

General: Compiled Lineage

From the Däjers of Mecklenburg, Germany to the Duegers of Tonawanda, New York: 140+ years of family history and a 40-year genealogical saga

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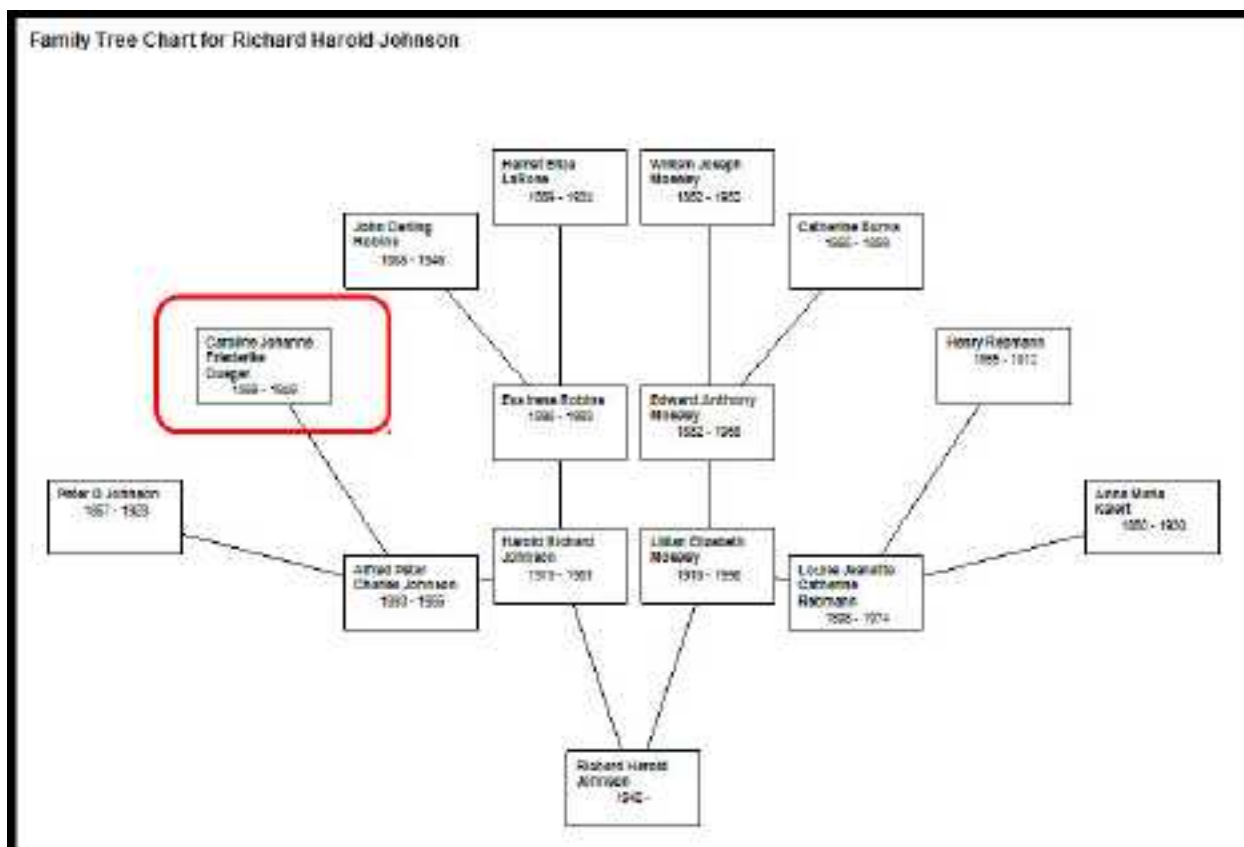
Document Overview

This document consists of the following parts:

- An overview of the Düjer/Dueger family
- A short history of the genealogical research that has been done on the family
- Suggested future research objectives for the next version of the family story
- A current version of the compiled lineage, which consists of two reports out of Family Tree Maker

Düjer/Dueger Family Overview

Caroline Johanne Friederike (“Lena”) Düjer [Dueger] Johnson (1869-1949), the person who begins this story, is the great-grandmother of my husband, Richard Harold Johnson (1942-).



Lena was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany on 27 Jul 1869. She migrated to the United States with her parents and older siblings in 1872 when she was about 3. **Lena is child #4 on the attached family group sheet.**

When family members were living in Germany they used the surname Dürger; it appears on the migration records, as well. In the 1880 United States census they had switched to Dürger, and after that to Duerger.

The family also adopted new or altered given names, as well. For example, Carl Joachim Friedrich (Lena's father) is listed as Joachim in the migration records, and he adopted the more American "Charles" after he had been in the United States for a few years.

