

**Establishing the German Origins
Of Mathias Sommer,
Settler of Monckton Township**

by
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Boulder, Colorado
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Genealogical Proof Argument

Dedication

To all the Sommer ancestors who hailed from Freistett. Many of the roads once leading out of Freistett are now pointing the way home.

Acknowledgments

Both the art and science of genealogy cannot, by definition, happen in a vacuum. I am particularly grateful to the following individuals who gave generously to me of their time and attention on this subject with an open mind and heart, offering me their resources, knowledge, experience, insights, and most importantly, encouragement on the occasional cloudy day.

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Introduction

On 3 Jun 1766, a sloop called Lovey, which had sailed from Philadelphia the previous April, delivered its German passengers to the promise of land and a new life in what was then the province of Nova Scotia. One of those settlers was Mathias Sommer,¹ who along with his wife Christina and six of their children, disembarked 20 miles up the Petitcodiac River to begin a new chapter of their lives. The story of their beginnings there and the subsequent flourishing of their descendants over the last 250 years is truly a remarkable one.

However, even after many years of expert research, the German origins of Mathias Sommer have remained unknown. This article presents evidence which has recently come to light and which, together with previous research, shows that Mathias Sommer of Monckton² had his origins in Freistett, Baden, Germany.

This article is divided into three parts. Part I summarizes the evidence gleaned by previous researchers on the question of Mathias Sommer's German origins. Part II presents my most recent research on the German origins of my Sommer family, one of whom was named Mathias. Part III gives an analysis of all the research combined, presenting three premises in support of the conclusion.

Part I – Research of Others Prior to 2012

I believe it is important to credit the research which has already been conducted in the effort to answer the question of the German origins of Mathias Sommer of Monckton.³ This section summarizes the research work of those who have considered this question long before I came along.

Working backward from the arrival of the German settlers on the Petitcodiac, the following determinations have established that Mathias Sommer of Monckton previously resided in Philadelphia for 17 years:

1. In July, 1766, Mathias Sommer, his wife, Christina, and six of their children⁴ were recorded as settlers to Monckton Township, then part of the British province of Nova Scotia.⁵
2. In January, 1766, Mathias Sommer was the first to sign the Articles of Agreement in Philadelphia, a document which pledged his intention to make the move to Nova Scotia.⁶
3. From 1760-1766, Mathias Sommer was associated with St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Barren Hill.⁷
4. From 1750-1753, Mathias and/or Christina Sommer were congregants at the St. Michael's and Zion (StM&Z) church in Philadelphia.⁸
5. In October, 1749, Mathias Sommer married Christina Null(in) at StM&Z. The witnesses included Jacob Schütt, Hans Jurg Null, Johann Jurg Kurtz, Philip Haller, and John Dorett.⁹

We must also make note of the conflicting evidence which has cropped up along the way:

1. In September, 1751, a passenger arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Anderson whose name has been transcribed as Matthias Sumer.¹⁰ Using facsimiles of the signatures of those who took the Oath of Allegiance to compare the signature of the person who arrived on the Anderson with that of the person who signed the 1766 Articles of Agreement, it has been determined those two individuals were *not* the same person.¹¹ In short, Mathias Sommer of Monckton did not arrive in Philadelphia

aboard the ship Anderson in 1751, and the exact date of his arrival in Philadelphia is still being researched.¹²

2. It was thought at one point that the Mathias Sommer who was a widower and who remarried to Magdalena Aldmann in Philadelphia in 1758, may have been Mathias Sommer of Monckton.¹³ But given that Mathias and Christina were named together in Monckton in 1766, the Mathias Sommer who married Aldmann in 1758 has been determined to be a different individual.

