

## WILLIAM DEWINE REAM AND HIS GREAT AUNT, A. MARY DEWEIN

### Where did William Dewine Ream's middle name come from?

Dewine is probably an anglicized spelling of the Bavarian name Dewein<sup>1</sup> just as William's last name Ream is an anglicized version of Rehm.<sup>2</sup> The first source to mention his name is the 1860 census, in which it was written (probably incorrectly<sup>3</sup>) "Wm H." The middle initial H. could have been introduced by the census taker or the caretaker of the seven month old boy and his two year old sister Emmaline. The two children were living in the town of Chariton, Highland County, Iowa with Joseph Neff and his 18 year old wife Sarah, who had a three month old child of their own. William's parents were boarding next door with Jacob and Elizabeth Bland and their three year old daughter until his father Samson Mitchell Ream could finish building a cabin on his new claim located about five miles south in Benton Township.



John Ream's snuff box

The 1870 census in Benton rendered his name simply as "William," but in 1880 it was "D. Wm" when he was 20 years old, working on the farm and ready to leave home to go to school in the thriving Mississippi River town of Burlington, Iowa about 35 miles upriver from Nauvoo. There he came into contact with the family of his namesake great uncle, Isaac Dewein, a vintner who had immigrated from Bavaria and married A. Mary Ream, the older sister of William's grandfather. I will soon return to their story.

I don't know how or when the spelling was anglicized to Dewine. It is even possible that it was not William or his parents who altered it, but his wife Nora since I have not a single example of the name Dewine or Dewein in his own handwriting. His Iowa family and friends always addressed him as Bill in their letters, but after moving to Utah in 1882 his family and close friends called him Will. He was W. D. Ream to everyone else, the name that was used in his marriage record, newspaper stories, and formal documents. I have reviewed over a hundred letters that he wrote to Nora from their early courtship to the end of his life. All but two were signed "Will."<sup>4</sup> He usually signed letters to his children using both appellations: "Dad. W.D. Ream." The only official documents that I have been able to find which contain his middle name are the birth certificates for his 10 children, which all give "William Dewine Ream" as their father's name, but these were reported after Will's death to the Idaho Bureau of Vital Statistics by his wife Nora on January 27, 1943, applying belatedly for birth certificates because none of the births in their pioneer cabin had ever been recorded.

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<sup>1</sup> Both Dewein and Dewine are unusual names in the U.S. There were only 155 people with the surname Dewein in the 2010 U.S. Census—a third of them live in Missouri. There are only 53 in Germany, where the name apparently originated, but it comprises a higher percentage of the population there. There are 346 people with a surname spelled Dewine in the U.S. <https://forebears.io/surnames/dewein>

<sup>2</sup> We know the spelling from an engraving in a snuff box once belonging to William's grandfather, John Ream (Johannes Rehm), which is still in the possession of his Ream descendants and from the signature on his will.

<sup>3</sup> The H. does not appear in any other rendering of his name.

<sup>4</sup> The other two were signed W.D. Ream.

For the sake of simplicity, I will call him Will for the rest of this article.

Will had a first cousin with the middle name of Dewine. This was Isaac Dewine Ream, who inherited both the first and last names of their great uncle, Isaac Dewein. The cousin, who was born in Highland County, Ohio 12 years after Will's birth in Iowa, was the son of Will's uncle, Mathias Ream, who died at the age of 30. As an infant, Isaac Dewine Ream moved with his mother to Pennsylvania where she re-married, and the cousins Will and Isaac Dewine Ream probably never met each other. Interestingly, when Isaac was married in 1895 he de-anglicized the spelling of his surname back to Rehm, but his middle name was spelled Dewine on his death certificate.

Will bestowed his middle name upon his fourth son, Fabian Dewine Ream, and had a nephew on Nora's side named Ozro Dewine Hopkins.<sup>5</sup> One of his great grandchildren, William Dewine Ream, bears his exact name.