Lena married Peter G. Johnson, a first-generation American, born in Oswego, New York, whose parents migrated from Denmark (father) and Germany (mother) in about 1862.

Peter and Lena met and married in Tonawanda (near Buffalo), New York, where they had seven more children (11 total), lived most of their lives, and both died, he in 1928 and she in 1949.



Research History

For me the genealogical story of Lena Düjer began with a single line written in about 1970 at an informal family gathering in San Diego, California, and has progressed (now, over 40 years later) to the compiled lineage attached to this document.

It all began with a family history challenge

I grew up with family history: my mother was her family's historian and I spent many Sunday afternoons listening to family stories over dinner or while walking through cemeteries looking at gravestones. Therefore, I credit myself with the following suggestion to my husband one day (in about 1970) after our first two children had been born but were still quite young:

Honey, we know a lot about my family, but we don't know much about yours, and maybe at some point our kids will be interested in hearing about their ancestors. The next time we drive down to San Diego to see your parents, why don't we ask them some questions about the family?

The result was a set of notes that my husband scribbled down as quickly as he could at his parents' dining room table while the kids played in the back yard. About 10 years later his father was dead and his mother was mostly beyond remembering family events and telling family stories. We're both glad we thought to ask for the information when we did.

The only fact we got that day about Lena Dueger appears below.

Family History notes written in about 1970 by Richard Harold Johnson (1942-) in Spring Valley, CA. Informants were Harold Richard Johnson (1919-1981) and Lillian Elizabeth Moseley Johnson (1918-1996).

~~Alfred~~ Alfred Peter Charles Johnson
born - Feb 17, 1893 in Tanawanda (died ^{father} Feb 15, 1956)

left school before high school

married 1915

worked as machinist (Autowheel Carriage Co) until 1924
1926-1929 ^{from 1924} farmed in Springfield, Ontario, Canada

1929 opened hotdog stand (Bloss was driving dog)

1929 bought gas station (from uncle during prohibition 1933)

1932 bankrupt - lost 1st yr high school

King became bartender at Kudzinakis at Olmstedbank St

bought house under Hpa. Peter was 1933

1933 - Machinist at Spaulding Fides (24/mt)

1951 - Ryan Aero, Tooling inspector, worked for Dad

Father - Peter Johnson - died of drink 1927

his father ⁽¹⁸⁰⁰⁾ came from Norway, name Hanson

changed legally to Johnson

worked at Spaulding Fides (concrete machinist)

Mother - Lena Singer - died of cancer late 1940's

Records from a Buffalo genealogist

For almost 20 years (as our children were growing up) little research was done by either my husband or myself on our family trees. However, in 1989 he hired a genealogist in the Buffalo, NY area (near to where most of the Dueger descendants were still living) to do some further research. This was before the Internet, and his choices were either travel to Buffalo or hire someone local; he chose the latter. The local genealogist, Dorothy Dehn, expanded our knowledge of the Duegers with copies of Buffalo-area records.



