



Dillman *

Descendants and Ancestors

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

The Official Publication of the Dillman Family Association – Published Quarterly

www.dillmanfamilyassociation.org

If you are interested in researching any branch of your family, the 2012 Dillman Mega-Reunion is designed for you. We'll be visiting the marvelous facilities of the Allen County Library - one of the best genealogical libraries in the country. You can research other family lines, as well, at this library.

The hotel is very nice and is close to the airport, with room rates around \$70.00 (plus tax) per night. A Dillmann visitor from Germany will be speaking about his family tree in Germany. The DFA Library/Archives will be updated and easier to use at this year's Mega-Reunion. PLEASE, tell your family members about this upcoming event. Please register directly with the hotel by July 1st for our lower rate and with the DFA by July 21st for the best price.

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We are a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

1. Why I'm Going To The Mega-Reunion In Ft. Wayne - by Don Dillman

A friend who knew I had pretty well figured out my Dillman Ancestry in the United States and back to the late 1600's in Germany asked why my wife (Joye) and I plan to go to this year's Mega-Reunion in Ft. Wayne. I responded quickly, "Every one of these reunions has produced a surprise for me, and I can hardly wait to be surprised by something new this year!"



In 2002, when I walked into the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis, IN at the first Mega-Reunion and said to the desk clerk, "reservation for Dillman", she laughed, and I quickly understood why. Having travelled extensively for many years, this was the first hotel check-in I could remember in which just my last name didn't produce the right reservation. My second surprise of that Mega-Reunion was the sheets and sheets of paper strung up and down the walls of our meeting room providing lists of descendants from various Dillmans, but most of us in attendance were not at all sure we were actually related. Anxious for answers, the group decided to



start a DNA testing program that could identify whether male Dillmans were descended from the same ancestor. We left with a commitment to meet again in two years.

I was on an overseas business trip during the 2004 reunion, so couldn't go, but my wife, Joye, did. A few minutes after I returned home, she called from the Kentucky reunion site, with the big surprise from this gathering: "I don't think you are descended from who you think you are." She then introduced me over the phone to Andrew Stillman. He had learned through DNA testing that we share a common sixth great grandfather, Hans Georg Dillmann, who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1751. This surprise solved the uncertainty I had felt for nearly forty years of my search for ancestry that seemed to be at a dead-end.



The 2006 Mega-Reunion in Harrisburg, PA allowed us to visit the area of Pennsylvania, Lebanon County, where Hans George appeared to have settled. I was also surprised to meet another Don Dillman, and discover we were not related.



L-R cousins Andrew Stillman, Robert Dillman, Don Dillman, and Norman Dillman

In 2008 the Mega-reunion returned to the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis where this had all started. This time there was the astonishment of now having 12 genetically different Dillman lines in North America, and getting ever closer to the German origins of many of those lines, but still not having that linkage pinned down. A personal surprise for me was going to the cemetery in Clear Creek, IN, near Bloomington, where my Dillman 4g grandparents are buried. On the last day of this mega-Reunion, we decided to take part in a trip to Germany to see what Dillmans we could find and what might be learned. That trip didn't result in finding any of my own relatives, despite a visit to Neureut (near Karlsruhe) from

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where Hans Georg had emigrated. But, it did result in meeting many other Dillmanns, as our name is commonly spelled there. The 2010 Mega-reunion in Roanoke, Va, was in an area of the country where a group known to us as the Virginia Dillmans lived. One of the surprises from this reunion was how different it was than our very first reunion. In Roanoke we talked in detail about each of our lines and what we knew and still didn't know. This year we learned that 15 Dillman lines of descent had been identified. However, the astonishing, and joyful, surprise was the last day when we went to Hungry Mother State Park for the Virginia Dillman reunion, and we were able to share with them pictures and memorabilia we had obtained from their distant relatives still living in Germany. We were able to share a beautifully crafted family tree that began with Michael Dillmann



in 1523. I had never been at a gathering where 200 people in attendance claimed Dillman heritage.

