

The Nicholas Koger Line

This line of Koger Ancestors from which George Miller descends can be traced back to Wein am Rhine in Baden, Southwest, Germany, in the latter part of the sixteenth century.

Claus Koger

The story starts about 1572, when Claus Koger was born probably in the village of Weil am Rhine. Existing records show that he married a Dorothy Jager, the daughter of Dietrich Jager, Vogt¹, at Bintzen. The names of all of his children are not known, however Claus and Dorothy did have a son Dietrich, who was born at Weil am Rhine on Shrove Tuesday, February 9, 1608. Claus Koger served as Vogt, of Weil am Rhine. He died there in an accident at the age of 58. According to the Old Koger Family Book at Auggen, in an entry on page 39:

*“Claus Koger, formerly Bailiff at Weyl,
drowned in the Meadows near Riehen,
58 years old.”*

Dietrich Koger

Dietrich Koger, the son of Claus and Dorothy Jager Koger, moved from Weil am Rhine to Auggen in 1629, and married Maria Leininger on August 24 of that year. Maria's father, Hans Leininger, had served as Vogt, of Auggen from 1624 to 1629. Dietrich and Maria had 6 children. Claus, named after his grandfather, was their third child, and was born in 1637. Maria died on April 30, 1643, and Dietrich married again, to Anna Hagin, daughter of the Vogt of Tannenkirch, George Hagin. According to the new church book of the Parish Auggen, Dietrich and Anna's "wedding dinner was held in Basel, because there was not enough safety in the country."

In addition to getting married in 1629, Dietrich Koger became Vogt of Auggen, and served for many years. He was described in the book "Der Weinort Auggen" (The Winevillage Auggen) as an energetic man who began with an experienced hand to organize the greatly disrupted village affairs, and was one of two men who were driving forces in rebuilding the village, the other being the Pastor Jeremias Gmelin. "Dietrich Koger had grown up as the son of the Magistrate in Weil, in the hard school of the times."

¹ A Vogt (from the Old High German), in the Holy Roman Empire was the German title of a reeve, an overlord exerting guardianship or military protection as well as secular justice over a certain territory. Think of the Vogt as a type of magistrate.

Dietrich Koger, the old Magistrate of Auggen, 80 years and nine months old, pretty weak but still getting around on his own, being of sound mind, able to get out of bed on his own, died peacefully on the morning of November 27, 1688. A Memorial Epitaph on the wall in the cemetery at Auggen reads as follows:

*HERE LIES BURIED
THE HONORABLE MR. DIETRICH KOGER
RESPECTED MAGISTRATE OF AUGGEN
HAD 6 CHILDREN IN HIS FIRST MARRIAGE
WITH MISS MARIA LEININGERIN
AND IN THE OTHER MARRIAGE
WITH MRS ANNA HAGIN, 12 CHILDREN
ALSO HE LIVED TO SEE
55 GRANDCHILDREN AND
12 GREAT GRANDCHILDREN
ON THE 27TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 1688
AT THE AGE 80 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS
IN CHRIST GENTLY BLESSED
HE PASSED AWAY TO GOD*

Claus Koger

Claus Koger, son of Dietrich and Marie Koger, married Maria Kuttler², daughter of Jose Kuttler on November 20, 1665. Jose Kuttler is described in the Auggen village records as a butcher, inn-keeper, and Orphan-judge in Auggen. Like his father-in-law, Claus was a butcher.

Claus and Maria had six children; Dietrich and Joss, twins, born November 8, 1666; Maria, born July 17, 1669; Claus, born August 9, 1671; Joss, born August 8, 1674, and named after his brother who had died an infant on May 18, 1667; and Christoph, born December 10, 1678.

A brief entry on page 41 of the Old Koger Family Book at Auggen states that Claus Koger

“ was a butcher, married 20 November 1665 Maria Kuttlerin at Auggen and had six children with her, he died, falling from nut tree, 14 September 1679 ”

which means that his father Dietrich outlived him by nine years.

² Born May 1, 1646

Joss Koger

Claus' son Joss Koger married Maria Catharina Gebhard, the daughter of the Pastor of the nearby village of Feldburg, on February 22, 1701. Joss and Maria had:

Anna Barbara, born , married Adam Miller

Maria, born 12/25/1701, died 5/8/1703

Nicholas. born 2/21/1704, died 4/4/1704

Joss, born 3/14/1705

Bernhard, born 11/15/1705

Peter, born

No records show that Maria Koger died, however records do show that Joss Koger married Anna Lowenbergen on 4/23/1709. Joss and Anna had three children:

Hans Jacob, born 7/24/1710

Nicholas, born 1/30/1712

Michael, born

During his lifetime Joss Koger learned the trade of coopering, or wine barrel making, and in 1710 was named Cooper of the town of Auggen. He taught this trade to at least his son Nicholas. Joss Koger died at Auggen on August 23, 1733.

