

Henry and Elizabeth Plassmeyer¹

Johan Heinrich Plassmeyer (1808- 1868). He also had the last names LutkeHackenkamp, KleineHackenkamp and Nienkemper

Maria Elisabeth (Heckemeyer) Plassmeyer (1809-1890)²

Johan Heinrich Plassmeyer traces his ancestry through the Lutkehackenkamp, sometimes spelled "Kleinehackenkamp" and Poppelbaum families as far as the available records show. The prefixes "Lutke" and "Kleine" appear to have the same meaning of "small" or "little" and are sometimes used interchangeably in the records. He was born in Mastholte³ and given the last name of Nienkemper at his baptism on January 3, 1808. His parents are listed in the baptismal record as Herman Nienkemper and Maria Christina Nienkemper, Koetter by Poeppelbaum. However, at his baptism Herman Nienkemper was named Johann Herman Adam Lutke Hackenkamp (1778- ?). His parents were listed as Joseph and Maria Lutke Hackenkamp. At her baptism his mother was named Maria Christina Poppelbaum (1773- ?). The Kleinehackenkamp



family still lives and owns land in the rural area of Mastholte. At the time of these baptismal and marriage records, people still took the name of the land on which they lived or at least included the name of the land as part of their name.⁴ While Johann Herman Adam Lutke Hackenkamp was given the last name of "Lutke Hackenkamp" the family probably lived on land carrying the name "Nienkemper" at the time of the birth of Johann Heinrich, so Johann Heinrich was given the last name of "Nienkemper." That would explain why he used the name "Nienkemper" when he married Maria Elisabeth (Heckemeyer), the widow of Anton Plassmeyer. There are also various forms and spellings of the name "Plassmeyer" and for some of the other names.

Elisabeth (Heckemeyer) Plassmeyer after 1857 Henry Plassmeyer's mother died sometime after 1810, and his father married again in 1818. When Henry and the Plassmeyer family left Prussia in 1857, Henry left two brothers and nine half brothers and sisters behind, although one sister also came to America in 1857 or later. They have the various last names of Nienkemper, Kleine Hakenkamp, and Hakenkamp gnt. Nienkemper.⁵

Elizabeth Heckemeyer's ancestry is not so complicated at that of Henry Plassmeyer. She was born on 25 August 1809 in Mastholte and baptized in St Jacobus Church the next day, August 26. Her parents were Johann Heinrich Heckemeyer (1763-1858) and Lovisa Nordholt (1770-1831). The father of Johann Heinrich Heckemeyer appears to have also been named Johann Heinrich Heckemeyer (1720-1798). He was born in Moese, a rural area adjoining Mastholte. His mother, Anna Maria Volmer (1729-1797) was from Mastholte. However, one should be very

careful in tracing the genealogy of the German families because of the practice of those living on the land taking the name of the land.

On 6 November 1832, Elisabeth Heckemeyer married Anton Plassmeyer (b: 30 June 1809). They lived on the Plassmeyer Koetterhof 39 in the rural area of Benteler which bordered the Mastholte rural area on the east. Anton died on 25 August 1834 leaving Elisabeth expecting their first child. The child, named Margareta, was born on 7 September 1834 just a few weeks after Anton died. The child then died on 16 November 1834. Elisabeth then married Johann Heinrich Nienkemper at St Margareta Church in Wadersloh on 10 February 1835. Since they then lived on the Plassmeyer Koetterhof, he took the name Plassmeyer, although in the church records it is sometimes spelled "Plasmeier" and "Plasmeyer."



Wadersloh, Germany about 1850

Some mixing up of his ancestry continued. At the birth of his children he is given the last names of "Plasmeyer," "Plasmeier" or "Plashues," and he is variously listed as being born KleineHakenkamp, LutkeHakenkamp, Nienkemper and even Heckemeyer. However, it should be clear that his ancestry is traced through the Lutke Hackenkamp, sometimes called Kleine Hackenkamp, and Poepelbaum families.

