

**A Study of
Men Named George Sommer/Summers
in Philadelphia Area
1750-1830**

By Mary Ann Schaefer
Boulder, CO
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Work in Progress

Draft 4

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genealogist@gmail.com

Introduction

See my article, "[Differentiating Sommer Surnames, Arrival in Philadelphia from Germany Pre-Revolution](#)," revised 2015 for the main analysis which identifies the Sommer family groups from Freistett and Hoch-Weisel.

My ID System

- F = Freistett clan
- H = Hoch-Weisel clan
- G = George
- M = Martin
- #1-#2 = where #1 is Generation, starting with first generation to arrive in America, and #2 is Birth Order (i.e. first born in that generation, next born in that generation, etc.). In some cases, there is no second number, meaning only one person of that name was born in that generation.

Note 12/2015: Thanks for being patient with my numbering scheme; I know it isn't perfect and probably makes things more confusing for some. The numbering in this revision has changed slightly from the last version to make it more consistent. It was previously confusing because Hermann, the progenitor of HW clan, came to America, whereas Matthias Sr., progenitor of Freistett clan, did not; and my numbering between the two clans was not consistent. In this version, the progenitors – Matthias Sr. and Hermann – are not included in the numbering, and the "1" generation applies then to the next generation of their descendants to arrive in America.

Revision Changes

14 December 2015

- I added Matthias Sommer of Freistett and his descendants, which could include Martin-Oxford who had a son named George.
- I added some color to the tables to more easily differentiate Freistett from HW clans.
- I added info gleaned from deed research in SLC, November, 2015.
- I really have only studied up to 1830 so far, so changed title to reflect that.

May 2017

misc updates, adding a few records and still sorting through associating records with individuals.

My Basic Family Outline

Note: This outline focuses on those of the name George and Martin in the first four generations of both the Freistett and H-W family groups.

Freistett Sommer family (shows 3 of 4 brothers who emigrated)

- Matthias Sommer, b 1715; arrived in PHL before 1752.
 - Martin Sommer [FM2-1], b 1737; arrived in PHL before 1752; m. Maria <unk>
 - Martin Sommer [FM3], 1772-1824; purportedly m. Sarah Copart; lived in Oxford Twp.
 - **George Sommer [FG4]**
- **Georg Sommer [FG1] 1722-1785**, arrived in PHL 1752; settled in Sussex, NJ
 - **George Summers [FG2-1], 1745-1825**, lived in Warrington, Bucks, PA.
- Martin Sommer [FM1] 1729-1799, arrived in PHL 1752, m. Margaretha <unk>
 - Martin [FM2-2], 1770-1811, m. Maria Sommer in 1792; blacksmith.
 - **George [FG2-2], 1777-1810** m. Sarah Ehl in 1798; blacksmith and grocer.

HW Sommer family (shows father and 2 of 5 sons who emigrated)

- Hermann Sommer 1699-1767, arrived with 5 sons 1754. Hermann's 3 sons Henry, Matthew, and Peter did not have any sons Martin or George that we know of (but Matthew we don't really know). Hermann's other two sons:
 - Phillip 1735-1814 + Salome had sons
 - Martin Summers [HM2], 1764-1845. He married Els. Haupt in 1785.
 - **George [HG3-1], 1789-1862** + Sarah Hilkherd
 - Martin [HM4-1], 1792-1820; married Elis. Freed and left orphans
 - **George [HG2] 1766-<unk> + Els Dotts**
 - **George [HG3-2] 1798-1860** m. Sarah Neely in 1832.
 - Martin [HM1] 1740-1804 + AB Geis had son
 - Philip [HP2] 1770-1824 + Susannah Schmidt had sons
 - Martin [HM4-1] 1797-1860
 - **George [HG3-3] 1799-1870**

Notes on Unplaced George's

- There was a J. George Sommer who arrived 27 Sep 1753 on the ship Windsor:
 - STRASSBURGER, RALPH BEAVER. Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808. Edited by William John Hinke. Norristown [PA]: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934. 3 vols. Vols. 1 and 3 reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1964. Repr. 1983. Vol. 1. 1727-1775. 776p – p. 557
- There was a George Summers, son of Andreas/Andrew Summers who was noted getting a seaman's protection document in 1815. Also, I have some notes from previous research about an Andreas Sommer in the early StM&Z church records associated with our Mange/Menge family.

