

Pa.
Greenville Dec 7th 1916

Mr James B. Penninghoff
Vandalia. Ill.

My Dear Sir,
Last March I recd your letter making inquiry as to our Family & ancestors. I will first explain the delay in answering. One year ago today I left here for Los Angeles Cal. Harris on the 12th two days after my arrival was taken very sick & as soon as able to come home I came back and brought my Daughter with me and in April I got possession of house went to house keeping I found it bad to be sick & worse when you had no home I have been ill all summer unable to write, and now though better it is still difficult for me to write. I know if you will be able to read it or not. And now as to the Family Record. My Grand-father's name was Frederick was Born in Lehi County Penn (over)

Letter written by Joseph Penninghoff (son of John)

Stephenson

about 1766. Died Aug 1856 aged 90. He and family moved to Union Co Penna about 1828. & about 1830 they moved to Clearfield Co Penna & two or three years later moved to Venango Co Pa. My Father told me that Frederick Benning had but one Brother Georg who emigrated to Ohio & located near Tiffin or Van Wert O. have heard of them but never met any of them. My Father told me that Grand Father came from Wittenberg Germany, if so must have been among the first German immigrants to Penn. My Father's Family was composed of eight children George, Dan, Phillip, John, Peter, Fancy & Mary. The other two sisters I can't recall their Christian names. George lived in New Berlin Union Co Pa. Dan in Stephen Co Illinois. Phillip in Old Town Clearfield Co Pa. Father John lived nine miles north of Oil City till he moved in 1868 to this place where both Father & Mother died. Mother in 1872. Father 1882. When Uncle Peter was on the farm he lived five miles above Oil City. But died in the Village.

Cherrytree, George

Cherrytree about eight miles north of O.
 City. Now as to our Family they are as follows
George, Charles, Martin, Amelia Elizabeth
John E. Catherine, Frederick, Mary Jane
Jeremy, Josephnd Milton, eight Boys
 four Girls. And all have passed to the
 great beyond excepting myself. The
 earliest death sister Catherine was forty eight
 The oldest Bro George 84. Was hale & hearty
 when killed by an Erie R.R. train that
 passed through his farm near Meadow
 The rest of Family or most of them passed
 the Three score & ten mark. My next birth
 day will be 73 (Dec 18). My Father was
 Lutheran. Mother Presbyterian. George belong
 ed to no Church, was United Bretheran
 Martin, Amelia & Elizabeth Lutheran
 Catherine Presbyterian John E. belonged
 no Church but all his family were
 Lutheran. Frederick belonged to hard the
 Baptists. Mary Jane to Methodist Jeremy
 was an agnostic. Myself & family belong
 to the Episcopal & Bro Milton leaned to the
 Methodist. Uncle Peter had seven children
 George Nancy Isaac. Danl Elizabeth Mary

Frederick, N. Y.

Jane & Saml. George lived on at Farm
at New Bridge Oregon Died. Saml &
with or near him Died. Isaac was
United Brethren Minister & had been
iding Elder for a good many years if live
I suppose he is superannated, his
The last I heard of him was at
via New York Mary Jane Died Sam
an M. located at Franklin Re
I don't know if the other two Daughters
are living or not. Uncle George had
had only one child a daughter the
called Arnelia Married a man by the
name of Bilgar. I visited them in
I never saw but one of Uncle Philler
family a cousin by the name of Phillips
I never met any of Uncle Sam's family
in Stephenson Co. Ill. But my young
Bro visited them & they had Boys & Girls
can't tell how many.
When my Father died Mar 20 1882 There
were 56 Grand Children living and
15 Great Grand Children living & no
I am Great Uncle to nearly a regiment
of them I guess a Great Great Uncle to quite a few

Now a word as to the time when I was a Kid & learning to write & the told me to write the name Bunninghoff as that was the correct name. Uncle George wrote it as we do & so far as I know Uncle Peters are the only ones that write Bunninghoff and I can readily see how the name became changed to Bunninghoff from the fact that the early German settlers in Lehi Co spoke German as much as they would in Wittenberg Germany. If you ask a German duck hunter to say Bunninghoff he would ^{say} Bunninghoff. This I think is the way the name became corrupted or changed. Some years ago I was in Sprague Washington I met a sentleman from Rhine Pratz Germany who writes his name as we do & had only been here about ten years but could speak good English.

Now a word as to myself I have six children living & by the first marriage & one by the last

Two Boys & Four Girls. The oldest Miss Dr
Brown 47 and the youngest 13, going
to School here. The oldest Son is married
& lives in or near Portland, Oregon. One
Daughter living in Conneaut, Ohio
the rest here. Have been a Widower
for 13 years & till last Spring have
been living with the Children. Last
Spring went to housekeeping where I
lived for nearly 40 years. I have
did lots of rambling around have made
28 trips to the Pacific Coast there is
not much of the western country
I haven't been over & through it,
but I was in Vandalia & have been all
over the states of Illinois, Ohio, and
Indiana. But fear my rooming
done as I am afflicted with Rheumatism
so as to be unable to get around, would
like very much to visit & talk with you
but fear I will never be able to have
that pleasure if you come this way
my latch string will be found on
the outside. Yours Very Truly Joseph Bunting