Heinrich and Elisabeth Plassmeyer had seven children. They were all born on the Plassmeyer Koetterhof in the rural area of Benteler. Anton was born 2 September 1836, Johann Herman 28 February 1839, Joseph 7 March 1841, Johannes 30 October 1843, Elisabeth 15 August 1847, and Gerhard 23 April 1852. Another son, Henrich was born 8 March 1851, but died on 4 May 1851.

Precisely why the Heinrich and Elisabeth decided to emigrate to America is not known; however, the official documents concerning their request to emigrate mention that their land was heath ground and very poor, the father suffered from poor health and the family financial situation was not good. Two of the boys had to get excused from service in the Prussian Army before they could emigrate. The family also must have been influenced by the letters of their family members and neighbors who left their Prussian homes in the proceeding decades. Several hundred people left Mastholte and Moese for the United States between 1836 and 1895 with most of them leaving before the American Civil War.⁶ Hundreds settled in and around what is now Westphalia, Missouri. Among them was Elisabeth's brother, Caspar Heckemeyer (Johan Caspar Heinrich Heckemeyer, b: 1821) who had come to Missouri in 1838. In one year, 1846, over 192 people from Mastholte and Moese came to the United States. They were influenced by Henry Loehner, who left Mastholte as 16-year-old in 1838.⁷ He returned to Mastholte in 1846

after having considerable success at farming along the Maries River a few miles south of Westphalia. His success apparently convinced his old Mastholte and Moese neighbors that their future lay like his along the Maries River. In 1838 Henry Loehner traveled from Bremen to New Orleans on the George Washington arriving on 3 January 1839. Many of the later German immigrants followed his example and also traveled though New Orleans and then up the rivers to reach their destination.

So it was with Heinrich and Elisabeth Plassmeyer and their six children. They boarded the Bremen Ship, the Anna Delius, in August 1857.⁸ If their experience was similar to that of earlier travelers, they spent some time in Bremen waiting for other passengers to arrive; they then traveled by riverboat to the port of Bremerhaven to board their ship.⁹ The family left no record of their passage from Bremerhaven to New Orleans; however, the Norway Heritage maintains a website giving some details on the Anna Delius and life aboard an immigrant ship at sea. The Anna Delius was built in Bremen in 1854 specifically for the immigrant trade. The ship was often used to carry Norwegian immigrants to Quebec.¹⁰ It was abandoned in the Atlantic in 1888, but the crew was saved by a passing German ship.¹¹

The Heinrich and Elisabeth Plassmeyer family arrived in New Orleans on 6 or 7 November 1857 among the 322 passengers on board the Anna Delius.¹² He was 49 years old and she was 48.



Anton Plassmeyer Tombstone at Andersonville National Cemetery

They then traveled up the Mississippi River with probably a stop in St. Louis, then up the Missouri and Osage to the Westphalia Landing near the mouth of the Maries River. The only known account of the German immigrants' travel up the Mississippi, the Missouri and the Osage rivers to Westphalia, Missouri is an account by Carl Crede who came to Westphalia in 1855.¹³ After their arrival, they spent some time with Elizabeth's brother Caspar Heckemeyer and then moved to their

own small farm near Westphalia on the Westphalia-Koeltztown road. Three of the boys served in the Union Army during the Civil War (Anton, John and Joseph) and Herman served in the local Militia.¹⁴ Anton and John both died of disease in 1864. John died in Jefferson City.¹⁵ He is buried in the old St. Joseph cemetery in Westphalia. Anton died in the Andersonville prison camp in Georgia and is buried there.¹⁶ Joseph was discharged due to illness after serving a little over a year.

Three of the children Joseph, Elizabeth and Gerhard, married and had families. Joseph and Gerhard remained in the Westphalia community. Elizabeth married Peter Gelven and lived in Luystown in northern Osage County.

