

Searching for Genealogical Diamonds in Germany

By
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“Hans-Georg Dillman and Eva Rosina”
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Purpose

- What might we learn about our Dillmann, Tillman, Thielmann, Stillman, Dullman, Dillman, Dylman and similarly named ancestors from German Records
- But, to do that let's start at the beginning of the DFA, and talk about what we have learning about how to help one another in our various searches.

The 2002 Dillman Mega-Reunion

- We walked into this room knowing only one person—my brother who was also curious!
- Some things happened at that reunion that I'll not forget.

The 2002 Dillman Mega-Reunion



The 2002 Dillman Mega-Reunion



People shared what we knew, in this case Joye is talking about the descendants of my Great-great grandfather Andrew Dillman's descendants



Toby Hurley—DFA president 2004-2006



Toby Hurley

- I explained to the group who I was and how my Andrew Dillman got to Iowa.
- “You are the reason I’m here. My great-great grandmother, Julia, was your Andrew’s sister. She and her husband, David Finley, moved to Iowa with him. He died in the Civil War, and she moved the family back to Indiana.”

A 1856 Iowa Census record took on a new meaning!

44	44	DILLMAN, Andrew	27	M	1	0	Kentuc	Farmer
		Eliza	24	F	1		Indian	
		Harriet	6	F			"	
		George	4	M			"	
		Peter'	2	M			"	
		Mary	3 mo	F				
45	45	FINLEY, David	22	M	1	0	Indiana	Farmer
		Julia	19	l			"	
		Emmey	10 mo	F			"	

Three years later

- I found a story in a newsletter from my home town, that included a letter from the commanding officer of David Finley. It explained his sudden illness and death.
- It's doubtful that Toby would have found that information without our encounter in Indianapolis in 2002.
- DFA is about helping one another understand our heritage

Dillman Cemetery, St. Charles, IA



Robert Dillman asked me...

- “Do you know anything about the Dillman cemetery in Warren County (20 miles from our farm)—My family established it and a relative is buried there.”
- A mystery (to us) solved. We knew about it, but had not been able to make a connection.
- Robert and I found our ancestral connection in Kentucky, our great, great, great grandparents.

Mystery (to us) of the Dillman Cemetery



The Illingen Mystery

- 16 years ago Joye and I thought we had found the site where my ancestors once lived.