Each reunion has held other surprises. The DFA library brought to the reunion each time by Phil Dillman from Homewood IL continues to get larger, and each year there are new items to ponder. One could spend a lot of time going through the binders and other displays of “everything Dillman” from street signs and business hats, to creative family trees produced by a relative. Each day people went to the copy machine to make copies of things they have learned. It’s also been wonderful to surprise others. One person who came to the reunion for the first time in 2008, mentioned her great-grandfather’s name and said “that’s all I have.” Another attendee took a quick look, and immediately informed her which ancestry line she was part of, and much more. Dillmans helping Dillmans find and understand their

ancestry has become a guiding aspect of our work in the Dillman Family Association.

I am not sure what surprises await me at this year’s Mega-Reunion. Some of our members are good library researchers, others like me are not. I’m especially looking forward to getting to the Allen County Genealogical Library, one of the best available, and seeing what others can help me learn that I don’t know. I’m also looking forward to meeting a Dillman visitor from Germany who may help us understand our connections to that area of the world. Also, the biennial update on DNA testing, a part of every reunion since 2004, may show some new Dillman lines, whether any of the existing ones have been connected back further in time and to where that connection might be. I’m also hoping to meet new Dillmans who are interested in exploring their ancestry further, and perhaps helping them find their ancestors.

It’s often been said that people can choose their friends, but not their relatives. After five Dillman Mega-reunions and the sixth one coming up, my take on this saying is different. In the DFA we have become “cousins” by choice, as well as our genetic heritage, and it’s these cousins, regardless of their genetic line, that keep me coming back to our biennial Mega-Reunion. I hope to see (or meet) you there!



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2. Mega-Reunion Tentative Schedule

Thursday - August 9

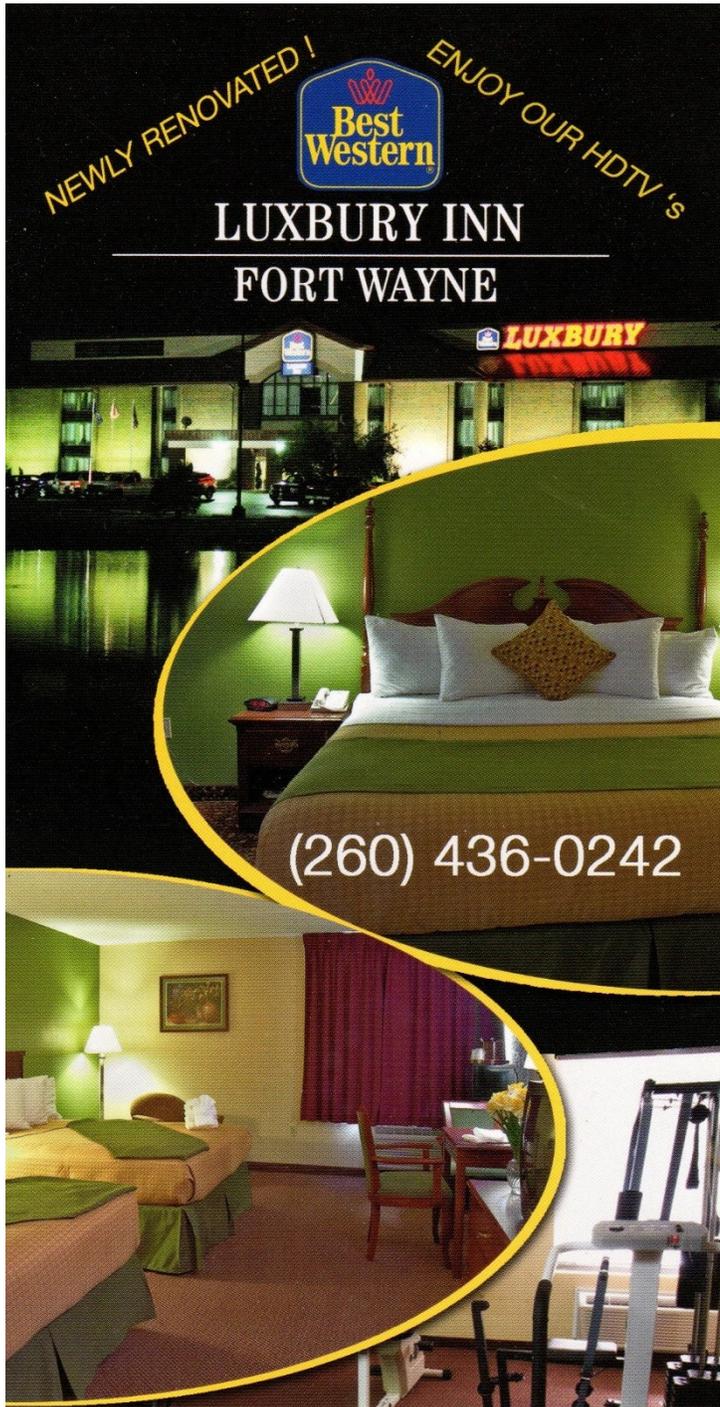
Registration
Introduction and "housekeeping" --
DFA President
Introductions by Family Groups
Dillman DNA Project -- DNA Administrator
Break -- Coffee, donuts
Bernhard Dillmann presentation
Dillman Library -- Phil
Door Prizes