Notes on Other George's – Considered (prefix = O)

- **OG-1** In 1757, Joh. George Sommer married Catharina Hesser, StM&Z; witnesses Joh. Keyser, Joh. Hesser & Joh. Linker. Some indication this George later lived in Northumberland County.
 - Joh. Georg Sommer and Catharina Hesser married in Germantown 22 Apr 1757.
 - Georg wrote his will and died in Dec 1758, leaving his estate to Catherine and mentioning his brother John Hesser.
 - A Johann Georg Sommer died 1758 at age 29 [born 1729] – burial StM&Z.
 - Fast-forward to 1792 and the will of John Hesser of Germantown, Innholder. He lists a sister, Catherine Sommers, and a nephew, George Sommers. In locating John Hesser's will, he specifically named his sister Catharine and her two children Mary and George Sommers (nephew George Sommers was also an executor of John Hesser's will).
 - Studying the book, A history of the Hesser family (1708-1945), by George Ernest Hesser, 1947, I found mention of George Summers as being from Northumberland County, at least for a while (reference deed GWR-5-535, 1 Apr. 1800, which I did not look up). Indeed, there was a George Summers in that place in the 1800 census. I feel fairly certain, this must be the nephew, but I don't know anything about his family.

So! All of this helps clear up a lot of confusion I had about this George Sommer, but now that we know more about him, as well as his son of the same name, the only connection I see is with the HW clan: Maria Sommer, daughter of Henrich Sommer and Anna Catharina Dessinger, born in PHL in 1770, married Daniel LINKER in 1789. I don't know anything about the Linker family or whether this Daniel Linker was related to the Joh. Linker who was witness to Sommer-Hesser marriage in 1757.

Notes on Other George's – Not Considered (prefix = X)

I have assigned the following George's an identifier in the following record tables, when possible, but I am not currently considering them as candidates who could belong to either the Freistett or HW clans. My reason for not including them is noted.

- **XG-1** There is a probate record, 2 Feb 1821, for Maria widow of George Summers, where Henry Beck, PHL merchant also posted bond. Book M, p. 251-252. This George Summers was a mariner. On ancestry, there is a marriage record for George Summers to Anna Maria Beck in 1818 in PHL. I am not considering this couple because the marriage took place at a Roman Catholic church, and our families were all firmly Protestant if not Lutheran.
- **XG-2** The majority of deeds in PHL county involving a George Summers pertained in some way to George Summers who married Lydia (Wright), and who was a carpenter. I came up with

22 deeds between 1794 and 1816! Many, if not most of these deeds also involved the name of another carpenter, Joseph Worrell. I had been thinking this one is worth keeping on the radar for two reasons:

- In 1809, a Joseph Worrell, among others, was appointed to audit the accounts of Jacob Sommer of Moreland and Joshua Comely, who had been assigned as guardians of the minor children of Dr. Samuel Knight (who died 1796), namely Lavinia (later married Joseph Lloyds, Quaker), Julia, and Hannah. I believe there were multiple men named Joseph Worrell during this time period, but it's still interesting to consider if Joseph Worrell, a carpenter and seeming real estate partner with a George Summers in PHL, was chosen to audit accounts of a state senator. HmMMM.
- Second, many crowd-sourced family trees associate this George as the son of Andreas Sommer and Maria Maurer. The name of Andreas Sommer has potential ties with my Menge/Mann family and from there, with either the Freistett or HW Sommer clan.

