

Select Krückeberg Immigrants to the American Midwest

Steven T Krueckeberg - May, 2023

Introduction: Late 2019 was a time of transition. Newly retired, I was content with the past and optimistic for the future. However, the transition to 2020 would prove to be anything but ordinary.

A novel and contagious respiratory viral disease ([COVID-19](#)) began circulating in China during the winter of 2019-2020. With astonishing speed, the virus ([SARS-CoV-2](#)) spread to nearly every corner of the globe. Nothing like this had been seen since the influenza pandemics of the late 1910s. Given the many unknowns — disease transmission, risk factors & susceptibility, optimal treatments — public health officials and governments introduced measures to limit COVID's impact. These measures included prioritizing personal protective equipment for health care workers and temporary "lockdowns" for businesses and schools. Additional guidelines and requirements (e.g. masking, social distancing) were poorly communicated and, over time, largely ignored.

The crisis deepened during the winter of 2021-2022 when, despite the availability of safe and effective vaccines, large numbers of critically ill patients stretched our hospitals and health care workers to the breaking point.

In March of 2022, the number of COVID-19 deaths in the USA surpassed 1 million. Many who were infected, but survived, would go on to develop [Long COVID](#).

Many more experienced [COVID fatigue](#), a condition marked by heightened anxiety, loneliness, boredom and despair. Adam Grant at the New York Times came up with an apt description of our collective distress — we were all "[languishing](#)".

My method of coping was to start a new hobby. With guidance from experienced relatives and several newly-discovered "cousins", I became a genealogy hobbyist. In researching the family name, I identified twelve male Krückebergs of interest. These men — most with families, a few single — came from small villages in Germany. They arrived in New York City or Baltimore in the middle third of the 1800s, and eventually settled in what would become the American Midwest.

From where in Germany did these immigrants emigrate?

The home villages of these Krückebergs are well established. Vital records confirm their births and marriages in Berenbusch, Fuhlen, Wehrbergen, Ockensen, Thüste and Bad Nenndorf. Today these villages are located in the *Landkreise* (districts) of Schaumburg & Hameln-Pyrmont, both in state of Lower Saxony.

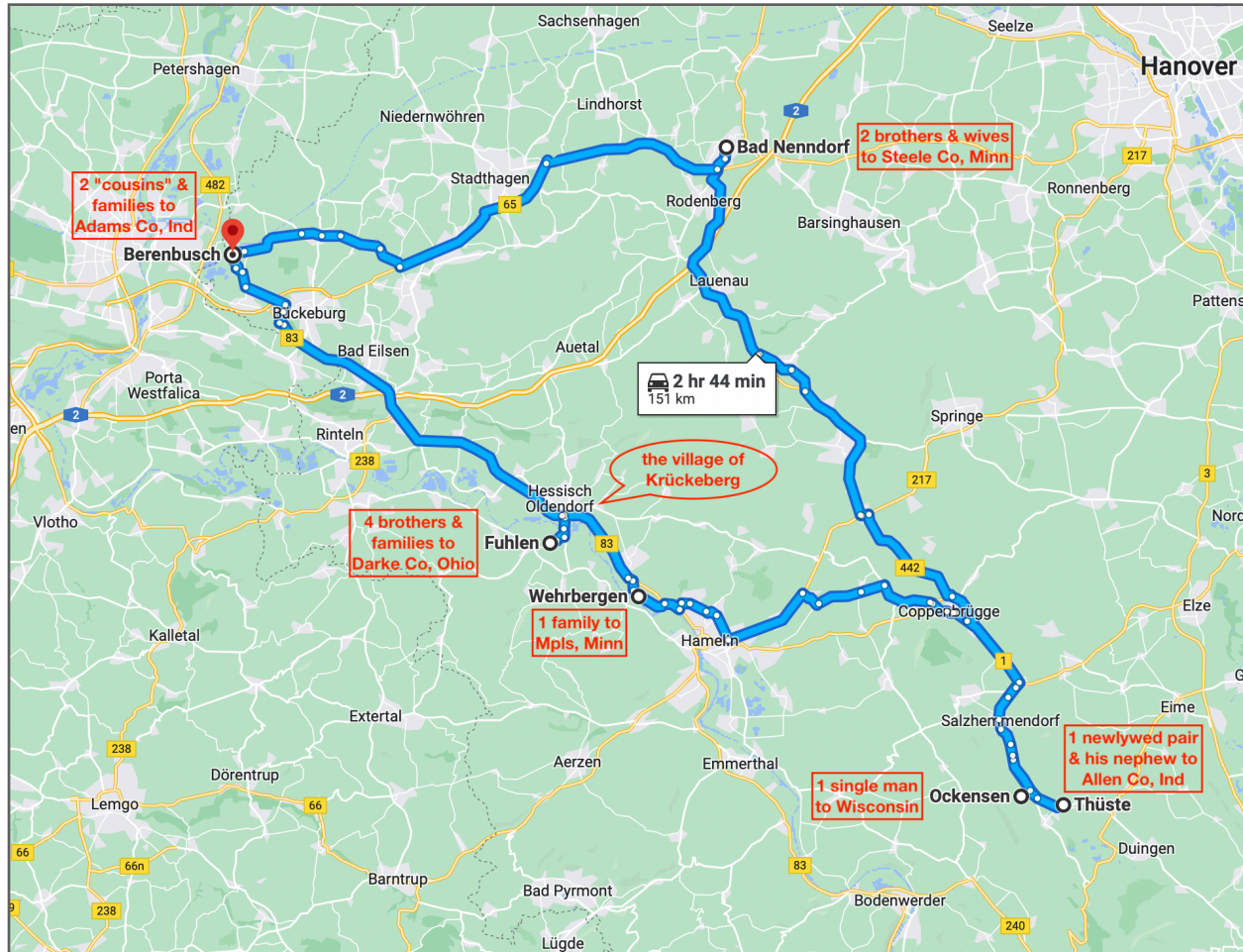
These six villages are arranged in what could be described as a "Krückeberg Triangle".

