



Dillman*

Descendants and Ancestors

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

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*. “Words from Phil”

Our goal is to include what we know about every Dillman group that we are aware of and to feature some of the different groups in each issue. I enjoy compiling these articles because I often learn new information about each group as I reread what I have in the DFA library or as I search the Internet for newly added information that I had not seen previously. I hope you enjoy reading them.

As always, we would certainly welcome any Dillman-related stories or photos that you would like to submit for upcoming newsletters and/or for inclusion in the DFA archives. You may e-mail them to my address above. Thanks!

1. “An Amazing Act of Kindness”

By
Don A. Dillman

2008-2010 President of the Dillman Family Association

My jaw dropped as I read and then reread the email message that had just appeared on my computer

screen. I could hardly believe what I was seeing.

"Mr. Dillman,

During a recent trip to Goodwill here in Indianapolis I bought a Bible that I found interesting. This Bible has in the past been rebound. What I found interesting was that this Bible was given to an Andrew Dillman in 1848. It has in the center a family history of Andrew Dillman who was born in 1790 and his 15 kids that has been illustrated with small hand drawn pictures of each child. This Bible is what I feel is a family treasure and would like to return it to a descendant of Andrew Dillman or to your organization.

Regards, Dave Tingey"

My great-great-grandfather, Andrew Dillman, born in Indiana in 1827, was raised near Indianapolis, and migrated to Iowa in 1857. His father was also named Andrew, born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania in 1790. He had moved to Kentucky and then to Indianapolis where he lived until his death. Either might have been the recipient of the Bible.

I called Dave a few minutes later, and he sounded pleased. He talked about how intrigued he was with the 15 drawings that he assumed were all of the children. He shared his enthusiasm about tracing his own family back to 1560. I smiled with my voice, as a pleasantly surprised person can sometimes do, and told him that we were only back to the late 1600's with my Dillmann ancestors, but added that I was hoping we could go further!



The Bible arrived the day that we were packing for the Dillman trip to

Germany, described elsewhere in this issue of the Dillman Family Newsletter. We stopped packing, long enough to carefully open and photograph an amazing set of pages. Not only did they contain an inscription to Andrew Dillman, but had several pages of other hand written information. On the "Deaths" page Andrew Dillman, Sr. is listed first (d. 1872) and further down the page, Andrew Dillman, Jr. and his death date of 1866 appear. This was the first time we had seen the "Sr." and "Jr." designations with these individuals. This information along with other inscriptions clarified for us that the Bible was given to the senior Andrew Dillman by an evangelist. Of particular interest are the births of Andrew Dillman and his wife Elizabeth Brunner's children, each of whom is listed and represented pictorially (see photo). There are only 13 children; one of the drawings appears to be George Washington and the second is still a mystery.



After taking the pictures we carefully stored the Bible, and contacted the Archivist at the Washington State University Library who will help us take better pictures under more appropriate lighting while protecting the integrity of fragile pages, which have deteriorated over time. We will share those pictures and anything else we can learn about the Bible with all who are interested. The pictures will be large digital files made

in high resolution, because details can be enlarged on the computer screen. We will also do some research on the practice of drawing pictures like those found here to see if we can better understand the practice and its origins.

Helping others is a large part of why the DFA was formed, and this Bible is the latest example. When our association met for the first time in Indianapolis in 2002, it was apparent that most of us did not know our exact heritage, beyond a few generations. The walls of our meeting room had sheets and sheets of Dillman descendants taped from ceiling to floor, like wallpaper, but we did not know if part or all of the ancestry lines were correct. We made plans to do DNA testing to see if we could figure out which Dillmans were related to others, and who had different lines of descent. We struggled with names—Dillmann, Dylhlman, Tillman, and Daga, sometimes in the same ancestral line, and wondered if we could possibly be related to one another.

By forming a national association searching for the history of all Dillmans, regardless of spelling, we believed we could help each other learn our precise ancestries. We started calling each other cousins, because that's how we thought of ourselves, even if we could not quite make out the exact family connections. The DNA testing we undertook soon revealed for some of us who had the same male Dillman ancestor and who did not. And, the just completed tour to

Germany helped us learn more about our respective ancestry lines.

