

Roots of the family name Pahapill / Notes on the Pahapills.

Known roots of the family name PAHAPILL reach back to 1645 (ref. Note 1 below), when a man named TÖNNIS lived near the northern coast of Estonian island of Saaremaa, some 20 kilometers off the west coast of Estonia's mainland, eastern part of Baltic Sea. A birds-eye view of the region is provided by the two mini-maps below:



The Baltic Sea region http://pahapill.ca/baltics_map.gif



and Estonia http://pahapill.ca/eesti_map.gif

Around the homestead of Tõnnis developed a village called "Pahapilli küla" – village of Pahapills. The village has retained its original name to this date and can be found on various



Mustjala County (vald) <http://pahapill.ca/mustjala.jpg>

maps of Saaremaa, e.g. the Mustjala County map, above – where “Pahapilli küla” is located in the central section of the county's northern shores, about a kilometer south of points 6 and 7.

In the early days of life in Estonia, the indigenous people had no family name. A person was known by his or her first name and the name of the homestead or farm where he/she had been born, or by the name of his or her father. The process of giving family names to people in Estonia, as elsewhere at the time, took almost a couple of centuries and was completed in the last half of nineteenth century. Usually, the lord of the manor – where the man was working – gave him his family name. Here, it should be pointed out that, at the time, much of the land in Estonia was "owned" by foreign landlords – called “ mõisnik” in Estonian – usually Baltic Germans, in some areas Danes.

How the family name Pahapill came about is not fully known, but according to some word-by-mouth accounts (Note 2 below), it is believed to be derived from the German-Estonian word of PACHKPILL, the name given to Tõnnis by his manor-lord (mõisnik) in appreciation of a whistle, called "pill" in Estonian, that he made for the mõisnik. The "pill" had been carved from a birch-tree knot (or gnarl), called "pahk" in Estonian, "pachk", as the Germans wrote the word at the time. In its genitive form, the word becomes “paha” in Estonian, so the name given to Tõnnis soon became PAHAPILL in Estonian (also listed in some records as Pahhapil, Pahhapill, Pahapil). How long was there Pahapills living in the village that bears their name is not known either (when asking the locals about it in August 2003, they indicated that no Pahapills have been living there for some time). However, quite a few of them live in a number of other villages of Mustjala County and in neighbouring counties; some in Kuressaare, capital of Saaremaa, others in various cities and communities on the mainland of Estonia. A number of Pahapills now live in Sweden, Canada, USA and UK – and perhaps elsewhere in the wide world! For notes on how one of the Pahapill family tree branches – that of “Tehna" Julius and Heleene Pahapill (where Tehna denotes the name of the farm and homestead where Julius was born, in the village of Võhma, county of Mustjala) ended up leaving its root-homeland Estonia, please refer to the article about their wartime escape (1944) to Sweden” ref. website <http://pahapill.ca/sweden.htm> or its Estonian-language counterpart on <http://pahapill.ca/rootsi.htm> .

From Sweden, the "Tehna Julius” branch of Pahapills immigrated to Canada in 1951. They settled in Toronto, Ontario. Of the original immigrant-family of seven, the group by now (Sep. 3, 2006) numbers 61, including spouses; presently, 47 of them live in Ontario – most in the Greater-Toronto area; eight live in the USA; five have passed away. Some of the Pahapill family members living in Canada can be seen on a photograph - copy below - taken in the family summer-home at Lake Simcoe, Ontario on Thanksgiving Day in 1979.



Canadian Pahapills in 1979 (names on next page) - <http://pahapill.ca/family-at-lake-simcoe-1979.jpg>

Names of those in the picture on previous page: from left, sitting: "Mamma" Heleene with Fors's daughter Lena, "Papa" Julius, son Fors (Forselius); standing: Anne's daughter Lisa, Fors's daughter Lori, Fors's wife Kristi, their daughter Leigh-Anne, John's wife Kristi, their son Carl, Raimund's daughter Erika, son Raimund, cousin Jüri - visitor from Tallinn, Fors's son Thomas, John's son Eric, daughter Anne, Fors's son Tim (Timothey), Carl's wife Jennifer. Missing from picture are: Raimund's wife Ivi and their sons Alar and Peter, Anne's husband Dennis and their son Duane, son John (Johannes) – taking picture; also missing is son Aare and his family, living in the USA at the time.

Back to the clan's early years.

Available records indicate that, in the mid-1700s, there was a farm (“talü”) in the Mustjala County (then Mustjala Parish of the greater Paatsa County) - in the same county where Tõnnis’ era “Pahapilli küla” is situated - with the twin name of “Aadama-Pahapilli”. This indicates that it had been founded – or owned earlier – by a man called Aadam, probably born at a homestead named “Pahapill” or “Pahapilli”. The farm is presently called “Aadama” and is situated in the village of Võhma, a few kilometers south of Tõnnis’ home in “Pahapilli küla” in the mid-1600s. Records also show (ref. Note 5) that the name of the owner of this farm in the mid-1700s was a man called “Pahapilli Jüri” (Jüri of the farm Pahapill). Later, his son Laas became the owner of that farm; between them, they owned and worked the Aadama-Pahapilli farmlands for better part of the second half of 1700-s, and well into the 1800s.