Henry Plassmeyer died in 1868. Elizabeth with her son, Herman, probably continued to live on the farm. Elizabeth died in 1890, and Herman died in 1903.¹⁷ Henry and Elizabeth are buried in the old St. Joseph Cemetery in Westphalia. Herman is likely buried in the new cemetery. After Herman's death, the farm was probably sold to a neighboring farmer. Nothing remains of the original farmstead. It is now simply pasture land.

Martin L Plassmeyer
18 August 2011
Colorado Springs, Colorado

¹ Some of the German people at this time went by what we would call their second name, and they carried that practice to the United States. Thus, Johann Heinrich went by Heinrich and later in the United States became known by the English equivalent of Henry. The same applies to Elizabeth who was named Maria Elisabeth and went by Elisabeth. Later her name is often spelled with a “z” instead of the “s.”

² The names, dates and other information concerning Henry and Elizabeth Plassmeyer and their family come from a letter from the Office of St. Margareta Parish of Wadersloh, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany to 2nd Lt Martin L. Plassmeyer, dated 18 October 1960. It includes extracts from the records of St. Margareta Parish and St. Jacobus Parish of Mastholte and the Munster Archives. See [1960LetterinEnglish](#) and [1960LetterinGerman](#)

³ At the time of the emigration of the Plassmeyer family, the name “Mastholte” included the rural area of Mastholte as well as the town.

⁴ Ruge, Nicolas, [Hardissen History of a Village in Lippe](#), 2nd ed., Copyright 2006 by LIPPE VERLAGE, Hellweg 72, D-32791 Lage, Carol A. Devore, trans., p. 40.

⁵ Liste der Nachkommenschaft, provided by Sabine Haselhorst of Paderborn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, BDR.
See [ListederNachkommenschaft](#)

⁶ Bertling, Bert, [Mastholte Die Geschichte zweier Gemeinden: Moese und Mastholte](#), 1997, Rehling, Graphischer, Betrieb GMBH & Verlag, Rietberg, pp. 243-245.

⁷ Bertling, p. 232.

⁸ Liste der Nachkommenschaft, provided by Sabine Haselhorst of Paderborn, Nordrhein-Westfalen, BDR.
See [ListederNachkommenschaft](#)

⁹ Schroeder, Adolf E and Carla Schultz-Geisberg, eds., [Hold Dear as always; Jette, a German immigrant life in letters](#), The Curators of the University of Missouri, The University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO 1988, pp 63-64 (Letter of 12 July 1836).

¹⁰ The Norway Heritage web site at <http://norwayheritage.com> gives some detail about life aboard an immigrant ship. At http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_ship.asp?sh=annad is some detail concerning the Anna Delius and its later voyages mostly between Norway and Quebec.

¹¹ List of shipwrecks in 1888 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_shipwrecks_in_1888

¹² Passenger list of the Anna Delius W. Hattendorff, Master. See [PassengerListof AnnaDelius6Nov1857](#) for original passenger list. See [PassengerListofAnnaDelius6Nov1857Transcribed](#) . The transcribed list of passengers is also at www.immigrantships.net/v12/1800v12/annadelius18571106.html.

¹³ [Carl Crede's Trip to America in 1855](#), translated by A.E. Schroeder, March 1989. See [CarlCrede'sTriptoAmerica in1855](#)

¹⁴ Record of 28th Regiment Enrolled Mo Militia concerning H Plassmeyer. See [HermanPlassmeyerCivilWarRecord](#)

¹⁵ Extract of Memorandum of the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, March 2nd, 1868 and Form No. 242 A.G.O., Mo., 11-3-11-18M concerning John Plassmeyer. See [JohnPlassmeyerSummaryCivilWarRecords](#)

¹⁶ Company Muster Roll, Anton Plassmeyer, Copy, Co. D, 26th Reg't Missouri Infantry of Nov and Dec, 1863 and Extract from Civil War Muster Rolls, National Archives. See [AntonPlassmeyerPartialCivilWarRecord](#)

¹⁷ Records of Deaths recorded between 1849 and 1906 at St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia, Missouri. See [StJosephParishDeathRecords1868-1903](#)