

# **The Family History** of **John and Tamar (Cumley) Kohls** and **Jacob and Massey (Inghram) Cumley**

Wings brought John Christian Kohls to the U.S. from Prussia in 1853 and took the Jacob and Massey Cumley family from Western Pennsylvania to the new frontier of Wisconsin prior to the Civil War. In the nearly 175 years since John Kohls' birth in Stuttgart, many, many descendants have been born and have spread their wings across this great country -- primarily West of the Mississippi. This is a developing story of the roots and wings of the Kohls and Cumley families.

John Christian Kohls was born December 19, 1835 in or near Stuttgart, Prussia to Michael and Susan Kohls. He died June 16, 1922 at his home near McGregor, IA. John married Tamar Matilda "Tilly" Cumley on March 31, 1865 in Greene County, WI. Tamar was born February 12, 1844 at Carmichaels (or Carmichaelstown), Green County, PA to Jacob G. and Massey (Inghram) Cumley. She died March 23, 1938. Both John and Tamar are buried in McGregor, IA.

NOTE: The family surnames which will be traced in this record include: Kohls, Cumley, Inghram, Potts, Baltus and Lubeck. Because the spelling of these surnames vary greatly in census records, county records and other early legal documents, the variations will be used just as found in records, but will be placed in italics. Nicknames will be listed in quotation marks.

On Tamar's side, the family migration route, as traced by census records, obituaries, and information handed down to family members, begins in Western Pennsylvania, Virginia/West Virginia, thence to Wisconsin and finally to Iowa.

On John's side, to date no specifics have been found related to his immigration as a 17 year-old from Stuttgart, Prussia in 1853. And, other than the census record that he was naturalized in 1857, we have no further information for the years prior to April 22, 1861 when he volunteered for the Union Army in Sylvester, Green County, Wisconsin. In some of the Civil War pension records, John's residence was listed as Juda, a small village in Green County.

Historical references suggest a number of reasons influencing German emigration between 1840-1860 including: (1) crop failures in the late 1840s and early 1850s causing prices to rise, (2) continued increases in mass-production and the use of machine products which caused unemployment to increase, (3) political changes that were expected to come about but which did not materialize, (4) government encouragement of emigration, and (5) cheaper and more convenient means of transportation with the expansion of the railway system throughout Germany. In America, the immigration of Germans during the same period surpassed all other nationalities. With western territories and new states like Wisconsin opening up, immigration into America was very much encouraged.

## **The Inghram-Potts Ancestry**

The Inghram family surname (maiden name of Massey, Tamar's mother) has been identified as an early surname in the history of the settlement of this country. Many Inghrams settled in Virginia, West Virginia and Southwest Pennsylvania (Green, Washington and Fayette counties) prior to and following the Revolutionary War. Based on census records, we know that John Inghram was born about 1785 in Virginia to Elijah and Massa Inghram.

John Inghram and Tamar Potts were married in Loudon County, VA on 27 Oct. 1815. Tamar was the daughter of Samuel Potts (son of David and Ann R. Potts) who was born ca. 1736. Samuel married twice,

first "out of meeting" in 1757, and secondly to Elizabeth Thomas. Samuel died in 1801 or 1802, his will dated 20 Nov 1801, was proven 14 Sep 1802. He had seven children: 1) Thomas, said to have gone to Kentucky; 2) Tamar, m. John Ingram; 3) Stephen, said to have gone to Kentucky; 4) Margaret, (1788) m. Hugh Thompson; 5) Nathan (1794); 6) Ruth (1794-1880); and 7) Elizabeth." (Source: Looking at Bear Creek, compiled and published by Beatrix M. Larson 1995).

John and Tamar Inghram lived in or near Carmichael, Greene Co., PA., where their seven children were born: 1) Nancy, 2) Massey, 3) Abigail, 4) Caroline, 5) Elijah, 6) Nathaniel, and 7) John). John Inghram died at the age of 82 on 8 Oct. 1867 in Marion County, West Virginia.

