



Dillman *

Descendants and Ancestors

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

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Christina Dillman's grandparents, Martin & Agatha Geier Dillman, migrated from Russia to Canada in 1908. Read their story inside!

DILLMAN DESCENDANTS & ANCESTORS

1. “Another Great Local Dillman Reunion Takes Place” By Mike and Melissa Minke

The annual C.K. Dillman reunion was held July 9th, 2011, in Charleston, IL at the Charleston Community Church. It was sponsored by Imogene (Mrs. Craig Dillman) and hosted by John and Joy (Dillman) Craft. With many thanks to Jonica, too! C.K. (Clifford Kingsley by birth), was the oldest son of Jonas, son of Samuel, Son of John Wesley Dillman Sr.



As a special guest, Mary Booth Edwards, who was a childhood friend of Mary Dillman Gates (left in photo above) in Arcola, IL, attended the reunion with a copy of her marriage license which showed her marriage ceremony was officiated by none other than C.K. Dillman himself!

Keeper of the gavel and clock for the annual CK Dillman reunion is Victor (see photo), who keeps the business portion of the meeting running smoothly.



Victor’s older brother, Beryl, attended and, using his Hawaiian address, travelled the furthest to attend.

Beryl also shared the honor of being the oldest attendee along with the reunion’s sponsor, Imogene. These two actually shared the same birthday and were 92 years and 9 months at the time of the reunion. Beryl’s lovely wife, Grace, also celebrated a birthday on Sunday of the reunion weekend.

All in all, it was a great time of family re-connecting. The CK Dillman branch has 257 members of which 240 are living. Of these, 125 are direct blood line to the CK and Bertha union. (Thanks, Victor!)

The next CK Dillman reunion will be held July 14th, 2012 in Hoopeston, IL.

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2. 2012 Dillman Mega-Reunion to be in Ft. Wayne, Indiana

It's time to mark your calendars. The 2012 Dillman Mega-Reunion is being planned for Thursday and Friday, August 9-10 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The officers have chosen Ft. Wayne because of its central U.S. location and its proximity to where a number of Dillman family descendants live. In addition, the Fort Wayne airport provides easy access from four major airlines (Allegiant, American, Delta and United). Also, the genealogical research facilities of the Allen County Library are outstanding and may be helpful to some attendees at the Mega-Reunion. Hotel arrangements are being made. When complete, that information and details about our Mega-reunion will be posted in the next newsletter as well as on our web page,

<http://www.dillmanfamilyassociation.org> .

This is your invitation for contacting officers with suggestions you would like to see included in the program. We welcome everyone's ideas for developing an exciting program. Please send them to Christina Dillman at

dillmanc@telus.net.

The Dillman Family Association Mega-Reunion has been held biennially since 2002 in

Indianapolis, IN (2002 and 2008), Northern Kentucky near Cincinnati, OH (2004), Harrisburg, PA (2006), and most recently, Roanoke, VA (2010). The Mega-Reunion provides an opportunity for all persons interested in the ancestry of all Dillman family lines to share information about their heritage, and help one another learn more about their individual families. Previous Mega-Reunions have resulted in discovering new cousins, being able to trace family heritage back many more generations, and creating linkages between North American and European relatives. Our Dillman family library continues to expand and is present at all Mega-Reunions for participants to explore and learn from.

Anyone interested in Dillman (and families with our many spelling variations) ancestry is invited to attend for two days of enjoyable conversation while we add to our understandings of who is related to whom, and share new discoveries about where and how Dillman ancestors have lived, worked, and experienced life.

| Climate data for Fort Wayne, Indiana | |
|---|----------------|
| Month | August |
| Record high °F (°C) | 102 (38.9) |
| Average high °F (°C) | 82 (27.8) |
| Average low °F (°C) | 60 (15.6) |
| Record low °F (°C) | 38 (3.3) |
| <u>Precipitation</u> inches (mm) | 3.60 (91.4) |



General "Mad" Anthony Wayne

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3. Another Dillman Family Mystery: From Russia and Somewhere Else, but Where?

