

MISLED BY RECORDS: Identifying Adam Cosner's Parentage

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Descendants of Adam Cosner (1763-1849) of Lancaster County Pennsylvania have been searching for years for proof of his German ancestry. Many suspected he was connected to the family of Philip Peter Cosner of Thaleischweiler-Froschen Pflalz, Bayern, Germany and Hardy County, [West] Virginia. Two sources support the Cosners' German origins but differ on where they first settled. Pennsylvania and Ohio genealogical records connected with those for a German immigrant who died in Virginia reveal Adam's parents and his most likely birthplace. Note: numerous spellings used include Cosner, Casner, Kastner, Castner, Cossinor, Cossinour.

EARLY CLUES

- 1903 letter from Adam Cosner (NE) to Henry Cosner (ILL)
- *History of Sacramento County California*- biographical sketch of Robert Cosner

RECENT CLUES & RESEACH

- "Pennsylvania and New Jersey Church and Town Records, 1708-1985," database, *Ancestry*
- 1800-1840 research and analysis
- copies of John & Ann (White) Cosner bible records, family of Adam & Elizabeth Cosner
- Cosner/Kastner tax & deed research – Chester Co PA & Hardy Co (West) VA

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE

- (Philip) PETER Cosner of Bucks Co, & Chester Co, PA
- PHILIP (Peter) of Chester Co, PA & Hardy Co, (West) VA
- Revolutionary War Service of Philip Peter Cosner and other Cosners
- Questionable German record transcription on *ancestry.com* database

THREE COSNER/COSTNER/KASTNER 18th Century Families from Germany to PA

- (Philip) PETER Cosner/Castner, arrived 1732 aboard the *Pink Plaisance*
- George ADAM Cosner arrived 1748 aboard the *Patience*
- PHILIPP (Peter) Kastner arrived 1763 aboard the *Chance*

CONCLUSION

- Kastner and Related Spellings Y-DNA Project
- 8 sources giving proof to Adam's parentage

Clark Neb. July 5th 1908
 W. H. Cosner Dear Sir
 Dear Sir Brother gave me your letter to read a few days ago requested me to answer it, I don't know any of the Cosners you have named in your letter my father and family were all from Ohio, but formerly from Lancaster Co Penn. Grand father was a Pennsylvania Dutchman. There was five boys John the oldest remained in Penn. my father Joseph, Unkle's. Mathias William & Charles moved to Ohio settled in Richland Co east of Mansfield 12 miles near Waverly now Ashland Co

I never saw but one man by the name of Cosner that outside of my Grand father's family. He was a baptist preacher a cousin of father's name Henry Cosner he lived in Knox Co. I was then small probably 10 years old I am now 70 years old so you see that was long ago Father Mother all the family but Bob (who remained in Mansfield Ohio) moved from Ohio to Bureau Co Ill. year 1852 I have heard that Henry Cosner died in Ill. some place on Fox River. By the way I received a letter not long ago from a man by the name of R. R. Cosner who is at present at Grand Rapids

1903 Letter from Adam Cosner of Clarks, Nebraska to William H Cosner of Kewanee, Illinois

John Cosner was born September the 18 in year of our Lord 1797
 John Cosner was born June the 12 day 1812
 Robert Cosner was born the 26 of March in the year of our Lord 1832
 Elisabeth Cosner was born the 28 of October in the year of our Lord 1832
 William Cosner was born the 27 of February in the year of our Lord 1836
 Susan Cosner was born March the 16 in the year of our Lord 1839

Mary Cosner Departed this life at 11 o'clock novem. Dec. the 27 in the year of our Lord 1843
 Elisabeth Cosner mother Departed this life march the 9 in the year of our Lord 1844
 Adam Cosner father Departed this life of October the 22 in the year of our Lord 1849
 Joseph White Departed this life May the 18 in the year of our Lord 1851