### **Enter the Cumleys**

Massey Elizabeth Inghram married Jacob G. Cumley, a native of Pennsylvania and son of Benjamin and Margaret Cumley. Benjamin and Margaret Cumley were enumerated in the Greene County, PA census in both 1850 and 1860. A record of a Benjamin Cumley is found showing a conviction for petty larceny in England and transported to America in 1758. The sentence: "Let him be transported to some or one of His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations for Seven Year." No information is available to connect the sentenced man to Jacob's father.

Jacob and Massey were the parents of three children: Tamar Matilda, born in Carmichaelstown, Green County, PA on 22 Feb 1844; Alcinda Carolyn born 4 Dec 1896 and Benjamin C. born in 1848 -- both also born in Greene County, PA. (Green County, Pennsylvania was organized February 9, 1796 and formed from Washington County. It is 32 miles by 19 miles and covers an area of 597 square miles.)

The family folklore handed down through the years to many descendants was that Tamar was part Indian (possibly one-quarter Indian). A possibility for the Native American heritage may be through the first marriage of Samuel Potts, a Quaker who married "out of meeting". No records indicate a name of his first wife. Some sources recall her Indian heritage as Mohawk which might have been likely given his residence. Others heard it was Blackfeet. According to Delpha Honn, great-great-granddaughter, Tamar also said she was related to Queen Victoria, but no documentation of the information has been located.

### **Opening Up the Western Frontier**

The Cumley family was obviously very courageous and had an adventuresome spirit, moving by boat, in 1849 or 1850, through the Great Lakes and down the Wisconsin River and then overland as they made their way with three small children (ages 6, 4 and 2) from Green County, PA to the new frontier in Greene County, WI. The Jacob *Cumly* family was listed in the 1850 census, town of Sylvester, Green Co., WI, and enumerated on 17 Aug. 1850. The listing included: Jacob, farmer, age 27, born in Pennsylvania; *Massay* age, 30 born in Virginia; Tamar M., age 6 born in PA; Alcinda C., age 4, born in PA; Benjamin, age 1, born in PA; Peter, age 36, born in PA; and Abigail Ingram, age 15, born in PA. We assume Peter may have also been a Cumley as no surname was listed in the census record while Abigail, Massey's sister's surname was recorded.

It seems likely that Tamar's brother, John Inghram, may also have moved to Wisconsin with, before or after the Cumley family. Green County records show that when Abigail Inghram married Levi Harness in WI in 1854, the marriage certificate was signed by John Inghram. (It is assumed that the John Inghram was probably Abbie's brother.)

Jacob *Kumly* (phonetic spelling) with wife, M.E., and children Tam M (age 16), Alcinda (14) and Benjamin C. (12) were enumerated in the village of Monroe, Greene County, WI 1860 census. Jacob was listed as 35, a stonemason, and with personal estate valued at \$100 and a land value of \$125. Also found in the 1860 Greene County, WI census was older brother, Benjamin *Cumly*, age 39, his wife Maria, (38), and Ann Johnson (67) of Sylvester and a personal estate value of \$500.. We surmise that Ann Johnson may have

been Maria's mother. No record was found for John Christian Kohls in the 1860 Greene County, WI census although the roster of volunteers from Wisconsin, lists John Kohls of Sylvester and Jacob Cumley of Monroe as volunteering on 22 April 1861 (seven days after President Lincoln's call for troops). The question could be raised as to whether John Kohls might have been working as a laborer for Benjamin at the time since his volunteer records indicate an association with both Sylvester and nearby Juda. Jacob's brother, Benjamin, also volunteered for the Civil War during the third year of the war, 21 Jan 1864. Records show that both Jacob and Benjamin were granted distinguished service awards. John was honorably discharged following his service-ending injuries in May 1864 while serving in Sherman's March to the Sea.

Further references to the Civil War service records of John Kohls, Jacob Cumley and Benjamin Cumley are contained in our book, Preserving the Union: The Civil War Journey of John Christain Kohls and Jacob Cumley.