### Who was A. Mary Ream, Isaac Dewein's wife?

Decades before the genealogy of Will's grandfather, John Ream, formerly Johannes Rehm, was traced to Pfullingen, Reutlingen, Württemberg (now Germany), the Ream family was aware that John had an older sister named A. Mary Ream who was also living in America. When his parish record was located it contained the name of an older sister named Maria Agnes with a note that she had emigrated from

Num- ber Kinder.	N a m e n. <i>Elisabetha</i>	Geburt.	Consecration oder erste Communio.	Verheirathung.	T o d.
				<i>Page 1 826</i>	
1.	<i>Elisabetha Johanna</i>	<i>11 Nov 1792</i>	<i>1796 1796</i>	<i>1807 7. 1, 426.</i>	
2.	<i>Johanna</i>	<i>27 Fe 1792</i>		<i>+ 28 Fez 1799.</i>	<i>Age 7</i>
3.	<i>Christiana Heinsich</i>	<i>28 Nov 1792</i>		<i>+ 17 Dec 1792.</i>	<i>19 days</i>
see below	<i>4. Maria Agnes</i>	<i>31 Jul 1794</i>		<i>Ausgewandert 1817</i>	<i>7 Mos.</i>
7. Sohn	<i>5. Maria Agnes</i>	<i>8 Nov 1796</i>	<i>1810 1810</i>	<i>ausgewandert 1817</i>	<i>+ 5 Mai 1867 + 0</i>
	<i>6. Catharina Friedl</i>	<i>2 Fe 1798</i>		<i>+ 12 Apr 1799.</i>	<i>15 Mos.</i>
see below	<i>7. Johannes</i>	<i>20 Fe 1800</i>	<i>1814 1814</i>	<i>Page 1 464</i>	
7. Sohn	<i>8. Christiana Friedl</i>	<i>27 Fe 1802</i>	<i>1816 1816</i>	<i>1823 7. 1, 464.</i>	
	<i>9. Maria Kunigunda</i>	<i>7. Aug 1806</i>			<i>+ 8 Dec 1806</i>
	<i>10. Maria</i>	<i>21 Aug 1806</i>		<i>7. Aug der Mutter 1, 464.</i>	
<i>no 5.</i>	<i>Jung. Friedrichs Witt. nom 3 Mai 1867 für Witt. v. Frau Elisabetha</i>				

These are the children of Johannes Rehm, (Sr.) and Elisabetha Haasis of Pfullingen in Württemberg. The highlighted names are Maria Agnes and Johannes Rehm. Their surname and the parents of the children have been cropped out. The darker overwritten words and red underlines are by Gunther Shaible, the local minister who provided the record to me in 1972.

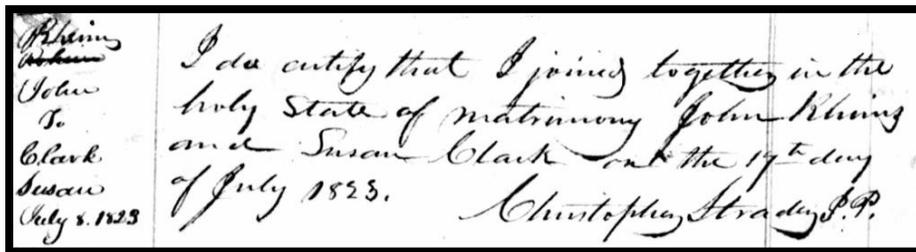
Pfullingen in 1817.<sup>6</sup> Maria had an illegitimate child named Maria Kunigunda, who died at the age of four months. The baby's father, Johan Georg Herrmann was swept up into Napoleon's army marching to war

<sup>5</sup> Ozro died at the age of ten.

<sup>6</sup> "Ausgewandert" is the German word for emigrated. The footnote "no 5." can be translated as: Declared dead without heirs by court decision 3 May 1867. Maria Agnes (a.k.a. A. Mary) had died in America in 1850.