Select Krückeberg Immigrants to the American Midwest

Steven T Krueckeberg - May, 2023

Krückeberg Triangle

start at Berenbusch and proceed counter-clockwise



Assigning the correct home *Land* (state) for these men is complicated. Due to frequent wars and shifting political boundaries, our ancestors would have asked themselves "To which state or ruler (e.g. elector, prince, king, emperor) do I owe my allegiance?" And, in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation, "What religion do I have to practice in order to stay out of trouble?"

To help answer these questions, I've summarized the political histories of the districts and states near the Krückeberg Triangle. These histories confirm that the people who emigrated from Fuhlen and Bad Nenndorf were "Hessens", and the people who emigrated from Wehrbergen, Ockensen or Thüste were from the Kingdom of Hanover.

I hope that the people, events, dates and places discussed on the following pages will facilitate the investigation and appreciation of your own German heritage.

Select Krückeberg Immigrants to the American Midwest

Steven T Krueckeberg - May, 2023

Persons	Born / Died	From To	Marriage	Immigration
Carl Friedrich* wife & 6 children	1807 ~1852	Berenbusch, SL Adams, Ind	1834 Petzen, SL	1850 43 yo
Johann H. wife & 3 daughters ½ cousin of Carl Fr.	1806 1879	Berenbusch, SL Adams, Ind	1833 Petzen, SL	1849 43 yo
Fried. Ludwig & 3 brothers & their families	1793 1871	Fuhlen, H Darke, Ohio	1823 Fuhlen, H	1849-52 59 yo
Joh. Heinrich "Friedrich" wife & 7 children	~1803 ?	Wehrbergen, KH Chicago to Mpls	about 1823 in "Hanover"	1846 ~43 yo
"Conrad Henry" a single man	1835 1905	Ockensen, KH Outagamie, Wis	1867 Jefferson, Wis	1859 23 yo
"H. August" & his bride	1822 1890	Thüste, KH Soest, Allen, Ind	1851 Thüste, KH	1851 28 yo
"Christian Jr." a single man nephew of H. Aug.	1850 1938	Thüste, KH St Joe., Allen, Ind	1873 Allen, Ind	1868 17 yo
Joh. Friedrich & wife	1831 1894	Bad Nenndorf, H Steele, Minn	1853 SL	1854 23 yo
Joh. Otto & wife brother to Joh. Fr.	1842 1894	Bad Nenndorf, H Steele, Minn	1871 SL	1866 (?) 23 yo

All these men can be found at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) — just click on a name and log into your account.

*[Carl Friedrich Krückeberg](#) (my 2nd great-grandfather) & [Johann Heinrich](#) were half-first cousins.

SL = Schaumburg-Lippe KH = Kingdom of Hanover H = Hesse-Kassel Mpls = Minneapolis
today Berenbusch & Bad Nenndorf are in the Schaumburg District of Lower Saxony, while
Fuhlen, Wehrbergen, Ockensen & Thüste are in the Hameln-Pyrmont District of Lower Saxony

Most of these immigrants were farmers. Johann Heinrich "Friedrich" (who came to Mpls) was a cabinet maker & carpenter. Two of his grandsons moved to Los Angeles & started a printing business - the *Krueckeberg Press*. Another grandson (a pharmacist) owned the *Krueckeberg Drug Store* in the Seward neighborhood of Mpls. When the drug store and its 2nd floor apartment were lost to urban renewal (1960s), the pharmacist and his family moved to Phoenix, AZ. Joh. Friedrich & Joh. Otto re-registered their marriages in Crete, IL, and Faribault, MN, respectively, before settling in southern Minnesota.

