

THE PENSINGER FAMILY

Susan Ellen Pensinger (1864-1955) was the second wife of William Joseph Danner. This section covers a brief history of her ancestry.

HENRY PENSINGER

The earliest Pensinger that I have a record of is Henry Pensinger, born in 1760 probably in Pennsylvania. The family was originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and then they moved a little further west to Franklin County in about 1810.

According to his pension request for service in the Revolutionary War, he was a resident of Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1818 when he applied. He states that he enlisted in the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment under Colonel Anthony Wayne in a company commanded by a Captain Church in 1776. He served in the Battle of Three Rivers where he was wounded and then lost his left leg at Ticonderoga during the winter of 1777. He was hospitalized in Philadelphia where he was ultimately discharged after a six months stay.

He was living in Montgomery Township of Franklin County in 1820 and was sixty years of age at the time according to his statement when he wrote his will. This will was probated there on April 23, 1821. He mentions eleven children, but names only Henry, Jacob, Polly who married John Myers, Caty who married Peter Gingry and Rosanna who married Michael DeWalt.

His wife's name was Rosannah Pensinger as noted on affidavits made in August of 1820. We do not know Rosannah's maiden name.

Of the children, we know from an old bible record that Jacob Pensinger was born on September 25, 1789 and that another of Henry's daughters, Susan Pensinger Studebaker, was born December 24, 1809. There was another son, Joseph Pensinger, who was born around the year 1814.

There is no trouble in establishing this generation, the problem comes in determining the proper parentage of the next generation in our line. The next person in our line is Taylor S. Pensinger. The problem is we do not know who his parents were. In reading old letters, neither did Taylor that makes matters even worse.

Anyway, here come some thoughts on the matter. The following is what the writer believes to be the case.

What we know is that Taylor was raised by his aunt and uncle, John and Susan Pensinger Studebaker. As mentioned earlier there was an old family bible that contained the information as to the birth and death dates of Tailor (as it was spelled on his birth record, Taylor on his death date much later), Susan and John Studebaker. The first listing was for a Jacob Pensinger "*Born in the year of our Lord September the 25th 1789.*" The same hand then listed birth dates for John, Susan and Tailor. These entries were most likely written by Susan. The death dates were written in other hands obviously at later dates.

The listing of Jacob Pensinger at the top is what throws a wrench in the whole thing. It was originally thought that Jacob might have been the father of Taylor. Then records were found of Joseph Pensinger, who married Elizabeth Tailor on October 28, 1830. Other records indicate that Elizabeth died in childbirth on January 26, 1842. It seems very likely that Tailor Pensinger was a child of Joseph and Elizabeth and was named for his mother's family. There is a discrepancy of three months and two days between Tailor's birth and Elizabeth's death.

Records were not perfect in those days. If we assume that Elizabeth died either a few days or a few months after Tailor's birth, then Joseph was saddled with a new baby as well as four very young children to take care of. It would also be reasonable to assume his elder sister, Susan Pensinger Studebaker who was childless would be more than happy to raise young Tailor as her own.

Joseph remarried, but Susan kept Tailor and raised him. We gather Taylor never knew who his real folks were. Okay, my feeling is that Susan simply did not want to give up the little rascal and rather than have Taylor wonder why his real folks never came to claim him, Susan and Joseph agreed never to bring up the subject. Make sense??

I feel it is at least possible. Want another guess? In later life and in his obituary, Taylor used a middle initial of `S'. In the early 1840s middle names were not that common. I think that it may have stood for Studebaker and was given to him by his aunt who raised him.

Now comes the subject no one has come to grips with. Why was Jacob's name the top entry in Taylor's bible? Again it is only my feeling, but I think there is one other generation that the other researchers have not dealt with. I think that Jacob (born in 1789) was the father of Susan (born in 1809) and Joseph (born in 1812). It would have been perfectly logical for Susan to begin the listings in her Bible with the birth date of her father. Since he was still alive at the time, there was no death entry. Therefore this Jacob Pensinger was Henry's child and Joseph and Susan were Henry's grandchildren not his children. To me this makes sense.

In those days' folks had kids in their twenties and not in their fifties as would be the case of Henry fathering the above three as well as the rest of his eleven kids.

Going out on a limb I feel the descendency was Henry to Jacob to Joseph to Tailor as far as our lineage goes. Following this track, lets go back and finish out the lineage.

