

New Discoveries on the Loyalist Leonard Slip and His Wife Elizabeth Ryson

By: Rick Crume

In an article for the Fall 2004 issue of *Generations*, I outlined my findings on the origins of the Loyalist Leonard Slip (1748-1833) and his wife Elizabeth Ryson (1756-1821) of Hampstead, Queens County, New Brunswick. Leonard Slip's real name was Johann Leonhard Schloep, he came from Markt Taschendorf, Middle Franconia, Germany in 1766 and he worked as a cooper in a potash factory in New York. All of these details were revealed in a notice published in a German-language newspaper in Philadelphia in 1791. Officials back in Germany placed the notice in an effort to find Leonard so he could claim his inheritance. My article in the Fall 2004 issue also said that Leonard's wife was very likely the Elizabeth Reisner who became a member of the German Reformed Church in New York City in 1774. Now I have found another article concerning Leonard's inheritance and more details on Elizabeth Reisner's parents.

The "Citation," shown here, appeared in the *New York Daily Advertiser* on three successive days, from 30 July to 2 August 1791. Similar to the notice which would appear in a Philadelphia newspaper a month later, this article has more details. But maybe the translated article from the Philadelphia newspaper doesn't include all the details in the German-language original. Both articles tell how John Leonard Schloep (called Johann Leonhard Schloep in the Philadelphia piece) had written a letter dated 16 June 1774 to his parents back in Germany, but they hadn't heard from him since then. Apparently his father had died not long before 30 July 1791, for officials back in Obersteinbach, a village near his hometowns of Frankfurt and Markt Taschendorf, were trying to find him and give him 200 Frankish florins, "the value of his paternal hereditary portion." (One florin in 1750 was worth about 60 US dollars in 2005, so 200 florins would be worth about \$12,000 today.¹) Leonard had until the end of February 1792 to claim his inheritance or it would be given to the next closest kin. Since he had fled to New Brunswick with his family in 1783 at the close of the Revolutionary War, it seems likely that he never saw the notice in either newspaper and never got his inheritance.

I found the article in the *New York Daily Advertiser* through a newspaper database called Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690-1876.

¹ Barthel Raumberger in Germany 1716-1753, http://home.arcor.de/emigration-research/barthel_raumberger_in_germany_17.htm.

Published by Readex, a division of NewsBank, Inc., this service lets you search the text of more than 1.5 million pages from historic newspapers. I've discovered many references to my ancestors in this database and highly recommend it. Membership in the New England Historic Genealogical Society <www.NewEnglandAncestors.org> gives you access to this resource.

In my previous article, I mistakenly speculated that Leonard Slip's wife, Elizabeth Ryson, was a daughter of Johannes Reissner who died in 1765 in New York City. Since then, I have discovered that her father was actually Johann Caspar Reisner who immigrated in 1752, married the widow Anna Catharina (Hauser) Steinman in 1755 in Philadelphia and lived in New York City between 1759 and 1766. The couple had children Elizabeth, born in 1756, and Johann Friederich, baptized in 1760 in New York City. Johannes Reissner and Johann Caspar Reisner, could have been related, maybe father and son.

Here are the facts I have found on Johann Caspar Reisner:

- Johann Caspar Reisner immigrated on the ship Phoenix in 1752 and took the oath of allegiance in Philadelphia.²
- Johann Caspar Reisner and Anna Catharina Steinmann, a widow, were married at a Lutheran church in Philadelphia, 30 April 1755.³

² Ralph Beaver Strassburger. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808*, <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/NJ/2006-12/1165072020>. "At the Court House at Philadelphia, Thursday, the Second of November, 1752. Present: Edward Shippen, Esqr. The Foreigners whose Names are underwritten, imported in the Ship called Phoenix, John Spurrier, Commander, from Rotterdam but last from Portsmouth in England, took the usual Qualifications to the Government... Johann Caspar Reisner..."

³ *Pennsylvania Archives*, p. 299, Google Books, <http://books.google.com>. "St. Michael's and Zion Church [Philadelphia]. Marriages, 1755 April 30, Johann Caspar Reisner and An. Cath. Steinmann, wid."

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- Casper Raisner was naturalized in New York, 3 July 1759.⁴
- Caspar Reisner and wife Anna Catharina were sponsors for a baptism at a Lutheran church in New York City in 1761.⁵
- Casper Reisner was the executor of an estate in New York City in 1764.⁶
- Caspar Reisner sponsored baptisms at a Lutheran church in New York City in 1765⁷ and 1766.⁸

While Johann Caspar Reisner was associated with Lutheran churches, his wife Anna Catharina (Hauser/Hausauer) Reisner was admitted to the German Reformed Church of New York City in about 1759.⁹ A native of Schwäbisch Hall,

⁴ Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, *Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775* (Baltimore, Maryland : Genealogical Pub. Co., ca. 2005), p. 223. Also, Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, *Denizations, Naturalizations, and Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New York* (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Pub. Co., ca. 1975), p. 52. Both books were accessed via Ancestry.com.

⁵ Henry Z. Jones, Jr. and Lewis Bunker Rohrbach, *Even More Palatine Families: 18th Century: Immigrants to the American Colonies and their German, Swiss and Austrian Origins* (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, ca. 2002), vol. 1, p. 426. Christ Lutheran "Swamp" Churchbook, New York, City. Anna Catharina Maurer, baptized 23 March 1761, sponsors Jacob Huth and wife Anna Catharina, Caspar Reisner and wife Anna Catharina.

