

May 19, 1988

Mr. Nathan M. Reiss
308 Wayne Street
Highland Park, NJ 08904
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Many thanks for your letter dated February 13, 1988, concerning the history of the family Meijerfeld. I recently received your book through The Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver. As you might already have been told, I got to know about your book through a Jewish historic bibliographical manual which I found in the Royal Dutch Library in The Hague. I studied your book with great interest.

As to your question on my connection to the Meijerfelds, I will tell you below. Apart from a number of persons with the same name, I have figured out that two German families Meijer whose lines have run out, had worked their way up to the highest nobility under the name of Von Meijerfeldt.

The first family (1500-1800) initially settled down under the Teutonic Order in Riga. After acquiring the Swedish nobility in 1674 and having worked their way up to Count, the family brought forth various generals in the Swedish and Imperial armies, i.e. King Carl XII and Gustaf III. The family owned many castles in Sweden and in Pommeren (currently East Germany).

The second family (1550-1900) moved from Konstanz via Basel to Hesse. This family was raised to the peerage by the German Emperor in 1757, and brought forth statesmen, officers and scientists.

We may almost rule out any link between the two noble families.

In spite of the fact that the two families have died out, both families have a strange sequel. If I am right, the current Dutch family Von Meijenfeldt is directly linked to the Swedish lineage and the current Jewish family Meijerfeld owes her name to the family from Hesse.

In the past ten years I have obtained an increasing amount of evidence that my great great grandfather - Johan August von Meijenfeldt (1760-1835) - was the natural son of the last Swedish Count Johan August von Meijerfeldt (1725-1800). I hope to be able to prove this once I have visited a number of church archives in East Germany next month.

In view of the fact that it is not my intention to get to the bottom of my bloodlines but that my priority is focused on the family name of Meijerfeldt, my field therefore also covers the Jewish family Meijerfeld. You will read of my findings - which includes your information - in the addendum to this letter. I have not translated everything into English, but I assume you will be able to work out its contents because it mainly covers dates, names, places of birth etc.

Apart from the addendum, I have collected a wide variety of data on persons and historic facts on the (von) Meijerfeldts. By the end of this year, I hope to have completed my work and to publish it in book form. Although the book will be written in Dutch, I assume you will be interested in receiving an issue.

I would be very grateful to you if you would be so kind as to comment on the above and particularly on the addendum. Perhaps you can let me know about the background of the Meyerfelds living in New York and Los Angeles.

Sincerely yours,

W.g.

Hugo G. von Meijenfeldt
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