

THE HALLER FAMILY (Roots)

The first clue we had about the area from which the HALLER family came at the time of their migration to Russia was from Dr. Karl Stumpp on a visit to his home in Tübingen in 1970. The following two extracts are from Dr. Stumpp's book, "The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862." I have numbered the four Georg HALLERS (1) to (4) so that reference to any one of them can be made more easily.

Page 661, No. 51, from Census List of 1816: HALLER, Georg (1) age 61 (*1755) aus Klee- burg/Weissenburg-Elsass (from Cleebourg, Wissenbourg, Alsace), his wife Elizabeth age 62 (*1754), his children: Georg (2) 18 (*1798), Magdalena 16 (*1800), Eliza- betha 13 (*1803), Eva 10 (*1806). Margaretha ausgeschieden durch Heirat (depart- ed due to marriage). Dorothea ausgeschieden durch Heirat. (Birth year computed).

Page 664, No 102, Census List of 1858: HALLER, Georg (2) age 62 (*1796), his wife Kata- rina 57 (*1801), his children: 1. Georg (3) died in 1858 at age 36 (*1822), his wife 34 (*1824), their children: Johann 14 (*1844), Jakob 6 (*1852), Christian 4 (*1854), Georg (4) 2 (*1856), Eva 9 (*1849); 2. Johannes 18 (*1840), 3. Katarina 16 (*1842); further, the divorced Dorothea HALLER-HUFT 68 (*1790), her illegiti- mate son Georg TIETZ 36 (*1822), his wife Elizabeth 37 (*1821), their children: Jakob 2, Georg 4, Christine 11, Magdalene 7.

It is noted that Georg (2) has two indicated birth years, 1796 & 1798: this is a variance often noted in the Dr. Stumpp book data because the census-listed ages varied due to the time of year when the census was taken and also due to intentional or unintentional error by the person giving the data.

In the summer of 1978 we, Herman and Lydia Wildermuth, visited Cleebourg, Alsace, France to try to obtain information about the HALLER family which might be available at the local Lutheran Church. The local pastor of the church was on vacation so we made an evening visit with Mayor Müller and his wife and, over several bottles of wine, they gave us the following information:

1. The pastor of the local Lutheran Church had resigned, was now a professor at Stras- bourg University although still a resident of the village. As minister, he had per- suaded the congregation to associate itself with the Reformed Church.
2. The church records had been sent to Strasbourg University Archives, presumably for microfilming.
3. The HALLER family had come to Cleebourg with four other families from Switzerland in the year 1715.
4. No HALLER family had been resident in Cleebourg for some time, until recently one had moved in. The mayor's wife thought that this family was not of the original resident family, but her mother was positive that this was a descendant of the orig- inal Cleebourg family. Unfortunately, the mother of the HALLER family had passed away just recently and had been buried that morning. We thought it unwise to in- trude on their privacy at this time and so we did not meet the family.

In 1979, an effort was made, by correspondence, to obtain ancestral information from the Archives. An employee, J. Hommaire, who does independent research for a fee during his free time, did some research for us. However, he found the church records in very poor condition: books missing, pages torn, records saved from a fire had become wet, pages brittle, ink smeared, etc. In spite of this he found records of numerous HALLER births, christenings, weddings, and deaths. However, many of these records pertained to neighbor- ing villages with no indication as to the residents' home village. Another difficulty was that the birth records began with the year 1756 which was one year after the computed birth of Georg HALLER (1) who migrated to Russia. These records end with 1792 and thus birth records of Georg HALLER (1) children born after that date are not available.

Among all the records he copied, the only ones which seem to be about the family of the Georg HALLER who migrated to Russia in 1809 are:

1. The marriage of "Joh. Georg HALLER (son of Martin) to Marg. (daughter of Simon HAAS) on 28 Nov 1786." If Georg HALLER'S birth year of 1755 is correct, he would have been 31 years of age at the time of marriage, a little late in life, but the name "Marg." of the wife corresponds with Dr. Stumpp's census data.
2. Births to Georg HALLER and Marg. Haas HALLER lists the following:

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| Eva-Margaretha | born 30 May 1788 |
| Dorothea | born 04 Feb 1790 |
| Frederika-Magdalena | born 25 Mar 1792 |

Dr. Stumpp's record of the 1816 census lists Margaretha and Dorothea as daughters of Georg HALLER but without ages. The record of the 1858 census lists Dorothea HALLER-HUFT with her age as 68 (computed birth year: 1790) which corresponds with the church records above. The census records give no indication of Frederika-Magdalena but this could be a case of death before the census of 1816.

Mrs. Johann HALLER (nee, Schmidt) *21 March 1886 remembered that her husband's grandmother was a born REUTER — that is the wife of Georg (3), Elizabeth *1824. She could have been from the REUTER family of Neudorf, specifically the sister of Friedrich REUTER (Dr. Stumpp book, page 705. RL 122). However, this is pure speculation.

Georg HALLER (4) given above as age 2 in 1858. Family records indicate that he was born 25 April 1856, married Magdalena WOLF (birthdate not known, but it must have been after 1858 as she is not listed in the Dr. Stumpp data of the census of 1858). Records of the WOLF family indicate that Magdalena WOLF was the daughter of Jakob Friedrich (*1824) and Margarethe ROESLER (*1826) death year of 1906 was given by Peter HALLER (*19 July 1891) son of Georg HALLER (4).

Georg (4) and Magdalena (nee, WOLF) HALLER had three living children: Johann *27 May 1887, +14 December 1951; Peter *19 July 1891, +24 July 1975; and Lydia *12 July 1897, +03 February 1962. It is not known whether there were any children who died in infancy. The Peter HALLER family records indicate that Peter was born in Hoffnungstal, Odessa Dist., so the Georg HALLER (4) family must have had a short sojourn in Hoffnungstal before settling in Sofiental.

Sometime after 1890, the family of Georg (4) moved to Sofiental (about 15 miles from Bergdorf where they acquired a home and, owning their own farming equipment, horses and cattle, started farming on rented land. The wife of Georg Haller, Magdalena died on 6 April 1902 and, in 1902 or 1903, Mr. Haller married a widow from Kassel, Odessa, Mrs. Philipp Doerr (nee, Christina MEHLHAFF *25 April 1859). She had eight daughters; no knowledge of any sons. No children were born to the marriage with Georg Haller.

In 1911, the entire Georg HALLER (4) family immigrated to the United States. The family consisted of sons Johann and wife; Peter; and daughter Lydia (all named above); the second wife, widow of Philipp Doerr, accompanied by four daughters: Justine and husband Jakob Hohenecker, Maria, Magdalena, and Lydia. The last three were married later: Maria to John Lippert, Magdalena to Adam Preszler, and Lydia to John Trefts.

It should have been mentioned above that Peter Haller (*19 July 1891) was married to Maria Heyd on 28 June 1919 and Lydia Haller was married to Jacob Fey on 16 Jan 1919 in Ashley, North Dakota. in Long Lake, South Dakota,