However! I have since decided not to include this couple as possible relations to Freistett or HW clans because, again, of the church where they were married. This George and Lydia were married in 1794 at the Christ Church in PHL, and their first 6 children were baptized there. Christ Church was/is an Episcopal church, which has its roots with the Church of England. I think this George was probably English, and I believe his carpenter-partner was Quaker.

Known George's in PHL area before 1800

ID	Years	Son of	Wife	Year Married
FG1	1722-1785	Matthias & AB Hubscher	Anna Barbara Rub	1745 in Germany
FG2-1	1747-1825	Geo FG1 & AB Rub	Anna Newswanger	1773
HG2	1766-<unk>	Phil & Salome	Els. Dotts	Abt 1794
FG2-2	1777-1810	Mart FM1 & Marg.	Sarah Ehl	1798
HG3-1	1789-1862	Mart HM2 & Els Haupt	Sarah Hilkherd	Unk.
HG3-2	1798-1860	Geo HG2 & Els Dotts	Sarah Neely	1832
HG3-3	1799-1870	Phil & Sus. Schmidt	Els. Gamble	Unk
FG4	B ~ 1803-1810	Mart FM3-Oxford	Unk	Unk
OG-1	B ~ 1758	Geo & Cath. Hesser	Unk	Unk
XG-1	D ~ 1820	Unk	Anna Maria Beck	1818
XG-2	Unk	Unk	Lydia Wright	1794

Known George's Age Chart (based on birth year)

ID	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840
FG1 (d 1785)	-	-	-	-	-	-
FG2-1	43	53	63	73	-	-
HG2	24	34	44	54	64?	?
FG2-2	13	23	33	-	-	-
HG3-1	1	11	21	31	41	51
HG3-2	-	2	12	22	32	42
HG3-3	-	1	11	21	31	41
FG3 ¹					~25-30	
OG-1 ²	~32	~42	~52			
XG-1 ³				??		
XG-2 ⁴		~26	~36	~46		

Known George Locations – up to 1800

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Poss ID
1769	Lower Dublin	Tax Lists			FG1
1774	N. Libs	Tax Lists			FG1
1785-1787	Germantown	Tax Lists			OG-1?
1786	Warrington, Bucks	PA Septennial Census			FG2-1
1788	Upper Delaware	Tax Lists			
1790	Bucks	US Fed. Census	5, 3m/2f		FG2-1
1790	Germantown	US Fed. Census	1 m		HG2? OG-1?
1793	Gwynedd, MontCo	PA Septennial Census			
1794	PHL, Lombard St.	Deed		Carpenter	XG-2

- 1 If this George, an orphan of Martin-Oxford, was assigned a gdn in 1824 and was over 14 at that time, then I'm guessing he would start showing up on his own in the 1830 census, if he stayed in the PHL area.
- 2 George Summers, the nephew of John Hesser, was administrator of John's estate in 1792, so this George was alive up to 1790.
- 3 Not sure about this George; assume if he married (Beck) in 1818 and probate was 1821, he might show up in the 1820 census.
- 4 Also have no birth or death date for this George; I'm just guessing that he was around 20 years old in 1794 when he married Lydia. The deeds I have run through 1816, so not sure if he died or moved after that. Supposedly he died in 1823 in Camden, NJ (?), but he is still in the PHL city directory in 1822 (not 1823).

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Poss ID
1798	New Market Ward, PHL	Tax Lists	72 S. 5 th St.; also rent to other		XG-2?

Note about 1800 Census (next table):

This census was taken over the period of 9 months, starting 4 August 1800. The enumeration was to include all people who were alive on 4 August 1800. So, for example, if the enumerator arrived in April, 1801 and somebody in that household had died between August 1800 and April 1801, that person was still to be enumerated. Conversely, if a baby was born after 4 August, it was not to be enumerated.

