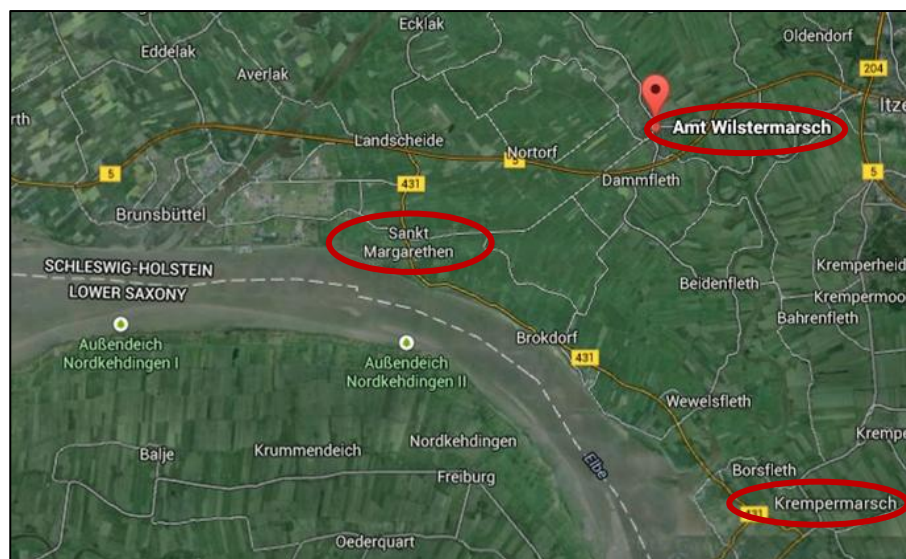


Where did Kreys come from?

The area where Kreys were first identified by researchers was in what is today Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost of the 16 states of Germany. This is an agricultural area that is centered around the Elbe River and was the scene of many earlier conflicts between Denmark and Holstein. Small towns in this area such as Wilstermarsch, Krempermarsch and St. Margarethen were the family villages of many of the earlier Kreys.



Kreys were first identified in the Schleswig-Holstein area of Northern Germany. (Note red-outlined area with balloon)



Wilstermarsch, St. Margarethen, and Krempermarsch, on the north bank of the Elbe River, as they appear today on google earth. These are the towns that were family villages of the Kreys in the 1300's to 1600's.

A castle in northern Germany lists a Krey in 1341

According to a Krey family historical account written in 1932, the earliest entry of a Krey name found so far dates from 1341 in this "Marshes" area of northern Germany, where a Hildeles Krey signed as a witness to a pact between the Holstein Dukes and the Danish King (see appendix, "Die Krejten"). Before that time, records are very scarce, either because they were not kept or because they were destroyed during the many wars and occupations by Saxons, Danes, Franks and the armies of the Holy Roman Empire. We can assume that the Kreyes in this area were of Germanic descent and fit in somewhere with the nobility and land owners in this medieval period of kings, dukedoms, and castles.

Krey. "A large well-to-do family of Wilstermarsch" - around 1550"

For the next several centuries, a large number of Kreyes are identified in church and land records in the Wilstermarsch area. A book on "Bauernfamilien" (farming families) in the area recognizes the Krey family as follows: "**Krey**. a large well-to-do family of Wilstermarsch who are among the original settlers especially in Kirschspiel St. Margarethen". (*The original German is: "Krey. Eine große begüterte Familie der Wilster Marsch. Besonders im Kirchspiel St. Margarethen ist sie von jeher angesessen".*)

There is a Henneke Krey who was a landowner in Rönnau in 1399; a Nikolaus Krey who lived in Rooskop in 1448; a Lütke Krey in St. Margarethen in 1499; and a Hermann Krey who was mayor of Itzehoe in 1537. There were also several distinguished clergymen at the time, including a Magister Martin Krey.



Farm in Schleswig-Holstein area

Krey. Eine große begüterte Familie der Wilster Marsch. Besonders im Kirchspiel St. Margarethen ist sie von jeher angesessen. Im Jahre 1448 wohnte Nikolaus kreye auf Roskopp, ein anderer Nikolaus krey im Jahre 1464 zu Wewelsfleth. 1477 ist ein Harmen kreyge Mitglied der Liebfraueugilde zu Itzehoe. Das Bederegister von 1499 nennt als Besitzer: Hinrich kreye to bischoppe, Jakob kreye to Höddingsflethe, Lütke kreye tom Blethe. Um 1500 hatte Jakob kreye Grundbesitz zu Heiligenstedten. Hermann Kreye ist im Jahre 1537 zweiter Bürgermeister von Itzehoe. Im Jahre 1564 hat Michel kreye, wohl ein Sohn oder Enkel des obengenannten Jakob, einen Hof in Höddingsfleth. Anno 1613 ist Hinrich Kreye in der Heidtducht (Kirchspiel St. Margarethen) Besitzer eines großen Hofes, zur selben Zeit Klaus Kreye auf Osterbünge, ebenfalls im Kirchspiel St. Margarethen. Der Hof zu Osterbünge ist auch noch heute im Besitz der Familie. In der Kremper Marsch war die Familie von 1680 bis 1738 in Grevenkop angesessen, seit Beginn des 17. Jahrhunderts auch am alten Deich in der Nähe von Glückstadt. Die Familie blüht noch heute kräftig, vor allem in der Wilster Marsch.