Illingen, Germany in 1992



Dillmannstrasse, Illingen, Germany

Don & Joye Dillman
August 1992



Illingen Cemetery

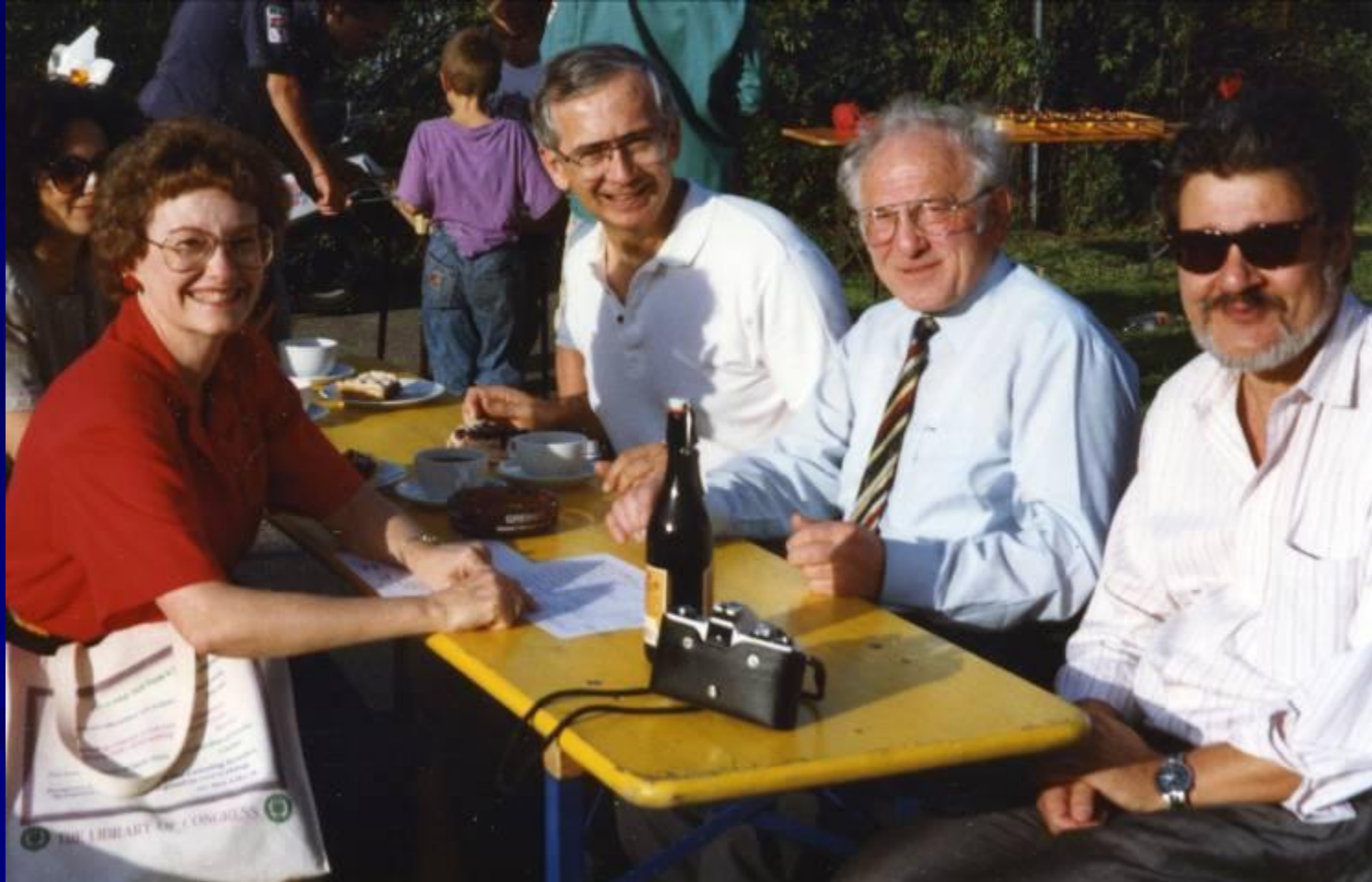


Dillman markers, Illingen



Emil Hoss at YMCA picnic

“My mother was a Dillmann”



A Phone Call with Erich Dihlmann

- You aren't related!
- Emil: But the French and Germans often fought over this area, and records may have been destroyed.
- We left, not really knowing...

Louise Dillman McKinney



Louise Dillman McKinney

- She took an interpreter and visited Erich Dihlmann in Pfortzheim, Germany.
- We thought this was our line of descent, but had since concluded that might not be the case
- She obtained his published genealogy (1536-1986).
- The connection seemed not to be there.

A wonderful feeling of success from Mega-Reunion 2002

- Small mysteries solved
 - Dillman cemetery
 - Other family members that moved to Iowa
Andrew's sister (Toby's ancestor)
- Understanding that there were multiple lines of Dillmans.
- A good time in Indianapolis.
- And then, Frank suggested DNA testing.

Frank Dillman

DFA Family Tree DNA project manager



You want us to do what?

- Family Tree DNA
- What's a marker?
- Only direct-line male descendants can be evaluated because the Y chromosome stays intact, except for mutations?
- A cheek swab that you mail in and you can do 12, 25 or 37?
- Hey, why not? I requested a test kit and waited for Frank's email.

Dillman Family Association DNA Project

[illegible]

Only six years later

- 10 family lines with different ancestors have been identified.
- One of them is the Illingen Dillmans and I now know that is not my line. DNA evidence traces that line back to Michael Dillman in 1500.
- But, I'm getting ahead of the story: here are the ten lines.