Lunch on your own

Thursday afternoon

Allen County Library "The Genealogy Center"
Tour of "The Genealogy Center"
Presentation by Librarian specializing in German and Pennsylvania research (Title unknown)
Time for research

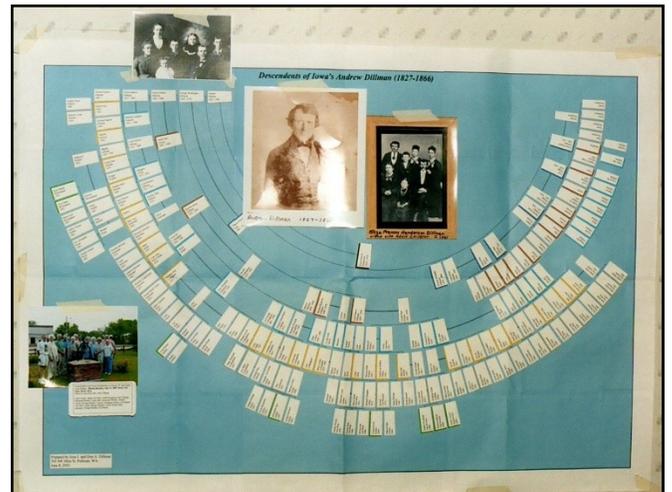
Dinner at restaurant --to be determined



BEST WESTERN
Luxbury Inn

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated

<http://BWFortWayne.com>



We would like everyone to bring a display of your Dillman information which interests you the most. A fold-open project board with photos or charts would be perfect. If you are flying in, you can find boards like those at Office Max or similar stores locally. You don't have to do this but it would be a great way to show off your passion!

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Friday - August 10

Registration and Introductions of new people
Presentation boards -- Family Stories
Research problems solved
Dillmans in the News
Break --Dillman Library, visiting, etc.
What's New? Webinars, podcasts, Flip-pal
scanner, Google Earth, etc.

Lunch on your own

Patriotic Societies -- How do you get into them? What documentation do you need?
Germans and their Four Generation Pedigree --
Andrew Stillman
More Family Stories

Meet and Greet Reception (Meet and Mingle
with the DFA) Refreshments
Door prizes

Dinner at a local restaurant with the DFA

Saturday - August 11

Dedicated day of Research at the Allen County
Library Genealogy Department

Research at The Genealogy Center. Let one of their librarians help you with a research plan which is created for your needs. You won't just be gathering facts, you'll be growing your knowledge and enjoying an experience like you've never had before!