Excerpt from the book mentioning Kreyes in the Wilstermarsch area

We have pedigree charts from the Familienverband (*family association*) book of Krey lineage in neighboring cities starting in 1550 with a Johann Krey from the Osterbünge Duchey. There are a dozen or so descendancy charts for different Krey lines with a total of more than 4000 names listed, about half of which have the Krey surname. Most of these Kreyes were land-owning farmers (*Landwirte*) in Wilstermarsch and a few were pastors, teachers, musicians and doctors.

Are we related to these Kreys?

We haven't found a direct tie-in to the Wilstermarsch Kreys, but assume that, since these were the first Kreys identified, our family may have immigrated from there to Prussia in the 1600's. Michael Krey was born in Prussia in 1771, but other Kreys are found there as early as 1647.



Typical Farm House (*Bauernhof*) in the Wilstermarsch area near the Elbe River where the Kreys originated. The farmers here were involved in trading between Hamburg and Holland.



"Wilstermarsch" living room of farm house belonging to Joachim Krey. The decorative furniture of 1744 displays the wealth and self-confidence of farmers in the area.

Wilstermarsch



pl.wikipedia.org

Wilstermarsch is an Amt in the district of Steinburg, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. It is situated around Wilster, which is the seat of the Amt, but not part of it. It is the lowest point in Germany, 3.5 meters below sea level.

en.wikipedia.org 

A Krey family estate in Winzenheim in 1620

In 1620, the merchant Abraham Krey, from Cologne, Germany, acquired grounds in Winzenheim, a town southwest of Frankfurt. His grandson, Johann George Krey rebuilt the estate in 1712 to include the present-day manorial farm and wine gardens. By 1884, the property had been acquired by others who eventually renamed it the Hofgut Zweifel.



Historical marker for the Hofgut Zweifel describing how it was founded by Abraham Krey and developed by his grandson, Joh. George Krey.

It is interesting to note that the arched gateway to the present "Hofgut" is preserved from the time of Johann Krey and bears his initials as well as the Krey family crest embellished with at least one crow. In a history of the Hofgut Zweifel the "J & K" on the crest is described as showing that the Hof is the property of the Krey family. The bird at the top of the crest is described as having a fluttering crow crowning it. (See pgs 28&29, "Das Hofgut Zweifel" in the appendix.)



Fluttering crow atop the Krey Family crest for the estate of Johann Krey established in 1712

The Kreys spread out

If we assume that the Schleswig-Holstein area of northern Germany is where the Kreys came from, we may also assume that many spread out from there to other places. There were border conflicts, famines and wars, desires for land, and political uprisings that caused people to leave their homeland. The researchers reported that in earlier times, there were names related to Kreys in lower German areas from East Prussia to Flanders. And, at the time of the Krey reunion (*Familientag des Verbandes*) in 1921, they reported that Krey names were also found in many outlying countries, from Brazil to Japan to America. Today, in the United States, there are thousands of people with the Krey surname, not to mention descendants who are Kreys through matriarchal lines.

Kreys in Germany today

Germany today has the majority of Krey names and it is not surprising to find many of these in the area of the original Kreys in Schleswig-Holstein. Examples include:

- **Krey Schiffart GmbH** is a world-wide shipping company headquartered in Schlesien.
- **Bauernhof Krey** is a large cabbage growing farm in the marshes.
- The current mayor of Beidenfleth, a town of 837 inhabitants in the Wilstermarsch area, is a man named **Peter Krey**.
- **Ferienhof Krey** is a farm run by Jürgen Krey, which offers a refreshing vacation on a working farm on the shore of the Elbe River. On their web page is "Herzlich Willkommen auf dem Ferienhof der Familie Krey." (*A hearty welcome to the vacation farm of the Krey family*) (See www.ferien-am-elbdeich.de)
- **Krey Gate**, in Winzenheim, is a historical landmark found at the entrance of the present day winery named "Gut Neuhof - proprieter Wigbert Wolfarth."