### **The Chronology of an Extended Family**

Following John's serious injuries in the Battle of Resaca, his honorable discharge from the Civil War and return to Monroe County, WI, he courted Tamar Matilda "Tilly" Cumley, the daughter of his friend, Jacob Cumley, from the "Green County Boys" Civil War regiment. John Christian Kohls and Tamar Matilda Cumley were married in a civil service in Monroe, WI 23 March 1865 by Lewis Rote, Justice of the Peace. The registration was signed by Massey Cumley (Tamar's mother) and Geo. Bowden.

Alcinda Carolyn Cumley, Tamar's younger sister, was married first to Myron Johnson, son of Jacob and Hannah Johnson of Greene County, WI on 31 March 1865 by Lewis Rote, Justice of the Peace. The marriage certificate was signed by brother-in-law John Kohls and John Inghram (probably her uncle). Myron Johnson enlisted 9 Dec 1861. He served with the 18th Wisconsin and was mustered out of service 18 July 1865. Alcinda and Myron had one son, Benjamin, born 1867. What happened to Myron and that marriage remains a question as Alcinda was married a second time 9 Nov. 1867 at National, Clayton County, IA to George B. Hawkins. They moved first to Broadhead, WI for six years, then to Norton, Kansas for 12 years prior to moving to Cottage Grove, Lane, Oregon. At the time of her death, 6 Feb 1939, Alcinda was a widow living in Cottage Grove. She had, however, filed for a pension in her later years as the widow of Myron Johnson. Alcinda and George had seven children: Frank, Rozella, Allie Belle, Claude, Flora, Dolly, and Daisy.

### **Moving Across the Mississippi River to Iowa**

John and Tamar had settled in Iowa by 1866 prior to Sylvia's birth on January 26th. The Kohls' family was enumerated in the Iowa census in Garnavillo, Clayton County, on July 7, 1870. The listing included John "Cole", Matilda and four-year old Sylvia, born in Iowa. John was listed as a farm laborer, born in Stuttgart with real estate valued at \$150. His age, shown as 28, was an obvious error in the census records. By 1871, son Edwin Elmer was born.

Jacob's pension papers show that Jacob was mustered out of the Civil War 18 July 1865. An affidavit, filed 20 Mar 1886 by Lewis and Eliza Eno of McGregor, Iowa, states they both knew Jacob for the prior 20 years, knowing him intimately and living within one mile of him in Clayton County during that time. Tamar's parents, Jacob and Massey Cumley, also moved to Clayton County following his service in the Civil War.

Massey died in 1868 and was buried in the cemetery at National, Clayton County, IA. (As an aside, the cemetery was vandalized at some point and we happened to stumble on her broken stone while looking for another family grave. In checking with the superintendent, it was ascertained that there were no records to indicate where her grave was located and thus, it was impossible to replace her stone on her grave. Therefore a few years back, permission was received to remove the stone and to have it placed on the top of Jacob's grave in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in McGregor.)

In the 1870 Clayton County, Iowa census, Jacob Cumley is listed in McGregor with an occupation as a stone and brick mason. Jacob was remarried to Martha L. (Root) Burgess on 23 Oct. 1870 in Prairie du Chien, WI. In the census Martha is listed as, 38 and born in New York. It seems likely that Jacob had remarried a widower with two children as also listed in the household are Olive *Burgis*, 14, and Albert *Burgis*, both born in New York, along with Jacob's son, Benjamin, age 22. Olive later was to become the wife of Jacob's son, Benjamin.

Jacob died 26 Apr 1886 in McGregor, IA. He asked to be buried by his old Civil War friends. His gravesite is in an older section of the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

The 1880 census found the John Kohls' family still living in Garnavillo where John was listed as a laborer. Furthermore, the 1885 Iowa census for Clayton County revealed the John C. Kohls family of three (John, 49; Matilda, 41; and Eddie, 14) still living in Garnavillo. Sylvia had apparently already married John Fritz of Garnavillo (son of Daniel Fritz, an Iowa Civil War veteran) and left the home. John was listed as a laborer. Also enumerated was Benjamin Cumley (brother of Tamar) and his family in Clayton township with four daughters, Letty, 14; Rainey, 10; Halley, 7; and Blanche, 4). Rania, a beautiful young woman, is said to have later been an actress in the East, however, we have uncovered no record of her. By the time of Jacob Cumley's death in 1886, son Benjamin was living in Minnesota and by October of 1889 Benjamin had paid for and registered 160 acres of land in St. Louis County, MN. By the late 1890s Benjamin is back in Clayton, Clayton County, IA and, according to a story in the North Iowa Times, with plans to open a shoe business before his subsequent death in 1899. According to the Clayton County, IA death records, Benjamin was buried at Garnavillo; however, his gravesite has not been located. It may be that his family was too poor to be able to afford a headstone, not an uncommon occurrence during that time.

