

George Volp/Fulps Profile

Note: *There are Volp as well as Volpp families in Europe as well as America today. However, our Professional Genealogists, who has uncovered many records of our family in Germany, advises that these two names are generally considered interchangeable for our ancestral line. They were written in different records by different people and were just spelled the way they sounded to them at the time. The type of record and its relationship to other records usually clarifies the correct spelling. We will use the spelling that is shown on each particular document.*

George Fulps was born Jerg (Georg) Volp in Sindringen, Germany in 1718. His family records go back at least three generations in this small town. During this period in Sindringen, it was the custom to name one's first son after the grandfather. Thus we have a line of Volp's, all with the first name Georg. Georg Volp's father was Georg Crafft Volp. His grandfather was Georg Volp (the Young). His great grandfather was Georg Volp (the Old). The terms "Old" and "Young" were used to distinguish the two in the tax records when they both were paying taxes during the same year. Georg's 2nd great grandfather was, you guessed it, Georg. These Volp families were all farmers. They had relatively small plots of land but paid high taxes, suggesting that their Vineyards were very valuable.

Sometime after 1742, Georg Volp married Maria Magdalena Guldig. Georg came to America in 1751. His father's 1754 probate record said that Georg Volp had gone to America with his family. The records show that they had at least one child in Germany but possible three. This is shown in "The Volpp/Fulp/Phelps Story" Album on the web site

On Wednesday, September 25, 1751, the ship Phoenix, John Sparrier, Captain, arrived in Philadelphia, Pa., from Rotterdam, Netherlands, via Portsmouth, England with 412 passengers. Georg Volpp (pronounced Gay-org Folp) was on the passenger's list. The record shows that he signed his name Georg Volpp when he swore his Allegiance to the King of England. A clerk may have actually signed his name as was necessary when the immigrant could not write. An "X" was not accepted. Passenger lists during this time did not show wives and children.

In 1755 Georg and Maria Magdalena were living in Lancaster County, PA where their son, Michael was born. They later moved to Windsor Township in York County, PA where they had another son who they named Georg Peter. He was baptized on June 12, 1757, when he was four weeks old. The Lutheran Church record shows his parents as Georg and Maria Magdalena Volp.

George most likely moved his family to Stokes County, North Carolina sometime in the mid 1760's. They were about 15 miles north of what is now Winston-Salem in Forsyth County. It is though that this is when Georg Volp changed his family name to the Moravian translation, Fulps. His wife, Maria Magdalena probably started using the name Mary at this time. It was common in the 1700's for immigrants to change German and other European names to one that was easier to spell and pronounce in English. Also, names were changed to "fit in" and possibly avoid secular conflicts that were common at that time. A director at the Moravian Archive in Winston Salem, North Carolina, advises that the German name Volpp directly translates to Fulp. Georg was Lutheran and not a member of the Moravian church but did have close ties with them. On several occasions, the Moravian Priest in Salem held services at the home of George Fulp.

Georg and Mary had another son and two daughters, Valentine is thought to have been born in Germany in 1743. Mary married a Mr. Taylor sometime in Stokes County, North Carolina. They had no known children. She died about 1764 in Stokes County, IL. Nothing else is known about Mary. Also, nothing is known about Elizabeth. Since Mary and Elizabeth have not been found in any

American Church birth or baptism record, they may have been born in Germany and immigrated with their parents. They would not be found in Germany records, because all Parish records for Sindringen, Germany were destroyed during WW II.

When George Fulp died he requested that a bishop Koehler of the nearby Moravian Church, hold his funeral services. A report of George Fulps death and funeral was recorded in the "Heritage of Stokes County, North Carolina" publication, written by the Stokes County Historical Society in 1981. It reported that the Moravian Salem Diary on October 26, 1786, read as follows:

"Br. Koehler went to Belews Creek, sixteen miles from Salem, to hold the funeral of a friend of the Brethen. George Fulp by name. This man was born in 1718 and led a Christian life. The Brethren proclaimed the Gospel several times in his house. Before his end, he arranged that a Brother from Salem should conduct the funeral."

The Salem Diary is the record of the Moravian Priest's daily activities. In March of 2016, it was discovered that the Salem Diary actually recorded the name **George "Volp"**, instead of **Georg "Fulp"**. Someone at the Stokes County historical society, must have changed it for the publication because his friends and family only knew him as George Fulp. Prior to this discovery, yDNA evidence had already confirmed that George Fulp was a descendant of the surname Volpp in Germany. This yDNA story is shown in the album section of the website.

By way of explanation, Salem, North Carolina was the headquarters of the Moravian Church on the southern American frontier. They referred to themselves as "the Brethen". The Moravians are an evangelical Christian denomination with roots going back to pre-Reformation days in central Europe. Salem, now a part of modern-day Winston-Salem, continues to be the southern headquarters of the church.

Maria Magdalena Volp who became Mary Fulp, wife and mother, died in Stokes County about 1764. (Forsyth Co. was established from Stokes Co. in 1849, Stokes Co, from Surry Co. in 1789, and Surry County from Rowan Co. in 1771. Rowan Co. was established in 1753.)

George Fulp died on October 26, 1786. His estate was probated in November 1786 in Surry County, North Carolina. He is buried in Belews Creek Cemetery in what is now Forsyth County.

Many descendants of George and Mary Fulp still live near Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Numerous Fulps live in Forsyth and Stokes Counties in the vicinity of what is now White Road, commonly referred to as Walkertown-Belews Creek Road.

Also, many Fulps participated in the westward migrations that took place throughout the 1800s. A group led by Valentine Volp now Valentine Fulps, went to Washington County, Virginia and later to Claiborne County, Tennessee, settling near the town of Tazewell. A son of Michael Fulps was named Valentine and both Valentine's travelled to Claiborne County where many records are found with their name. Valentine the uncle moved on to St Clair County, Illinois where at least two of his children's names changed to Felps and then on to Phelps. This was probably the result of how the names sounded to different people that could read and write.

One of Valentine's sons, Henry Fulp (Felps/Phelps), was born about 1799. He married Rhoda Lebow of Claiborne County in 1828. Sometime during the 1830's, he and Rhoda moved to Blount County, Tennessee. He is shown with his wife and six children in the 1840 U. S. Census as Henry "Philips" and in the 1850 census as Henry "Phelps". Most of the Blount County Phelps are descended from Henry and Rhoda.

Another of Valentine Fulps sons, Michael Fulp/Felps/Phelps, moved to St Clair County, Illinois where he married Margaret Alexander. They had one son, Benjamin L Phelps. Margaret died and Michael married Ruth Lunceford. They had nine children, most of which have families still living in Illinois. However, their son David Michael later settled in Missouri.

Today the George Volpp family is spread through much of the United States using several spellings of the name - Fulp, Fulps, Felps, Fultz, Phelps and other variations.