Part II – My Research from 2012-On

I am the 6th great-granddaughter of Joh. Georg Sommer of Freistett. This section gives a summary of my research pertaining to the genealogy of my Sommer family.¹⁴

Working backward from my maternal family relations in Michigan, the following evidence points can be highlighted from my findings:

1. George Summers¹⁵ of Oxford, Sussex, New Jersey died in 1785. His burial record indicated his German origin, which was confirmed as Freistett, Baden, Germany.^{16 17}
2. Joh. Georg Sommer of Freistett, born in 1722, had three brothers: Mathias, Johannes, and Joh. Martin.^{18 19}

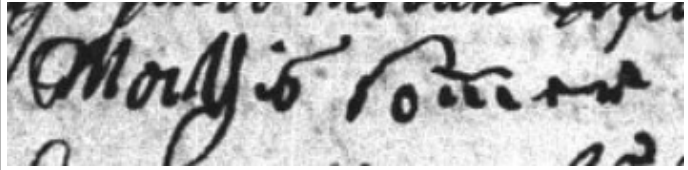
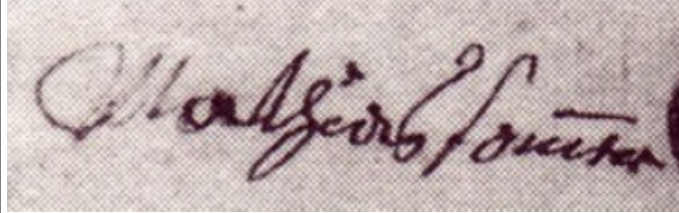
Next, working forward in time again:

3. All four Sommer brothers from this Freistett family group, namely Mathias, Hans Georg, Johannes, and Joh. Martin, left Freistett between 1747-1752.²⁰
4. The younger three of the Sommer brothers from this Freistett family group, Hans Georg, Johannes, and Joh. Martin, arrived in Philadelphia on 22 Sep 1752 aboard the ship Brothers.²¹
5. Margaretha, the first American-born child of my Freistett ancestors, Hans Georg and Anna Barbara, was baptized at StM&Z in October, 1753. Sponsors at her baptism were Matthias Sommer, Margareta Haas(in), and Christina Sommer(in).²² Hans George and Barbara Summers are known to have had a daughter named Margaret who would later marry Thomas Hayes, a New Jersey farmer.²³

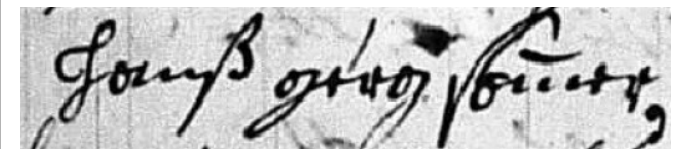
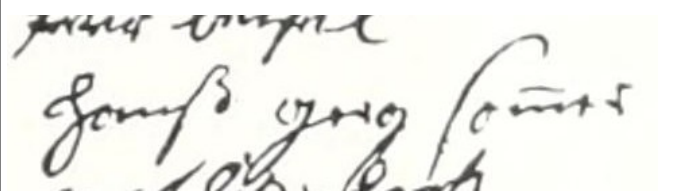
Finally, to review the Philadelphia²⁴ and German records one more time:

6. A study of other surnames associated with Mathias Sommer in StM&Z church records²⁵ showed:
 - Jacob Schütt – this person appeared as witness to Mathias & Christina's marriage in 1749, and was subsequently widowed and remarried in 1750 with Sommer, Schoch, and Stöss as witnesses. He later appeared in records involving Stöss, so I believe he might have been related to that family although it can also be noted that the surname SCHUETT does appear in Freistett records for several decades.
 - Haas – this surname appeared in a 1752 marriage witnessed by Mathias Sommer, as well as the 1753 baptism where Mathias, Christina, and a female Haas were sponsors. In my Freistett Sommer family group, Haas was the surname of Mathias' stepfather, Mathias Haas, who married Anna Barbara Huebscher Sommer in Freistett in 1733. Whether Haas had children from a previous marriage or he had more children with Anna Barbara is unknown. It can also be noted that a Mathias Haas arrived on the same ship with the three Sommer brothers in 1752. The occurrence of the Haas surname in conjunction with the Freistett Sommer brothers was, in all likelihood, not a coincidence.

