

JOHN AUGUSTUS SUTTER

AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE STOBER & ENDERLIN FAMILIES

by
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One of the most enjoyable aspects of researching a family tree is finding a famous person in it. In 2005, while researching collateral family lines in our family in the parish records of Staffort (by Karlsruhe), Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, I made one such discovery. John Augustus SUTTER, the famous character of the California Gold Rush is a relative!

The family connection goes back to the early 18th Century in the village of Staffort. One of the larger families in the village was the STOBER family (some American branches of the family now go by the name of STOVER). According to the *Huldigungsliste* (a list of oaths of allegiance to the Margrave of Baden-Durlach), there were three adult male Stobers in Staffort in 1709. These were Michael, Peter and Veltin. Johann Michael STOBER and Johann Veltin STOBER were brothers. Johann Peter STOBER was of another line of the family, whose relationship to ours is still unclear. Johann Veltin was a court official (*Gerichtsverwandter*), while Johann Michael was a judge (*Gericht*). These were high positions in the community. In those days, the three highest public offices in the community were the *Schultheiss* (a type of mayor, but with added responsibilities, similar to the feudal "sheriff" of old England), the *Gericht* (judge) and the *Rat* (town councilor). Johann Michael's and Johann Veltin's father, Johann Jakob STOBER (c.1626 - 1691), had been the *Schultheiss* in Staffort, so the high social rank of members of the family passed down through the generations.

It is worth mentioning that it was traditional in Staffort in the 17th and 18th Centuries to christen all male children with a dual name, beginning with the spiritual name, Johann, in honor of St. John the Baptist. In life, the spiritual name was usually dropped in favor of the secular name. For example, Johann Michael STOBER was known simply as Michael STOBER in daily life. The practice of naming children after a saint (often a patron to the family, community, or local church) was common in the Evangelical Church in Baden at that time, but the practice was rarely universally applied with the name of only one saint, as it was in Staffort.

Johann Michael STOBER, the *Gericht*, married twice, first to Margretha Barbara ERNST (daughter of Johann Geörg ERNST and Anna Catharina SCHERER of Staffort). His second marriage was to Anna Maria KESLER (daughter of Johann KESLER of Heidelberg). By Margretha Barbara, whom Johann Michael married in 1705, he had the following children:

- 1) **Anna Margretha** b. 11 January 1706 in Staffort, d. 25 April 1761 in Staffort, m. 21 February 1730 **Johann Peter Glaßer** in Staffort.
- 2) **Johann Jacob** b. 10 September 1708 in Staffort, d. 17 September 1708 in Staffort.
- 3) **Anna Catharina** b. 13 September 1709 in Staffort, d. 8 March 1711 in Staffort.
- 4) **Johann Michael** b. 23 December 1711 in Staffort, d. 23 September 1780, m. 4 December 1731
 (Sutter Ancestor) **Anna Catharina Hecht** in Staffort.
- 5) **Anna Catharina** b. 6 October 1714 in Staffort, d. 5 April 1773 in Staffort, m. 27 November

- (Enderlin Ancestor)* 1736 **Johann Georg Enderlin** in Staffort
- 6) **Anna Elisabetha** b. 12 December 1718 in Staffort, d. 20 April 1719 in Staffort.
- 7) **Anna Eva** b. 12 December 1718 in Staffort, d. 26 April 1719 in Staffort.
- 8) **Anna Eva** b. 30 July 1720 in Staffort, d. 5 January 1736 in Staffort.
- 9) **Johann Jacob** b. 7 February 1724 in Staffort, d. 28 January 1725 in Staffort.
- 10) **Anna Barbara** b. 9 December 1726 in Staffort, d. 4 March 1732 in Staffort.

By Anna Maria KESLER, whom Johann Michael STOBBER married in 1734, he had the following second family:

- 1) **Johann Jacob** b. c.1736, d. 18 October 1739 in Staffort.
- 2) **Anna Eva** bapt. 19 February 1741 in Staffort, d. 19 October 1753 in Staffort.
- 3) **Johann Jacob** bapt. 12 March 1743 in Staffort, d. 7 October 1744 in Staffort.
- 4) **Anna Maria** bapt. 31 October 1744 in Staffort, d. 21 February 1794 in Staffort, m. 11 January 1762 **Johann Adam Ernst** in Staffort.

Of the ten children by the first marriage, only three reached adulthood. These were:

1) Anna Margretha STOBBER (1706 - 1761) married Johann Peter GLÄBER/GLASER (1709 - 1775) of Staffort. He was the son of Johann (Hannß) Martin GLASER and Anna Elisabetha SCHOLL. Anna Margretha was the mother of at least six children by this marriage.