But, with this email from Dave Tingey, something happened which is not about DNA testing, not about European ancestry, and not about distinguishing family lines. It's about the amazing power of having a Dillman Family Association to gather information that helps all of us understand the meaning of our heritage. The visibility of the DFA through its web page helped Dave find us. As much as I have believed in the power of the association to help one another, I did not realize that I, and others in my family line, would be an early beneficiary of this desire to help others.

Dave Tingey found my family line and retrieved something we could only dream about-- a Family Bible, which for some reason became disconnected from the descendants of Andrew Dillman, but fortunately was discovered on a shelf in a Goodwill Store in Indianapolis. Thanks, Dave, for obtaining it and for the amazing act of kindness that followed.

I don't know which family line will be the next to benefit from the activities of the DFA, but I hope it is yours. Meantime, the DFA will continue to serve as a place where we can find and help each other. Please encourage your Dillman relatives to join the DFA (see back page of our newsletter for membership information) and support our efforts to learn more about all Dillmans everywhere.

2. “Germany Tour 2009 was Wunderbar!” By Andrew Stillman



Group photo in front of the Schloss Weilburg Church. Back Row (left to right): Hearshal McKinney, Frank Dillman, and Robert Dillman. Middle Row: Don Dillman, Andrew Stillman, Toby Hurley, Chris Dillman. Front Row: Uli Buschmann (tour leader), Louise McKinney, Joye Dillman, Carol Dillman.

After a year of preparation, building up interest in the potential of the project, finding a reputable local guide who shared our enthusiasm, arranging and co-ordinating details, the Germany Tour became a smashing success. Every one came away from it having learned something new about German/French traditional culture, food, history, and our shared ancestry.

The Tour was structured so that we would spend about 40% of our time on Dillman related sites and experiences and 60% on German historical attractions. We felt that this would be a good and practical balance. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, it was the Dillman experiences that we will remember and treasure the most.

On September 30th, 9 daring adventurers made their way to Frankfurt Airport from North America and when they landed on the morning of Thursday, October 1st were met by myself and our Guide, Uli Buschmann. The early arrivers had some time to kill before the last set of people arrived (Toby, Frank, Don and Joye). Hence, they were treated to a quick tour of downtown Frankfurt including the historic main

train station, the Dom (Cathedral), Roman ruins, and a well preserved historic old town.

Once the others arrived, we split into 2 vans (Uli, Don, Joye, Robert, Carol, and Toby in Van 1 and Andrew, Chris, Hearshal, Louise and Frank in Van 2) and proceeded northward to our first hotel in Weilburg, in the State of Hesse. Along the way, we had a quick stop in Bad Camberg that included lunch. The homes there gave us our first glimpse of the traditional half-timber construction that has survived hundreds of years. Our first hotel was situated in the area in Germany which has the highest concentration of living Dillmanns, based on phone book entries. The primary reason for this concentration may be attributed to the River Dill flowing in this area into the River Lahn and eventually into the Rhine. The River Dill is thought to have been a source of the surname Dillmann. (Other thoughts on the origin of the surname were presented later on).

Generally, our dinners were organized so that we were treated each evening to a different local specialty. They included pork schnitzel,

Hackbraten (similar to meatloaf), Sauerbraten (beef with sour gravy), pork roast with local handpicked forest mushrooms, Maultaschen (similar to ravioli, but rectangular in shape), and many others.

