

## Overview of Mann Family Research

From the beginning of my genealogical research, this line has been difficult to follow. The MANN family is tied to my Gillespie family by way of Sarah Mann who married Jacob Struble Dodder. Both Sarah and Jacob were born in New Jersey, and their parents came to Michigan around 1850. The couple were married in Michigan and had 10 children, one of whom - Abi Dodder - married William Alex Gillespie. William and Abi were my great-grandparents.

While the Gillespie's and Dodder's left a bit more of a trail to follow, Mann's have been elusive. How to determine even what country they originated from? Happily I have located a cousin who is equally interested in the New-Jersey-to-Michigan Mann's! So together we have been piecing together clues over the last few years.

First, we should all understand there are multiple Ernest Mann's! Let's start with the more recent and move backward:

- Ernest Mann (3): son of Ernest Mann (2); b. 1808 NJ, d. 1890 MI, m. Margaret Rush; this was my Sarah Mann's father
- Ernest Mann (2): son of Ernest Mann (1); b. abt 1773 PA(?), d. 1846, MI, m. Catharina Knofts
- Ernest Man (1): potentially original immigrant, arrival 1754 Philadelphia; b. ??? possibly Germany or Prussia, d. 1813, NJ; m. 1) Catharine Glockner and 2) Maria Magdalena Summers
- Ernst Meng (0): m. Catharine. This Ernest may or may not have come to America, and at this point we only suspect that he is a parent of Ernest (1) the immigrant

Though it doesn't seem like much, here are the clues that have been leading us along the way:

First, was message board exchange with a descendant of Rachel Mann and Elisha Beers:

My aunt wrote that Earnest Mann (Father of Ernest and Rachel) was the son of Earnest Mann Sr. and Mary Magdalene Sammers, who was the daughter of George Sammers. However, she doesn't give the source of this information and she is no longer living, so I can't ask her. She also wrote this: "Ernest Mann Jr and his wife Catherine might have lived at Montana, a daughter Elizabeth is buried there. Ernest Mann Jr & wife and I think his father Ernest Sr. moved to Michigan and became quite wealthy."

There is some further evidence to confirm the maiden name of Ernest (1)'s wife in looking at the Ernest Mann Jr's Bible. On the births page where Rachel's birth is recorded, her middle name can barely be made out to be something like "Summers". I am fairly sure now that was her grandmother's maiden name.

Next was found the will of Ernest Man who died in Oxford, NJ in 1813. Not only does it list his beloved wife "Mary" but also his children's name, which include, of course, Ernest. Furthermore, Andrew Banghart was an executor of the will. Andrew Bangart married Catherine Summers, Mary's sister.

Then there was the will of George Summers, the father of Mary Summers. George died in 1785 in Oxford, NJ, and it lists the two daughters mentioned here this way: Daughters: Mary w/o Ernst MENGE, Catherine w/o Andrew BANGHEART.

A bit of a dry spell passed after coming this far, until it occurred to us to start searching for the surname MENGE. At that point, an arrival record was found for Ernst Menge arriving Sept. 30, 1754 on the ship Edinburgh in Philadelphia. There was also a Johannes Menge, and listed as sick, a Philip Sommer. This seemed exciting, but there was nothing to tie it to New Jersey until a visit to the New Jersey State Archives. There was a found an application for tavern license in Oxford, NJ in 1776 by Ernest Mann! What's even better is that he states in the application that he ran a tavern for several years in Philadelphia before submitting this application! Ah, now we have a connection between New Jersey and Philadelphia.

With subsequent digging into the church records of Philadelphia, we have found many, many more records that tells us:

- Possible spellings of Ernst's name include: Menge, Mange, Mangen, Maengen, Maenchen
- Ernst had a first wife, Catharina Glockner, who died in 1766, and Ernst remarried to Maria later the same year. It's not known if Ernst married Catharine in PA or in his country of origin.
- We have a few more children's names, both for Ernst and his first wife, Catharina, and his second wife, Maria
- We have George and Barbara Summers listed specifically as grandparents witnessing the birth of a child born to Ernst and Maria.
- We have a 1769 tax record of Ernst Mann as a stocking weaver living in the same town (Northern Liberties) as John Mann, who is an innholder, as well as Peter and Henry Mann. The will for John Mann, who died in 1790, specifically mentions Ernst and Henry as his brothers.

There are a number of other clues in these church records, which we are now trying to link to related families as well as church records in New Jersey. We are excited about the fascinating progress on this challenging family line. One thing we have learned without doubt is to Never Give Up!