By 1900, John and Tamar were living in Mendon township, Clayton County according to the census. Son, Edwin "Ted" was listed as a carpenter and married to Alvena Baltess, daughter of Christian Frederick Baltess and Constance (Lubeck). Information about the Lubeck ancestry is included at the end of this report.

Edwin "Ted" and Alvena Kohl's family enumeration in the 1900 Clayton County, IA census included three children: Willis, 6; Earl, 3; and Dallas, 1. Later, "Ted" and Alvena had four more children: Sylvia, Violet, Clarice and Beatrice. Willis "Bill" spent his adult years working for the railroad first as a fireman and later as an engineer. By the age of 24, "Bill" was already a locomotive engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad. He married Anna Zahn on 24 March 1914 and they had three children. Earl was single, served in World War I, was a motorcycle policeman in Milwaukee, WI who died as a relatively young man. Dallas married Olive Baldwin. he worked for Illinois Central railroad and had seven children. Dallas lived to be 99.

Sylvia Kohls married George Brechler. She died as a young woman. Violet married Archie Knapp, lived on a farm above Marquette, IA and had three children.

Clarice married John Knapp, lived on a farm up Yellow River and had four children. They had a popular family band, called the Harmony Ranch Band, which frequently played around the area.

Ted and Alvena's youngest child was Beatrice "Babe". She married (1) G. Sawvell and had two children. She was divorced, later married (2) Larry Rathje, lived and died in Idaho.

John had a stroke in his later years. He had received a pension of eight dollars a month as a result of his injury but it didn't start until 38 years later on March 13, 1902. John died on 16 June 1922 at the age of 87.5, still carrying the Civil War "minnie ball" in the calf of his leg. He was buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in McGregor, IA. Tamar died on March 23, 1838 at the age of 94. She is buried next to John and by her son, Ted and his wife Alvena. Their daughter, Sylvia and members of her family are buried nearby in

the cemetery as are many of the Kohl and Cumley descendants. John's and Jacob's graves are identified with the markers of the Grand Old Army.

Tamar lived an additional 17 years after John's death. She was an active woman and according to her obituary in the North Iowa Times (13 Mar 1938), "Grandma' as she was called by so many friends was very alert and active--always willing to go to the movies. She loved to travel and frequently made trips to visit her sister (Alcinda Hawkins) in Oregon." She is shown below at the age of 87 when she went up in the open plane at the County Fair held at National, IA.

The story is told that Tamar's fingers were so calloused from work that she was able to pick up live coals from the fireplace to light her corn cob pipe. Her grandson, Willis, loved to visit and they would drink whiskey together. A beautiful crazy quilt made by Tamar around the turn of the century was given initially to either her sister, Alcinda, or to her niece, Daisey. During a visit with Daisey in Cottage Grove (about 1964), she generously gave the quilt to Tamar's great-grandson, John (the namesake of John C. Kohls).

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This search for the Kohl family roots has been an intriguing and consuming labor of love. We have been fascinated by the ancestral family members we encountered and found ourselves frequently returning to history books and museums to learn more about the times which shaped the pathways they pursued. They were obviously people with an adventurous spirit. We would love to have more of their life stories.

We are grateful to everyone who has shared obscure clues, stories, pictures and other documents to add to the vivid family portrait which is our heritage. We are also grateful to the resources of the U. S. Archives, county and state libraries and museums in Iowa, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and via resources available through the internet especially those from we were able to research through the Maricopa County Library system of Arizona and the West Valley Genealogical Society in Sun City, AZ.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with additions or corrections. We are anxious to continue filling in gaps in the family's rich genealogical heritage. We have, however, purposely omitted the names of living family members and ask that no one publish the names of living family members without first clearing the use of the information from the specific family member.

