

The German Origin of Andreas Flach of Flocktown, German Valley, Roxbury Township, Morris County, New Jersey

JOHN BLYTHE DOBSON, FASG, FGBS

WHILE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN RECORDS of Andreas Flach of Flocktown contain no direct clue as to his place of origin, the basic structure of his family is established by the account in Chambers's *Early Germans of New Jersey*, which is unsourced but preserves information that could only have come from a family Bible record.¹ In addition, the full name of Andreas's wife, not supplied by Chambers, is given as "Anna Maria Schülerin" in a Bible record that descended in the family of their daughter Elisabeth, wife of Wilhelm Petrie (not John Petrie as stated by Chambers).² Recently, it was found that the registers of the Evangelical (i.e. Lutheran) church of Kehl, Baden-Württemberg, Preußen, Germany, reveal a clear match for this family, showing (along with other pertinent entries):³

- Andreas Flach, son of Matthias Flach and Barbara *geb.* Mündlerin [feminine form of Mündel],⁴ born on 9 September 1711 (Chambers says 9 September 1712);
- Andreas Flach, married 7 January 1736, Anna Maria *Schütterlinin* [feminine form of Schütterlin];
- Anna Maria, daughter of Hanß Schütterlin and Anna Schantzin [feminine form of Schantz], born 1 December 1717 (Chambers says

¹ Theodore Freylinghuysen Chambers, *The Early Germans of New Jersey: Their History, Churches, and Genealogies* (Dover, N.J.: Dover Printing Co., 1895), 372-374.

² Bible record no. 5129, for Wilhelm Petrie and Elisabetha Flach, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, Collection of Bible and Family Records, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, N.J. An image of the pertinent page may be seen at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bradhurley/sources/petrie_flach_bible.jpg. I am deeply grateful to the poster, Brad Hurley, of Manchester, Connecticut, for bringing it to my attention.

³ These records, cited fully below, are indexed in the database "Baden, Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1502-1985," at *Ancestry.com*, published in 2016.

⁴ Henceforth, except in direct quotation, the *-in* ending occurring on the feminine forms of surnames will be disregarded.

the wife of Andreas Flach was born 1717, without giving a precise date);

- Andreas, son of Andreas Flack and Anna Maria Schütterlinin, born 14 October 1736 (Chambers says 20 October 1736);
- Anna Catharina, daughter of Andreas Flack and Anna Maria Schütterlinin, born 21 January 1742 (called Catharina by Chambers, who gives the date as 14 February 1742);
- Barbara, daughter of Andreß [*sic*] Flach and Anna Maria geb. Schütterlinin, born 20 October 1744 (Chambers says 1744, without giving a precise date);
- Mathias, son of Andreas Flach and Anna Maria geb. Schütterlinin, born 5 March 1746 (Chambers says 6 March 1746).

Obviously, despite the discrepancies, this level of coincidence between the church records and the family described by Chambers could not possibly be accidental. And it is evident that the name Schütterlin(in) has been corrupted in the Petrie Bible record.

In the interests of rapid communication of this finding, a brief account of the family follows. The Flach and Schütterlin⁵ families have already been extensively researched by German genealogists, though apparently without recognition of the fact that Andreas Flach and Anna Maria Schütterlin were emigrants, or of the possibility that Andreas's uterine half-brother, Georg Schütterlin, was the man of this name who left on the same voyage as Andreas (see below). Thus, before fuller publication of their ancestry can be justified, an extensive review both of the published literature, and of primary sources presently accessible only on microfilm, will have to be undertaken.

The Kehl Evangelical church registers for the relevant period contain a mixture of events occurring in the main parish of Dorf Kehl and in the *Christuskirche* in Kehl-Sundheim. Solely for the purposes of the present article, the two pertinent registers, extending from 1660–1723 and 1723–1763 (or 1770 for deaths), will be referred to respectively as Register A and Register B to avoid repetition.⁶

⁵ In the records of Kehl this name is also found as Schütterle, though not in the examples discussed herein.