The afternoon of our arrival in Weilburg, several of us wandered on our own about the old town and the beautiful baroque/renaissance Castle (Schloss), adjoining gardens and church. We spent 4 nights there and explored the surrounding countryside, including: Wetzlar, the big town where the Dill flows into the Lahn (which we viewed from atop the ruins of a Kalsmunt castle) to where the local Dillmanns likely travelled to visit the markets; Limburg with a full set of preserved medieval buildings including a unique painted cathedral (some of the frescoes date back to the 1200's) which would be the nearest cathedral town for worshipping Dillmanns; a local country fair in the village of Wallau, part of the town of Biedenkopf, where we sampled local schnapps and brandies and country cuisine (and Chris managed to get Van 2 stuck in the mud requiring 10 volunteer fire fighters to help push her out!); and Dillenburg, where some of us explored the last remaining tower of the former

residence of the house of Nassau-Dillenburg, ancestors of William the Silent of Holland and William III King of England (Frank managed to bring back two bottles of water from the Dill River).

On the 3rd of October, we drove along the stunning Rhine River into the State of Rhineland-Pfalz and visited Marksburg Castle which we ended up being locked in! We stopped at St. Goar where we visited the Loreley Rock then proceeded to the very well preserved town of Bacharach and had a gelato (Italian ice cream). Late afternoon, we found ourselves having a wine tasting of award winning wines produced by Carl Dillmann in Geisenheim. Karlo and his wife Annette (photo below) were the first Dillmanns we met on the trip and were very welcoming. They and their 3 sons run a 35 hectare vineyard and at the same time Karlo continues to work as a police officer on the Rhine. Many of us purchased bottles of wine and lovely Dillmann winery glasses. And even better, Karlo agreed to provide a cheek swab sample for the DNA project, which we collected the next morning. (Presently, we do not know if any of the DFA families tie into Karlo Dillmann's family)



Karlo and Annette Dillmann of Weingut Dillmann in Geisenheim, Germany

Our stay in Weilburg included being photographed and interviewed for the Weilburg newspaper which was published on Monday, October 5, 2009. (see below). We then said Auf Wiedersehen to Weilburg and made our way to our next hotel. Our route took us past Bad Schwalbach, ancestral home of the Nova Scotia Dillmans (Family

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Weilburg · Löhnerberg

Montag, 5. Oktober 2009

AUS DEM POLIZEIBERICHT

Diebe durchwühlen Schränke

Weilburg (red). Während sich der Hausherr im Urlaub befand, sind Einbrecher in ein Wohn- und Geschäftshaus in der Limburger Straße in Weilburg eingedrungen. Nach Polizeiangaben haben die Täter während ihrer Übergriffe einen Betrag von über 2000 Euro. Der Einbruch soll sich in der Zeit vom Freitag, 35. September, bis Samstag, 3. Oktober, ereignet haben. Hinweise geben können sich unter 0 64 71 9 58 60 an die Polizei weiter.

Einbrecher stehlen Werkzeug

Weilburg-Odersbach (red). Unbekannte sind in ein leer stehendes Haus in der Schillerstraße eingebrochen und haben aus dem Gebäude diverse Werkzeuge gestohlen. Die Polizei schätzt den Schaden auf etwa 200 Euro. Der Einbruch soll sich in der Zeit vom Freitag, 35. September, bis Samstag, 3. Oktober, ereignet haben. Hinweise nimmt die Polizei unter 0 64 71 9 58 60 entgegen.

Börse aus Tasche entwendet

Weilburg (red). Eine 47-jährige Frau aus Weilburg ist am Freitagabend bei einem Spaziergang in der Hertel-Einkaufsstraße in Weilburg in die Geldbörse, die sie auf einer Bank gestohlen worden. Wie die Polizei mitteilt, befand sich neben etwas Bargeld auch der Personalausweis und die EC-Karte der Frau in der Geldbörse. Der Schaden wird auf etwa 150 Euro geschätzt. Die Polizei bittet um Hinweise unter 0 64 71 9 58 60.

22-Jähriger fährt betrunken

Weilburg (red). Eine Funkstreife der Weilburger Polizei überprüfte in der Nacht zu Sonntag im Industriegebiet Löhnerberg einen PKW. Es stellte sich heraus, dass der 22-jährige Fahrer betrunken war. Wie die Polizei gemeldet hat, musste der junge Mann zum Zwecke der Blutentnahme festgenommen werden. Sein Führerschein wurde gesicherstellt.

