

## Naturalizations for Germans in Otsego County, 1806-1883

The following records were extracted from the naturalization records for Otsego County. Records were included for some German regions even if not actually from Germany (eg Switzerland, or Alsace Lorraine). The information provided is not always the same for each record. The court clerk making the record may not have always spelled the person's name correctly. Where there is a difference between the spelling in the record and the way the subject of the record signed it, the spelling of the signature is enclosed in parentheses. Spelling of German place names may not be correct, but have been extracted as spelled in the records.

During this period, an individual was not required to file a Declaration of Intention if he came into this country while under the age of 18. Instead, when filing the Petition for Naturalization, a document was filed declaring that the individual entered the country under the age of 18. In the records abstracted below, DI and NA stand for the Declaration of Intention and the Petition for Naturalization respectively.

### FHL microfilm 1435010

John Fayel (Feyel), DI 21 Jun 1821, NA Oct 1823, Butternuts, Otsego, entered US Oct 1816 from Nesselweng, Baden, Germany  
 Lewis Bury, DI 13 Sep 1837, NA 14 Oct 1839, Laurens, Otsego, entered US May 1832 from Danube, Baden, Germany

### FHL microfilm 1435011

George Mogel, DI 11 Oct 1836, Otsego, Otsego, NA Oct 1840, entered US 1830 from Alsace, France  
 Peter Bowers, DI --, NA 22 Oct 1844, Middlefield, Otsego, entered US Sept 1831 from Lienburgh, Germany  
 John Decker, DI -, NA 22 Oct 1844, Meriden, Montgomery, entered US Jul 1834 from Metts, Prussia  
 Lewis Kruger, DI 1844, St. Johnsville, Montgomery, NA 16 Oct 1846, entered US Oct 1840 from Germany  
 Franz (Franklin) Fillauer, DI Oct 1847, Otsego, Otsego, NA 14 Nov 1849, entered US Oct 1841 from Germany  
 Nicholas Knock, DI Mar 1850, New Lisbon, Otsego, NA 21 May 1852, entered US 1837 from Coburgh, Saxony, Prussia  
 Henry Baudler, DI Feb 1852, New Lisbon, Otsego, NA 16 Oct 1854, entered US Aug 1847 from Saxe, Coburg, Germany  
 Christopher Belman, DI 21 Jun 1832, Cherry Valley, Otsego, NA 20 Jun 1854, entered US 1848 from Germany  
 Charles Bracker, DI 28 Apr 1852, NYC, NA 23 Jun 1854, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 1848 from Bavaria  
 Charles Weprecht, DI 22 Jun 1852, Cherry Valley, Otsego, NA 20 Jun 1854, entered US Jun 1847 from Germany

Missing papers from 1856-1870

Frederick Kousmaul, DI 29 Sep 1868, Corning, Steuben, NA 7 Mar 1871, Otsego, Otsego, entered US Aug 1864 from Wurtemberg, Germany  
 John Switzer (Shwitzer), DI 15 Oct 1868, Palatine, Montgomery, NA 19 Sep 1871, Richfield, Otsego, entered US 3 May 1855 from Canton of Tourgon, Switzerland  
 Herman Conrad, DI -, NA 17 Jun 1872, Springfield, Otsego, entered US 2 Jun 1868 (under 18) from Saxony, Germany  
 William Sittel (Sittle), DI 24 Sep 1870, Middlefield, Otsego, NA 25 Sep 1872, entered US 7 Jul 1860 from Bavaria, Germany  
 John Wick, DI -, NA 23 Sep 1872, Cherry Hill, Otsego, entered US 1842 (under 18) from Baden, Baden, Germany  
 Wolf Rothkugel, DI 1 Mar 1869, Cooperstown, Otsego, NA 28 Oct 1872, entered US before 1869 from Prussia  
 William Stieb, DI 28 Oct 1871, Richfield, Otsego, NA 28 Oct 1873, entered US 12 Mar 1866 from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany

Theodore Wiese (Wies), DI 12 Aug 1872, Warren, Herkimer, NA 21 Sep 1874, entered US 21 Sep 1868 from Sparlee, Prussia  
 Conrad Yagel, DI -, NA 5 Aug 1874, Oneonta, Otsego, entered US 31 Mar 1864 (under 18) from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany  
 Francis Fretzer, DI 23 Sep 1872, Otsego, Otsego, NA 4 Jan 1875, entered US 4 Jan 1870 from Brombach, Prussia, Germany  
 Bernard Gross, DI -, NA 22 Sep 1875, Oneonta, Otsego, entered US 20 Sep 1870 (under 18) from Germany  
 William Grubey, DI 29 Oct 1870, Cooperstown, Otsego, NA 24 Sep 1875, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 17 Mar 1867 from West Fahlisch, Prussia  
 John Hilman, DI -, NA 20 Oct 1875, Middlefield, Otsego, entered US Jul 1869 (under 18) from Enst (Ernst), Germany  
 Franz Lieziveck (Lechevek), DI 20 Jan 1872, Otsego, Otsego, NA 20 Oct 1875, entered US 19 Mar 1870 from Prussian Germany  
 John Crest (Crist), DI 24 Mar 1873, Warren, Herkimer, NA 18 Sep 1876, Richfield, Otsego, entered US 1 Jan 1855 from Saxony, Germany  
 Philip Glaser, DI -, NA 19 Sep 1876, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 12 Apr 1866 (under 18) from Germany  
 Lewis Lehmann, DI -, NA 10 Jul 1876, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 4 Dec 1866 from Wertemberg, Germany  
 Simon Cohn, DI -, NA 3 Oct 1877, Cooperstown, Otsego, entered US 30 Jul 1869 (under 18) from Possen, Germany  
 George German, DI 21 Sep 1875, Maryland, Otsego, NA 26 Sep 1877, entered US 9 Dec 1869 from Baden, Germany  
 Gottlieb Hindenlang, DI 28 Sep 1875, Cooperstown, Otsego, NA 27 Oct 1877, entered US 25 Oct 1872 from Basiel, Switzerland  
 Abram J. Strauss, DI -, NA 27 Oct 1877, Maryland, Otsego, entered US 30 Sep 1871 (under 18) from Baden, Germany  
 Peter Henkes, DI 2 Nov 1874, Edmeston, Otsego, NA 18 Jan 1878, entered US 18 Jan 1871 from Prussia  
 Moses Maschke, DI 23 Aug 1876, Middlefield, Otsego, NA 21 Oct 1878, Otsego, Otsego, entered US May 1871 from Germany  
 William Meyers, DI -, NA 15 Jan 1878, Cherry Valley, Otsego, entered US 1 Jan 1855 (under 18) from Brunswick, Germany  
 Morris Price, DI -, NA 1 Aug 1878, Oneonta, Otsego, entered US 1870 (under 18) from Germany  
 Christian Siebert, DI 21 Aug 1876, Richfield, Otsego, NA 18 Sep 1878, entered US 21 Oct 1868 from Mechlenberg, Germany  
 Alois Winkler, DI 6 Mar 1872, Rondout, Ulster, NA 15 Oct 1878, entered US 26 Dec 1866 from Mesout [?], Germany  
 August Aufmout (Aufmuth), DI 20 Dec 1876, Otsego, Otsego, NA 28 Jan 1879, entered US 14 Dec 1871 from Prussia  
 John Feulner, DI -, NA 25 Oct 1879, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 1 May 1872 (under 18) from Bavaria, Germany

(Continued on page 4)



## Heinrich (Henry) Staring

Alan Sterling, Interpretive Programs Assistant at the General Herkimer Home State Historic Site spoke on his ancestor, Henrich Staring. Alan began by stating that he grew up believing in two main books: "The Bible" and "The Starin Family in America" by William L. Stone, Albany 1892. He looked up the meaning of "bible" and it is "any book considered to be authoritative in its field." There are many legends about events and persons in the Mohawk Valley in the Revolution. Some are probably exaggerated but he believes Henrich Staring's story to be fairly accurate.