**Sometime we'll need to have the election of officers.

Here are reasons to come to the Mega Reunion:

* Let the DFA members help you trace your ancestry back further.

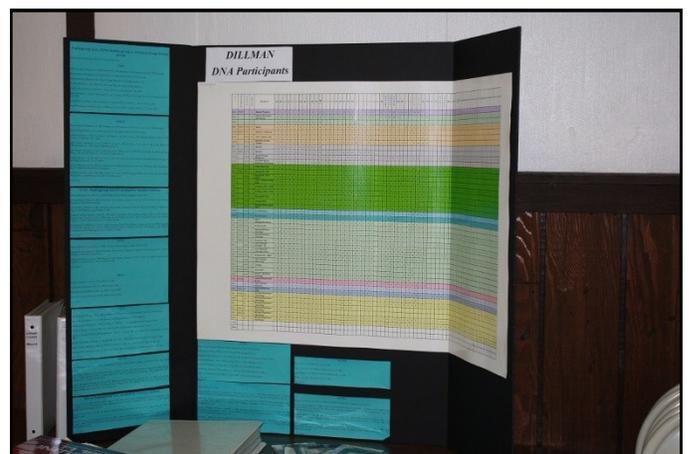
* Visit the largest public genealogy library in the U.S.

* Learn how DNA testing has helped clarify 12 different family lines.

* Use our Dillman records, memorabilia, news stories and other information in our Dillman library.

* Join the DFA and receive our quarterly newsletter.

* Meet and enjoy your "Cousins by Choice."



This is a project board with the 2011 version of the Dillman DNA project chart.



Dillman Family Association
6th Biennial Dillman Mega Reunion in Ft. Wayne, Indiana
August 9 – 11*, 2012 (See tentative agenda for details)
***The 11th will be dedicated to research at the Allen County Library**

Hotel Reservations: Must be made by calling Hotel Directly
 Best Western Luxbury Inn Hotel

5501 Coventry Lane
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46804-7144
 Phone 260-436-0242 fax: 260-436-2256

The special group rate for the Dillman Family Association is \$70.00 plus tax per night, and includes a full breakfast. To get this rate, reservations must be made directly with the hotel by **July 1, 2012!** Be sure to tell them you are with the Dillman Family Association.

Dillman Reunion Reservations:

Registration for Mega-Reunion is \$50 if submitted or postmarked by July 21, 2012. (Registration includes your Mega-Reunion attendance, 2012-2014 family membership in the Dillman Family Association, receipt of our quarterly newsletter to one email address, and the right for one family member to vote on DFA decisions).

Registration after July 21st or at the door: \$75.00

Membership only: If you are unable to come to the Mega-Reunion, but would like to be a member of the Dillman Family Association, 2012-2014 dues are \$25 and you will receive our quarterly newsletter by email, other DFA updates, and have the right to vote on DFA decisions.

Members who want to receive newsletter by postal mail please add \$2.00 per issue (or \$16.00 USD).

Two ways to pay:

Electronic: Log into Paypal at www.paypal.com, set up a personal account and use the Send Money feature to deposit your payment into the DFA account using this e-mail address:

merrielouise@yahoo.com. Then, either send your completed registration by email to that address or by postal mail to Louise McKinney at the address below.

(Or) **Send Check and Registration Form** to Louise McKinney, Treasurer, Dillman Family Association, 1510 W. Delmar, Godfrey, IL 62035. Please email Louise if you have questions.