WEILBURG

Straßenfest gefeiert



Der Vorsitzende Frank und sein Stellvertreter Don (r.) und Sekretärin Christina (l.) mit ihren Mitreisenden aus den USA bei ihrem Aufenthalt in Weilburg. Alle feiern mit Nachnamen Dillman. (Foto: Nobbe)

Auf die Geburt vorbereiten

Weilburg (red). Die Hebammen-Praxis und das Geburthaus Weilburg bieten wieder einen Geburtsvorbereitungskurs an. Beginn ist am Donnerstag, 15. Oktober.

Für die Entbindungsstermine Dezember 2009/Jänner 2010 beginnt der Kurs am 15. Oktober und endet am 1. Dezember. Für die Entbindungsstermine Februar- und März 2010 beginnt ein Geburtsvorbereitungskurs am 23. November und endet am 22. Januar 2010. An jedem Abend zu je 105 Minuten begleitende Hebammen werden den Eltern und beamtewortliche Frauen zu Säuglingspflege und Geburt. Ein Intensivkurs zum Thema Geburtsvorbereitung wird am Wochenende 21. und 22. November von 10 bis 13 Uhr angeboten. Weitere Informationen erhalten interessierte bei der Hebammenpraxis und Geburthaus Weilburg, Marktplatz 9, 3235 Weilburg, Tel. 0 64 71 9 58 60, Fax 0 64 71 9 58 64, Internet: www.hebammen-weilburg.de.

Dillmans suchen Verwandte

Spurensuche beginnt in Weilburg / An DNA-Projekt beteiligen

Weilburg (dn). Eine Reisegruppe der besonderen Art hat ihr fünf Tage in Weilburg Station gemacht. Es sind Mitglieder der „Dillman Family Association“ aus den USA, die eins gemeinsam mit ihren Familienangehörigen machen. Die Vereinsmitglieder trafen in Dillman über Tighman bis Dillmann. Ihr ältestes Treffen in Amerika haben sie zum ersten Mal mit einer Reise verbunden, und zwar fiktiv zwei Wochen nach Deutschland. Der Be-

nigung, moderne DNA-Tests, um „die Abstammung der Dillmann-Nachkommen in der ganzen Welt zu verstehen“, wie der Präsident erklärt.

■ Auch im Speissart treffen sich deutsche und amerikanische „Dillmänner“

Natürlich suchen sie auf diesem Weg auch weitere „Dillmanns“, im Raum Röthenburg, am Bodensee, in Rothenburg und anderen Orten. „Im Jahr 2002 betrieb der Verein die Dillman-Ahnforschung. Sie reicht zurück bis ins Jahr 1755, als Georg Friedrich Dillmann aus Weilburg nach London auswanderte. Er starb im Oktober 1806 in der USA einwandernd.“ Gleichzeitig nutzt die Verei-

nicht zum Erfolg, immehr haben die Dillmanns erfahren, dass es hier einen Fluss namens „Dill“ gibt. Sie haben deshalb Mündung in die Lahn bei Wetzelg seleglich besichtigt.

Weitere Kontakte zu Dillmann oder verwandte Namen sind möglich über DNA unter der Internetadresse <http://www.dillmannfamilyassociation.org>. Interessenten können sich auch an den DNA-Index bei der Universität Regensburg wenden. „Wir sind dabei an der Übersiedlung zweier Speichelproben ausreizt, um mit Hilfe des vererbten Y-Chromosoms die Familienlinie zu verfolgen.“

Die Dillmanns haben eine eigene DNA-Datenbank auf <http://frankdillman.com/dnafilelist.htm> oder <http://frankdillman.com/dnaindex.htm>.

Landfrauen suchen Musical

Weilburg (red). Der Bezirkslandfrauenverein Weilburg führt am Sonntag, 15. November, ihr jährliches Musical nach Hamburg. Auf dem Programm steht der Besuch des Musicals „Ich war noch niemals in New York“ oder „König der Löwen“. Der Eintritt kostet 10,- €. Eintrittskarten für die Frauen nach Hause rückt.