Heinrich Staring is Alan's great-great-great-great grandfather. Heinrich or Henry was of Palatine stock, married a Palatine - Elizabeth Hess. He survived the "ambush in the woods", (Battle of Oriskany). Heinrich was a captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tryon and later became a Colonel. He was a delegate to the New York Convention for the purpose of ratifying the Constitution. He was First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Herkimer County. Heinrich died in 1808 as a result of a fall from a horse. He died before he was eligible to file for a military service pension. There is no account, diary, or letters that he left to verify his adventure. Heinrich was in Colonel Peter Bellingher's regiment and was listed as being captured. His story was first told at an early date. Therefore, Alan believes it to be true.

The story takes place some time in late November 1778 or 1779. Heinrich Staring was in the woods some distance from his home when he came upon a part of hostile Indians. They captured him and took him to a small cabin or wigwam, near what is now Deansboro, about a quarter of a mile from Oriskany Creek. There were 2 rooms and he was placed in the smaller room which had a small window high up on the wall. He was tied hand and foot. He understood enough of the Indian language to hear that they decided to put him to death in the morning. He knew he must escape. He managed to get one hand free and took off his boots to free his feet. He feigned sleep when they checked on him and he waited till they were asleep and climbed quietly out the window, dropping to the ground. Unfortunately, he forgot his shoes. However he was free and he headed for the creek. Before he got half way to the creek, he heard a shout and the Indians were after him. He ran the rest of the way to the stream and jumped in and ran down stream in the channel. His wool stockings soon were worn out from the sharp pebbles in the stream. He ripped off his shirt sleeves at the elbows and put them on his feet. He reached Fort Schuyler at dawn and found a canoe and returned home.

After the war, Henry Staring was a Judge. One Sunday morning he saw a man on horseback coming along the highway from the west. The laws of the state prohibited travel on the Sabbath, so the Judge asked the man to stop and inquired of him the reason why he was disregarding the law. The stranger was a New England Yankee and did not excuse his conduct to the judge's satisfaction. He declined to stop over until the next day and was given a fine of six York shillings imposed by the statute for the infringement of this branch of it. After paying his fine, the traveler asked the judge to give him a certificate to that effect, urging the necessity of it to protect him against being again called to account by some other magistrate. Judge Staring thought the request was reasonable and asked the traveler to write one and he would sign it. This was done and the traveler proceeded eastward. Some months later, Judge Staring visited the merchants Kane in Canajoharie on business. They requested that he pay them the \$25 which he owed them from several months previous when he sent the individual for an order. He at first denied giving such an order, but when shown the signature in his handwriting, he remembered the traveler. This incident was then called the "Yankee Pass", from a supposition that no one except a native of New England had the cunning and audacity to practice so keen and grave a joke.

Judge Staring could speak and understand English however his primary language was German. He could write and read German but not English.

---

### Otsego Naturalizations - cont.

Theodore Wiese (Wies), DI 12 Aug 1872, Warren, Herkimer, NA 21 Sep 1874, entered US 21 Sep 1868 from Sparlee, Prussia

Matthias West, DI -, NA 1 Feb 1879, Otsego, Otsego, entered US 17 May 1872 (under 18) from Baden, Germany

Aren Z. Freeman, DI -, NA 15 Jun 1880, Unadillo, Otsego, entered US 8 Aug 1866 (under 18) from Natal, Germany

Charles H. Fritch, DI 16 Oct 1878, Oneonta, Otsego, NA 19 Oct 1880, entered US 18 Oct 1875 from Saxen, Germany

Morris Glass, DI -, NA 31 Jan 1880, Cooperstown, Otsego, entered US 5 Aug 1874 (under 18) from Gratz, Posen, Germany

Andrew Schneider, DI 18 Mar 1878, Otsego, Otsego, NA 19 Oct 1880, entered US 20 Sep 1873 from Rekendorf (Rehentuf), Germany

William Mildner, DI 16 Apr 1880, Cooperstown, Otsego, NA 17 Apr 1882, entered US Jun 1872 from Tillendorf, Germany

Carl F. Thurnan, DI 11 Oct 1880, Oneonta, Otsego, NA 11 Oct 1882, entered US 1 Jan 1877 from Hannover Germany

Christian Ganser, DI 12 Oct 1880, Oneonta, Otsego, NA 18 Jun 1883, entered US 20 Oct 1875 from Wunndberg, Germany