-----**Registration Form**-----

Name: _____

Guests: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Earliest known Dillman ancestor (Name and Date of Birth) _____

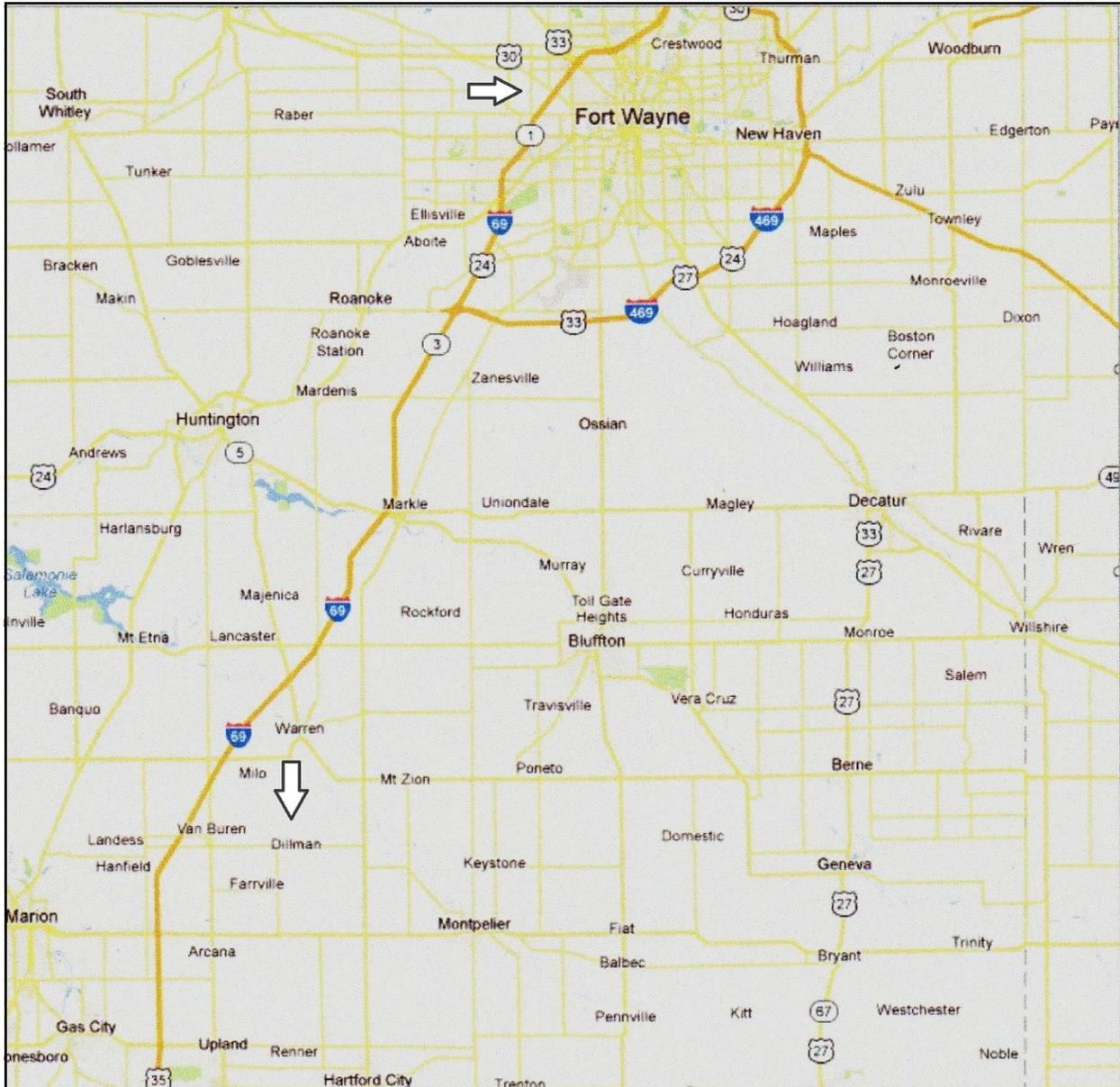
Attending the Mega-Reunion () or Membership Dues Only () (please check one)

DFA POLO SHIRTS: They are cotton pique. Women's shirts have a knit collar and welt cuffs with 4 pearlized buttons. Men's shirts have the knit collar and welt cuffs, but with 2 pearlized buttons. We decided on Aquatic Blue. Dillman Family Association will be embroidered on them. They are available in men's and women's sizes S-M-L-XL-2XL. The cost is \$25 with 2XL being \$27. You can see them at www.ssactivewear.com. Outer Banks is the brand #2100 and #2400.

