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Dear Mr. Hellmers !

As I promised, here are some copies of my research I did 3 years ago on the Hellmers-family. Beside that a map of the area around Bremen, where I marked the places of the family-origin. How did I found the trace to Bardewisch you may ask. I had the idea, that someone of the family could went to sea on a bremen vessel, which was usual in families with more children. About these seafarers of Bremen we have got registers in the state-archive Bremen. I took a look in these and found a Heinrich Adolph Hellmers, born 1837 in Deichshausen (parish Altenesch), which lies in the former Herzogtum Oldenburg, (now Niedersachsen) on the the other shore of the river Weser (look my letter of 1986 encl.). During another research in Altenesch I took the chance and really found in a so called "Seelenregister" (Registers where the preacher notes every family of the parish, ordered by houses) H.A. Hellmers. But I realized that he always lived in Deichshausen and died there in 1888, he was married 1862 and had 6 children born 1861-1873. So this was not the right person. By chance I found another Hinrich Hellmers in this Seelenregister, who was living in Altenesch since 1842. He was native from Krögersdorf in the parish of Bardewisch and settled down after 1848 in (Bremen-) Aumund (belongs in this time to the Kingdom of Hannover). But in the churchregisters of Lesum (to which Aumund belongs) was nothing else about this family to find. As next I looked in Bardewisch for the birth of Hinrich, just to proof the note in the Seelenregister. There we also have a Seelenregister of 1804, where I could find the whole fam. Hellmers in Krögersdorf. I realized, that Hinrich (b.1802) had a brother Johann Friedrich (b. 1795) who lived on the farm of his father Hinrich Hellmers sen. (1765-1820). Joh. Friedr. married 1825 and had 3 sons, 1 daughter. His joungest son Heinrich Adolph was born 1829 and could be your forefather who went later to Amerika. But this is a supposition ! There is no proof ! In the copy of the birthcertificate 1859 is mentioned that he came from (Kingdom) Hannover. Krögersdorf belongs to the Herzogtum Oldenburg ! But beside this in the marriage-certificate he mentioned, that he is from Bremen (which was never in Preußen, but a free city-state until today), so I think, they were not very correct. In 1986 I only looked threw the Seelenregister, so it might be, that in the churchbooks are some more informations. The churchbooks of Bardewisch are beginning in 1800, because of the burning down of the preachers house in 1799. My next chance to do a research in the Bremen area will be during my holidays, or I have to ask a friend in Bremen, who is firm in these villages.

Did you check the immigrationlists in the national archives in Washington D.C. ? There are also some american publications of immigrationlists for several U.S. harbours, you may ask for that a genealogical society of your country. It might be, that you find informations of the date of arrival, the vessel he went with, the origin and the port of emigration.

This is all for today, hope I could help a little and the trace is the right one. Sincerely

Yours Thomas Begerow