- Stöss – this surname appeared in association with Mathias Sommer as early as 1750, as well as with Mathias' brother, Johannes, through 1760. This Stöss family group is significant because I have traced its origins to Lichtenau, a nearby village to Freistett.²⁶
 - Schoch – this surname is associated with the Stöss family.
7. A study of documentation pertaining to men of the name Mathias Sommer who lived in the Philadelphia area prior to 1767 has affirmed only one individual of that name who had a wife named Christina, the man who married Christina Null(in) in 1749.²⁷
 8. A study of the Freistett church books after 1736 revealed that they include signatures of the church congregants.²⁸ Using the Freistett church records that I had collected for my Sommer family group,²⁹ I extracted several samples of the signature of Mathias Sommer,³⁰ the older brother of my ancestor Hans Georg Sommer, and compared them to the signature of the individual who signed the 1766 Articles of Agreement in Philadelphia. I conclude that the Freistett signatures of Mathias Sommer, written between 1737-1746, and the signature of the man of the same name who signed the Nova Scotia Articles of Agreement in 1766, were all most likely penned by the same hand.³¹

1737 Freistett ³²	1766 Philadelphia ³³
	

In the same way, I then collected signatures of my ancestor, Hans Georg Sommer, from the Freistett church books, and compared them to the signature of the person who took the Oath of Allegiance in PHL after arriving on the ship Brothers in 1752. Again, the signatures appear to match.

1751 Freistett ³⁴	1752 Philadelphia ³⁵
	

Finally, we also have the 1742 Freistett marriage record between Mathias Sommer and his second wife, Anna Barbara Gramp. In that record, the signature Hans Georg Sommer appears as a witness, and after signing his name, Hans Georg further identified himself as the groom's brother.

Part III – Analysis and Conclusion

Mathias Sommer of Monckton had his origins in Freistett, Baden, Germany. Why is this true?

1. Because Mathias of Monckton had a brother, Hans Georg, who can be traced to Freistett.
2. Because Mathias of Monckton was associated with other Philadelphia families whose origins can be traced to the Hanau region of Germany (which includes Freistett).
3. Because Mathias of Monckton, who signed the 1766 Articles of Agreement in Philadelphia also signed the church books in Freistett from 1737-1746.

Each reason given here is a premise. Premise 1 is broken down into a series of four arguments, presented in the following pages as linkage analysis.³⁶ Note that the sources for each bulleted assertion can be found in the preceding research summaries.

Premises 2 and 3 result directly from the last two evidence points discussed in Part II, and they are included in the summary at the end of Premise 1 analysis.

Premise 1a: The Mathias and Christina Sommer who settled in Nova Scotia in 1766 were the same couple who married in Philadelphia in 1749.

Purpose: To clearly identify the individual named Mathias Sommer who went to Nova Scotia, and establish his whereabouts previous to Monckton.

Evidence Links:

- In July, 1766, Mathias Sommer and his wife Christina were enumerated among the settlers who arrived in Monckton, Nova Scotia from Philadelphia. Their accompanying children were also enumerated, including the two oldest daughters who had been baptized at StM&Z in Philadelphia.
- Only three men of the name Mathias Sommer could be identified in Philadelphia records prior to 1767, and only one had a wife named Christina. That Mathias Sommer married Christina Null(in) at StM&Z Lutheran Church in October, 1749.

Rationale: The point of comparison is a man named Mathias Sommer who had a wife named Christina. Records from several Lutheran churches in the Philadelphia were consulted. I could find only one documented case of a Mathias Sommer with a wife named Christina; they married at StM&Z Lutheran church in 1749, and they continued to appear in subsequent church records through 1753.

Probability:³⁷ Almost Certain

Geographic Linkage: Tracing Mathias Sommer back from Monckton to Philadelphia.



Map attribution: [North America with the United States and Canada - Single Color by FreeVectorMaps.com](https://www.freevector.com/maps)

Premise 1b: George Summers of Oxford, New Jersey originated from Freistett, Baden, Germany.

Purpose: To show that my ancestor, who also had the surname Sommer, had origins in Freistett, Baden, Germany.