By Chris Dillman—DFA President 2010-2012

Are you interested in mysteries? My Dillman family is trying to solve two of them and we would love to have your help. We know that my grandparents, Martin and Agatha (Geier) Dillman (see photo below) migrated from Russia to Canada in 1908. Other members of the family appear to have migrated to North America about the same time, but I have not been able to locate any of their descendants. If I have cousins living elsewhere in Canada or the United States I would love to find them.



The second mystery is where my German-speaking Dillman ancestors lived prior to moving to Russia. We know that they moved from somewhere in Europe, probably southwest Germany or France's Alsace region, in the late 1700's. We do know that these migrants eventually settled in Mariental, Russia, on the Baraboi River, about 16 miles from Odessa close to Josephstal. By March 1804, eleven people were living there in buildings that formerly belonged to a Russian Nobleman—four stone dwellings and six adobe houses known as semeljhankas. Records that we now have are for Peter Dillman born about 1789 (who I believe to be my great-great grandfather); a son George, born

about 1819 and my great grandfather Peter, born about 1838. But, when did they move to Russia, and from where?



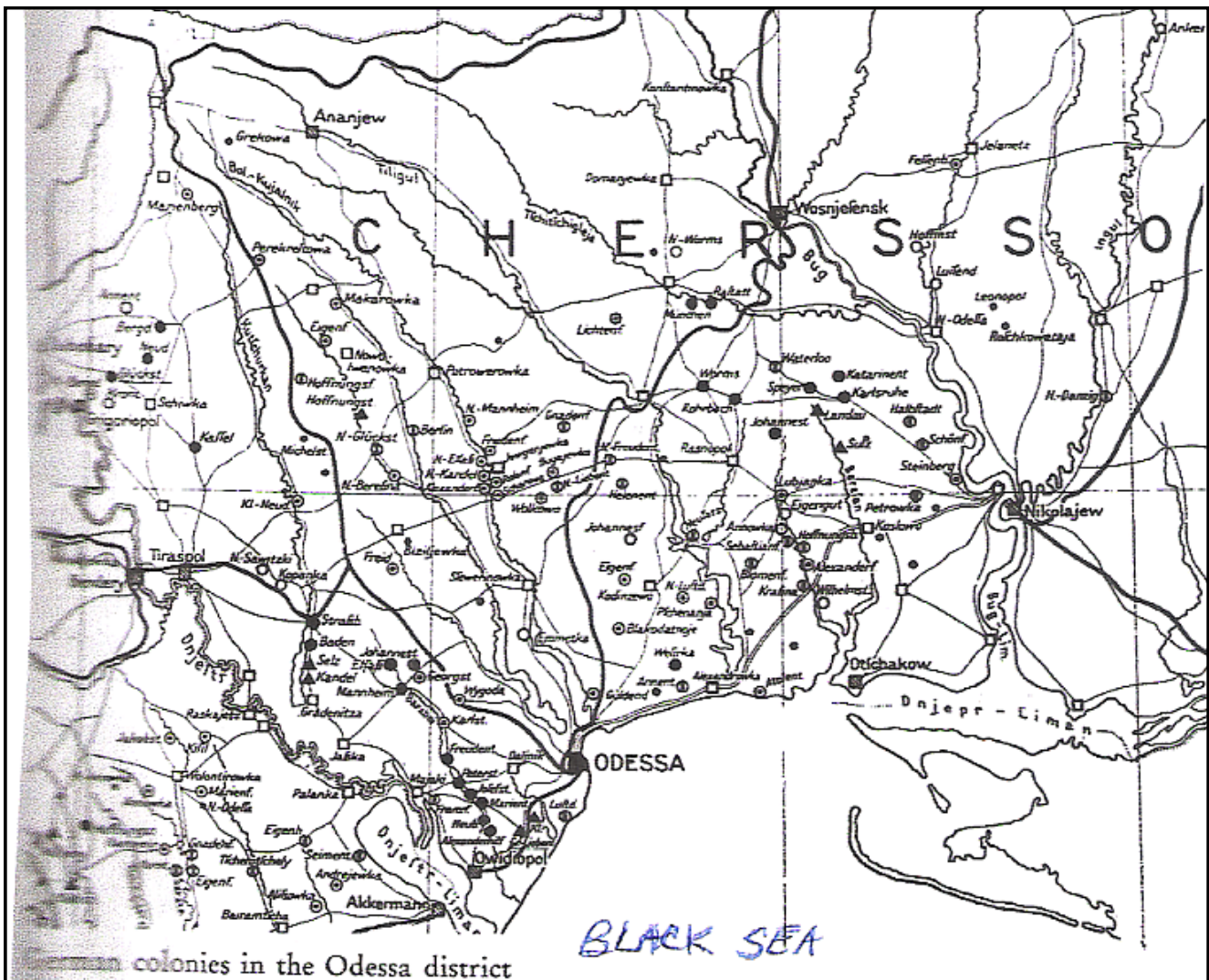
Catherine the Great

It seems likely that my Dillman ancestors moved to Russia as a result of promises made by Catherine the Great the Czarina of Russia in 1764. Nearly forty years later, her son Alexander 1, Czar of Russia, published a manifesto in 1804 extending once again, the invitation. It promised:

1. Complete religious freedom
2. Exemptions from taxes and other burdens for the first ten years.
3. After the ten years of exemption, the colonist will be treated like other subjects of the Empire, with the exception that they will not be required to billet troops, save those en route to the battle field.

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4. The colonists are exempt from military service and also civil service. Each one, however, is free to enter the service of the Imperial Crown, but this will not exempt him from the payment of his debts to the Crown.
5. To get established, every settler will receive an advance loan, which he must repay in the ten years following the decade of exemption.
6. Every family is permitted to bring movable property duty-free, plus commodities for sale not exceeding 300 rubles in value.
7. Craftsmen are permitted to join guilds and associations. Each one may carry on trade and commerce throughout the Empire, without hindrance.
8. Through the magnanimity of His Imperial Majesty all serfdom has been abolished in the provinces of Imperial Russia.
9. Every family will receive from the Crown a grant of 30-60 dessiatin (a unit of measure, 1 dessiatin equal to 2.7 acres) of productive land for its use. In addition to the police dues, each family will pay an annual ground tax of 15-20 kopecks per dessiatin after the ten years of exemption have expired.