⁶ The earlier registers of baptisms, marriages, and deaths (these last are designated deaths rather than burials) do not align in their dates, and apparently have no agreed-upon volume-numbering. Both registers used here are found on FHL microfilm no. 1,189,667. The register for 1660–1723 (here called “Register A”) is simply labelled “Kayler Kirchen-Buch” on the cover, while that for 1723–1763 (here called “Register B”) has a title-page reading “Tauf- Hochzeit- und Tooten-Buch deren beiden Evangelischen Gemeinden Kehl und Sundheim angefangen im Jahr Christi

Genealogical Summary

ANDREAS¹ FLACH, of Flocktown, German Valley (now Long Valley), Roxbury (now Washington) Township, Morris County, New Jersey, son of Matthias Flach and Barbara Mündel,⁷ was born 9 September 1711 (per his baptismal record) and baptized at Kehl as a son of Matthias Flach and Barbara geb. Mündlerin,⁸ died (intestate) shortly before 3 April 1779 at Schooley's Mountain, Roxbury (now Washington) Township, and was buried in the Old Stone Union Church Cemetery, German Valley (now Long Valley). He married 17 January 1736 at Kehl,⁹ **Anna Maria Schütterlin**, almost certainly the one of this name baptized 1 December 1717 at Kehl as a daughter of Hanß [*sic*] Schütterlin and Anna Schantzlin,¹⁰ died 24 January 1810 at German Valley. Their marriage record, which does not supply their ages, names them as Andreas Flach (son of the deceased Matthias Flach "of this place") and Anna Maria Schütterlinin (daughter of the deceased Johannes Schütterlin "of this place").¹¹ He is described as a burgher "of this place" in the baptismal records of his older children (1736–1742), and as a burgher of Sündheim in those of two of the younger children born at Kehl (1744, 1746).

Andreas Flach was among the "Foreigners from Wirtemberg, Alsace, and Hanau, [on the] ship *Speedwell*, James Creagh, Captain, from Rotterdam" who came to Philadelphia in 1749. The ship's manifest mentions 240 passengers but records by name only the 91 family heads. Among the other passengers was a Georg Schütterlin "von Hayl [i.e. Kehl?]," perhaps Andreas's uterine half-brother of this name.¹² Soon after,

MDCCLXXIII" (Baptism-, Marriage-, and Death-Register of the two Evangelical congregations Kehl and Sundheim, begun in 1723 A.D.). In each register, baptisms, marriages, and deaths are separately paginated.

⁷ Barbara Mündel married secondly Andreas Schütterlin, by whom she had an only known child, Georg Schütterlin, born 10 August 1717 (Register A, Baptisms, p. 229), on whom see below.

⁸ Register A, Baptisms, p. 191.

⁹ Register B, Marriages, p. 19.

¹⁰ Register A, Baptisms, p. 231.

¹¹ The record, written in a curious mixture of German and Latin, describes the groom as "Andreas Flach, *wylen Matthiæ Flachen burgers alhier [Sohn]*," indicating that *Flachen* should be regarded as a genitive form. Accordingly, the *-en* ending on this surname, which occurs in the church registers only in contexts where the genitive would be appropriate, is not transcribed below. Thus, the readings given here do not always correspond with those given in "Baden, Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1502–1985" (note 3 above).

¹² Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, vol. 1 (*Proceedings of the Pennsylvania-German Society*, 42, 1934), 410–11; a better edition of the list than that given in I. Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of upwards of Thirty Thousand*

Andreas Flach and his wife settled at German Valley, New Jersey, on land that became Flocktown.

Known children of Andreas Flach and Anna Maria Schütterlin:¹³

- i. **Andreas Flach**, born 14 October 1736, baptized as a child of Andreas Flack “burgher of this place” and Anna Maria Schütterlinin;¹⁴ died 20 August 1789. He married **Margareta _____**, and had issue.
- ii. **Barbara Flach**, born 6 February 1738, baptized as a child of Andreas Flack “burgher of this place” and Anna Maria Schütterlinin;¹⁵ died 25 May 1738, and buried as a child of Andreas Flach and Anna Maria Schütterlinin.¹⁶
- iii. **Anna Maria Flach**, born 9 May 1739, baptized as a child of Andreas Flack “burgher of this place” and Anna Maria Schütterlinin.¹⁷ No further record found.
- iv. **Anna Catharina Flach** (known as Catharina), born 21 January 1742, baptized as a child of Andreas Flack “burgher of this place” and Anna Maria Schütterlinin;¹⁸ died 1 March 1823, aged 81 years, and buried at German Valley. She married **Anthony Schenckel/Shankle**, and had issue.
- v. **Barbara Flach**, baptized 20 October 1744 as a daughter of Andreß [*sic*] Flach “burgher of Suendheim” and Anna Maria *geb.* Schütterlinin, with sponsors including Georg Schütterlin,

Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776 (Philadelphia, 1876), 208–09. This Georg Schütterlin, as well as some of the other persons considered herein, is treated in the excellent “Mündel Web Site” by Claus Mündel at MyHeritage.com, and the evidence for his identity will not be considered in detail here. He does not appear to have been married at Kehl, and was ostensibly still single in 1749. Although Anna Maria Schütterlin had a brother named Georg, he died young, and cannot have been the passenger of 1749.

