



Andrew C. Petenbrink

REF 284

NOTE: Based on information from Andy Petenbrink, I believe that the maiden name of Christian's wife was Coleman. Lannie Dietle, July 10, 2006



December 5, 1987

Dear Mrs. Cockley,

I received your letter yesterday. I really appreciate the time and effort you have put into researching my great-great grandfather's history. I have been doing my own research, mostly by mail, for about three months. I haven't collected a whole lot of information about Christian. I will share with you the information that I have accumulated.

Most of my information has come from my relatives. I am also using the United States Census Records.

Christian Petenbrink came to the United States with his wife Anna Elizabeth Winters and daughter Elizabeth. Christian's brother was also travelling with them. They entered the United States through the Port of Baltimore. I am estimating that they arrived in the United States between 1840 and 1847.

Christian lived somewhere in Maryland until about 1850 to 1851. He then moved to Southampton township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. It appears that he stayed in that general area until he died in 1894.

Christian joined the Union Army on Dec 4, 1862. He was an infantry private in company "K". Company "K" was in the 2nd Maryland Regiment. He was in the army from December 4, 1862 to June 6, 1865. (1890 Census, page 1, Supervisor's District No. 11, Enumeration District No. 27 Southampton Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania). He was part of Maryland home guard responsible for guarding the B&O railroad. Christian was forty-four years old when he joined the Civil War. He also saw limited duty in several engagements in the Shenandoah Valley. Christian was a cook.

Christian may have received his United States citizenship by serving in the Civil War.

The 1860 Census is the first place that I found an unusual spelling of the Petenbrink name. The spelling was Beifenbrink. Christian and Annie, forty, had eight children at that time. The oldest, Elizabeth, was twenty and the youngest, Caroline, was one.

Christian, Annie and Elizabeth were born in Hesse, Germany. The city listed was Cassel. I am pretty sure that it should have been spelled Kassel.

Mary -13, Margaret -11, Catharine -8, Ann -7, Frederick -5, Henry -3 and Caroline -1 were all born in the United States. Mary, Margaret and Catharine were born in Maryland.

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The others were born in Pennsylvania. Henry was my great-grandfather. It appears as if Eliza may have died between the 1850 and 1860 census.

The next spelling of the name, Piedenbrink, was referenced in a Baptismal Certificate completed by a Rev. F.R. Schwedes. Rev. Schwedes was the pastor of a church in Cumberland, Maryland.

Edwin Franklin Piedenbrink was born on June 27, 1885 and baptized on August 2, 1885. His parents were William Henry Piedenbrink and Anna Marie (Everline) Piedenbrink.

A third spelling Pepenbrink was referenced by the daughter of Oscar Petenbrink. Oscar's father was Norman Levi Petenbrink. Norman was the son of Peter F. Petenbrink. The Pepenbrink spelling was used in a biography prepared for a church bulletin.

The last two spellings, Pettenbrink and Pedenbrink were supplied by you. I am discounting the Pendenlong spelling. I have seen on several occasions what the soundex people can do with the Petenbrink name.

I have not been able to obtain any information about Christian's father and mother or Christian's daughters. I have been able to track Peter F. Petenbrink and William Henry Petenbrink. They and their families stayed pretty much in the Somerset County area. Cecil and Clifton appear to be relatives of Peter F. Petenbrink.

I have a copy of Christian's will. Henry, Peter, Catherine Shaffer and Margaret Hosselroad renounced their rights to administer the estate in favor of Daniel Everline. Daniel was the brother of Anna Marie Everline, Henry's wife.

Peter F. Petenbrink was married to Flora Kennel, who was the grand-daughter of Jonathan Boyer.

George Petenbrink was one of Henry's sons.

I don't have any additional information at this time. I will, if you like, continue to provide you an update on my progress. I am trying to validate my information before I make it a permanent part of my files. Any official public documents that you find will help in the validation process. I will gladly pay for any reproduction cost.