Laas and his wife Mare had no children, nor did his father Jüri leave other surviving descendants. Laas, who died relatively young, left his widow Mare to own and look after the farm (with outside help, of course!). After her husband’s death in 1819. Mare, at this point the sole owner of the Aadama-Pahapilli farm, re-married in 1820 - at this time to KARL of Kure (from the village of Tõru in neighbouring Elme manor / "mõisa" district). Through his marriage to Mare, Karl – son of “Kure” Peeter (1768-1815) – became owner of the Aadama-Pahapilli - later known as AADAMA - farm and was soon given the family-name of PAHAPILL. Thus, members of the present Pahapill clan are descendants of the “Aadama” farm owner Karl Pahapill (1789-1831) and his wife Mare (1786-1866). Even though blood-link between the present-day Pahapills and descendents of Tõnnis Pahapill of the mid-1600s seems to have been broken in the early 1800s, their family name certainly appears to have originated from that era.

Accordingly, “Aadama” Karl Pahapill and his wife Mare form the base of stem “P” of Pahapill Family Tree; genealogy data and related information on their descendants is covered by chapters I, II, III-1, V and VI of Pahapill Family Book.

At this point it should be pointed out that - when Karl of Kure married Mare of the Aadama-Pahapilli farm and made his matrimonial home there - his younger brother **Mihkel** (with brother Ado and their two sisters) also moved to live at Karl’s and Mare's matrimonial home in Võhma; and, in due course, they were also given Pahapill as their family-name (more about this below - in the “Kure/Aadama” Mihkel Pahapill section of these notes).

"Aadama” Karl Pahapill and his wife Mare had two sons: JÜRI (1825~1900) and LAAS (1828-1880). As was custom at the time, the elder son Jüri stayed at home, married and brought his wife there, and their children were born at his birth-home. Eventually, he (and after him, his

eldest son) inherited the farm. “Aadama” Jüri Pahapill and his second wife Reet Muld have six children and numerous further descendants. These are all covered by the present Pahapill Family Tree and Family Book. There does not seem to be other descendants except the two sons from his first marriage - that with Reet Tarvis.

Jüri’s younger brother Laas moved out of his birth-home to marry Reet Trepp (1834-1880) of the nearby TEHNA farm (about a kilometers south of the Aadama-Pahapilli farm). Tehna is situated in the heart of Võhma village, found on the previously noted and posted Mustjala County tourist map around the points 3, 4 and 5. In due course, “Aadama / Tehna” Laas inherited the Tehna farm; he and his wife Reet have a large number of descendants – most of those - about whom the author has information - are included in the present Pahapill Family Tree and Family Book. For more information on the descendents of “Aadama” Jüri Pahapill and “Tehna” Laas Pahapill, please refer to the Introductory Notes of Chapter I of the Pahapill Family Book, available through the website of <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/a/h/John-Pahapill-ON/index.html> . Incidentally, a simpler way for reaching the Pahapill Genealogy Family Tree website is through the website of <http://pahapill.ca> and then selecting the “ family tree / sugupuu” line in its second part.

As promised in a previous paragraph - in brief notes on “Kure / Aadama“ Mihkel Pahapill (1812-1890) - here is additional genealogy data and related information on “Aadama" Karl’s younger brother Mihkel, who - as is noted above - received his family name through his older brother’s marriage to widow Mare of the Aadama-Pahapilli farm and homestead. At one point in time, Mihkel moved away from Võhma, to its neighbouring village of Järise, married Ann Alkok (1814-1890), and the couple made their matrimonial home at the Sillukse farm and homestead in that village. Their son “Sillukse" Jaan Pahapill (1855-1946) and his wife Mare Jõgi (1814-1920) form the base of the “S”- / "Sillukse"- stem of Pahapill family tree. Genealogy data and related information on their descendants is found in Chapter III-2 of Pahapill Family Book.

Sources of information used in preparing the present Notes:

1. Eesti Entsüklopeedia 1994, part 7, pg. 139.
2. From memory – based on discussions with my late father Julius a few years prior to his passing away. Also, from my discussion with Meinhard Pahapill (a descendant of my great-uncle "Ilpama" Toomas Pahapill (of the P2.3 branch of Pahapill Family Tree), in Tallinn, Estonia in the summer of 1996.
3. General: From various discussions with my public school classmate Evald Alt, grandson of "Tuiu" Aadu Pahapill (of the P1.3 branch of “Aadama” Jüri stem-fork of Pahapill Family Tree) at his summer-home in Järve, Saaremaa - around the mid-summertime in 1994 and 1995; also, from my notes taken when viewing some of the files on the Pahapills in the Registry Office at the Saaremaa Perekonnaseisumet (Family Registry Office) in Kuressaare, Estonia in August 2004.
4. The 11.11.2004 Research Report by "Eesti Isikuloo Keskus" (Estonian Biographical Centre), Tartu, Estonia.
5. The 06.05.2005 follow-up report to the research report noted in Source

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Revised and updated November 5, 2013: corrected parental data and information on “Sillukse" Jaan Pahapill; April 5, 2015: updated website address of the Pahapill Family Tree).