

Appleton Branch of the Plückhahn Family Tree



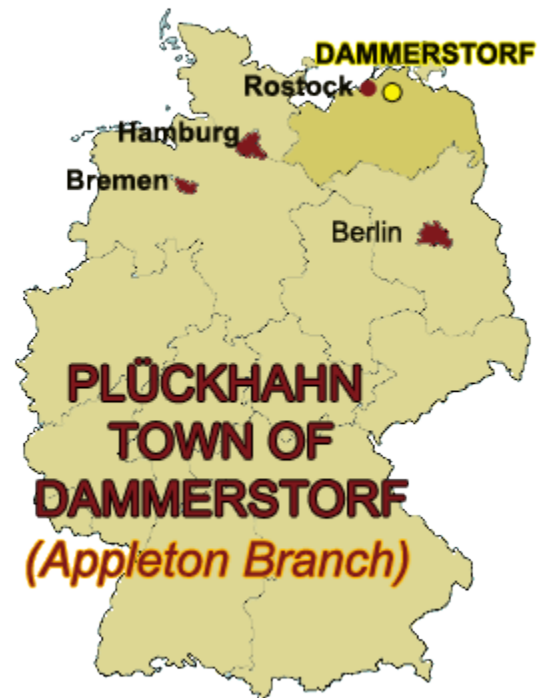
A. Introduction.

Appleton, a city in north eastern Wisconsin is the location for the Appleton Branch of the Plueckhahn Family Tree. The city today has a population of over 71,000 people. Our ancestor came over in 1862. Then the population was just over 2,000. They had a large influx of German settlers in the late 1800's.

This **PLÜCKHAHN** Branch
change the spelling the their last name to

PLECKHAM

The founding family was a farming family. They were farmers from a town called "**DAMMERSDORF**" in the Northern German State of "MECKLENBURG". Records that were found spell the name of their town ending with a "DORF". "TORF" and "DORF" are used interchangeably. The town today is spelt **Dammerstorf**, (with an 't') which uses the parish of "**Kölzow**", in the county of Scherwin (county today called Ribnitz-Damgarten) . Most records of births and marriages were recorded in Church documents so our search for more information about this family will come from studying these records. Records have also shown that this family also resided in Carlsruhe, Alt Stein Horst, and Marlow.



The year was 1814. **Johann Joach Friedrich Plückhahn** was born to Johann Carl Christian Plückhahn and Catherine Marie Meier in Alt Steinhurst and was baptized in the parish of **Marlow**. Many of the records abbreviated his name as J. J. F. Plückhahn.

They were land labourers for wealthy land owners. He was one of six kids. The 1819 census show this family as residence of the town of Carlsruhe.

When he was 26 years old he married **Sophia Johanne Ludwig**. They were married on Sept 18, 1840 in the **Kölzow** Lutheran Church. Times were tough for this family. Three of their children died within the first 5 years of their lives.

Johann and Sophia made the decision to immigrate to America, where the futures seemed brighter. On Nov 4, 1862 they set sail from Hamburg to their new home aboard the ship named "Donau".



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Johann and Sophia Plückhahn were in their middle to late 40's when they decided to leave Mecklenburg in 1862. They had 7 children, including a set of twin boys aged 7. Times were hard in Mecklenburg. The system of land owners made the land labourers very poor and desperate for a better life.

In the United States, places like Wisconsin were looking for Land laborers (Farmers) to homestead land there. Places even advertised in Germany to get the word out. It is not know if any of these ads went the way of Johann and Sopia.

Here is the index to the passenger Manifest.

P L Ü C K H A H N , Joh.		Landmann
48		Damersdorf-Mecklenburg
Sophia 44 Ehefrau - Minna 20 - Ernst 17 - Carl 12 -		
Joh. 7 - Joach. 7 - Marie 6 - Sophie 3 - Carl 2 -		
Widow		
Other Information - Special Agents		
1862	70	76

Passenger ship records shows that this family of 9 boarded a ship called the "DONAU" on **November 4, 1862** in the Northern German city of Hamburg. They sailed for 7 weeks and four days. Their accommodations where scanty in the Steer class in the bowls of the ship. It was a long hard journey. They must have spent everything they had to leave Mecklenburg.

They arrived in New York 2 days after Christmas on December 27, 1862. A picture of the ship is shown here. Steamship were not widely used during this time. The ones that were used were only for the wealthy.

Once they arrived in New York they had to go through customs at **Castle Clinton**. Ellis Island was not yet built.

Details of their trip out west to **Wisconsin** are not know. We still need to find out when the earliest of records of them being in Wisconsin were recorded. This will tell us approximately when they arrived.

Passenger Ship DONAU November 4, 1862	
Name	Age
Johann Plückhahn	48
Sophia Plückhahn	44
Minna Plückhahn	20
Ernst Plückhahn	17
Carl Plückhahn	12
Johann Plückhahn	7
Joach Plückhahn	7
Marie Plückhahn	6
Sophi Plückhahn	3