⁶ Kenneth Scott, *Genealogical Data from Colonial New York Newspapers: A Consolidation* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publ. Co., 1977), p. 99. Accessed via Google Books, <http://books.google.com>. "Genealogical Data from *The New-York Mercury* 1764. "Aspeck, John Christian, late of NYC, dec'd—accounts with estate to be settled with execs, Casper Reisner and John Meyer (1/9)."

⁷ Jones and Rohrbach, vol. 1, p. 341. Johann Caspar Kieter, born 14 Aug. 1765 – sponsors: Caspar Reisner and Jacob Janny (New York City Lutheran Church book).

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 663. Immanuel, baptized 17 Feb. 1766, sponsors Caspar Reisener and Jacob Kook, New York City Lutheran Church book.

⁹ Charles Farrell, "Records of the German Reformed Church of New York City," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 128, no. 1 (Jan. 1997), p. 56. "The following persons were admitted to communion in part because of their

Württemberg, Germany,¹⁰ she accompanied her daughter Elizabeth (Reisner) Slip's family to New Brunswick and is buried with them in the Slipp/Merritt Cemetery at Queenstown, Queens County. Catherine's grave marker says she died in July 1812 at age 94, so she was born in about 1718.¹¹

In addition to their daughter Elizabeth who married Leonard Slip, Johann Caspar Reisner and his wife Anna Catharina (Hauser/Hausauer) Reisner had a son, Johann Friederich Reisner, born 12 August 1760¹² and baptized 17 August 1760¹³ in a Lutheran church in New York City. He may be the Fred'k Reisner listed in the 1790 census of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania¹⁴ and the Frederick Reisner listed in the 1830 census of Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio.¹⁵

Like most genealogical discoveries, these findings raise more questions. Who were Johann Leonhard Schloep's parents? Where was his wife Elizabeth Reisner born? Where in Germany was her father Johann Caspar Reisner born and when and where did he die? Who were the parents of Elizabeth's mother Anna Catharina Hauser/Hausauer? As more records from Germany and colonial New York are published in print and online, it should become easier to answer these questions.

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confession of faith and in part on certificates. (1759?) 69. Anna Catharina Hausauer, Reisner's wife, with certificate."

¹⁰ Charles Farrell, "Records of the German Reformed Church of New York City," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vol. 128, no. 2 (Apr. 1997), p. 116. "Commun[icants, about 1766]: Reissner/: Cathar:/ born Hauser, of Schoaebisch Hall."

¹¹ Interview with George Slipp of Hampstead, N.B., 7 May 1993.

¹² International Genealogical Index, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org. Source: records of the New York City Lutheran Church, transcribed in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, vols. 97-103 (1966-1972). Father: J. Caspar Reisner. Mother: An. Catharina.

¹³ Jones and Rohrbach, vol. 1, p. 531.

¹⁴ Page 48. Males: (1) 16 & over, (2) 0-15. Females: 3.

¹⁵ Page 40. Males: 1 age 60-70, 1 age 20-30, 1 under 5. Females: 1 age 60-70, 1 age 20-30.

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The building at the upper right is the tavern called “Blizzards”, which Leonard Slip operated on Long Island, in the River Saint John, New Brunswick. The label on the back of the picture says:

Long Island, N.B.

Meeting of the officers of the garrisons of Saint John and Fredericton at long Island in the Saint John river, near the mouth of the Otnabog in 1824. In the picture can be seen the soldiers and their friends before the Blizzard House, a favorite inn of travelers on the river. The settlement at Long Island was later abandoned and the Blizzard House was moved to Wickham.

From a Lithograph published in London in 1824.

This picture is courtesy of Carol Parker.

CITATION.

JOHN Leonard Schloep, and John Maar both natives of Mt. Tafendorf, a borough in the Franconian circle of the German empire, appertaining to the Bailiwick Obersteinbach, of the Baron Kunsberg, having set out for America in the year 1766.—The former, viz. Schloep has long ago given notice to his parents by a letter of the 16th June 1774, of his being employed as Cooper in a potash-fabric at New-York; but since that time no intelligence has been got neither of him nor of Maar. Now, as the abovementioned Schloep has still to get two hundred florins, Frankish, the value of his paternal hereditary portion; and John Maar, forty florins Rhenish, for a fold piece of field; both of them or their lawful heirs, are hereby, in consequence of an issued seigneurial command, edictiter and peremptorily cited, namely, the former to give to this here Bailiwick, within the space of a year, consequently till to the end of February 1792, Certificates of their being in life, and of their abodes, and no less for to strengthen their good proofs, to mention who have been their parents and relations, and who of them have still been alive, before their setting out for America; but the latter, to legitimate themselves duly and sufficiently, within the fixed term, else they may expect that the mentioned 200 florins fr. and forty florins rh. will be delivered to their next relations in this country, without interest against caution. But, in case Schloep and Maar, should be no more in life, nor have left any lawful heirs, we are hereby to require decently those courts of justice, or common councils, which can give us certified intelligence about them, that they may be pleased to impart it to this here Bailiwick upon acquittance of the expenses, and to deliver it to the Post-Office of New-York.

Obersteinbach the 28th February 1791.
Bailiwick of the Barons Kunsberg herself.
July 30. 3t.