.....by Joye and John Kohl  
August 2013

For further information on the **Potts** family, see The Potts Family in Great Britain and America, compiled by Thomas Maxwell Potts; published 1901 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

For additional information about the **Inghram** family, see The Ten Mile Country and Its Pioneer Families by Howard L. Leckey.

NOTE: We received the following information about the **Lubeck** family from our B&B hostess, Annemieke Beckers, following our visit to the Netherlands. She translated the information from a musician's reference and emailed it to us.

### **Lübeck (1) Dutch family of musicians of German origin**

1. Johann Heinrich Lübeck (b. Alphen, 11-Feb-1799 d. the Hague, 7-Feb-1865) Violinist and conductor. He held the post of conductor and head of the Conservatory of The Hague until his death.

Johann Heinrich Lübeck was the father of Constance Lubeck who married C. Frederick Baltes and the grandfather of Alvena (Baltes) Kohls.

2. Ernst Lübeck (b. The Hague 24 Aug-1829 d. Paris 17 Sep-1876) Pianist and composer, son of the preceding. He first appeared in public at the age of twelve, when he played Beethoven's EP major concerto. He made a tour to the U.S.A., Mexico and Peru, which lasted from 1849 to 1854. On his return he was made court pianist at The Hague. In 1855 he moved to Paris, where he principally reside until driven from the city by the disturbances of the Commune, which gave a shock to his brain from which it never recovered, and he became at length hopelessly insane. Lübeck wrote only for pianoforte. His playing was distinguished for brilliancy and technical dexterity.

3. Louis Lübeck (b. The Hague, 14 Feb 1838 d. Berlin 8 Mar 1904) Violoncellist, brother of the preceding. He was for some years teacher of the cello at the Leipzig Conservatory, until about 1872, when he moved to Frankfort. He was a member of the court orchestra in Berlin from 1880.

### Lübeck (2) German family of organists.

1. Vincenz Lübeck (b. Padingbüttel Hanover Sept 1654 d. Hamburg 9-Feb-1740) Organist and composer. When about twenty years of age he was appointed organist at Stade, where he remained for nearly thirty years. In 1702 he was appointed organist of the church of St. Nicolas at Hamburg, where he remained until his death.

2. Peter Paul Lübeck (b. Stade 24-Apr-1680 d. Hamburg 16-Aug-1732) Organist, elder son of the preceding. He succeeded his father at Stade in 1702.

3. Vincenz Lübeck (b. Stade 2-Sept-1684 d. Hamburg 1755) Organist, younger brother of the preceding. He was organist at the church of St. George at Hamburg from 1724 and became his father's assistant at St. Nicolas, succeeding him at his death in 1740.

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## The Jacob and Massey Elizabeth (Inghram) Cumley Family

### Jacob G. Cumley

b. ca 14 Oct 1821 PA to **Benjamin and Margaret Cumley**

d. 26 Apr 1886 McGregor, Clayton, IA

buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, IA

served in the Civil War, Company C-3 from Green County, Wisconsin: Distinguished Service

m. 1. **Massey Elizabeth Inghram**

b.

d. 1868 McGregor, IA

buried: National, IA

children:

1/ **Tamar Matilda "Tilly"**

b. 12 Feb 1844 Carmichael, Green, PA

d. 23 Mar 1838 McGregor, Clayton, PA

buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, IA

m. **John Christian Kohls** 31 Mar 1865, Monroe, Green, WI

b. 19 Dec 1835 Prussia

d. 16 June 1922 near McGregor, Clayton, IA

buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, IA

served in the Civil War, Company C-3 from Green County Wisconsin

children of John and Tamar Kohls:

**2/ Sylvia Kohls**

b. 26 Jan 1866 Garnavillo, Clayton, IA  
d. 4 Dec 1938 McGregor, Clayton, IA  
buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, IA  
m. **John E. Fritz**  
b. abt 1858

children:

**3/ Lancelot "Eldie" Fritz**

**3/ Edward Fritz**

b. abt 1887 IA

m. **Ellen Barnhart**

**3/ Archibald C. Fritz**

b. abt 1891 IA

m. **Esther Allen**

**3/ Dolly Fritz**

b. abt 1892 IA

m. 1. **P.A. Kleinow**

m.2. **J. Kenney**

**2/ Edwin ("Ted") Elmer Kohls**

b. 14 Aug 1870 Garnavillo, Clayton, IA  
d. 3 Dec 1929 Chicago, IL  
buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, IA  
m. **Alvena ("Vena") Anna Balthes** 6 Feb 1891 Prairie du Chen, WI  
b. 13 Feb 1874 Keokuk, Lee, IA  
d. 28 Apr 1963 McGregor, Clayton, IA  
buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, Clayton, IA

children of Ted and Vena Kohls:

**3/ Willis Wells Kohl**

b. 19 Sep 1892 Clayton, Clayton, IA

d. 13 Oct 1957 Prairie du Chen, Crawford, WI

buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, Clayton, IA

married: **Anna M. Zahn**

**3/ Earl John Kohls**

b. 6 Sep 1895 Clayton, Clayton, IA

d. 28 Jul 1936 Milwaukie, WI

**3/ Dallas Edwin Kohls**

b. birth: 28 NOV 1897 Guttenberg, Clayton, IA

d. Oct 8, 1996 Dubuque, Dubuque, IA

married: **Olive Baldwin**

**3/ Sylvia Constance Kohls**

b. b. 10 Oct 1900 Guttenberg, Clayton, IA

d. 13 Oct 1953 IA

married: **George Breckler**

**3/ Violet Verdell Kohls**

b. 13 Mar 1903 Guttenberg, Clayton, IA

d. 6 May 2000 McGregor, Clayton, IA

buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, Clayton, IA

married: **Archie Knapp**

**3/ Clarice May Kohls**

b. 15 May 1908 McGregor, Clayton, IA  
d. 5 Feb 2001, Harpers Ferry, Alamakee, IA  
buried: Pleasant Grove Cemetery, McGregor, Clayton, IA  
married: **John Knapp**

**3/ Beatrice Alice Kohls**

b. 31 Jul 1910 McGregor, Clayton, IA  
d. 4 Oct 1998 ID  
buried: Idaho  
m.1. **G. Sawvell**  
m.2. **Larry Rathje**

**1/ Alcinda Carolyn Cumley**

b. 4 Dec 1845 PA  
d. 6 Feb 1939 Cottage Grove, Lane, OR  
buried: Cottage Grove, OR  
m.1. **Myron Johnson** 31 Mar 1865 Monroe, Green, WI  
served in the Civil War Union Army from Wisconsin  
child:

**2/ Benjamin M. Johnson**

b. 1867

m.2. **George B. Hawkins** 9 Nov 1867 National, Clayton, IA  
children:

**2/ Claude A. Hawkins**

b. Dec 1879

m.1. **Ethel Abbot**

m.2. **Maude Cullins**

**2/ Frank W. Hawkins**

b.

m. **Rowena Bell Adamson**

**2/ Dollie E. Hawkins**

b. Nov 1885

m. **Walter Hauser**

**2/ Daisey G. Hawkins**

b. Feb 1888

m.1. **Stuart A. McGivray**

m.2. **Thomas Parkinson**

**2/ Allie E. Hawkins**

**2/ stillbirth**

**1/ Benjamin C. Cumley**

b. 1848 Green County, PA  
d. 9 Nov 1899 Clayton County, IA  
m. **Olive L. Burgess**  
children:

**2/ Lilly L. Cumley**

b. abt 1872

m. **Henry McDaniel**

**2/ Rania Cumley**

b. abt 1875



**2/ Halley Cumley**

b. abt 1878

**2/ Blanche Cumley**

b. abt 1880

m. **Hiram C. Gabriel**

m.2. **Martha Louisa (Root) Burgess** 23 Oct 1870 Prairie du Chen, WI

b. abt 1832 NY

d.

Compiled by Joye and John Kohl

Jan 10 1996