Weitere Informationen erhalten Brünhilde Well am Telefon 0 64 71 9 58 60. Anmeldung zu der zweitägigen Fahrt möglich ist, € 0 64 72) 10 51.

Further along, we stopped at Heidelberg, location of one of Germany's best known medieval castles. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't cooperating on this day, nevertheless, we climbed up the hill to the castle remains. Our quick tour of the castle included visiting the world's largest wine cask (which didn't get used much due to a leak) with a capacity of 51,500 gallons.

We continued on and found our new hotel in the town of Mühlacker in Baden-Württemberg where we would be

staying for the next 5 nights. Mühlacker is a small city of 26,000, where we stayed in the downtown area. The chef at this hotel (Hotel Scharfes Eck) was excellent and the food was wonderful.

The next day we travelled to the village of Illigen for a guided tour by local 75 year old historian Herr Kurt Schmidt. We learned about the early history of the area and saw many old buildings, including the now Protestant Church dedicated to St. Cyriakus which was built in the 15th century (an earlier

structure dated to 776 while the inside of the present one was reconstructed in 1972). We saw the town schoolhouse (built in 1826) where Elias Dillmann (Family Group 3) taught and where his two famous educator sons were schooled, one of which went on to found the Dillmann Gymnasium in Stuttgart, and the other who became a Professor at Berlin University. We also saw the location of Elias' house (next door to the school) and the cemetery markers for himself, his wife, and 3 of his children. We went up a nearby hill overlooking Illingen and lunched in a vineyard under three oak trees planted by Elias Dillmann in 1871 to celebrate the Prussian victory over the French.

At this juncture, Van 1 went back to our hotel while Van 2 continued exploring on our own. We stopped by Nussdorf, ancestral home of Anthony Dillmann (Family Group 1 in the DNA project). We were led to the home of the

local church organist who was none other than Rosemarie (Dillmann) Strobel whose Dillmann forefathers hailed from Saarbrucken (we remain unaware if this Saarbrucken family is associated with anyone in the DFA, although Family Group 5 is a possible candidate). Further along, we stopped at the Bakery of Werner and his wife, Marga, Dihlmann (Family Group 3), which has been in business since 1850. Once we identified ourselves, we were escorted through the bakery, past their living quarters, and down to the basement office where we were shown a massive Dihlmann family tree that went back to 1536 hanging on the wall under glass. After we recovered from our utter surprise, we were treated to handfuls of Dihlmann memorabilia, including calendars, pens, key chains, etc. We went back to the hotel quite happy with our discoveries.



Dihlmann Bakery in Grossglattbach, Germany

We found ourselves on Wednesday October 7th half way through our tour and we travelled to Stuttgart, the State Capital of Baden-Württemberg. The day

began with a tour of the Mercedes-Benz car museum followed by a picnic lunch on the roadside amongst a field of apple trees. We had a brief opportunity to

prepare ourselves for the next stop as we were on our way to the Dillmann Gymnasium, a widely recognized linguistic and scientific high school. We attended an English class with about 20 local students. The school was founded

by Christian Heinrich Dillmann, son of Elias Dillmann above (Family Group 3). Dinner back at the hotel included our new found cousins, Werner Dihlmann and his wife Marga.



Marga and Werner Dihlmann (and Louise McKinney in background) showing us a Dihlmann Coat of Arms dating to 1536 that Werner had crafted in metal. He presented one to the Dillman Family Association.

The following morning, we made our way to Hagsfeld, birthplace of Margareta (Murr) Dillmann, wife of Hans Georg Dillmann (Family Group 2) and visited the church where she and many of her ancestors as well as many present day descendants of the Murr family were baptised, married and buried. We next strolled through the neighbouring town of Neureut, birthplace of Hans Georg Dillmann himself and looked at the birth certificates of their German-born children, Georg Adam (my direct ancestor) and Margareta Dillmann.