Family births page from John Cosner bible

Family deaths page from John Cosner bible

Know all men by these presents that whereas Philip P. Cosner late
 of the County of Hardy in the State of Virginia dec'd by his last will and
 testament in writing bearing date the 22nd day of [blank] and give
 and bequeath unto me Adam Cosner one of his sons formerly of the State
 of Pennsylvania, but now of Wayne County State of Ohio. Which said
 Adam is named as a legatee in said last will and testament - and by
 the said Will it was directed that I, said Adam Cosner should receive of
 my two brothers John and Christian Cosner twenty five dollars each -
 Also 4 pences out of the personal estate. Also one sixth part
 of the personal estate of my father the said Philip P. Cosner after paying
 off all necessary expenses and my mother's one third. Which said sums
 of twenty five dollars each for John & Christian Cosner is a lien on the
 land of my father, by the will aforesaid bequeathed to said John & Christian
 Cosner my brothers. And the other two bequests on the personal estate
 in the hands of the Executor of the said last will & testament -

Adam Cosner 1841 Power of Attorney to nephew Daniel F Cosner

7. Philipp Jakob in gebohren 3. April
 1763. in der Pfarre St. Michael, Evangelische Pfarre.
 Der am 1. Jänner 1763 in der Pfarre St.
 Michael zu St. Michael geboren u.
 Adolf Jakob, Sohn d. Philipp Jakob, in der Pfarre
 St. Michael, Evangelische Pfarre.
 Der am 1. Jänner 1763 in der Pfarre St.
 Michael zu St. Michael geboren u.
 Adolf Jakob, Sohn d. Philipp Jakob, in der Pfarre
 St. Michael, Evangelische Pfarre.

Philipp Peter Kastner 1732 baptismal certificate

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alvin L. Anderson, *Vass and allied families: the descendants of John and Mary (Cosner) Vass* (Canton, Ohio: Anderson, 1975).

J.M. Guinn, *History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Sacramento Valley, California* (Chicago: The Chapman Publishing Co., 1906), p. 337–38.

John Vestal Hadley, *History of Hendricks County, Indiana: Her People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B.F.Bowen & Co., 1914).

Laban Miles Hoffman, *Our Kin Being A History Of The Hoffman, Rhyne, Costner, Rudisill, Best, Hovis, Hoyle, Wills, Shetley, Jenkins, Holland, Hambright, Gaston, Withers, Cansler, Clemmer and Lineberger Families* (Charlotte, NC: Daniel E. Rhyne, Laban L. Jenkins, L. M. Hoffman, 1915), p. 231-267.

Dr. Frederick Krebs and Milton Rubican, *Emigrants from the Palatinate to the American Colonies in the 18th C* by Dr. Frederick Krebs and Milton Rubican, Pennsylvania German Society Special Study, no. 1 (Norristown, Penn.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1953).

Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and other Immigrants in Pennsylvania From 1727 to 1776* (Philadelphia: Leary Stuart & Co., 1898), p.77-78.

Ralph Beaver Strassburger, 1883-1959, and William John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: a Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals In the Port of Philadelphia From 1727 to 1808* (Norristown, Penn.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), p.383.

WEBSITES of INTEREST

Ancestry.Com databases, "Pennsylvania and New Jersey Church and Town Records, 1669–2013"
"Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801"

FamilyTreeDNA, Kastner and Related Spellings Y-DNA Project

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/kastner/about/background>

Genealogy.com, Re: Descendant of Adam Costner from Costner Forum

<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/costner/280/>

Kurt Kastner, compiler, Kastner and other families in Pennsylvania,

<https://www.kastners.info/pennsylvania.html>

Sandy Norton compiler, website on *The Kastner Family in Thaleischweiler-Fröschen*

https://web.archive.org/web/20151230023545/http://sandysfamily.rootsweb.ancestry.com/Philip_Peter.html

PA Historical & Museum Commission, Oaths of Fidelity and Abjuration and List of Oath Takers

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1681-1776/oaths-fidelity.html>

ProGenealogists, Inc., The Palatine Project,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20051018071352/http://www.progenealogists.com/palproject/pa/1748pat.htm>