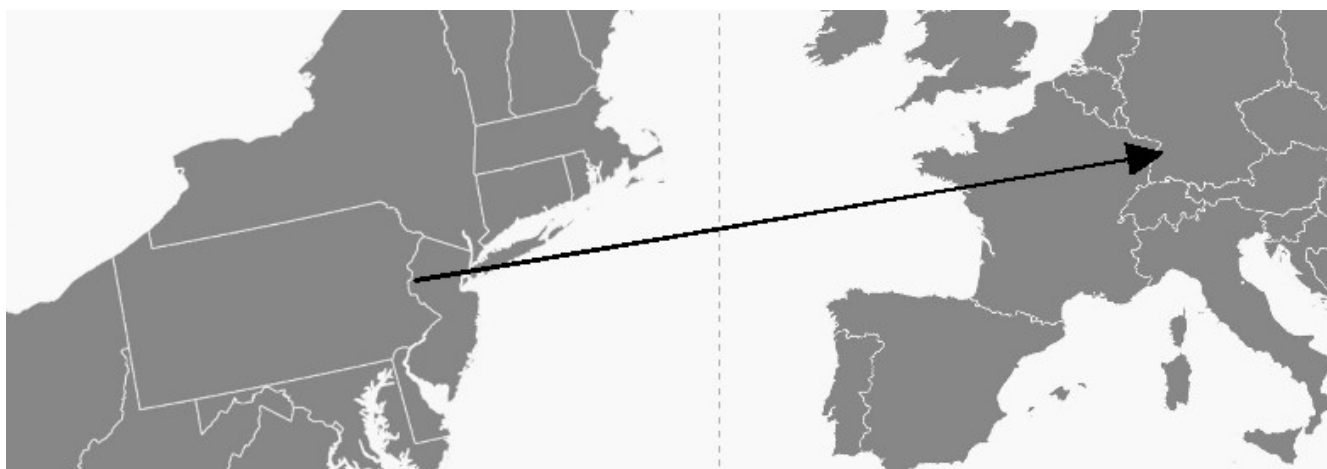
Evidence Links:

- George Summers of Oxford, New Jersey was reportedly born in Freystadt, Elsas in 1721.
- Joh. Georg Sommer of Freistett, Baden, Germany was recorded born in 1722.

Rationale: The name, place, and time frame are similar enough to correlate. The New Jersey record was from a Lutheran church, so in addition to the place and time, we looked for a place name in Germany where a) the place name seemed at least similar to Freystadt, b) the place was in the region of what was then Alsace (in German, Elsas), and c) the inhabitants of the village were mostly Lutheran. The village of Freistett was the only place that met all these criteria. Within Freistett, we then looked for any Sommer individual who might have been called Georg, or some name variation thereof, born in 1721, plus or minus. The record of Johann Georg Sommer born in Freistett in 1722 was the only record to fit the bill.

Probability: Highly Probable

Geographic Linkage: Tracing George Summers back from Oxford, New Jersey to Freistett, Baden, Germany.



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Right Map attribution: [Europe with Countries](#) - Single Color by FreeVectorMaps.com

Premise 1c: My Freistett Sommer family group had four sons, namely Mathias, Hans Georg, Johannes, and Martin, who all removed from Freistett between 1747 and 1752. The three younger brothers, Hans Georg, Johannes, and Martin, arrived in Philadelphia in 1752.

Purpose: To identify four Sommer brothers from my Freistett family group, all of whom left Freistett, and three of whom are known to have emigrated to Philadelphia.

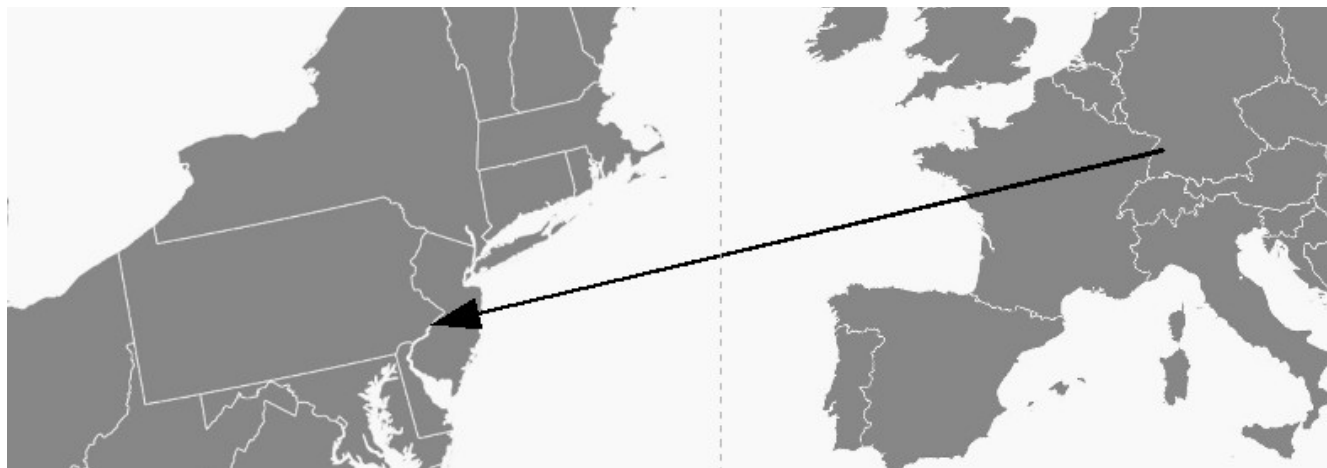
Evidence Links:

