Germany started bringing tobacco from Baltimore. Germans began using that route, and by 1840 Bremen was more important than Rotterdam/Amsterdam. Germans from northeastern and central Germany began to immigrate.

About this time cotton was being sent to LeHavre, France from New Orleans, and southwest Germans began going to New Orleans.

Immigrants to Missouri who arrived in New Orleans had to find passage

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

on a riverboat. By the 1850s steamboats could make the trip in less than a week compared to six weeks a few decades earlier.

Travel on the Mississippi was sometimes even more dangerous than the trip across the Atlantic. Steamboat accidents were common. In addition, immigrants were not used to the hot, humid climate along the lower Mississippi; many became ill before they arrived in St. Louis.

The newspapers in the river towns posted the daily arrival and departure schedule of steamboats. From the Memphis Daily Advocate on Sunday, January 28, 1866, we read, "The Fairfield will leave for Hatchie river tomorrow evening at 5 o'clock. This is an excellent chance for shippers and passengers. George S. Dillman, master."

Hamburg then started connections with the US: (1) direct to New York, (2) indirect to Hull across to Liverpool, then to New York. Emigration spread eastward and southward from Hamburg.

By 1842 there were five major ports of embarkation: Bremen, Hamburg, Rotterdam/Amsterdam, and Antwerp. The peak year was 1854 with 215 thousand Germans emigrating.

The routes in the US were (1) into New York to Ohio and west; (2) into New Orleans and up the Mississippi River; (3) into Galveston or Indianola to inland Texas.

There were dense German settlements by 1860: (1) mid-Atlantic states

and states directly west; (2) from St. Louis west along the Missouri River and north along the Mississippi River; (3) rural Texas around San Antonio and Austin; (4) New Orleans and vicinity; and (5) San Francisco and vicinity.

The "German String" linked New York, Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Great Lakes, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee.

The cities of Milwaukee, Cincinnati, and St. Louis became the "German triangle." Most Germans could easily feel at home in these cities with their beer gardens, newspapers, music and recreational societies. Both Milwaukee and St. Louis became famous for their breweries! Milwaukee became a national center for German Catholicism.

During the Civil War 170,000 German born, and 700,000 sons and grandsons of German immigrants joined the Union Army. Many Dillman men, or husbands of Dillman women, served in the war. Some died in battle such as S.E. Dillman, Co. H, 63d Pennsylvania who died in the Battle of Bull Run. Others died from disease or exposure like Charles M. Dillman, Co. H, 173d Pennsylvania Infantry did in Norfolk, Virginia.

Trains were becoming a popular mode of travel, and in 1869 the country had its first trans-continental railroad. Dillman men, who didn't work in the mines in Pennsylvania, very often worked as locomotive engineers, or did other jobs on the railroad.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

Peter A. Dillman worked as an engineer as a young man.



Peter A. Dillman

Railroads, newspapers, and businesses began a major campaign to recruit new settlers to Kansas. In 1872, two railroads mounted huge advertising campaigns to sell land they owned along their railways. The Kansas Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe printed circulars in the German language and sent agents to Europe. Kansas railroads were anxious to sell land to farmers who would soon ship grain on their lines. Railroads lured emigrants by offering free sleeping cars on express trains leaving Kansas City. They also granted land for churches and schools, and supplied some farmers with seed wheat for their first crop in Kansas.

Howard Dillman left Indiana and settled in Kansas.

During this time, there were Germans all over North America. Dillmans had spread out and were in the news! Andrew Dillman, of Plainfield, Illinois was issued a patent for improvement in corn shellers in 1857. However, in 1871 he filed for an extension of the patent and it was rejected. He had moved to Joliet, Illinois by this time.

In 1866 sixteen guests of the Dillman House, including the proprietor, his niece and cook, were poisoned at breakfast by partaking of biscuits made of self-rising flour.

The Cincinnati Daily Enquirer reported that George and John Dillman were found guilty on a charge of disorderly conduct. They were fined one dollar each and court costs.

