

Chronik des Zweiges des Johann Martin I Kochersperger, USA

Ungefähr im Jahr 1770 entschied sich der erste Kochersperger sein Glück in der Neuen Welt zu suchen. Er folgte tausenden seiner Landsleute nach Nord Amerika. Es war Johann Martin Kochersperger, der als Farmer in der Nähe des Ortes Strasburg, Landkreis Lancaster, Pennsylvanien, eine neue Existenz fand. In 1772 heiratete er die in Philadelphia geborene Rosina Christina Seyfried.

Als die Amerikanischen Kolonien ihre Unabhängigkeit erklärten, trat Johann Martin in 1776 in das "First Rifle Battalion" des Oberst John Fereee ein. Im Mai 1777 stieg er zum 7th Class Private [Obergefreiter?] in Hauptmann John Slaymaker's 5. Kompanie auf, mit welcher er an zahlreichen Kämpfen während des Amerikanischen Revolutionskrieges teilnahm.

Nach dem Krieg ließ sich Johann Martin im Randgebiet von Philadelphia nieder und bewirtschaftete einen Bauernhof im Gebiet Northern Liberties Township. Seine Frau gebar ihm elf Kinder, denen er sein Vermögen in einem noch heute erhaltenen Testament hinterließ. Johann Martin war zu Vermögen gekommen und zeigte sich auch als großzügig. Der folgende Auszug mag dies verdeutlichen:

Zur Verfügung gestellt von Daniel Guggisberg

The late Judge Duncan, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, used to tell the following story of his youthful days:

"At the commencement of my practice," said he, "I had no client of the name of Kochersperger, an old, close-fisted German, of considerable property, for whom I did many little matters in the way of my profession, being always paid in promises that all would be right by-and-by. Finally, he sent for me to prepare his will. I made my memorandums of the items and was about to retire, when he stopped me,

and said, 'Mr. Duncan, you have been my good friend, and attended to all my business, and have never got any thing yet for your trouble; I want to leave you \$500 in my will.'

"Greatly surprised and delighted, I said, 'My good Sir, you are too generous! I have no claims on you for more than a fair compensation for my services, which would not amount to one half that sum.' The old man insisted, however, and I inserted the legacy, nothing to do and the will was executed in due form. There or four years afterward, when the matter had passed out of my mind, I was attending court in a distant county, and, while sitting at the hotel with the Judges and my fellow-members of the bar, one of the company read from a newspaper the announcement of the death of my old German friend. 'Well,' said I, 'he's gone at last (he was very old), and I am \$500 the richer by overhauled me with congratulations, as a matter of course, and it was unanimously resolved that I should treat the crowd to a supper upon the strength of my good fortune. We had the supper, accordingly, and I footed the bill (a matter of no little consequence to me at the time in a pecuniary point of view).

"On my return home I lost no time in calling upon his executors, as I found, with them the loss of some excellent friend; but to my surprise, they preserved a dignified silence on the subject of my legacy. My impatience led me to the Recorder's office, where, to my astonishment, I found that the old skilful had copied the will, in his own handwriting, omitting the legacy!"

Harper`s Magazine, Ausgabe Juni 1860: Richter Thomas Duncan erzählt diese Anekdote über Johann Martin. Erstaunlich ist, dass der Artikel erst über 30 Jahre nach dem Tode des Richters erscheint.

Johann Martin starb im Jahr 1822. Er ist der Stammvater der ältesten und größten Gruppe der Familie in den Vereinigten Staaten. Fortsetzung folgt

