

Dr. Collier Cobb Describes Migration Of The Palatines

(By Dr. Collier Cobb)

Each one of us is an omnibus on which all his ancestors ride; and the direction we take and the speed we make depends on which forefather is driving.

The hold that heredity has on us, stated in the first clause of the sentence, must bring us pause and thought when we consider the second clause. Which ancestor is driving us?

A principle known as Mendel's Law, governing the inheritance of many characters in plants and animals, was discovered by Gregor J. Mendel, an Austrian abbot, about the time that Charles Darwin was making his studies of plants and animals under domestication. As a result of his breeding experiments with peas he showed that height, color, and other characters depend on the presence of determining factors behaving as units and that the second and later generations exhibit these characteristics in all possible combinations, each combination in a different proportion of individuals.

Power of Environment

But this law does afford a chance at saving grace to every one; for even among the great from whom many in this society are descended, men whose Mr. Hyde was as much in evidence at the start as their Dr. Jekyll, there have come unbroken lines of high-minded men and women.

We are all what we are largely because we are where we are. This is a very definite statement of the influence of environment. Many human geographers and sociologists today are disposed to see environmental control rather than the influence of environment, following not far off the thesis of Henry Thomas Buckle in his "History of Civilization in England," a book that created as much discussion and as much opposition as "The Origin of Species," which appeared at about the same time. But it will not do to hold altogether with these people, or with their next of kin, the behaviorists.

Where Man Came From

The Palatinate was a name applied to two little countries of the old German Empire, the Upper Palatinate and the Lower or Rhonish Palatinate, which were politically connected until 1620. The Palatinate was originally a feudal district whose ruler, the Count Palatine, a prince of the Holy Roman Empire, exercised all the prerogatives of a king. These Counts Palatine were so paternal in their government, that their people—rather than subjects—took pride in calling themselves the Palatines.

The Lower Palatinate (Unterpfalz), was made up of territory on both sides of the Rhine, embraced roughly within the space marked off by the cities of Mainz, Worms, Heilbronn, Landau, and Zweibrücken. It included the Electoral Palatinate—with Heidelberg, and for a time Mannheim, as its capital; the Principality of Simmern, the Duchy of Zweibrücken Deux ponts), the Principalities of Veldenz and Lautern, and some others. Its capital was Heidelberg.

First Count Palatine

The first Count Palatine of the Rhine was Henmann I, who ruled from 945 until 996, and although the office was not hereditary it appears to have been held mainly by his descendants until the death of Count Hermann III, in 1155. In 1155 the German king, Frederick I, appointed his step-brother Conrad as Count Palatine. In 1214, on the death of the reigning count, the Palatine was given by the German king Frederick II,

to Otto, the infant son of Louis I, duke of Bavaria. The Palatinate was ruled by Louis of Bavaria on behalf of his son until 1228, when it passed to Otto who ruled until his death in 1253.

When the possessions of the house of Wittelsbach were divided in 1255 and the branches of Bavaria and the Palatinate were founded, dispute arose over the exercise of the electoral vote, and the question was not settled until in 1356 the Golden Bull bestowed the privilege upon the Count Palatine of the Rhine, who exercised it until 1623. The Palatinate was divided into four parts among the sons of the German king Rupert in 1410, but in 1559, on the extinction of the senior line, Frederick, Count Palatine of Simmern, succeeded to the Palatinate, becoming the elector Frederick III.

Introducing Frederick III.

This Frederick III. was the elector who introduced Calvinism in the Palatinate and made it the established religion. Under his direction the Heidelberg Catechism was drawn up (1563). He also aided the French Huguenots and extended his protection to Protestant refugees of every sect, especially to the Protestants of France. He was often called by his admirers the Alfred the Great of the Palatinate. Under his kindly rule Lutherans, Presbyterians and Anabaptists flourished, notwithstanding severe Calvinism which was the theology of the established or Reformed Church.

During the wars of Louis XIV. the Palatinate, one of the richest and most fertile lands in Germany, was mercilessly devastated by the French armies in 1674 and 1689. In 1685 the Simmern line died out and was succeeded by the collateral line of Neuburg, whose members were of the Catholic faith. This led to the emigration in 1709-10, of a large number of Protestant inhabitants (estimated at 13,000) to England. These went at the special invitation of Queen Anne, who was seeking desirable subjects to train in British ways and later send to her colonies in America. In England these people from the Palatinate were pitiable objects of English charity and at the same time creators of serious discontent among the English poor; for bread was scarce and commanding double price, while these foreigners were supported by public collections and by the Queen. It is not surprising that they are so often spoken of as "the poor Palatines."

How They Migrated

In England these people lived in tents from the early summer of 1709 until they sailed in mild weather in January, 1710. From there a large body crossed over to Ireland, while others went to North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In 1710 between 3000 and 4000 Palatines, as they were called, settled in Columbia and Ulster counties, New York, whence many removed to Montgomery and Herkimer counties, to the region around Worcester, Massachusetts, and to Pennsylvania. For more than a century these good people continued to come to the United States, and a colony of Palatines settled in New Jersey as late as 1850, finding there some who had come a hundred years earlier.