Known George Locations – Continued - 1800-1809

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Possible ID
1800	North Mulberry Ward, PHL	PA Septennial Census		Aged	??
1800	Warrington, Bucks	US Fed. Census	5, 3m/2f (ads > 45)		FG2-1
1800	New Market Ward, PHL	PA Septennial Census		Carpenter	XG-2
1800	106 Lombard St.	City Directory		House carpenter	XG-2
1800	Cedar Ward, PHL	US Fed. Census	8, 4m/3f (ads 26-44)		XG-2
1803, 06-07, 10	Philadelphia, 25 Powell	City Directory		Carpenter	XG-2
1800	Whitpain, MontCo	PA Septennial Census		Farmer	??
1800	Whitpain, MontCo	US Fed. Census	8, 6m/2f; adults over 45	Farmer	???
1800	South Mulberry Ward, PHL	US Fed. Census	10, 7m/3f (oldest > 45)		OG-1?
1800	North Ward, PHL	PA Septennial Census		Blacksmith	FG2-2
1800	N. Liberties West, PHL	US Fed. Census	Widow Summers > 45, 2 ads 16-25 & 1 child	Just married, probably w/ just-widowed mother	FG2-2
1802	Mulberry St.	Deed		Grocer,	FG2-2

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Possible ID
				blacksmith	
1805	Mulberry St.	Deed	George & Sarah	Grocer, blacksmith	FG2-2
1807	Philadelphia, Mulberry near 12 th	City Directory		Blacksmith	FG2-2

My Notes:

- Whitpain is NE of Norriton, so seems this must fit in HW branch, but I'm not finding a George who would fit the ages in the household.
- South Mulberry also curious – our George already accounted for and no other George's of this older age except possibly the George who is related to Hesser family.

Known George Locations – Continued - 1810-1830

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Possible ID
1810	Warrington, Bucks	US Fed. Census	4, 2 younger males, ads > 45		FG2-1
1810	Philadelphia, Mulberry near 12 th	City Directory		Blacksmith	FG2-2
1810	South Mulberry Ward, PHL	US Fed. Census	7, 1m/6f (4 young, 2 ads 26-44, 1 F > 45)	Blacksmith	FG2-2
1810	Philadelphia, 25 Powell	City Directory		Carpenter	XG-2
1810	Cedar Ward, PHL	US Fed. Census	13, 8m/5f, ads 26-44		XG-2
1810	Lower Oxford, Chester Co. (west of PHL)	US Fed. Census	10, ads > 45		HG2?
1820	Upper Oxford, Chester Co. (west of PHL)	US Fed. Census	10, ads > 45		HG2?
1820	Northern Liberties, Ward 3	US Fed. Census	6, 2m/4f, ads 26-44		
1830	Middle Ward ⁵ ,	US Fed. Census	6, 3m/3f, ads		FG3?

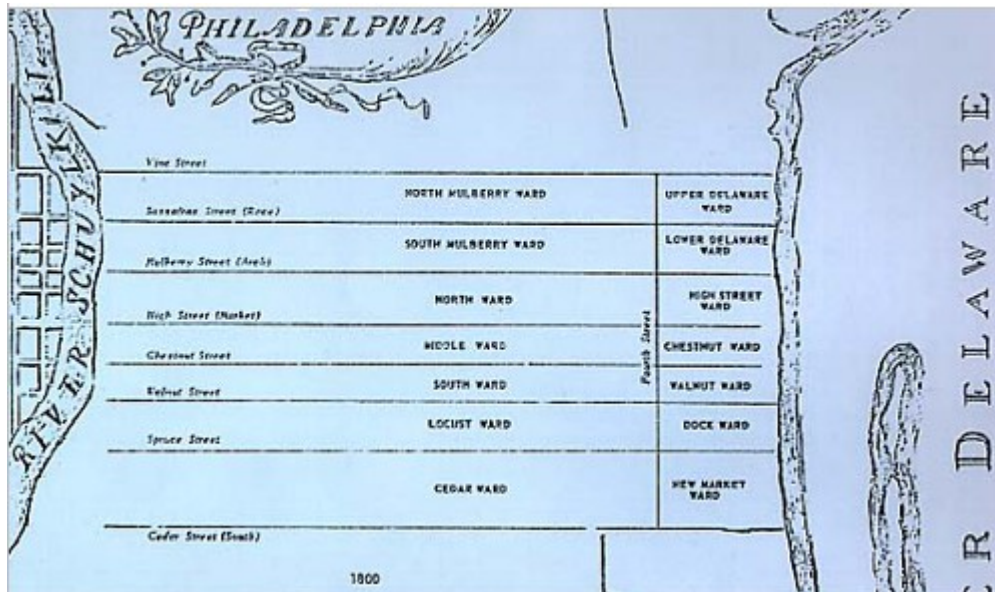
⁵ Middle Ward is a location where HW clan resided when working at the Mint, which continued for several generations. So this might be for a HW member?