10. Any settler who desires to leave the Imperial realm of Russia and return to his native land must first pay the Crown debts, plus the taxes for three years for the use of the land.



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Coincidentally, perhaps, Marienthal was established in 1804, the same year the second Manifesto was published. The land there had deep top soil and a climate that made it possible to grow many kinds of fruits, vegetables and grain crops.

It may seem strange that residents of (probably) Germany were invited to Russia, only to leave many years later, as my ancestors did, for North America. The explanation requires some historical context that may help explain Catherine's original invitation for European people with an emphasis on Germany and the fact that many would make the long trek to Russia, followed by an even longer journey to Canada.

In 1521, the German nation was divided along religious lines. Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church and started the Lutheran Church, resulting in many families being divided between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church. Nearly a century later, the thirty years war commenced, from 1618-1648. It affected people all over Europe but most especially the German people with starvation and pestilence. Commerce was destroyed, and agricultural fields lay fallow. Once prosperous towns became a collection of roofless houses and the country was in chaos.

Shortly thereafter, in 1714, south-western Germany was invaded by French troops of Louis XIV. The Rhineland, The Palatinate, and Baden-Wuerttemberg areas were effectively destroyed. In 1689 castles in Heidelberg, Mannheim, Worms and Speyer were also laid to waste. In 1707 the Palatinate suffered more destruction from war with France. It is this area of south-western Germany or from the adjacent Alsace area of France that my ancestors are thought to have originated, but this remains a mystery.

The Russia connection to this region began to develop a short time later. Catherine the Great, born in 1729 was a German princess. In 1745 she married Peter Ulrich, grandson of Russia's Peter the Great. Following this was the Seven

Years War, 1756 -1763 which was a war primarily between Prussia and Austria for the control of Silesia. However, other countries became involved, including Russia. At one time some thirty thousand Russian troops were in the Rhine provinces, quartered there by the inhabitants. German provinces in the east also were overrun by the Russian armies whose Cossacks destroyed homes and villages. The war ended with a victory for Frederick the Great of Germany, but by this time conditions had become desperate and widespread emigration resulted, not only to Russia but to many other countries in Europe and to America. In 1762 Peter the Great was overthrown and Catherine was proclaimed Empress.