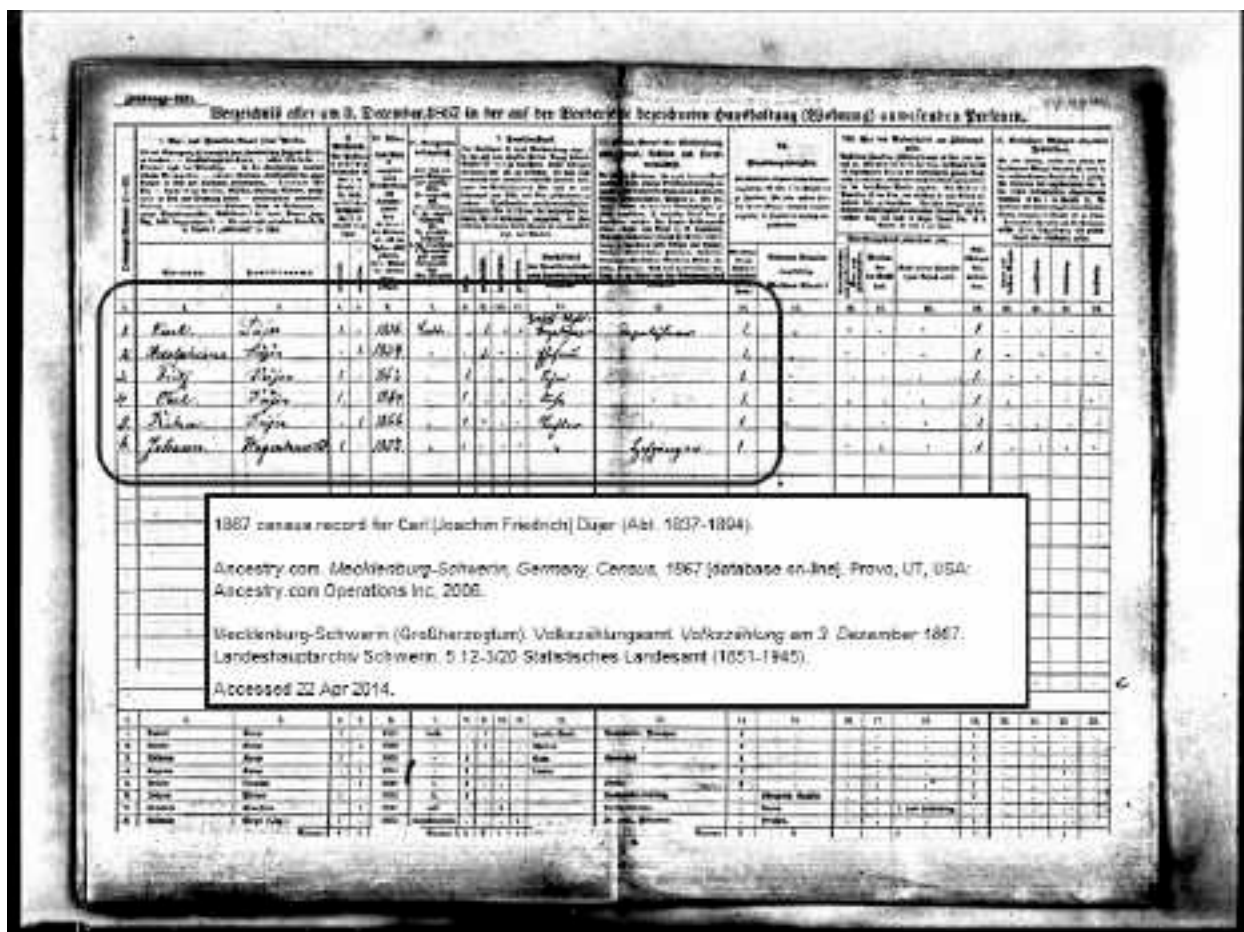
Research in the Internet era

We have added a lot of information about the U.S. branch of the family as more and more records became available online. Until recently most of these were U.S. records.

The abundance of online records eventually produced some negative results: “copy-and-paste” operations out of public family trees resulted in suspect or outright incorrect information being included in the Family Tree Maker files. During my current genealogy project I had to correct or delete a number of facts and even a few people (for example, a Joachim Düjer found in the 1819 Mecklenburg-Schwerin census, who might be Carl’s father, but (alas) the proof is just not there yet).

Research for this project

My most recent research resulted in German census and emigration/immigration records’ being added to this family group. The most important German record was from the Mecklenburg-Schwerin of 1867, a census I worked on as part of the indexing assignment in this class!



In addition to searching the German and migration records, I have added some key U.S. vital records (mostly death records), cleaned up errors, and improved existing records with annotations.

The result is captured in two attached reports out of Family Tree Maker:

- A family group report for the Carl (Charles) Düjer/Dueger family group
- An outline descendant report for Carl Joachim Friedrich (Charles) Düjer/Dueger (it does contain information about a few living people, but I'm confident it won't be going any farther than your desk – thanks!)

Analysis of the research and reports

I believe that the reports and the research behind them have high genealogical value for the following reasons:

- The work was done with great care and references key records from both Germany and the United States.
- I chose source records that appear to have the highest credibility and informational value (for example, census and immigration records, and both official death records as well as obituaries).
- I found few discrepancies between records documenting the same facts.

- Where there were minor differences (for example, the spelling of a name or a date variant), I have chosen the one I consider the most likely but have noted the differences.
- In the research notes (also summarized below) are suggested future research projects on this family.
- Between this document and the two Family Tree Maker reports I believe it would be relatively easy for either a professional genealogist or another family member to understand the family history, the key facts about family members, and what information is still missing.

Suggested Future Research Objectives

I believe the following areas of research are logical next steps for this family group:

- Fill in additional details about the family by adding U.S. census records for all “missing” years
- Search for more information about the family’s life in the Buffalo area (for example, gather occupation, education, and residence facts)
- Go back in time at least one more generation in Germany
- Go forward in time at least one more full generation in the United States
- Gather additional facts from church records (especially Salem Church records, which are a rich source of information for this family group and others in the extended family)
- Research in-laws in this family group (especially those also born in Germany)

Compiled Lineage

Please see the two attached reports out of Family Tree Maker:

- Family Group Sheet for Carl Joachim Friedrich Düjer (with source citations)
- Outline Descendant Report for Carl Joachim Friedrich Düjer

[Please note that there are approximately 75 media items (all annotated) for this family group, although I didn’t include an FTM media report.]