

(Peter) David Hansell Naturalized in 1765

When I was leafing through the many volumes of *Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists*, in the 1983 Supplement, Page 345, I noted a listing for a David Hansell, 1765. Filby's reference for this name is Page 145 of *Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies (Pursuant to Statute 13 George II, c.7)*, edited by M.S. Giuseppi.

Giuseppi's book is on the shelf at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. I received photocopies of Pages 138 through 149. On Page 145 is the following entry:

David Hansell, Upper Darby, Chester County

Going back to Ancestry.com and their index for "Naturalizations in America and the West Indies 1740-1782" (which is based on Giuseppi's records) one finds:

David Hansbll – Upper Darby, Chester County (you have to search on David and Darby to find this entry). Oh what a difference a typo makes!

Continuing on with the theory that the fellow listed in the Upper Darby tax records from 1754 through 1772 variously named

Peter David / Peter David Hamset / Peter David Hansley / Peter David Hansel

and Peter David Hansell who placed the lost horse advertisement in 1770 from Upper Darby is our Peter David Hansell, it is most likely that this David Hansell, naturalized in 1765, is one and the same.

The Process for Naturalization of Foreign Protestants

From the introduction to the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society publication *Pennsylvania Naturalizations 1695-1773*:

The British Parliament, in 1740, passed a naturalization act through which alien colonists could obtain the rights of natural-born subjects of Great Britain. For an alien to become naturalized by this act in Pennsylvania, he first had to reside in the colonies for seven years (not being absent for more than two months at any one time). He then had to produce in Court a certificate showing he had taken the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in some Protestant or Reformed Congregation in the Province of Pennsylvania within three months before the said Court, take and subscribe specified Oaths, and make and repeat a specified Declaration prescribed by the act. Special provision was made for an Affirmation in place of the Oaths to be made by Quakers, and both Quakers and Jews were exempted from the obligation of receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The act did not cover religious groups such as the Mennonites and Moravians. In Pennsylvania this problem was met by an Act of Assembly passed 3 Feb. 1742-3 for naturalizing 'such Foreign Protestants as are settled or shall settle within this Province who, not being of the People called Quakers, do conscientiously refuse the taking of any Oath.' In 1747 the British Parliament passed a similar act.

Conclusion

David Hansell (most likely our Peter David Hansell) took the naturalization oath in 1765. Subtracting a residency of 7 years brings us back to 1758. According to the tax roll, Hansell had been in Upper Darby since 1754.

As British immigrants to the Colonies were already considered citizens, this looks like confirmation that Peter David Hansell was not an Englishman and that his birthland was some where other than England. (How about Holland??? ha ha)

A bit of speculation has Peter David Hansell taking the sacrament at the church of St. James in Kingsessing (which had been built in 1762) prior to appearing at Court to take the naturalization oaths.

END NOTES

I have not provided footnotes. This is not intended for publication. On the other hand, I haven't plucked this information from thin air; there is a source for all this material. My interpretations and attributions may be incorrect. If anyone wants to know where specific information came from, just let me know!

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A description of the book *Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies (Pursuant to Statute 13 George II, c.7)*, edited by M.S. Giuseppi

This book contains copies of all the returns of naturalizations of foreign Protestants sent from the Colonies to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations during the period 1740 to 1772. It refers to some 6,500 persons--mostly Germans--who were naturalized in accordance with an act of 1740. The returns are from the colonies of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania, and from Jamaica in the West Indies, with those from Pennsylvania predominating. The entries generally include name, religion, town and county of residence, and date of naturalization.

Pages 138 through 149 of Giuseppi's book contain about 900 names of men who took the oath in probably August, September and October of 1765. There is one other person from Upper Darby, Adam Bole. He is on the Upper Darby tax rolls in 1765 and some succeeding years.

Naturalization records are contained in the Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, Volume 2. This list includes only some people naturalized in the spring of 1765.