Catherine the Great continued the effort to obtain land for Russia. A large amount of land was taken from Turkey. Included in these conquests was a fertile expanse of grassland that she proclaimed the "New Russia", and later it became known as the Ukraine. She won most of the Turkish fortresses, among them Ismail on the Danube, and a few years later she gained control of the Black Sea. In 1783 the Czarina won the Crimea and in the Treaty of Jassy (1792) the Turkish Porte was compelled to surrender all the territory between the Dniester and the Dnieper. Count Potemkin, the famed hero of these campaigns quickly established several towns of strategic importance. Among them were Cherson, Tiraspol & Odessa, the latter of which was to become the principal port on the Black Sea. My ancestral home of Marienthal was, of course, established in these new territories near Odessa.

Catherine the Great's invitation was to every country in Europe, although Catherine favoured the industrious German people having her own connection to them as a German noble. Many of the German people were happy to leave behind the difficult times in their homeland and believing that a better life was ahead of them, they flocked to Russia by the thousands eager to make their fortunes in this vast, newly-acquired Russian territory that needed settlers.

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The family information I have for my ancestors from Marienthal is as follows:

Peter Dillman, born about 1789, is my great-great grandfather, and he was the father of two sons, George, born in 1819 and Peter born 1838. This is not a proven connection. However, the information below is confirmed.

Peter, born about 1838 and Sabina (Husch) Dillman had the following children:

Jacob born in Mariental, Russia Aug 7, 1874, he married Elisabeth Herrmann

Peter born in Mariental, Russia July, 24 1876, he married Catherine Hild

Martin born in Saratov, Russia Oct 13, 1877, married Agatha Geier

Sabina born in Mariental, Russia in 1880

Catherine was born In Mariental, Russia 1883 twin to Peter

Peter was born in Mariental, Russia Oct 31, 1883 he married Maria Asselborn

Heinrich was born Mariental, Russia July 28, 1885 he married Catherine Gerstner in Mariental in 1904 it appears he may have been married twice that year. However, the second marriage has not been confirmed.

Reasons for the departure of my direct ancestor, Martin (born 1877) to Canada, which was passed down to me by older relatives, was that in the late 1800's the Russian political climate was changing and my grandfather sensed that a revolution was coming. He owned many fast horses, and provided taxi service for dignitaries--the priest, bishop and government officials. Grandfather was reputed to be a quiet man of few words, but he understood both German and Russian. After his arrival home from one of these trips Grandmother informed him that they had visitors that day who took some of his horses without permission. This happened a second and again a third time. At that point Grandfather told Grandmother to start packing, but not to tell anyone.

Grandfather did not divulge much

information, even to his children. Grandmother on the other hand would tell stories of many things if the right questions were asked. These opportunities to ask question were on visits to our home or at our Grandparent's home. I was a bit young and my interest in genealogy was not yet established, but my older brothers heard stories and asked questions of her. Even that information is limited. Presently we know very little except that my grandfather and grandmother appeared to take only what they needed when they left Russia and the remainder stayed behind.

However, we do know that my Grandparents Martin & Agatha (Geier) Dillman left from the port city of Odessa with their two small children and sailed to England. The date of departure from Odessa is unknown as well as the name of the ship they left on. We have records showing that they left Liverpool England on Feb 20, 1908 and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on Feb 29th 1908. They sailed on the SS Grampian and the ship's record listed their destination as Winnipeg, Manitoba. We know with certainty that they continued on by rail to Rosthern, Saskatchewan, but stopped there for a time as my father, Ed, was born there in May of 1908. They later traveled west and north to St. Walberg, Saskatchewan, where the majority of their children were born; they lived in this community until 1925 when they moved to British Columbia. Locating Grandfathers family has been a focus of many in our family starting with my Dad, Ed. He told us that Grandpa was sure some of his family had followed him from Russia. Trying to locate people in the 1950's and 60's was difficult. Today we have access to a lot of information, often without being able to connect the dots.