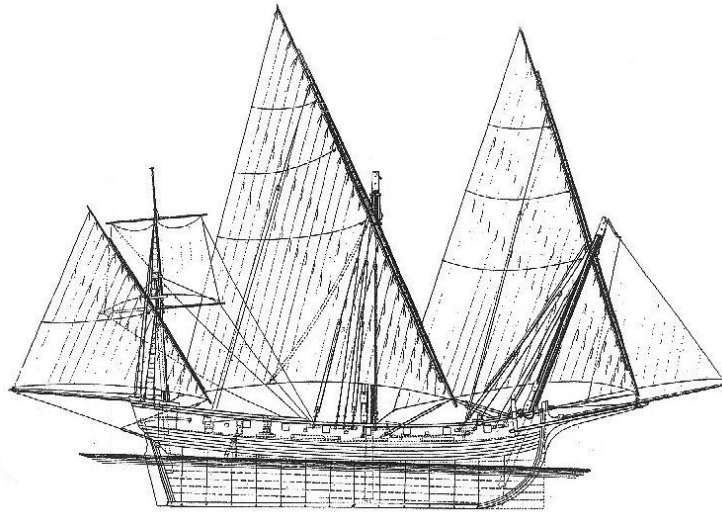
For whatever reason, whether due to religious persecution, continuing trouble from the French troops crossing the border, or trouble with the Margrave,³ five sons and one daughter of Joss Koger immigrated to America.

Nicholas Koger

Nicklaus Koger (and perhaps his brother Jacob⁴) arrived in Philadelphia on August 17, 1732, aboard the John and William, a Pink⁵ out from Rotterdam, last from Dover.

³ A margrave was a medieval hereditary nobleman with military responsibilities in a border province of a kingdom. Border provinces usually had more exposure to military incursions from the outside, compared to interior provinces, and thus a margrave usually had larger and more active military forces than other lords. The margrave may also have had larger territorial area under his control as a result of expansions of territory at the border. In medieval times the margraves usually had more autonomy from the king compared to other types of hereditary lords, however by late medieval and early modern times, as borders grew less unsettled, the distinction between margraves and other hereditary lords gradually disappeared.

⁴ One Koger family tradition holds that Hans Jacob Koger came to Philadelphia on August 24, 1728 aboard the ship "Morton House."



A classic Pink

The trip itself was eventful, and very long. From the

The Pennsylvania Gazette
(published by Benjamin Franklin)

Oct. 9-19, 1732

No. 203 Custom House, Philadelphia
Entered Inwards Sloop John & William
Constable Tymperton, From Dover. Philadelphia, Oct 17, 1732

"Sunday last arrived here Capt. Tymberton, in 17 weeks from Rotterdam, with 220 Palatines, 44 died in the Passage. About three weeks ago, the Passengers, dissatisfied with the length of the voyage, were so imprudent as to make a Mutiny, and being the stronger Party have ever since had the Government of the Vessel, giving Orders from among themselves to the Captain and Sailors, who were threatened with Death in case of Disobedience. Thus having Sight of Land, they carried the Vessel twice backwards and forwards between our Capes and Virginia, looking for a place to go ashore they knew not where. At length they compelled the Sailors to cast Anchor near Cape May, and five of them took the Boat by force and went ashore from whence they have been five Days coming up by Land to this place, where they found the Ship arrived. Those concerned in taking the Boat are committed to Prison."

⁵ In the Atlantic Ocean the word pink was used to describe any small ship with a narrow stern, it is derived from the Dutch word pincke, translated "pinched". They had a large cargo capacity, and were generally square rigged. Their flat bottoms (and resulting shallow draught) made them more useful in shallow waters than some similar classes of ship. They were most often used for short-range missions in protected channels, as both merchantmen and warships.

Nicholas and Jacob settled first in Pennsylvania, and it was there that Nicholas married Elizabeth Willheit and began raising a family. In the Church Book of John Casper Stoever, the births of Nicholas Koger are listed as follows:

John (Hans) Koger, born 9/3/1736

Ann Elizabeth Koger, born 12/2/1738

John Michael Koger, born 3/10/1740

John Jacob Koger, born 9/4/1741

Anna Catharina Koger, born 5/17/1743

By 1740 Nicholas and Jacob began acquiring land in the Shenandoah Valley, and specifically near where her sister Anna Barabara and brother in law Adam Miller had settled. In 1743, tragedy struck when Nicholas Miller was killed by Indians while constructing a log home on his property on the “Lower Page Bottoms.”

Jacob Koger and his family had permanently settled in Virginia by 1746, and it can be presumed that Nicholas’ widow and children did the same. It is not known exactly where Nicholas’ family lived although both Jacob Koger and Adam Miller were co-executors of Nicholas’ will and took active interest in the care of Nicholas’ children.

Nicholas’s daughter Elizabeth married her cousin Henry Miller, Adam Miller’s son circa 1755.