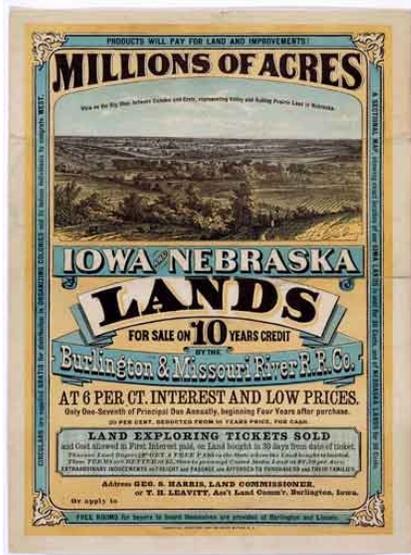
The New York Herald reported some interesting Dillman stories. Charles Dillman was the driver of a horse car for the North Hudson Railroad Company. While he was on a lonely part of Bull's Ferry Road, he was attacked and knocked unconscious. A Dillman man died from glanders which was a highly contagious horse disease. Mary Dillman, of Brooklyn, attempted suicide by cutting her throat with a razor. A physician was called in who stitched up her wounds.

The most notorious Dillman was John. His case made the newspapers all over the country. He and his wife were driving in a borrowed buggy when he threw her to the ground and cut her throat.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

He left her for dead. She lived for a couple of weeks. He was thrown in jail, had a trial, and was hanged in the jail in Easton, Pa.

The Homestead Act, which was passed by Congress after the Civil War, enabled individuals to get 160 acres of free land. There were three steps: file an application, improve the land, and file for deed of title. Many people took advantage of this Act.



Approximately 120,000 German-Russian immigrants entered the United States to settle in various parts of the Great Plains before World War I. Most of these were Protestants, but a smaller number of Catholics, mainly from the Black Sea area, also emigrated. These largely settled in North Dakota.

An Enlarged Homestead Act was passed in 1909. It increased the number of acres to 320. By this time the targeted land was suitable for dryland farming or ranching. Howard Dillman,

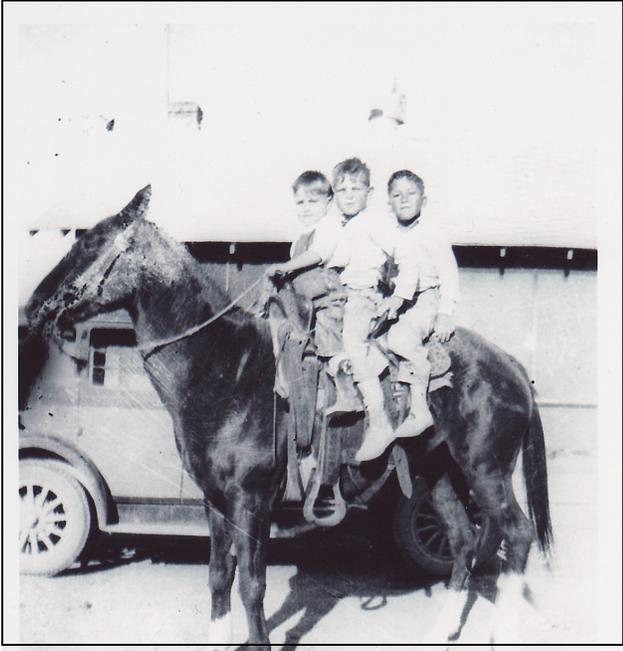
from Indiana by way of Kansas, and Peter A. Dillman, from Pennsylvania and later Mexico, took advantage of this act.

On the outbreak of the First World War, there was a growth of German nationalism in America. However, when the United States entered the conflict in 1917, the vast majority of German-Americans played their full part in the war effort. This did not stop a hostility to anything German in the United States. Towns, streets and buildings with German names were renamed. During this period a large number of American-Germans changed their surnames in order to hide their origins. Some schools stopped teaching German as a foreign language and radio stations were encouraged not to play the music of German composers. A large number of German language newspapers, starved of advertising, were also forced to close.

There were fewer opportunities for skilled workers in the United States in the early 20th century and emigration from Germany declined. Between 1820 and 1920 over 5,500,000 emigrated from Germany to the United States. Germany therefore contributed more people than any other country.

Because of the World War I Draft Registration cards, we know more about the Dillman men. Glenn Dillman was a farmer in Iowa, while Henry Albert Dillman farmed in Illinois.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS



*Walter, Pete, & Jess Dillman on
their dad's horse, Smokey*

Walter Dillman was a barber in the border town of Douglas, Arizona. Joe Dillman worked as a cowboy for the Bonita Springs Cattle Company in Cochise County, Arizona. His brother Charles was listed as a cowpuncher, and another brother Robert was listed as a farmer.