Baron Christopher de Graffenreid and Ludwig Michel, who had been attracted to North Carolina by their previous association with the now deceased Duke of Albemarle, found these "poor Palatines" in England "intermingled with Swiss and people from several of the German provinces!" "He and Mitchell," Dr. Vass tells us,

"were looking for a profitable speculation, and ready to grapple with this problem for a consideration. It was understood that "the Queen would not only assume the expense of their transportation, but also bestow upon them considerable assistance. This really took place; and this last sum amounted to 14,000 pounds sterling!"

"Other advantageous promises gilded the enterprise. Between DeGraffenreid and the Lords Proprietors was drawn up an elaborate contract, which still exists. His pay was five and a half pounds apiece for six hundred and fifty Palatines transported to North Carolina—more than \$18,000. Liberal provision was made for their comfort on arrival, and for their support for a year in their new homes. . . . Young people, healthy and laborious, and of all kinds of occupations, were selected, and ample provision was made for their comfortable voyage in well-equipped ships. De Graffenreid appointed three directors, notables from North Carolina, then in London, one of whom seems to have been Lawson, the surveyor-general; for he could not himself sail with them, as he had to await his colonists from Bern."

In the group then were French Protestants from Guienne and from Gascony, a few French Swiss, and German Swiss, and Germans from beyond the Palatinate. One of these young Germans was a son of August Hermann Francke, professor of Oriental languages—changed to to professorship of theology in 1698—at Halle, a pupil of Spener and the teacher of Zinzendorf. Professor Francke was a pietist preacher, whose activity, however, took the practical direction of founding, endowing, and organizing schools for the religious train-

ing of the poor and neglected children of his city and its surrounding country.

Taught Them Practical Things

Nor did Francke overlook their more material needs of a practical sort. He set up a printing office for his boys, and opened an apothecary's shop. He had them instructed in the natural sciences and in their native language. He gave them systematic physical exercises, and had them instructed in manual trades. All his foundations exist at the present time, and several thousand pupils annually receive instruction in the buildings grouped around the Francke Platz in Halle. A bronze statue of the founder adorns the center of the square.

The pietist preacher had been in correspondence with Cotton Mather about the chance his son Johann—already a man—might have to make a man of himself in New England; and Hans was now in London ready to sail for Boston. But fate decreed otherwise. Hans saw among the poor Palatines a beautiful girl named Sevil Muller; and New Bern, rather than Boston, became the destination of John Martin Francke, and Sevil Muller was his destiny. Sevil Muller was the daughter of Jacob and Katherine Muller, who came with their children to New Bern from the Palatinate in 1710.

Francke had with him his surveying instruments, and he brought along many small wares that he thought might be useful to colonists. He went up one bank of the Trent river and down the other, starting out with his surveyor's compass on his shoulder and his peddler's pack on his back. He returned to New Bern in less than two years, with a fine estate called Little Germany not far from the head of the river, with land on both sides of the Trent, and

with his pockets full of ready money. He was almost immediately elected a member of the General Assembly of 1712, and he returned to New Bern as a justice of the peace. His sons took wives from the best that the colony afforded; and his wife's brothers, the Muller-Jacob, John, and Philip—have also an honorable part in building up this and other states.

Where Descendants Are Found

Descendants of de Graffenreid and of Michel are found throughout our broad land, numbering among them many of the old Huguenot and other French Protestant families. Many French Protestants who fled to the Netherlands afterwards found their way to our country.

At Old Mankin in King William County, Virginia, were three hundred families with Claude Phillippe de Richbourg as their pastor. He afterwards led many of the mto New Bern, and later to a South Carolina home, meeting there a stream of good men and women who had come direct from the French Holland settlement in 1686. These and many other French colonists in America, as well as other German colonists, are often mistakenly called Palatines.

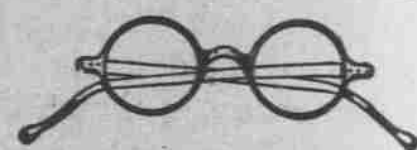
In the middle of the XVIII century, however, many people from the Palatinate moved on down through Virginia and into Piedmont North Carolina; and their descendants are today the leaders in everything worth while in the up-country of both Carolinas. Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, Caldwell, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Rowan, also in Guilford, Alamance and Randolph—practically all of our piedmont counties—are the better for their presence. They are scattered over South Carolina, particularly in the northwest, and

a number of the people of Charleston and Savannah have kindred from the Palatinate, French Protestants from Guienne and Gascony.

DR. DABNEY DOING RESEARCH WORK HERE

Dr. Charles W. Dabney, formerly president of the University of Tennessee and later president of the University of Cincinnati and at one time a professor of chemistry here, is spending some time in Chapel Hill doing historical research work in the University library.

Dr. Dabney has an enviable record as a scientist and educator. In addition to having served as president of two universities, he has served as state chemist, as a director of the United States agriculture experiment station, and is said to have been instrumental in the writing of the charter for what is now State college.



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