Our itinerary took us to France at this point and we lunched in a very picturesque small town by the name of

Wissembourg. We made it to Lembach to keep our appointment with Madame Jacqueline Chabrier, the granddaughter of Julie Dillmann, and Madame Christiane Ehrstein, whose husband is a grandson of Caroline Dillmann, both distant cousins to Chuck Dillman (Family Group 6). After receiving a lovely walking tour of the town and into the homes of the two ladies, we made our way to the ruins Fleckenstein Castle, the local Seigneurs for whom many of the local Dillmanns served in official capacity as administrators of the estates in their domain. Our final stop on this day was the Maginot Line, built after World War I as a dramatic, but

ineffective, barrier to a future invasion from Germany. The place we visited

was very close to the town limits of Lembach.



Mesdames Ehrstein and Chabrier outside the driveway leading to Madame Ehrstein's historic home in Lembach, France.

The next day was our last one in this part of Germany. We were to meet with Marianne (Dihlmann) and Richard Fritz in the village of Wurmberg, only 20 minutes away. To our surprise, we were greeted by almost 20 people from Family Group 3! We were taken on a visit to the local Bakery, run by Klaus Dihlmann (uncle to Werner Dihlmann above) and spent the day getting to know

this group of Dihlmanns. The day ended with a traditional German coffee and cake which spoiled our appetites for our dinner back at the hotel. No matter. For many of us, this day-long experience of sharing our life experiences with one another left us with warm feelings of mutual appreciation. Our visit was written up in the Pforzheimer Newspaper on October 15th.



Group photo outside Gasthof in Wurmberg – missing from photo – Don (photographer), Andrew, Uli

On Saturday October 10th, we made our way south into the Black Forest in heavy rain. We stopped briefly at the outdoor museum in Gutach which consisted of about 8-10 traditional Black Forest Farmhouses dating from the late 1500's to the early 1800's. These houses served as homes, barns, storage sheds, all under one roof. We proceeded through very beautiful hills with lovely old houses and stopped in Triberg to view the largest Cuckoo Clock in the world. Next we headed to the German Clock Museum in Furtwangen where we learned that the style of the Cuckoo Clock as we know it today was modelled on the little wooden sheds that were built along the railways in the 1850s. The weather got the best of us and we headed

straight for our hotel just outside Ravensburg.

A lovely sunny day followed for our visit around Lake Constance. We started at the exquisite Baroque Abbey Church of Birnau which also had a wonderful view of much of the Lake. We were then treated to a Medieval Market being held in the old town of Meersburg. We watched the carpenters square up logs for house timbers, sword fighting lessons, spit roasting of a wild boar, games of chance featuring live mice, and many people dressed in authentic costumes from the day. Chris even purchased a traditional German dress! We took a ferry across one of the necks of Lake and proceeded to the town of Konstanz where we lunched at a lakeside

gastropub called Hohenegg which began in 1795 as a brewery.

After lunch, we crossed a bridge and found ourselves on the Swiss side of the Lake. We drove along gentle hills with pretty houses and stopped in Romanshorn for a well deserved ice cream break. Further along, we entered Austria and drove through a 4.2 mile long tunnel under the Pfänderspitze mountain. After exiting the tunnel and many hairpin turns later, and a 20 minute walk straight up, we found ourselves

3491 feet up onto the top of the Pfänderspitze Mountain itself and were treated to breathtaking views of the Lake in front of us as well as the mountains and valleys behind us. After a well deserved carbonated herbal drink, we walked back to the vans and drove around the last piece of the Lake, entered Germany again and made our way to our hotel. Unfortunately, we didn't get to meet any Dillmanns from this part of Germany.