- Joh. Georg Sommer of Freistett had three brothers: Mathias, Johannes, and Joh. Martin.
- Freistett records for Mathias Sommer end after 1746, for Hans Georg and Johannes after 1751, and for the youngest, Martin, no Freistett records for him have been found in Freistett after his birth in 1729.
- The names of Hans Georg, Johannes, and Hans Martin Sommer were all recorded as being passengers aboard the ship Brothers, which arrived in Philadelphia on 22 Sep 1752.
- Starting in 1753, Philadelphia church records show the younger Freistett Sommer brothers: Hans Georg with his wife Anna Barbara, Johannes with his wife Anna Eva, and Martin who apparently married in Philadelphia and whose later death record reflects an exact age that corresponds with his birth date in Freistett.

Rationale: The point of comparison is the names of the Sommer brothers and the dates associated with those brothers in both Freistett and PHL. The Freistett church records, which exist from 1621-1962, establish Sommer brothers of these names, their parents, their baptisms, most of their marriages, as well as the baptisms of their German children up to 1751. If there were deaths among these Sommer brothers, they almost certainly would have been noted in the Freistett church records. Furthermore, the subsequent church records in Philadelphia confirm the names of the younger Sommer brothers, their wives, their ages, and the baptisms of their American children after 1752 when they arrived in PHL.

Probability: Almost Certain

Geographic Linkage: Tracing three of four Sommer brothers forward from Freistett, Baden, Germany to Philadelphia.



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Right Map attribution: [Europe with Countries](#) - Single Color by FreeVectorMaps.com

Premise 1d: Mathias Sommer of Monckton who married Christina in Philadelphia in 1749, and Hans Georg Sommer of Freistett whose daughter was baptized in Philadelphia in 1753, were brothers.

Purpose: To show the relationship between the man who later migrated to Monckton, and the man who was known to have been born in Freistett, Baden, Germany, and who migrated to PHL and later to Oxford, New Jersey.

Evidence Links:

- In 1753, Mathias and Christina Sommer were sponsors of the first American-born child of Hans George and Anna Barbara Sommer, the parents having arrived from Freistett in 1752 (Premise 1c).
- Hans Georg Sommer of Freistett had a wife named Anna Barbara, as well as a brother named Mathias (Premise 1c), who apparently left Freistett after 1746, and who has previously not been accounted for.
- Signature comparisons between PHL and Freistett for both Mathias Sommer and Hans Georg Sommer are an almost certain match.

Rationale: The point of comparison in these pieces of evidence is the occurrence of both names, Mathias Sommer and Hans Georg Sommer, as well as the locale of Freistett.

The appearance of Mathias and Christina Sommer as sponsors in the 1753 baptism suggests a family relationship between the parents and the sponsors because in the German tradition, parents often selected relatives as sponsors for their children at baptism.³⁸ Hans Georg's father had died by 1732, and Hans Georg had no uncle of the name Mathias. Nor have I found any other Freistett male of the name Mathias Sommer who might have been, for example, a cousin who could have also emigrated to America. The documentation in Freistett points to only one Mathias Sommer who might have been a relative of Hans Georg Sommer, his older brother.

Furthermore, the timing of events pertaining to Mathias and Hans Georg Sommer supports the possibility that Hans Georg's older brother Mathias had also emigrated to PHL, where he was living with his third wife by the time of the 1753 baptism.