Joe and Robert Dillman

Thanks to the Dillman Family Association and our DNA project, we now know that, even though you might live in a little town out in the middle of nowhere, two Dillman families living in that same town do not have to be related!

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

4. **Excelsior School in Winfield, Kansas—1928**



Back Row—

Mrs. Nadine Anglemyer, Darlene Beery, Cleo Oldham, Wanda Overbey, Vincent Turpin, Leona Dillman, Ronald Beery, May Sumner, Raymond Dillman

Front Row—

Yancie Oldham Jr., Vera Oldham, Harlan Oldham, Mary Dillman, John Sumner, Gertrude Turpin, Jack Eddington, Neal Oldham, Dorothy Eddington.

(Dillman children listed as children of Thornton Dillman)

Information found on the Internet

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

5. “DILLMAN REUNIONS”

Several groups of Dillmans hold reunions in different locations each year. In this part of the newsletter, those reunions will be posted with times and locations updated as they become available to us. If you would like your Dillman reunion listed here, please send us the appropriate information. All dates, locations and times are subject to change.

2011-

Saturday, May 14th, Noon 5:00 PM
Descendants of Covey & Ethel Mary Dunning Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Homewood, IL

Saturday, June 25th, roughly 11:00 AM—3:00 PM
Descendants of Andrew & Elizabeth Bruner Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group near Bloomington, IN

Saturday, July 9th,
Descendants of Reverend C. K. & Bertha Eickelberger Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Charleston, IL

Saturday, October 8th,
Descendants of Frank & Minnie Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Tamms, IL

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

6. George Michael Dillman (ca1764-ca1830) Revolutionary War Soldier by Mallory Fitch and Andrew Stillman

It is thought that George Michael Dillman was born circa 1764 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, (likely in present day Lebanon County. See number 1 on map attached). He was the third son and 7th child of Hans George Dillman and Margaretha Murr. Because George Michael Dillman had a brother who was also named George there has been confusion with his dates, military service, etc. His eldest brother George Adam Dillman/Stillman was a Revolutionary War POW. Both George Michael Dillman's father and brother went by the name George. This could be a reason why in Pennsylvania George Michael Dillman preferred using the name Michael Dillman. Most of the children of Hans George Dillman, including George Adam Stillman have been proven via baptism records either located in Germany or Pennsylvania. A baptism record for George Michael Dillman so far has not been obtained. There are no known sketches or portraits of George Michael Dillman Sr.

The first known documentation in Pennsylvania for George Michael Dillman dates from when he was 18 or 19 and is his enlistment into Capt. Robert McCallen's 1st Pennsylvania Battalion where he was mustered in the County of Lancaster. The date that Capt. Robert McCallen's signed for this muster roll was 15 May 1783. This muster roll was taken prior to the signing of

the Treaty of Paris therefore qualifying George Michael Dillman for Revolutionary War service with NSDAR or NSSAR. Barbara Jensen, a longtime Dillman researcher, located another muster roll listing George Michael Dillman. This muster roll is again for Capt. Robert McCallen's 1st Pennsylvania Battalion and it was dated 21 December 1784, after the Revolutionary War. George Michael Dillman is listed as Michael Tilman on this muster roll. It was quite common to change D's into T's, etc, and what was written would depend on the person taking the muster roll, the writer and the speaker's languages, their education level and dedication to the task. All these factors could influence on how a person's name was spelled in records. In German, the sounds for D, t, and th are very similar. Another example of surname transformation is George Adam Dillman - his name was changed on a British Army muster roll to George Stillman.

George Michael Dillman's brother Andrew is listed on 12 November 1792 as owning 150 acres in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Apparently George Michael Dillman followed his brother Andrew to Northumberland County Pennsylvania from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania between the years 1784 and 1785 (see 2 on map attached). In 1785 George Michael Dillman is listed as Michael Dillman on the Northumberland County tax records and he

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

was taxed at a rate of 10.0.

When he was around 21 years old, George Michael Dillman married Christiana Hefer, the daughter of Andrew Hefer and Elizabeth Druckemiller. Andrew Hefer was living in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. It is thought that George Michael married Christiana circa 1785 in Northumberland County, Pa. In 1790, Michael Dillman is listed in the Penn township census in what was then Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. This 1790 census stated that there was one male over the age of 16 and one under, with two females. George Michael's family at this time would have included a son, Andrew, born around 1785, and a daughter, Elizabeth born in 1787. Another son, Michael was likely born in 1790 while son Frederick was born in 1792. The last child thought to be born in Pennsylvania, was Mary, making a total of 5 children born in Pennsylvania.