Birnau Cathedral

Our last full day of the tour (October 12th) had arrived. We packed up and headed off to the lovely old walled city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Many of us ate lunch in the (now) glass covered courtyard of an exquisite renaissance building. We had a bit of time for shopping at the Christmas Shop before regrouping for a tour of St. Jacob's Cathedral (protestant) containing an

unbelievable hand carved wooden altar with a relic said to contain a drop of the blood of Jesus (and hence named the Holy Blood Altar) as well as painted screens dating to the 1400's. Our next stop for our final night in Germany was in the small town of Schollbrunn in the State of Bavaria. We had a lovely evening which included German folk music (translated into English by Uli)

sung by Louise and Chris with Uli accompanying on his guitar. We also had a surprise guest this evening, none other than Frank Dillmann of Frankfurt, who drove down to meet us. Coincidentally, Frank from Frankfurt shares a birth date with none other than our Frank Dillman from Alabama. A

few of us stayed up far too late as the first van to leave for the airport in the morning was scheduled to depart at 6:15. Thankfully, I was in the later van. Despite a freeway accident that resulted in a considerable backup of traffic on the autobahn, we detoured and were able to get everyone onto their return flights.



Frank and Frank in Schollbrunn

Now that we have returned from Europe, we can sit back and reflect on our experiences and how we can best make the most of the information we collected and connections we established to further the aims of the DFA. You will be

hearing more from us as we write-up specific experiences for the Dillman Family Newsletter.

(www.mygermancity.com has excellent writeups on different towns in Germany)

3.

“101 Years and Counting” By Phil Dillman

A distant cousin of mine, Karen Dillman, whom I’ve only met through the Dillman reunions of the “Charleston (IL) Group” e-mailed me shortly after their 2009 reunion in Bloomington, IL. She and her husband had just driven through the small town of Rainsville, IN, not far from Attica. At each end of town

were street signs that read “Anna Dillman Boulevard.” In the cemetery in town was a headstone that had the names of Monten F. Dillman, 1906-1976, and Anna M. Dillman, 1908-_____. They stopped to speak to a family that was setting up for a yard sale who told them that Anna lives with her daughter in

Rainsville. They also believed that her husband, "Monty," was from Paxton, IL. A little online research by my cousin showed in the 1910 census for Champaign Co., IL that Monten was 4 and his brother, Mervin, was 7 and they were both living with their parents, Walter and Jessie, both 28 years old.

Armed with that information, copies of the census records and a little bit more that I had found online, I called the number listed for Anna. A younger woman answered the phone and turned out to be her daughter. I learned that Monty and Mervin had five other siblings and that Monty and Anna had 12 children of their own!

And, yes, the street names were changed to reflect and honor Anna as being the oldest living person in that county.

Even though Anna is hard of hearing, her daughter said that her mom still loves to go out shopping!

I was told there she has a cousin living in Lafayette, IN that has the family Bible but I haven't heard back from him yet. Walter's father was allegedly named Daniel but I still haven't been able to connect them anywhere. I assumed that a birthplace of Paxton would make them likely relatives of the Champaign, IL Group that descended from Conrad Dillman and Lydia Reed but that doesn't seem to work, either. Perhaps I'm overlooking something. Either way, I could use some help on this one if any of you have some spare time.

Meanwhile, a belated September 28th 101st "Happy Birthday" to you, Anna, and as many more as you can handle!

4

"From One Clue to the Next" By Phil Dillman

I'm sure that many of you have seen the movie "National Treasure" starring Nicholas Cage. If you haven't, here's the storyline in a nutshell. The lead characters are searching for a long-lost treasure by finding cryptic clues which lead to other clues which lead to still more clues until, finally, they find exactly what they're looking for. It sounds a lot like what most of us have gone through in our own searches for those elusive relatives! Granted, we don't have people with guns trying to find those "treasures" before we do, as happened in the movie. I have had a similar experience trying to connect a group of Dillmans to the Hans Georg Dillmann group.

It started with a visit to the Dillman Hardware store in Grant Park, IL, a small town located about a half hour drive south of my hometown of Homewood, a suburb of Chicago. I was told by Scott Dillman, co-owner of the store, that his great-grandfather, Bert Dillman, was born in Hartsville, IN in 1879 and that his father was Charles L. Dillman. Hey! Hartsville is next to Newbern which is where my gggg-grandparents, John Wesley Dillman Sr and Lydia Rhorer, lived and are buried! Maybe we're related! A quick look through the Dillman genealogy binder that I had at that time, which had information that I had printed from the Internet, suggested that the Charles L. Dillman that lived in that area of Indiana

was married three times and that he was the son of Allen and Matilda Dillman. Thus, I welcomed the folks in Grant Park into the family. However, my cousin, Allen Dillman in Elizabethtown, IN (near Columbus), is a descendant of Allen and Matilda Dillman and he questioned the three marriages of his ancestor, Charles Lincoln Dillman.