Year	Place	Source	Household	Occ	Possible ID
	PHL (only first init)		20-29, 2 < 5		
1830,* 40	Upper Delaware Ward, PHL	US Fed. Census	2 ads, 40-49		HG3-1??
1830	Lower Dublin	US Fed. Census	5, 2 ads 20-29, 3 f < 5		FG3?
1830,* 40	Germantown	US Fed. Census	2 ads 20-29, 2 < 5		
1830	Upper Oxford, Chester, PA	US Fed. Census	5, 2 ads 26-44, 3 < 10		HG3-2
1830	Northumberland County, PA	US Fed Census	2 ads > 45		

Reference

Map of 1800 PHL Wards

1800-1825



from

<http://www.phila.gov/phils/docs/inventor/graphics/wards/wards2.htm>

Misc Notes

G. Byron Summers book mentions that HG2 lived in Chester Co., PA (there is an 1814 deed saying so). Thus I have related that location to him.

Analysis

It seems clear there are many more men named George Sommer/Summers in the PHL area prior to 1850 than we can account for in our Freistett and HW clans. Moreover, I can't seem to account for even the 3rd generation of the HW clan very well at all!

- HG3-1 who married Sarah Hilkherd (or Hilton? or Hilyard?) supposedly spent his life in PHL, according to the G. Byron Summers book. But I don't find him – not a birth record, not a marriage record, not a death record, and strangely, nothing that seems evident in the census records. If his birth is correct (we don't know that it is), he would have been over 40 in the 1830 census. Where is he? And so on, up through 1860. Supposedly he died in 1862 and is buried at Odd Fellows cemetery (same as HG4-3?), but again, I don't find any records.
- HG3-2 who married Sarah Neely supposedly moved to Gap, Lancaster, PA where he married Sarah in 1832 and had his children. But there is no trace I can find of him there prior to 1850. Where is he? Again, if his age is correct, he should be in some census? Might have to hunt through some deeds....
- HG3-3 married Elizabeth Gamble in PHL in 1824 and supposedly carried on the tradition of working at the Mint. I find him in 1860 and 1870, but where before that?

Then there's OG-1, son of Geo. Sommer and Cath. Hesser, who could possibly have ties to the HW branch by having the LINKER family in common. More research would be needed on this one.

All of which has me tossing up my hands on the HW descendants named George. But what of the Freistett George's? There is no question that George FG1, the original immigrant, died in New Jersey in 1785, and his son named George FG2-1 died in Bucks in 1825, without any surviving children. We still know virtually nothing of any descendants of FG2-2, son of Martin. And the appearance of FG3 is new and certainly still speculative that he might belong to our branch of the family.

* * * * *

There is almost too much to chew here with all these possibilities for people named George Summers. But at least some of this picture is clearer than it used to be. If you are related to the Hans Georg Sommer who arrived in 1752, then you have New Jersey connections and associated families that include: Newswanger, Mann, Hayes, Banghart, Knowles, Fite, and Van Deren. At least one other Sommer family group has been identified as being from Hoch-Weisel, where at least one if not more subsequent generations include the name George.

But Sommer was a common German name, not to mention that the surname could also represent another ethnic origin – such as English! So there is always more work to do, so it would seem.