

Chapter Two

John Herring - German Immigrant (1835-1891)

John Herring immigrated to the United States in the 1850-1859 decade. German immigration during that period was about 30% of total immigrations, already about 8% of the population was German and German was the most widely used language in the United States after English. By far the largest number of German immigrants went to America in search of an improved standard of living. Most were generally small farmers, not rich by any means but also not the poorest of the poor. These mid-century immigrants had enough resources to finance their trip but not enough to keep them rooted to their hometowns. For this time frame political, religious persecution and military service played a smaller role.

John Hoering was born Jan 5, 1835 in Altenglan, Pfalz, Bavaria.⁶⁵ Which is located in the Bezirksamt Kusel southwest of Frankfurt (Figure 12). The date and vessel of immigration is not known, however, we do know that his father Jacob Hoering, mother Phillippina *Mader* Hoering and five siblings arrived on April 23, 1857 in New York aboard the *Havre*⁶⁶. The Manifest of Passengers for that voyage changed the surname from Hoering to Haering. This surname will be further Americanized to Herring.

John Herring (abt 1859) will marry Harriet Mehitable Farnham the daughter of Isaac Farnham, a farmer living in Otisco, New York. The 1860 U. S. Census⁶⁷ shows John's father Jacob has a farm nearby the Farnham's farm and it is quite likely that John's marriage to Harriet resulted from the interaction between families. Although John Herring does not show up in that census there is no doubt that John is the son of Jacob. The Letter of



Figure 12: John Herring's German Birth Location

⁶⁵ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Deutschland, Geburten und Taufen 1558-1898," database, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org>), Bavaria Region, entry for Johannes Hoering, birth Jan 5, 1835, Altenglan, Pfalz, Bavaria, German, citing FHL microfilm 415,793.)

⁶⁶ National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., "Germans to America Passenger Data file, 1850-1897," data base, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>), Jacob Haering and other family members.

⁶⁷ 1860 U.S. Census, Onondaga County, New York, pop. sch., Otisco, Isaac Farnham.