2) Johann Michael STOBBER (1711 - 1780) married Anna Catharina HECHT (1712 - 1779), daughter of Johann Wilhelm HECHT and his wife, Anna Margretha. They had at least seven children. One of their sons, Johann Adam STOBBER (1740 - 1808), became a pastor in the German Evangelical Church. He signed his name "Joh. Ad. Stober," causing some to mistakenly interpret the name as Johann Adolf. His first assignment as a pastor was at Keppenbach (in the Black Forest north of Freiburg im Breisgau). His daughter, Christina Wilhelmina STOBBER, was born there. Shortly after Christina Wilhelmina was born, Pastor STOBBER transferred to the village of Boetzingen, where he served as pastor from 1777 to 1782. After that, he moved further south to Obereggenen, where he served 15 years as pastor. Pastor STOBBER's last assignment was at Grenzach (near the south border of Baden), where he died in 1808. It was probably while her father was assigned to Obereggenen that Christina Wilhelmina met Johann Jakob SUTER. Johann Jakob was the director and overseer of the "Häuslerischen" papermill in the nearby town of Kandern. Although Kandern lay in the Margraviate of Baden (Germany) the area had a strong Swiss presence, primarily because of Swiss investment in the local factories. Johann Jakob SUTER, like many others working at these factories, was a Swiss citizen from the nearby Basel area. His family's hometown was Kilchberg in the municipality of Rünenberg (Basel-Landschaft).

Johann Jakob SUTER and Christina Wilhelmina STOBBER were married in October 1801. They had at least three children, one of whom was Johann August SUTER, born 15 February 1803, and baptized 23 February 1803. Johann August later changed his name to John Augustus SUTTER, which is the name by which he is most commonly known. In 1826, he married Anna (Annette) DUEBELD, the daughter of a professor of botany from the University at Bern,

Switzerland. SUTTER emigrated to the United States from Burgdorf (Kanton Bern), in 1834, fleeing creditors and leaving his wife and five young children behind. He arrived in California in 1838, and the following year established a colony, known as Nueva Helvetia (also called Neu-Helvetien or New Switzerland), at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The colony later developed into the City of Sacramento. Gold was discovered at SUTTER's sawmill in the nearby foothills at Coloma in 1848, leading to the California Gold Rush of 1849. John Augustus SUTTER's life accomplishments are too numerous to fully list here. More biographical information can be found in published biographies, both in book form and on the internet.

3) Anna Catharina STOBER (1714 - 1773) married Johann (Hannß) Georg ENDERLIN (1712 - 1747), the *Schneider* (tailor) in Staffort, son of Elias ENDERLIN and Anna Catharina GAMER. It is from this union that our ENDERLIN family line descends. Anna Catharina was the mother of five children by Johann Georg ENDERLIN. Two of the children reached adulthood and married. Johann Georg died in 1747, and in 1750 Anna Catharina remarried. Her second husband was Johann Martin GLAßER/GLASER (1719 - 1777), son of Johann Martin GLASER and Margretha Barbara HAUTH of Staffort. Anna Catharina's husband, Johann Martin, was a nephew to her brother-in-law, Johann Peter GLASER. Anna Catharina was the mother of two children by the second marriage.

A diagram of the family relationships between the Sutter and Enderlin families is presented below:

Johann Jakob Stober
Schultheiß (District Overseer to the Margrave of Baden-Durlach)
(c1626 - 1691)

=

Margaretha
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(c1629 - 1691)

Johann Michael Stober
Gericht (Judge)
(1673 - 1747)

=

Margretha Barbara Ernst
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1684 - 1728)

Anna Catharina Hecht
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1712 - 1779)

=

Johann Michael Stober
Schulmeister (Schoolmaster)
(1711 - 1780)

siblings

Anna Catharina Stober
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1714 - 1773)

=

Johann Georg Enderlin
Schneider (Tailor)
(1712 - 1747)

Christina Kurz
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(???? - ????)

=

Johann Adam Stober
Pfarrer (Pastor)
(1740 - 1808)

1st cousins

Maria Barbara Jenni
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1739 - 1814)

=

Georg Michael Enderlin
Schmied (Blacksmith)
(1741 - 1792)

Johann Jakob Suter
Vorsteher/Vorarbeiter Papierfabrik (Papermill Director & Overseer)
(1776 - ????)

=

Christina Wilhelmina Stober
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1777 - ????)

2nd cousins

Anna Jenne
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1780 - 1837)

=

Georg Michael Enderlin
Schmied (Blacksmith)
(1775 - 1834)

Anna Dübeld
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1805 - 1881)

=

Johann August Suter
California Pioneer
(1803 - 1880)

3rd cousins

Maria Barbara Stein
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1814 - 1848)

=

Johann Georg Enderlin
Wagner (wagonmaker)
(1807 - 1859)

Maria Magdalena Gumbert
Hausfrau (Housewife)
(1851 - 1938)

=

Wilhelm Enderlin
Landwirt (Farmer)
(1846 - 1914)

Altha Ruth Tebow
Nurse - Housewife
(1895 - 1964)

=

George Jacob Enderlin
Farmer
(1891 - 1979)

Lucille Adel Enderlin
Teacher - Housewife
(1923 - 1983)

=

Roy Dean Enderlin
Farmer
(1925 -)

Dean Andrew Enderlin
Geologist
(1961 -)

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Sources:

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