Ten Family Lines

■ 1 (1)	Daniel Dillman	1750	Alsace/France
■ 2 (2)	Johann Nicolas Dillman	1733	Germany
■ 3 (2)	Alpha Tilghman (Henry Dillmann)	1856 1835	Kentucky (Not specified)
■ 4 (5)	Jacob Tillman (Johan Christof Dillman)	1782 1710	South Car.
■ 5 (9)	Anthony Dillman	1732	Germany

Ten Family Lines

■ 6 (12)	Hans Georg Dillman (George Stillman)	1682 1760	Neureut, G. (Nova Scotia)
■ 7 (1)	Jacob Dillman (Daga)	1700	Germany
■ 8 (1)	Peter Dillman	1789	Russia
■ 9 (1)	Mathias Dillmann	1851	Berlin
■ 10(5)	Michael Dillmann (Dhyllmann) -also spelled Thilmann- (Christopher Dillman)	1500 1767	Wurmberg, G Philadelphia

What is Important Here?

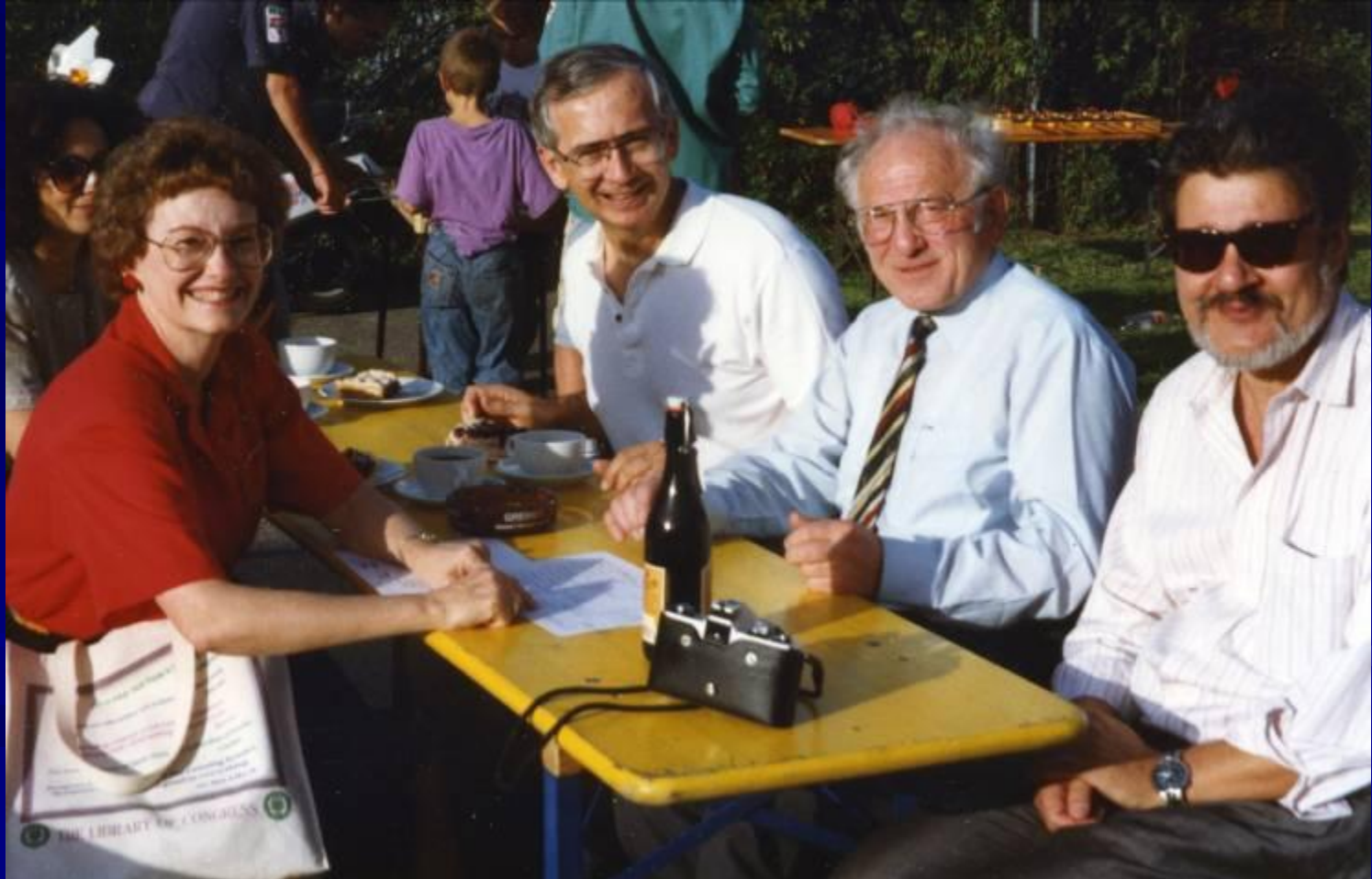
- Multiple surnames with varied spellings
- Different spellings of surname in same family line (e.g. Tilghman and Dillmann)
- At least seven of these ancestry lines once or now) live in Germany
- Research focused on Germany needs to try to inform us about different lines of descent.