Kreys in America

The Krey name is a lot more prevalent in America than one would think. Most Kreys immigrated from Europe in the 17th century, settling for the most part in the mid-west. Some of the most prominent are:

- **Krey's Packing Plant** was established in 1882 in St. Louis, Missouri. Even though it has since closed, there is a **Krey Deli Bologna** and a **Krey Gourmet Ham** that is still available through the John Morrell Co.
- **Krey Baby Doll Company** sells dolls designed by Susan Krey in participating shops. The company is based in Woodinville, WA. (See website www.kreybaby.com.)

- **Krey Field Airport** is a small airport in Adelanto, California that offers charter flights and was started by a John Krey who is a retired aerospace engineer.
- **R. Paul Krey Elementary School** in Brentwood, California, that was named after a great grandson of Karl Gustav Krey. It's a top notch school and anyone who goes there is proud to be a Krey Coyote.
- There are Krey furniture business, bakeries, publishers and bookstores, to name a few.

Krey Schiffart GmbH



Krey Schiffahrts GmbH has a fleet of cargo vessels. It was founded in 1992 by graduate shipbuilding engineer George Krey and is based in Northwestern Germany in the town of Leer/Ostfriesland.

Ferienhof Krey

Schleswig Holstein, Germany



The Krey Family runs a working farm and welcomes vacationing guests to enjoy authentic farm life on this beautiful retreat in Schleswig Holstein on the banks of the Elbe River in Northern Germany.

Krey Gate

Winzenheim, Germany

The history of the Hofgut Zweifel winery describes the Krey family crest having a "fluttering" crow at its apex. See "Das Hofgut Zweifel" pp 28 & 29



Kenneth R. Krey III stands under the arch of the Krey Gate that leads to the Guthof once belonging to Johann Krey. (See detail of emblem on page 4.)



Winzenheim, founded in 1632



The village of Winzenheim

Ken is the great grandson of Paul F. Krey. He discovered the Krey Gate while on an LDS mission in the Frankfurt area of Germany in 2006 and procured a copy of the history and took pictures of the area. Thank you, Kenny!!

Krey's Packing Plant

St. Louis, Missouri

featuring Krey Gourmet Ham and Bologna



The "Krey's" name is still visible today on the side of the old Krey's Packing Plant in St. Louis, Missouri. It was started by John Krey, an immigrant from Germany, in 1882.

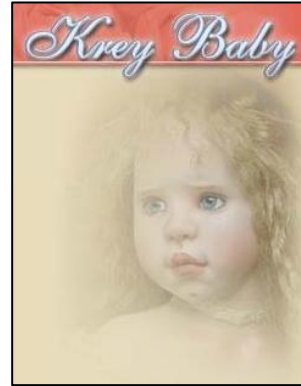


Anyone up for some Krey bologna or ham? Krey's Packing Plant closed in 1978 and the brand name was sold to the John Morell Co. making it possible to still enjoy some of the best bologna ever made.



Krey Baby Doll Company

Woodinville, WA



Krey Baby Dolls are world class porcelain dolls sculpted and created by Susan Krey. Her "Krey Classics" are collector's items for their beautiful faces and fine workmanship.

Krey Field Airport

Adelanto, California



Krey Field offers charter flights and was started by a John Krey who is a retired aerospace engineer.

Krey Elementary School

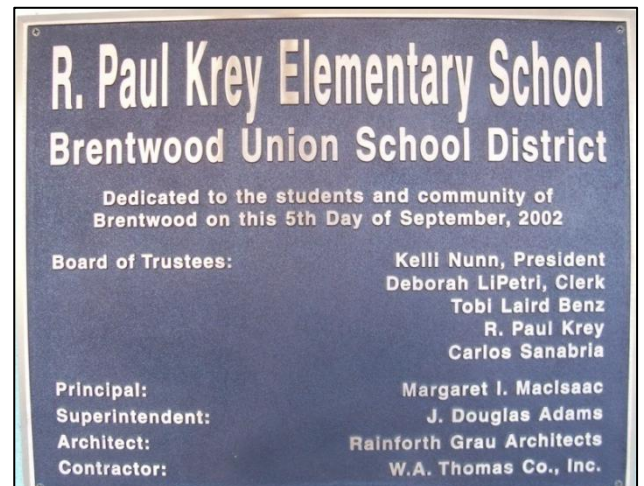
Brentwood, California



R. Paul Krey Elementary School in Brentwood, California was named after a grandson of Paul Frederick Krey who immigrated to America in 1906.



Krey Elementary is a top ranked school with such reviews as "I love Krey and the quality of its teachers" and "Krey Coyotes Rock!"



Paul Krey, is the namesake of the school. He was a long time district board member and is a dentist in the community.