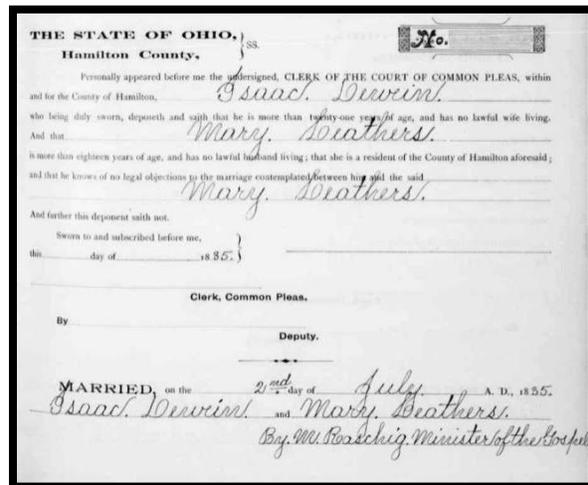
in Russia and was never heard from again. Johannes and Maria's mother had died in 1816 followed by their father in 1817 leaving Johannes, age 17, Maria Agnes, age 21, and Christina Judith, age 15 as orphans. Only Christina remained in Pfullingen, where she married, bore children, and died in 1855.<sup>7</sup> Johannes' name disappeared from the church's records after his communion in 1814. The date of his immigration to America is not known, but it seems likely that he left sometime after his father's death in 1817, possibly traveling with his sister, Maria Agnes, later to be known as A. Mary. There is a high degree of certainty that Johannes Rehm and John Ream are the same person, since they share the same birthdate of March 20, 1800.

The first record of Johannes Rehm in America is of his marriage on July 17, 1823 to Susanna Clark in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio. He or the clerk anglicized his name to John Rheims, but he soon adopted Ream as his American surname and settled permanently in Highland County around 1831 after living close to Susanna's family in Buckskin Township, in Ross County for several years.



His sister Maria Agnes ended up in Highland County as well, but less is known of her early history in America. She may have anglicized her German name in stages as Johannes did, for she shows up in records by various similar names including Mary Ann and Anna Maria. At the top of her tombstone is engraved "A. Mary," which matches the family stories. This is the name I will use for the rest of this article. The fact of her various names introduces uncertainty into her story, but here is her history as nearly as I can figure it out.

A marriage is documented in Hamilton, Ohio (this is the county in which Cincinnati is located) between Mary Leathers and Isaac Dewein on July 2, 1835, suggesting that A. Mary was previously married to a man named Leathers.<sup>8</sup> This is elucidated by a brief biography of Isaac which uses Mary's maiden name, stating: "He married in Cincinnati, in 1835, Mary A. Reahm."<sup>9</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Eight older siblings had died prematurely, and a much older sister named Elisabetha Justina had married and was also living in Pfullingen with her husband and nine children by then.

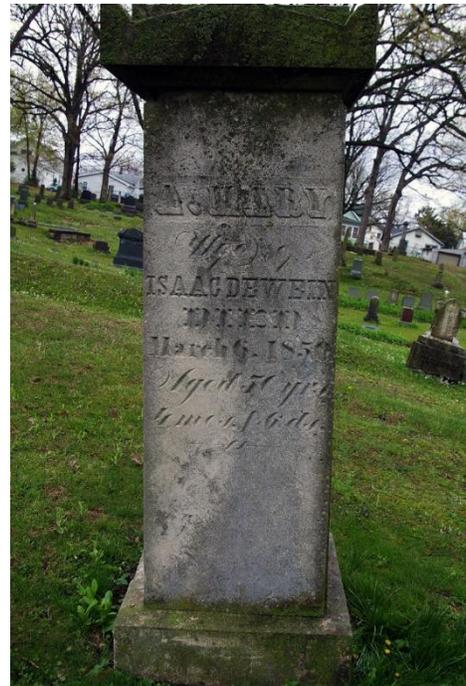
<sup>8</sup> Curiously, there is a record in the Hamilton County, Ohio probate ledger for a marriage between Isaac Dewein and an Anna Maria Leathers on the very same day (July 2) but in the following year 1836. On the basis of the ages of Isaac and Mary's children, I believe the year 1836 is an indexing error, that there was only one marriage, and that Anna Maria and A. Mary are the same person. Both names are used in her different burial records for the same date and place.

<sup>9</sup> *Directory of Des Moines County, Iowa*, Chicago, 1879, pp. 631-2.