Total Amount Enclosed for Shirts, Mega-Reunion, and/or Membership Dues \$ _____

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4. Map to Dillman, Indiana



For those of you that might be interested, the once-bustling town of Dillman, Indiana is roughly 25 driving miles south of the Best Western Luxbury Inn in Ft. Wayne. It is located east of State Rd. 5 on E 400 N Rd., or west of State Rd. 3 on W 900 S Rd.

Aside from the church, there is little else in the town apart from some homes and farms. The town was named in honor of Andrew Dillman, husband of Sarah Kilander and son of John Wesley Dillman and Lydia Rhorer, after his passing. The church is still quite active.

Continued on next page

www.dillmanfamilyassociation.org

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From the back of the plate - "The building of the Dillman U. B. Church was started in the year 1886 or 1887. Lumber was furnished by Perry Kilander, and ground was given by George Lee. The Dillman brothers built the building which was Dedicated by Bishop Dillon with the Rev. C. B. Small as Pastor. Remodeling was done in 1907. The church was damaged in 1916 and 1948 by windstorms. There have been 28 Pastors to serve the church besides the Rev. Gerald Vincent who is now serving. In the spring of 1951 remodeling was done by the congregation and two rooms were added to accommodate the growth in attendance. One room is in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Will Slusher whose will provided \$1,000 for the church." (The Dillman brothers that built the original church were listed as being "Jacob, John, Ed, and Sidney." However, there was no brother named Ed. Since John's middle name was Ed and since the history mentions four Dillman brothers, I believe they were Levi, Jacob, John E. and Sidney.—Phil)

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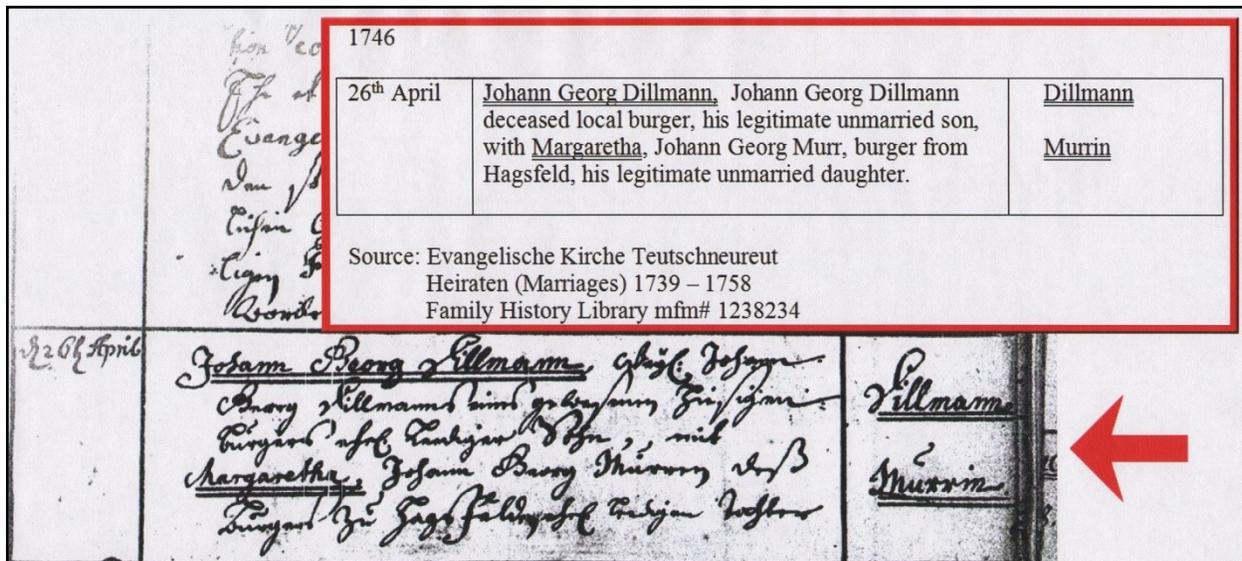
5. The Hans Georg Dillmann line keeps growing! - by Phil Dillman

Being a descendant of this line, I'm always excited when we discover more ancestors and descendants, additional cousins to help fill in some of those gaps in the family tree.