Allen and his wife, Harriett, went to the Bartholomew County courthouse and obtained some records for his ancestors which included a marriage license from 1879 for Charles Lincoln Dillman and Alice L. Sims in which it states that it was the first marriage for each of them. Other records showed that a Charles L. Dillman married Katie Sterling in 1877. Either there were two Charles L. Dillmans or one was fibbing! Further digging didn't produce much in the way of new information. Then, through an online conversation with another Dillman cousin, Ann Dillman Coon Scott, it was pointed out that her ancestors were George M. Dillman (from Kentucky) and Matilda Dillman (daughter of John Wesley Dillman Sr)(I don't believe they knew they were cousins as we learned from the Dillman DNA project). Matilda died at the age of 39 when their youngest child was still very young. Three years after Matilda died, George M. married Eliza Levering and had a son in 1854 named Charles Lemuel Dillman. That was the Charles L. that married Katie Sterling in 1877. They had a daughter named Emma R. Dillman in 1879. However, another record shows Charles L. and Katie getting a divorce in 1882 and, yet,

records show that they had a son, Ernest E. Dillman, that was born in 1885!

Ernest was living in Columbus, IN when he married Cordelia Gulley in 1907. On their marriage license, his father was listed as Charles L. Dillman who was a Preacher whose whereabouts were "unknown." His mother was listed as Catherine Sterling.

Meanwhile, Bert Dillman was born in 1879 as Elbert Dillman to a Charles L. Dillman and Monte Belle Mobley. They were married in 1879 and divorced in 1882, as well. Elbert was then raised by his grandmother, Mary J. Covert Mobley. They moved north to Mt. Ayr, IN where Mary is buried near other Covert family members. Neither Scott nor his dad or uncle ever heard any mention of Bert having any siblings or step-siblings.

Other clues that have been only partly checked are descendants of Belle Mobley's second marriage or of her sister or brother. Likewise, there are probably Covert cousins of Bert that may have some answers. Finding descendants of either Ernest or his sister, Emma, who married Henry Anderson, could also provide either clues or answers.

After all of the clues that have been found so far, it is still uncertain if Bert's father was Charles Lemuel Dillman or if there was, in fact, a third Charles L. Dillman living in Bartholomew County at the same time as Charles Lincoln and Charles Lemuel. Will we ever find the answers? Stay tuned for the next exciting sequel!

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.

2010-

Last Saturday in June –

Descendants of Andrew and Elizabeth Bruner Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Near Bloomington, IN

2nd Saturday in July -

Descendants of Rev. C.K. and Bertha Eickelberger Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Kansasville, WI

DILLMAN MEGA-REUNION #5 Thursday and Friday, August 12th and 13th

Roanoke, VA. *The exact location will be announced as soon as hotel arrangements are complete. Arrangements are being coordinated with the Virginia/Erich Dihlmann group that meets the next day, so that interested participants in the Mega-Reunion can travel to that reunion on the next day. Detailed plans for the Mega-Reunion will appear in the March issue of Dillman Descendants & Ancestors.*

Saturday, August 14th

The Virginia/Erich Dihlmann group Hungry Mother State Park, Marion, VA

Saturday, October ___, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM Central time

Descendants of Frank & Minnie Walker Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group Tamms, IL

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.

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 \$10.00, which covers the two year period between mega-reunions (August 2008-August 2010)

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 Earl Dillman, Treasurer, at 14 Fellview Dr., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534-4014, ed37dillman@gmail.com.

Members may request receiving copies of the newsletter by postal mail instead of e-mail. Donations of \$1.00 per issue to cover the cost of printing and mailing such copies will be greatly appreciated.