- 1746 – Mathias, brother of Hans Georg, last seen in Freistett records
- 1749 – Mathias married Christina in PHL
- 1752 – Arrival of Hans Georg, Johannes, and Martin in PHL
- 1753 – Baptism of Hans Georg's daughter where Mathias and Christina were sponsors

But it is, finally, the signature evidence that ties everything together. We have the signature of Mathias Sommer of Monckton on the 1766 Articles of Agreement which appears to closely match all the signature samples from Freistett church records that had been signed by the Mathias Sommer from my family group. We also have the signature matches of Hans Georg Sommer, which also match between Freistett and PHL. And even more than that, the signatures of Mathias and Hans Georg appear together in the 1742 Freistett marriage record of Mathias Sommer and Anna Barbara Gramp, where Hans Georg signed his name as a witness, and explicitly identified himself as brother of the groom.

Taken together, the linkage analyses for Premise 1 lead us to the following deductive argument:

- ✓ If Hans Georg Sommer, who was born in Freistett and emigrated to Philadelphia in 1752, and Mathias Sommer, the settler who migrated to Monckton from Philadelphia in 1766, were brothers,
- ✓ Then Mathias Sommer of Monckton was also originally from Freistett.

Probability: Almost Certain

Geographic Linkage: Intersection of Premises 1a and 1c in Philadelphia.

Premise 2: Mathias Sommer of Monckton was associated with other Philadelphia families whose origins can be traced to the Hanau region of Germany (which includes Freistett).

Rationale: Based on my knowledge of the Freistett Sommer family group, I can associate the Haas surname with my Sommer family group. Additionally, I traced the genealogy of one particular Stöss family group, the one seen in association with Sommer in PHL records, to Lichtenau, a neighboring village to Freistett. That particular Stöss family group also included other surnames seen in association with Mathias Sommer (Schütt and Schoch). Those same families were also later associated with Mathias' younger brothers, Hans Georg and Johannes.

Probability: Almost Certain

Premise 3: Mathias Sommer of Monckton, who signed the 1766 Articles of Agreement in Philadelphia also signed the church books in Freistett from 1737-1746.

Rationale: First, I used a standard methodology when comparing the signature samples.³⁹ With regard to the handwriting analysis itself, a degree of uncertainty is expected.⁴⁰ However,

“It is reasonable to accept - cautiously - a scholarly identification of handwriting which depends on a balance of probability. However the scrutiny which forensic analysis has undergone should help us to maintain a healthy scepticism about handwriting identification, especially when a document is simply asserted as being in a given person's handwriting without the basis of this identification being made clear.”⁴¹

In this case, the basis for using the Freistett signatures to confirm identification of Mathias Sommer of Freistett comes from premises 1 and 2. There was already cause to associate Mathias Sommer of Monckton with Freistett, and the signature evidence serves to further solidify that conclusion.

Probability: Almost Certain

Conclusion

Mathias Sommer of Monckton was the oldest son of my Sommer family group, and he originated from Freistett, Baden, Germany.

After careful analysis of all the evidence, all three of the premises presented here in support of this conclusion have an Almost Certain probability.

In summary, the historical evidence traces Mathias Sommer of Monckton from Monckton back to Philadelphia and from there, by association to his brother, Hans Georg, as well as to other families originating from Hanau, back to Freistett where the genealogical evidence resides. Taken together with the lack of any contrary evidence *and* the existence of convincing signature evidence which spans many years between Freistett and Philadelphia, the German origin of the man named Mathias Sommer⁴² who traveled from Philadelphia to Monckton in 1766 can be settled.



Map attribution: http://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=168840&lang=en