Recently, Donna Dillman contacted the DFA armed with some information regarding her Dillman ancestry and had an interest in verifying her information and possibly learning more about her family's past. Naturally, when I saw that she shared a common ancestor with me, I pulled out the appropriate binder from the DFA Library and started comparing my info to hers. I was able to help her a bit but she helped tremendously by adding a lot more names and locations to this group of Dillmans for which I had surprisingly little information. This group descends from Andrew Dillman (great-grandson of Hans Georg Dillman Jr and Margaretha Murr) and Sarah Kilander from Wells County, Indiana. The town of Dillman, Indiana was named in Andrew's honor. Andrew and Sarah had 13 children (including Levi and John Ed), most of whom remained in that part of the state. However, many of Andrew's grandchildren believed their future would be better served working for the oil companies, so, several of them moved down to Oklahoma and worked for Texaco.

Donna descends from Levi Dillman's son, Clyde. Meanwhile, a follow-up search online for Dillmans in Sapulpa, Oklahoma led me to an obituary for Ralph John Dillman who was born in Warren, Indiana, "right down the road" from the town of Dillman. Finding some phone numbers online for names listed in the obituaries, I made some phone calls and spoke to the wife of Cortis Dillman. She said Ralph John's father was Homer B. Dillman, who had moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. I found information showing that Homer was a son of Levi's brother, John Ed Dillman. Thus, all of the names in those obituaries could now be added to the Hans Georg tree, as well.

A couple of weeks later, Frank Dillman of Notasulga, Alabama, forwarded an e-mail to the officers of the DFA from a Dillman descendant whose ancestors were listed on Frank's "Orbits" (obituaries) page on his website. I read through those obits and found that they, too, were connected to the Andrew Dillman and Sarah Kilander group. Between the names in those obituaries and a little more online research, I found that the parents listed for Ira Dillman, born 1912, were George Dillman, born 1865, and Cora Belle Flatter, born 1883, both married in 1905. That George was also a son of John Ed Dillman.



Marriage record of Hans Georg Dillmann Jr and Margaretha Murr

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6. Every 100 Years

It seems like every 100 years something noteworthy has happened in our world's history. The War of 1812 was essentially the last major war of the United States declaring Freedom from the control of England, a battle that started with the events that lead to the Revolutionary War.



MISSISSINEWA
1812

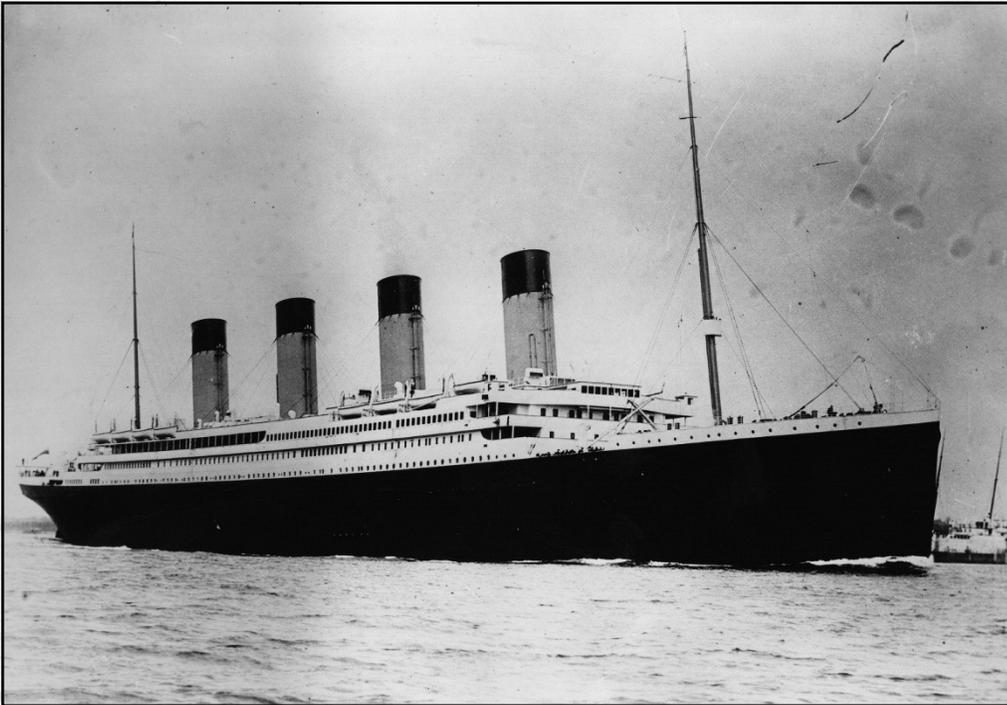
*Where a step back in history
is measured by 200 years...*