George Michael Dillman and his brother Andrew Dillman moved from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania to Bourbon County, Kentucky (see 3 on map attached) likely following the same roads established by many other Germans who kept searching for better land with their ever expanding families. Kentucky County was separated from Virginia and admitted as a State in 1792. Once in Kentucky, George Michael Dillman started to use his first name, George, on documents. A further 3 children were born to George Michael and Christina in Kentucky. They were John and Catherine around 1798, and Mary Hannah

born in 1802. From Bourbon County they moved to Bracken County, Kentucky, formed in 1796 (see 4 on map attached). George Michael Dillman purchased land in Bracken County, Kentucky.

Barbara Jensen located a quit claim land release that both Christiana and George Michael Dillman signed in Bracken County, Kentucky on 12 September 1803, releasing claim to property in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania owned by the late Andrew Hefer to his widow Elizabeth. Children Sarah in 1804, Daniel in 1806, and likely Christina in 1809 were born in Bracken County, completing George Michael and Christina's family of 11 children. George Michael Dillman moved from Bracken County, Kentucky across the Ohio River to Clermont County, Ohio (see 5 on map attached). On 7 August 1820 George Michael Dillman is listed in a census taken for Franklin, Clermont County, Ohio. George Michael Dillman did not leave a will. It is thought that he died by April 1830 as Michael Sells, Jacob Coylander, and George Trautwine received letters of administration for George Michael's estate on 8th April 1830. For small estates, these papers were usually fairly swiftly granted. Barbara Jensen obtained an important document pertaining to the heirs of George Michael Dillman. It was a petition to partition his estate dated November 1832 but not settled until 1835. This document was a petition that was filed by George Michael Dillman's heirs to partition 2000 acres of his land in Clermont County, Ohio after his death.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

In addition to leaving behind numerous descendants and after having moved his family several times from the place of his birth in Pennsylvania to Franklin Ohio, George Michael Dillman was able to leave his heirs shares in a sizeable piece of land.

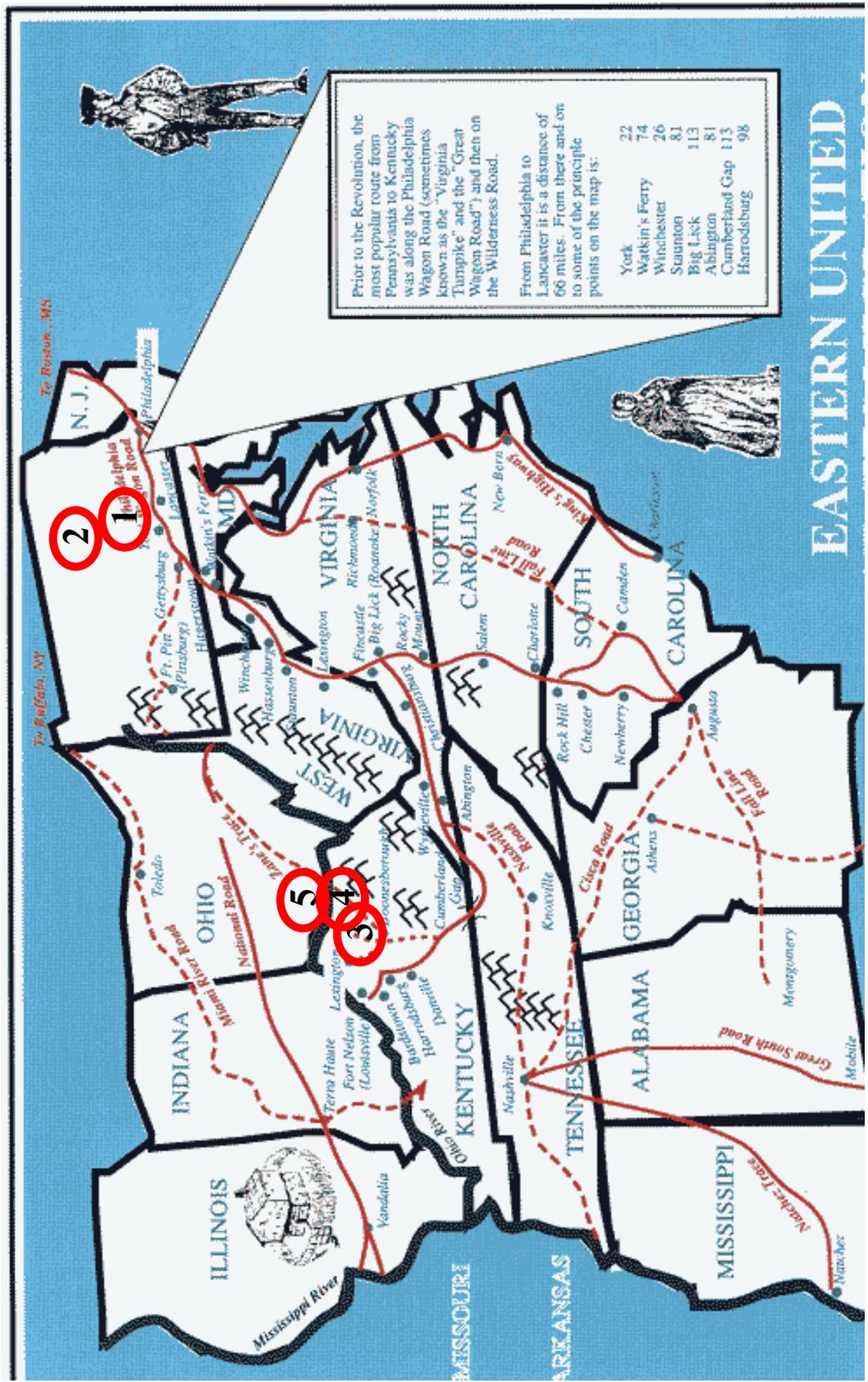
Children of George Michael Dillman and Christina Hefer:

