

Serious Research Errors Frequently Found Online in Family Trees for Early Persons in My Kerchner Family Direct Male Line Ancestors and Spouses and also Frequently Found in Mid-20th Century SAR Membership Applications and at Online Family Tree Research Sites Such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and Other Online Research Sites and Databases

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Important Serious Research Error Note 1:

The maiden name of Anna Barbara, the wife of our immigrant ancestor Adam Kerchner, is unknown! Some early unsupported speculation for various possible maiden names such as Hoch were shared with other researchers. And one of them uploaded that Hoch name speculation, with no primary source evidence to support it, onto their online family tree, and it spread from there. And then an even more egregious error grew from that upload, as some have used that wrong Anna Barbara Hoch name to tie her to an Anna Barbara (nee Hoch) born in Germany in 1725. Problem is that Anna Barbara Hoch died as a child in Germany, and therefore never got to PA! There is a lot of sloppy genealogy research being spread online via poorly researched family trees online at Ancestry.com and other similar online sites and the automated AI "hints" they use. People just click on them and link to them, and assume it is fact, and bad research spreads online like dandelion weeds.

Important Serious Research Error Note 2:

Some new amateur genealogists have confused the wife of Adam Kerchner who was named Anna Barbara (maiden name unknown) with the wife of his son Frederick Kerchner, whose wife was also named Anna Barbara, i.e., Anna Barbara (nee Fetterman). Adam's wife's maiden name is absolutely unknown in historical records, but it definitely was not Fetterman! See [this chart](#) for more about the two generations of Anna Barbara wives.

Important Serious Research Error Note 3:

When doing research into families of the PA Deutsch Ethnic Group, it is very important to understand 18th Century PA German Naming Customs they used and continued to use until about the post Civil War, late 19th century time frame, when English naming practices began to be adopted by some of the families. Please read this report on [18th Century PA German Naming Customs](#) for important information needed by a researcher in doing your research for PA Deutsch family names.

Important Serious Research Error Note 4:

The place of birth in Germany of our immigrant ancestor Adam Kechner after 50+ years of research by me is still unknown. See this [webpage and report](#) for more on my efforts to find his village of origin in Europe. Also, read the report regarding the erroneous suggestion that the town of '[Dessen](#)' in Germany is the place of birth or origin for our Adam Kerchner. Research in Germany has verified to me that he was not born in or near that town, or from that town.

Important Serious Research Error Note 5:

Another serious error made by sloppy genealogy research done in the early and mid 20th century, and submitted on SAR applications in 1950 and then copied and repeated in two applications in 1967, is the wrong assertion that our immigrant ancestor was Johann Philip Kerchner, aka Philip Kerchner (1729-1807), last of Cabarras County NC, who arrived on the ship Phoenix in 1744. That name was seized upon simply because in the ship lists in the ship list reference book "Upwards of 30,000 Names of Immigrants in PA" by Rupp, published in 1876, and which was used by the early 20th century researchers of our family name, it was the only one who spelled the family name exactly as we do today. So that had to be our guy. Not! The researcher in the early 20th century who jumped on that immigrant as ours failed to do any independent primary source research into Pennsylvania colonial records. If they would have, they would have seen that said Philip Kerchner did not settle for long in Pennsylvania and soon migrated to NC during the Indian troubles on the Pennsylvania colony frontier caused by the French and Indian War. Those that stayed described the demeanor of those that left as catching "Carolina Fever". Researching records for that Philip Kerchner, it would have also been learned that he did not have a son named Frederick, and that he did not spend most of his life in PA. Then, if they would have checked the records at the Berks County Courthouse in Reading, Berks County PA, for early Kerchner family records, they would have found the Last Will and Testament made in August 1768 by our immigrant ancestor Johann Adam Kerchner, aka Adam Kerchner (c1704-1768), who arrived on the ship Thane of Fife in 1741, in which he named his only son Frederick Kerchner. And that Adam lived and died in Hereford Township, Berks County PA, which township immediately abutted Longswamp Township, Berks County, PA, which as an adult is where our Frederick Kerchner lived and died. Their respective farms were only a few miles apart. And they would have seen that the signature mark on the 1741 ship list, which actual signature lists were made available in 1934 by the work of Strassburger and Hinke, was made by our illiterate Adam with an "A". And that mark exactly matched the mark "A" that our Adam made on his 1768 Last Will and Testament. Those mid-20th century SAR applications looking so authoritative even fooled me early on until I got better at genealogy and I started seeing that some things in them that just didn't check out as I dug deeper, and I learned I must double check everything. Unfortunately, these SAR applications with the defective genealogy information in them are now digitized and online at Ancestry.com and people are picking up on them and linking our Rev. War Patriot, Frederick Kerchner (1750-1828), in some cases, to the wrong immigrant ancestor and ship arrival, in addition to giving our Patriot a middle name he never had. More on that later in this report. So be alert and don't trust any of the SAR applications made for our Kerchner line made in the 20th century. The SAR warns people not to trust the genealogies in submitted applications, especially those submitted prior to the year 2000. But people seem to ignore those warnings and just take the easy path, copying the genealogy in those online SAR applications, and not double checking the genealogies presented therein. It was not as bad a problem when those bad application genealogies only existed in the paper files at SAR HQ. Few people saw them there. But since the SAR

digitized them and made them available online via Ancestry.com, the bad genealogy research in them is spreading like dandelion weeds in Kerchner family connected online family trees at Ancestry.com. I try to correct them. But as soon as I get one corrected, six more pop up. At times it is akin to battling the tide coming in.

And a Very Important Serious Research Error Note 6:

Our Patriot Ancestor Rev. War Militiaman, PVT Frederick Kerchner, Did NOT Have a Middle Name. Despite erroneous undocumented and unsupported assertions made to the contrary in some poorly researched mid-20th century SAR applications for our Patriot ancestor Frederick Kerchner (1750-1828), he did NOT have a middle name! Spelling variations of his first and last name did occur due to dealing with various Scribes writing both German and English records and spelling mistakes did occur. But he did NOT have a middle name! See his name in [his father Adam Kerchner's 1768 Will](#) where he is named as Frederick Kerchner with no middle name and in which Will all of Frederick's sisters were named and they all did have middle names and were listed in that Will by their father. He has no middle name in this [1781 Rev War Payroll List](#), nor in various deeds [such as this 1796 Deed](#) recorded at the Berks County PA Courthouse for land transactions by him, nor in any [baptism record](#) for any of his children, nor in his various published Death Notices published in the German language '[Reading Adler](#)' newspaper of Reading PA and in [German language newspapers](#) in Allentown PA, nor in his [Last Will and Testament](#), nor in his [Burial Records](#), nor on his [Gravestone](#), a picture which I personally took in May 1981. SAR and DAR applications are NOT contemporaneous, primary source evidence documents and they often contain many errors. Therefore, do NOT cite SAR and DAR applications made in the 20th century as evidence that the Patriot had a middle name. I challenge anyone to provide me with contemporaneous, primary source evidence he did. The Patriot did NOT have a middle name!

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