Select Krückeberg Immigrants to the American Midwest

Steven T Krueckeberg - May, 2023

History of the German Lands - Summary

800-1806 Holy Roman Empire (HRE) - romanticized by Nazis as the *1st Reich*
1517 Martin Luther & the Protestant Reformation 1545 Counter Reformation
1542-1648 European Wars of Religion & Great Powers Struggles
1555 Augsburg Settlement did not sustain peace - Christianity was split into Catholic & Lutheran confessions, but Calvinists, Anabaptists & others were still considered heretics
1648 Peace of Westphalia 1756-63 Seven Years' War & Treaty of Paris
1789-99 French Revolution 1803-1815 Napoleonic Wars & end of the HRE
1802-14 German Mediatisation 1815 Battle of Waterloo & Congress of Vienna

Schaumburg-Lippe (SL) - 1647 to 1946

1647-1807 a small county in the HRE - **my ancestors came from Berenbusch, SL**
1807-71 SL became a Principality in the Confederation of the Rhein, then in the German & North German Confederations - its capital city was **Bückeberg**
1871-1918 the Principality of SL became a state in the German Empire
1918-46 the Principality was renamed the Free State of Schaumburg-Lippe in Germany
in 1946, SL became the Schaumburg Kr. (*Kreis* or district) within Lower Saxony

Hesse-Kassel (HK) - 1567 to 1946

1567 HK was created from northern half of the *Landgraviate* Hesse - its capital was Kassel
1567-1803 HK became a state in the Holy Roman Empire, directly subject to the Emperor
1648 HK was awarded territory from Schaumburg, including **Fuhlen & Bad Nenndorf**
1803-07 the Electorate of Hesse 1807-14 occupied by French troops
1814-66 again the Electorate of Hesse 1866 HK joined the North German Confederation
today, Bad Nenndorf is in the Schaumburg Kr. of Lower Saxony

Hessisch-Oldendorf, Hesse-Kassel vs. the Kingdom of Hanover

1640-1932 **Hessisch-Oldendorf** and nearby villages belonged to Hesse-Kassel (HK)
(the villages of **Krückeberg & Fuhlen** are about a mile from Hessisch-Oldendorf)
1692-1814 the "Electorate of Hanover" (officially the Electorate of Brunswick-Lüneburg)
1814-66 the Kingdom of Hanover included **Fuhlen, Wehrbergen, Ockensen & Thüste**
1866 the Province of Hanover within the Kingdom of Prussia
today, these six villages are located in the Hamelin-Pyrmont Kr. of Lower Saxony

Prussia, the North German Confederation & the German Empire

1701-1918 was marked by an expanding Kingdom of Prussia (Berlin, in Brandenburg)
Prussia became the driving force of German unification
1815-48 & 1850-66 existence of the German Confederation (*Deutscher Bund*)
1848-50 a prototypical German empire 1866-71 North German Confederation
1866 Prusso-Austrian War 1870 Franco-Prussian War
1871-1918 German Empire (*2nd Reich*) 1918-33 Weimar Republic 1933-45 (*3rd Reich*)

Select Krückeberg Immigrants to the American Midwest

Steven T Krueckeberg - May, 2023

Westphalia & North Rhein-Westphalia (NR-W)

1102-1803 Duchy of Westphalia in the Holy Roman Empire
Westphalia was held by the Archbishop & Electors of Cologne
1803-07 Westphalia was secularized & expanded by the French Emperor Napoleon
1807-13 the Kingdom of Westphalia
1815-1946 the Province of Westphalia in Prussia; its capital was Münster
Westphalia merged with north Rhein (1946) & Lippe (1947); Düsseldorf is capital of NR-W

Minden town & Minden-Lübbecke Kreis, NR-W

1648 Peace of Westphalia secularized Minden from a Prince-Bishopric to a Principality
1719-1807 Minden was capital of the Minden-Ravensberg territory of Prussia
1807 Napoleon created the Kingdom of Westphalia, a part of his French Empire
1813 Minden reverted back to Prussia
1843 emigration was legalized; **my Bleeke ancestors came from Leteln, Minden**
today Minden is capital of the Minden-Lübbecke Kr. in North Rhein-Westphalia

Lippe & Lippe Kreis, NR-W

1528-1789 county of Lippe in the Holy Roman Empire
1789-1806 Principality of Lippe in the Holy Roman Empire
1815-1918 Principality of Lippe in the German Confederations & German Empire
1918-47 the Free State of Lippe in Germany
1947 was merged into the the new state of North Rhein-Westphalia
1973 creation of the Lippe Kreis in NR-W - its capital is Detmold

Soest & Soest Kreis, NR-W

a 13th century Norwegian saga identified Soest as capital of Attila's Hunnic Empire
in medieval times, Soest was the largest town in Westphalia
1444-49 the "Soest Feud" - the city liberated itself from the Bishop of Cologne
1449-1609 Soest was an Imperial Hanseatic city in the Holy Roman Empire
1816 now a part of Prussia, Soest city was named capital of the Soest Kreis
today the Soest Kr. is in North Rhein-Westphalia

Detmold "*Regierungsbesirk*" (Administrative District) of NR-W

Detmold city was capital of the Principality of Lippe & the Free State of Lippe
Detmold city is now capital of Lippe Kreis in NR-W
Detmold is also the name of an "administrative region" in North Rhein-Westphalia
which includes the *Kreise* (districts) of Minden-Lübbecke, Herford, Lippe, Gütersloh,
Paderborn, Höxter, and the city of Bielefeld
the other four *Regierungsbezirke* in NR-W are Münster, Arnsberg, Düsseldorf & Cologne