OCTOBER 7-9, 2011
7 Miles North of Marion, IN, on State Road 15
www.mississinewa1812.com
Future Dates:
October 12-14, 2012 · October 11-13, 2013

A vertical poster for the "Mississinewa 1812" event. It features the title "MISSISSINEWA 1812" in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below the title is a small illustration of a rifle. The central text reads "Where a step back in history is measured by 200 years..." in a cursive font. Below this is a photograph of a British soldier in a red uniform and a tall black hat with a white plume, standing next to a drum. At the bottom, the dates "OCTOBER 7-9, 2011" are prominently displayed, followed by the location "7 Miles North of Marion, IN, on State Road 15" and the website "www.mississinewa1812.com". Future dates "October 12-14, 2012 · October 11-13, 2013" are listed at the very bottom.

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100 years later, the “unsinkable” cruise ship, the “Titanic”, departed on her maiden voyage from England to North America, only to side-swipe an iceberg which caused the ship to sink and break apart, leading to the deaths of more than 1,500 passengers.

Now, in 2012, another monumental event is taking place before our eyes...

The 6th Dillman Mega-Reunion!

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7. “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.

2012 - Sunday, July 1st

Descendants of Andrew & Elizabeth Bruner Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group The Red Brick, Bedford, IN

Saturday, July 14

Descendants of C.K. & Bertha Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Hoopston, IL

Fri.-Sun., August 3,4 & 5

Descendants of Martin & Agatha Dillman (gg parents: Peter & Sabina Dillman)

Reunion will be held in the Drumheller area of Alberta. The venue is on the Red Deer River, 10 Km west of Drumheller at the Lions Campground, there are many interesting thing to do in this area; this is the home of the Tyrell Museum (Dinosaurs) large displays and interpretative centre; plus local live theaters and more.

Call or email Susan & Garth Neihaus, Box 901, Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y0. Accommodations available near by.

Phone Home: 403-823-9311 Cellular 403-820-5889

email: niehaus1@xplornet.com

If you need more info please contact Chris Dillman at dillmanc@telus.net

Thu.-Sat, August 9-11

Dillman Family Association Mega-Reunion

Open to all Dillmans and various spellings Ft. Wayne, IN
Whether or not you are researching your tree, we want to meet you!

Saturday, October 6

Descendants of Frank & Minnie Walker Dillman
Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Tamms, IL



Some of the descendants of the Andrew Dillman & Elizabeth Bruner group at their local reunion a few years ago in Mitchell, Indiana.

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“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.

Phil Dillman, 18351 Cowing Ct., Homewood, IL 60430, pd62pepsi@sbcglobal.net

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).

You can now join the DFA ONLINE through Paypal! Log into Paypal at www.paypal.com, set up a personal account and use the Send Money feature to deposit your payment into the DFA account using this e-mail address: 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