- 1 There are varying spellings of this name, but I choose to use this spelling for this article, for reasons that will be understood by the conclusion.
- 2 The modern spelling of this township is Moncton, but in this article, I will use the original spelling of Monckton.
- 3 - Bowser, Les, *The Search for Heinrich Stief, A Genealogist on the Loose* (Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, NS, 2001).
- Hempel, Rainer L, *New Voices on the Shores* (German-Canadian Historical Assn, Toronto, 2000).
- Wright, Esther Clark – six books pertaining to New Brunswick history published from 1945-1978.
- 4 The first two Sommer children enumerated in 1766 Nova Scotia were the same two children baptized at StM&Z in Philadelphia.
Hess, Robert L. and F. Edward Wright, *18th Century Records of the German Lutheran Church of Philadelphia (St. Michael's and Zion)*, Volumes 1-5 (1745-1800), Lewes, DE, 2008, Vol 1.
5 Bowser, p. 202-203, source credit to Dr. Allen Robertson.
- 6 Bowser, p. 24-30, source credit to Dr. Esther Clark Wright.
- 7 - Hempel, pp. 144-145.
- Bowser, pp. 40-41.
- Tappert, T.G. & J.W. Doberstein, translators, *Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in Three Volumes* (Philadelphia: Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium and Muhlenberg Press, 1955), Vol II., pp. 206, 303.
- Aland, Kurt and Hermann Wellenreuther, *Die Korrespondenz Heinrich Melchior Muhlenbergs : aus der Anfangszeit des Deutschen Luthertums un Nordamerika* (Berlin ; New York : W. de Gruyter, 1986-2002); Vol. V, p. 712.
- 8 Hess, vols. 1, 4.
- 9 Hess, Vol 4, p. 853.
- 10 Strassburger, Ralph B., ed. William J. Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers, A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727-1808*, Second Printing in Two Volumes, Volume I, 1727-1775; (Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, MD, 1980), Vol I, p. 451.
- 11 Quinter, Edward, “Treutz, Treitz, Trüz, Trites and comparison of signatures”, *Generations, The Journal of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society* 38.3 (Fall 2016), p. 25.
- 12 This point is one for future research. I have speculated about the ship Edinburgh, which arrived 5 September 1748. Names on this passenger list that can be associated with Mathias Sommer are Philip Haller and Valtin Müller. In addition, I have suspicions about the passenger who was transcribed as Matheas Krammer, for whom the clerk signed. Because of the timing of this ship's arrival, plus two names on the list which can later be associated with Mathias Sommer, plus the appearance of "Matheas xx-mmer" on this list, which is so close to what we're looking for, I believe this possibility is one that deserves further consideration.
- 13 Hempel, p. 142 and pp. 403-404.
- 14 Janice Lee McCarty, my third cousin, shares equal credit in the research and discovery of our Sommer family tracing back to Freistett, Baden, Germany. For this reason, I use the pronoun “we” when describing that original research in 2012.
- 15 This spelling is the Anglicized version of the baptismal name Johann Georg Sommer. This article uses the spelling “George Summers” when referring to the man in New Jersey, and the spelling “Hans Georg Sommer” or “Georg Sommer” when referring to the man in Philadelphia and Germany. In all cases, I am referring to the same person, my 6th g-grandfather from Freistett.
- 16 Schaefer, M.A. & J.L. McCarty, [Differentiating Sommer Surnames, Arrival in Philadelphia from Germany Pre-Revolution](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/DifferentiatingSommerSurnamesUpdate3.pdf); (yesteryours.net, 30 Nov 2012, upd 2016); access <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/DifferentiatingSommerSurnamesUpdate3.pdf>.
- 17 Kiefer, Hermann, *1175 Jahre Freistett 828-2003 - Heimat am Rhein* (Rheinau Stadt, Rheinau, 2003), p. 35, Section 10, my translation: “It is clear that Oberfreistett and Niederfreistett, previously separate communities, were now a single community with the name “Freystett”.
- 18 Schaefer, M.A., [Descendants of Matthias Sommer & Anna Barbara Hübscher](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/MathiasDescendantReportFNs-5.pdf); (yesteryours.net, January 2017); access <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/MathiasDescendantReportFNs-5.pdf>.
- 19 Schaefer, M.A. [Simple Sommer Diagram](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/sommers_diagram-Jan2016.png) (yesteryours.net, 2016); access: http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/sommers_diagram-Jan2016.png
- 20 Evangelische Kirche Freistett, *Kirchenbuch, 1621-1962*, Karlsruhe : Evangelische Landeskirche Baden; Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT, 7 microfilm reels, 1189673-1189679. Freistett records for Mathias Sommer end after 1746, for Hans Georg and Johannes after 1751, and for Martin, no records for him exist in Freistett after his birth in 1729.
- 21 Strassburger, pp. 481-482.
- 22 Hess, Vol 1, p. 39.
- 23 Hess, Vol 4, p. 953.
- 24 The records of StM&Z church were written mostly in German, and so two published translations have been used in searching the records, noted here. However, because of minor discrepancies noted between the translations, the original church records were consulted, and their meaning was confirmed by me and Les Bowser (my thanks for his assistance).