JACOB PENSINGER

Jacob Pensinger was born, according to the bible record, September 25, 1789 in Pennsylvania and probably in Lancaster County. This was after his father returned home from the Revolution and the hospital in Philadelphia. He married while still living in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His wife's name was Mary, but I do not know her maiden name. According to her tombstone she was born in 1785 so she was older than Jacob by 5 years.

Jacob and Mary Pensinger spent the rest of their lives in Greencastle of Montgomery Township of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. They are both buried there. Jacob died on October 20, 1878, Mary had died in 1845.

They had these known children: **JACOB, JOHN, HENRY, GEORGE, DAVID, NANCY, ELIZABETH** and **ROSANNA PENSINGER**.

JOSEPH PENSINGER

Joseph was born in Montgomery Township in 1812. He lived near Greencastle, Pennsylvania. Greencastle is in southern Pennsylvania roughly half way between Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and Hagerstown, Maryland. It was there that he married Elizabeth Tailor on October 28, 1830.

About 1836, Joseph and Elizabeth and their children **JOHN**, born in 1832, a **DAUGHTER** and possibly **HENRY** who was born in 1836, moved to Stark County, Ohio near the town of Bethlehem. It was here that they had two more children, probably twins **THOMAS** and **MARY JANE**.

Elizabeth died in childbirth on January 26, 1842 here on the farm in Bethlehem. It was here that **TAYLOR** was born.

Joseph then took his children and moved further west to Crawford County, Ohio where he remarried to Elizabeth Heck on March 8, 1846.

Joseph and his second spouse had the following children: **NATHANIEL, HAMILTON, LYDIA ANN, MATILDA** and **SUSAN**.

The family later moved to Will County, Illinois where he spent his remaining years. Joseph, Elizabeth and several of the children are buried here.

TAYLOR SAMUEL PENSINGER

Taylor Pensinger was born, according to the family bible, on October 23, 1841 in Stark County, Ohio. He was raised as detailed above by his aunt, Susan and her spouse John Studebacker. The family was living in Tuscarawas County, Ohio in 1850. They moved to Daviess County, Indiana near Raglesville in the 1860s.

Taylor met and Married Sarah Seneff here on October 18, 1863.

Sarah Seneff was born in Salt Lick Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania on January 7, 1837. Her father was German, her mother English. Her father was Daniel Seneff (1799-1878), and his father was Christian Seneff. Her mother Susannah Barnett (1806-1881), and her father was Jacob Barnet. They were farmers. Sarah's parents were married in 1826 and had eleven children. The family moved to Ohio in 1846 and then moved to Daviess County, Indiana in 1863 where Daniel purchased 154 acres of farm land. Daniel farmed the land some seven years and then passed it onto his son William and continued to live there until his death. There is a **SENEFF FAMILY HISTORY** that is coming up next.

Taylor and Sarah raised three children in Daviess County. Susan Ellen, Joseph Grant who died young and William Henry. Both of these children were still living in 1894 when Taylor died.

Taylor was a farmer in the area and active in the United Brethren Baptist church all his life. Taylor died Tuesday, July 10, 1894 after an illness of four days, Sarah died on May 26, 1896 and both are buried there in Raglesville.

Their children were:

SUSAN ELLEN PENSINGER born on December 12, 1864. On December 24, 1885 she married William Joseph Danner. Their lives have been detailed in the main body of this Danner family history. She died in Terre Haute, Indiana on December 7, 1955. Their children were:

Olie Afton Danner born March 18, 1883. She married Levi Matthews on October 4, 1903. She died May 11, 1976.

Claude Everett Danner born November 29, 1886 and died December 3, 1918. He married Edith Samuels August 12, 1911.

Walter Scott Danner born April 28, 1891 and died March 29, 1925. He married Ola Dell Morrison on October 18, 1917.

Russell Elvin Danner born October 8, 1893 and died February 12, 1896.

William Ernest Danner born October 26, 1899 and died December 17, 1984. He married Willa Frances Mendenhall on September 3, 1922.

JOSEPH GRANT PENSINGER born April 28, 1867 and died as a child I believe.

WILLIAM HENRY PENSINGER born July 28, 1872 in Daviess County, Indiana. He married Lucy Poland in about 1891. He was a druggist in Raglesville, Indiana. He died in Indianapolis on January 1, 1922. Their children were:

Charles Wallace Pensinger born in 1895. He married Ethel Hogue. He died in 1964.

Ruth Pensinger born February 8, 1897. She married John Walsh.

Mary Ellen Pensinger born in about 1900. She died in Evanston, Illinois in 1965.