When searching for Diamonds
its likely that one is going to
have search through a lot of
sand and gravel, and every
shovel full may be the one that
has something beautiful in it.

Gabrielle (Gabi) Hippler

- Last Fall I visited Mannheim and reconnected with Gabi Hippler.
- She is fluent in French as well as German and has done genealogical research on her own family.
- We have received over 1000 pages of mostly Germany information that has information on multiple lines.

Gabrielle (Gabi) Hippler is helping us search German Records



Gabi's research started on Hans-Georg and Eva Rosina (line 5)

- Our original goal was to validate what we thought we already knew from the work by Barbara Jensen—more on that later.
- However, it quickly expanded to searching for connected families and all Dillmann-like names.
- That's what I'll discuss next.

Finding the Dillmann* name

- 900-1700. A lot of different names
 - Let's look at the handout:
 - 920: Tielman
 - 1442: Dillmans von nackenheim
 - 1455: Dylman
 - 1485: Dilmann
 - 1522: Dillmann, Wendell, father of Jacque
- Is this Chuck's ancestor?

Finding the Dilmann* name (cont)

- 1530: Tillmenken
- 1532: Dillmann, Georg
- 1570: Thilmann, Friedrich
- 1585: Dilman, Michael
- 1648: Dillmann, Johannes
- 1682: Dillmann, Hans Georg and
Eva Rosina
- 1710: Dillman, Johan Christof

What Can We Conclude?

- I'm not sure.
- We have a thousand pages of information, and there are a lot of holes between the individual records.
- The language barrier is a “challenge”
- We have a lot of information to go through, but this is where the challenge becomes much larger.
- The records may not be accurate. Some are better than others.
- We are just beginning...

The shortest distance between two points may not be a straight line

- Who is related to whom—really hard to tell when the appearance of names skips generations and centuries.
- We may need to pursue genealogies of different family names to benefit from research done by others.
- We could probably benefit from looking for group migrations.

For example:

- I'm particularly interested in my ancestors, Hans-Georg Dillmann and Eva Rosina (line 5)
- Barbara Jensen has provided evidence that Hans-Georg the immigrant came to the U.S. on the ship brothers in 1751 and he was from Neureut, Germany near Karlsruhe.
- She also provides church/family evidence that Margaretha Murr (his wife) was from Hagsfeld near Karlsruhe, Germany.

Our goal: Could we find evidence to support this or not

■ This is what we have found:

- Hans Georg Sr. and Eva Rosina (not a surname) moved to Neureut by 1709.
- We cannot find where he moved there from.
- No luck yet searching for Eva Rosina
- He appears to have died there.
- A 1983 history reports evidence of both Hans-Georg Senior and Junior in Neureut, but the male family surname appears to have died out in the mid-1700's
- The information from Barbara Jensen seems verified.

Secondary Searches

- We are looking for connected names, following the idea that friends moved together, to see if some families might have records that connect to a Dillmann, but this is like looking for a needle—or maybe a diamond—in haystack
- This process led to finding other Dillman and similar names.

Next Steps

- I will visit Germany in October to meet with Gabi Hippler, and discuss what we have found.
- For those of you not in the Hans-Georg line, are there specifics you have on your German heritage that we might try to pursue as well?
- For those of you who are in the Hans-Georg line, what do I need to find out?

To be continued