- + Hess, Robert L. and F. Edward Wright, *18th Century Records of the German Lutheran Church of Philadelphia (St. Michael's and Zion)*, Volumes 1-5 (1745-1800), Lewes, DE, 2008
- + Sachse, Julius F, *The records of St. Michael's and Zion Congregation of Philadelphia* (Lancaster, Pennsylvania : Pennsylvania German Society, 1897-1905); v. 7 (p. 537-576), v. 8 (p. 199-222), v. 9 (p. 449-468), v. 14 (p. 1-140) of the Proceedings and addresses of the Pennsylvania German Society.
- + St. Michael's and Zion Lutheran Church, St. Michael's and Zion Lutheran church records (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 1745-1927 (Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1946, 1982); Family History Library, 6 microfilm reels, 1312256-1312261.
- 25 Hess, Vols. 1, 4, 5.
- 26 Schaefer, M.A., [Sommer-Stoess Connections](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/StoessConnectionsLicht.pdf) (yesteryours.net, January 2017); access: <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/StoessConnectionsLicht.pdf>
- 27 Schaefer, M.A., [Differentiating Matthias Sommer's in Philadelphia](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/DiffMatthias8.pdf) (yesteryours.net, January 2013, upd. 2017); access <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/DiffMatthias8.pdf>
- 28 This practice of including signatures in church books was by decree of Ludwig VIII, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt when he took over the former Hanau-Lichtenberg lands around 1736. See following German reference for details.
Alfred Leitz: [Geschichte der Gemeinden Freistett und Neufreistett bis zum Uebergang an das Großherzogtum Baden, dargestellt im Zusammenhange mit der Geschichte des gesamten badischen Hanauerlandes](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Geschichte_der_Gemeinden_Freistett_und_Neufreistett/172), Kehl 1890; access: http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Geschichte_der_Gemeinden_Freistett_und_Neufreistett/172.
- 29 See Part II, [evidence point 2](#), including sources cited.
- 30 Schaefer, M.A., [Records of Mathias Sommer of Freistett](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/MatthiasInFreistett.pdf) (yesteryours.net, 2016-2017), access: <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/MatthiasInFreistett.pdf>.
- 31 Schaefer, M.A., [Sommer Signature Comparisons](http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/SigsMyAnal.pdf) (yesteryours.net, 2017); access: <http://www.yesteryours.net/mann/docs/SigsMyAnal.pdf>.
- 32 Evangelische Kirche Freistett, FHL film 1189673, item 10.
- 33 Historical Society of Pennsylvania, *Articles of Agreement*, John Hughes Papers.
- 34 Evangelische Kirche Freistett, FHL film 1189673, item 10.
- 35 Strassburger, Vol II, pp. 570-571.
- 36 Anderson, Robert Charles, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2014).
- 37 The four probabilities given in Anderson's book (see previous end note) are: *Almost Certain* – in excess of 90%, *Highly Probable* – well in excess of 50% but not Almost Certain, *Probable* – barely 50%, *Possible* – less than 50% and not demonstrably impossible. See p. 37 of Anderson's book.
- 38 Scheer, Teva J., *Our Daily Bread, German Village Life, 1500-1850* (Adventis Press, British Columbia; 2010), pp. 117-118.
- 39 Centre for Study of the Renaissance, “[The Process of Handwriting Comparison](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/comparing)”, access: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/comparing>
- 40 Centre for Study of the Renaissance, “[Levels of Proof and the Reliability of Handwriting Analysis](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/forensic)”, <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/forensic>
- 41 Centre for Study of the Renaissance, “[The Relevance of Forensic Analysis to Scholarly Analysis](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/forensic)”, <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/lima/handwriting/forensic>
- 42 My reason for using the spelling of Mathias Sommer in this article results from the signature evidence. The signatures of Mathias Sommer, in both Freistett and Philadelphia, reflect the spelling that he himself associated with his name: Mathias Sommer.