Andrew Dillman (ca1785-ca1831) married Eula Keighler
Elizabeth Dillman (born 1787, died 23 May 1865) married Joseph Powell
Michael Dillman (ca1790-ca1850)
Mary Dillman (ca1792-ca1874) married Jacob Kilander
Frederick Dillman (born 1792, died 20

Apr 1877 Wenona, Illinois) married Mary Turner
John Dillman (born ca1798, died 28 Jan 1864) married Elizabeth Young
Catherine Dillman (born ca 1798, died 08 Dec 1866) married Abraham Cline
Christiana Dillman married Samuel Plummer
Mary Hannah Dillman (ca1802-ca1834) married Michael Sells
Sarah Dillman (born 1804, died 8 Mar. 1855, Montrose, Illinois) married William Plummer
Daniel Dillman (born ca1806) married Margaret Plummer

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1. Pennsylvania Archives, Series 5, Vol. II, p. 74
 2. Pennsylvania Archives, Series 6, Vol. III, p. 458
 3. Pennsylvania Archives, Series 3, Vol. XXV, page 122
 4. Pennsylvania Archives Series 3, Volume XIX, page 608
 5. B. Jensen
 6. B. Jensen
 7. B. Jensen
 8. B. Jensen
 9. B. Jensen
 10. B. Jensen
 11. B. Jensen
 12. Northumberland County Courthouse land records Book M, page 258
 13. B. Jensen
 14. Joyce Maienschein
 15. B. Jensen
 16. Grave marker, Cumberland Cemetery, Wenona, Illinois
 17. B. Jensen
 18. B. Jensen
 19. Grave marker, Faunce Cemetery, Montrose, Illinois

Map of Eastern United States Showing Approximate Movements of George Michael Dillman



Please let us know your reactions to this issue of the DFA newsletter. Are there any particular features you would like to see in future issues of the newsletter?

“FUTURE ARTICLES”

We would like to include any Dillman-related stories and/or photos that you might wish to submit for upcoming newsletters. We will try to include your submitted stories/photos as quickly as possible.

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The DFA newsletter, “Dillman Descendants and Ancestors,” is available by e-mail to all paid members of the Dillman Family Association. Membership is available to any individual with interest in the activities of the Dillman Family Association for \$25.00, which covers the two year period between mega-reunions (August 2010-August 2012). Membership in the DFA entitles individuals to receive an e-mail copy of each newsletter, and information on other DFA activities. Membership dues should be mailed to Louise McKinney, Treasurer, at 1510 W. Delmar, Godfrey, IL 62035 (merrielouise@yahoo.com).

Members may request receiving copies of the newsletter by postal mail instead of e-mail. Donations of \$2.00 per issue to cover the cost of printing and mailing such copies will be greatly appreciated.

Phil’s Phamily Tree Phunnies

by Phil Dillman