In my search to find relatives who may have come to North America I have some additional information on ships records: In 1912 Anna Dillman(age 29) and daughter Amelia (infant) departed from Libau, arriving on the SS Russia in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 23, 1912, destination Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1913 Heinrich Dillman age 18 left from Rotterdam on the SS Ryndam, arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia

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April 7, 1913, destination Winnipeg, Manitoba. I have not been able to connect either of these

arrivals with my family. Perhaps they belong to you, or someone you know.

I hope that you, or someone you know, might recognize something in the description of my family's journey from a German-speaking area of Europe, to the Odessa area of Russia, and then to Canada, that rings a bell. I, and a few hundred other Dillman descendants who trace their ancestry to these parts of the world, meet in a large reunion to celebrate that heritage every three years. If you can help solve these mysteries, we would

be most grateful. If anything I have said here might help you understand your own heritage that also would be wonderful.

I can be contacted at dillmanc@telus.net.

(Author's note: Much of this historical background comes from two books, *The Czar's Germans* by Hattie Plum Williams and *Paradise on the Steppe* by Joseph S. Height. If you are interested in the history of the Volga Germans and are researching your family you might start with (<http://ahsgr.org>) American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.)



Thinking of relocating to Palm Beach, Florida? If so, give the folks at Dillman Farms a shout!

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4. A Surprise in Pella, IA-By Phil Dillman



Those of you that know me know that I just cannot resist walking through a cemetery when time allows. This was the case in July as I was getting a container unloaded in Pella, Iowa, a town which is known for being as Dutch as the town of Holland, Michigan, as well as the country of Holland, itself. The customer I delivered to was located next to Oak Wood Cemetery which was full of many typical Dutch names, many of which had the prefix of VAN. Names like Van Buren, Van Drunen, etc., were in every row that I walked. However, the surprise came when I found a headstone with the name Dieleman. This was a variation of the Dillman name which the Dillman Family Association really didn't have anything in their files for. Naturally, I took a photo of the headstone for the archives but also for use in the newsletter as a starting point for us to research that particular family group.

After taking that photo, I kept finding more

stones with the same name. I only had about a half hour to spend in the cemetery so I took pictures of the Dielemans I found but I wouldn't swear that I found them all.



Continued on next page

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A brief search on the Internet showed that all of the Dielemans listed online have their origins in the area called Zeeland in the Netherlands.

The following is a note from Don & Joye Dillman:

We learned that the first Dieleman family migrated to Pella (Mr. and Mrs. Pieter Dieleman and Maria, Barbara, Meeuwes) in the sailing vessel Nagasaki that sailed from Rotterdam, Netherlands, to Baltimore on April 11, 1847. They were in the first group of Dutch settlers that established the Pella colony (four ships arrived at about the same time), as were Joye's Streng ancestors. We also learned that in 1870 the P. Dielemans were among the families who left Pella to form another Dutch colony, Orange City, near Sioux City in northwestern Iowa. (for more information see: "History of Pella, Iowa and Vicinity," by K. Van Sticht; Weekblad Print Shop 1897, translated by Elisabeth Kempkes).



I always hope to find an entertaining headstone or two during my cemetery wandering and this cemetery certainly didn't let me down. Apparently, the person under this last stone was in a hurry to get to wherever they ended up!



Treasurer's Report

\$2,322.96 in the DFA checking account

\$30.00 in savings

\$465.64 in Pay Pal



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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, October 8th,

Descendants of Frank & Minnie Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group

Tamms, IL

2012 - Saturday, June

Descendants of Andrew & Elizabeth Bruner Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group

near Bloomington, IN

Saturday, July

Descendants of C.K. & Bertha Dillman

Part of the Hans Georg Dillmann group

Hoopeston, IL

Martin & Agatha Dillman (gg parents: Peter & Sabina Dillman) family Reunion will be held August 3,4 & 5th 2012. 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-Fri, August 9 & 10

Dillman Family Association Mega-Reunion

Open to all Dillman researchers

Ft. Wayne, IN

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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 \$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