¹³ All baptisms and burials are at Kehl. The baptismal records explicitly give dates of birth. The names of the sponsors are generally readable, but none are described as relatives and none had the surnames Flach, Mündel, or Schantz, and as their names do not seem to supply much in the way of genealogical evidence they are transcribed only selectively. Details of the children already well covered in Chambers or in other readily available secondary accounts are either omitted here or stated without citation. The daughter Anna Flach, wife of John Thomas, attributed to this couple by Chambers, likely belongs to a later generation of this family, as according to his account of the Thomas family (p. 527) she had a child born in 1804.

¹⁴ Register B, Baptisms, p. 81.

¹⁵ Register B, Baptisms, p. 92.

¹⁶ Register B, Deaths, p. 32.

¹⁷ Register B, Baptisms, p. 103.

¹⁸ Register B, Baptisms, p. 125.

- “burgher of this place.”¹⁹ She married before 1766, **Philip Creter/Crater**, and had issue.²⁰
- vi. **Matthias Flach**, born 5 March 1746, baptized as a child of Andreas Flach “burgher of Sündheim” and Anna Maria Schütterlinin, with sponsors including Johannes Schütterlin, son of the deceased Georg Schütterlin, “burgher of this place”;²¹ died 17 October 1806 “in the 61st year of his age.” He married **Mary Margaret Rarick**, and had issue.
 - vii. **Christina Flach**, no baptismal record found; died 25 August 1747, and buried as a child of Andreas Flach, “burgher in Sündheim” and Anna Maria *geb.* Schütterlinin.²² No further record found.
 - viii. **Elizabeth Flach**, born probably 5 November 1750,²³ in agreement with the age at death reported on her tombstone; died 13 June 1823, at the age of 72 years, 7 months, and 9 days. She married **Wilhelm Petrie/Patrey**, and had issue.
 - ix. **Margaret Flach**, born in New Jersey ca. 22 March 1752; died 6 March 1839, “aged 86 years, 11 months, 14 days.” She married **John Dean**, and they went to the Niagara District in Upper Canada.²⁴
 - x. [**Maria?**] **Christina Flach**, born probably ca. 1753; probably the “Mrs. Hansel, [of] Beavertdam” who was buried 25 Aug. 1829, aged 76 years.²⁵ She married **Andreas/Andrew Hansel**, and they went to the Niagara District in Upper Canada.²⁶

John Blythe Dobson lives at 1170 Spruce Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3E 2V3 and may be reached at johnblythedobson@gmail.com.

¹⁹ Register B, Baptisms, p. 148.

²⁰ Harold L. Crater, Jr., *The Descendants of Moritz Creeter (1703–1772): A Genealogy of the Crater Family that Originated in New Jersey* (Victoria, Texas: privately published, 2003).

²¹ Register B, Baptisms, p. 160.

²² Register B, Deaths, p. 67.

²³ Wilhelm Petrie and Elisabetha Flach Bible record (note 2). An image of the pertinent page may be seen at http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bradhurley/sources/petrie_flach_bible_2.jpg. This was likewise brought to my attention by the poster, Brad Hurley.

²⁴ Roland and Cecelia Botting, *The Deans of Gainsboro Township, Lincoln County, Ontario* ([Tucson, Arizona:] privately published, [197_]), 1, 28.

²⁵ “Early Churches in the Niagara Peninsula, Stamford and Chippawa, with marriage records of Thomas Cummings, and extracts from the Cummings Papers,” *Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records* 8 (1907): 149–225, at p. 167.

²⁶ Cecil Clair Hansler and Asa Orton Hansler, *The Descendants of Hans & Mary Hansel in America*, rev. ed. (Fenwick, Ontario: privately published, 1993).