Intensive research including the employment of professional genealogists has failed to find documentation of A. Mary's marriage to Leathers, but there are some clues to who he might have been. In the 1830 census for Ohio, of the six households in the state headed by a male named Leathers, five<sup>10</sup> are in a single family in Fairfield County about 19 miles from where John Ream and Susanna Clark were married. The first settler in Fairfield County was Frederick Leathers, a Virginian.<sup>11</sup> Leathers' family tree in Family Search (LX23-BTD) suggests that he was from Pennsylvania, but both locations could be correct since many Pennsylvanians reached Ohio via Virginia (now West Virginia). Leathers kept a tavern on Old Chillicothe Road, possibly before 1800 and at least by 1806, and had six sons, one of whom probably married A. Mary.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, if their family tree is accurate, all the sons can be ruled out in one way or another, but it is based on only a few reliable sources, and could contain errors. The marriage to Leathers must have occurred between 1818 and 1835.

What we do know is that a woman identified as Mary Ann Leathers bought land from Edward Burnett in the town of West Liberty near Whiteoak Township in Highland County, Ohio on June 30, 1834, a year before A. Mary and Isaac Dewein were married in Cincinnati.<sup>13</sup> Whiteoak is about ten miles from Jackson Township, where John and Susanna Ream lived. Since the land transaction was in the name of a woman, A. Mary Leathers was probably a widow by then. A year after their marriage, A. Mary and Isaac Dewein sold another parcel of land in Marshall Township, Highland County on October 26, 1838 to Adam Wise of Jackson Township. Wise was a neighbor to John and Susanna Ream, who certainly would have known him. Marshall Township, adjacent to Jackson County, is where William Dewine Ream's Aunt Elizabeth later lived after she married William West and where Joseph West, William Dewine Ream's maternal great grandfather, had already settled with his extended family. This leaves little doubt that A. Mary was connected with John Ream and his family.

In addition to the variety of names by which A. Mary has been known, reports of her age have been variable. In Family Search (at the time of this writing) her birth date is given as 28 March 1806, based on Find a Grave.com. That would make her about five years older than her husband Isaac Dewein, whose birthdate in Bavaria is convincingly documented as August 1, 1811, from his Catholic baptism record. But she was even older than that. The bio in Find a Grave quotes her obituary in the *Burlington Weekly Hawk Eye* which gives her age as about 51 years, which would give a birth date in 1799. This is different



<sup>10</sup> The sixth is Jacob Leathers in Wayne County, Ohio, which is over 160 miles away from Highland County. He was living with a wife who was born before 1790 and six children, which makes him an unlikely candidate.

<sup>11</sup> Colburn, E. H., *History of Fairfield County, Ohio, Past and Present*, Chicago, W. H. Beers and Co., 1883, p. 199.

<sup>12</sup> I think the most likely candidate is John Leathers G33P-B9Q, Frederick's third son. See "Person note" in the collaborate section of his page in Family Search for more information on John.

<sup>13</sup> I don't have the direct source for either of these transactions. I learned about them from the research notes of my aunt, Mary Ida Burgoyne, a Ream family genealogist, who personally gleaned them from the recorder's office of Highland County around 1969. Mary Ida died in 1995.

from her grave monument on which it is inscribed that she was 51 years, four months, and 6 days of age when she died, which calculates to November 1, 1798. That is getting closer to the birthdate given in her Lutheran parish record of November 3, 1796. A. Mary seems to have lied about her age, which would not be surprising since she was actually almost 15 years older than Isaac.

Their first child, Mary M., was born just under six months from their marriage date, suggesting that it may have been a rushed wedding of necessity, which would make their age difference more understandable. A. Mary was 39 and Isaac was 24. They had two more children before A. Mary's childbearing years were over. Elizabeth was born in 1836 and they had a girl named Missouri in 1838 who died at the age of three. A. Mary and Isaac moved with their girls to Burlington, Iowa around 1840 where he worked for eight years as a cabinet maker until he acquired a vineyard on the bank of the Mississippi River where he ran a successful wine business.

When A. Mary died in 1850, Isaac's 73 year old widowed mother, Rahel Dewein, moved into his household to help raise his girls, Mary and Elizabeth, who were 14 and 12 years old. A decade later,<sup>14</sup> Isaac was living with his older daughter Mary, who was by then 25, and a 10 year old girl also named Mary, who was possibly an illegitimate granddaughter. In 1870 Isaac was still keeping his vineyard, which he ran with the assistance of another German immigrant, a young gunsmith named Ferdinand Ebner, who had married Isaac's second daughter, Elizabeth. She and Ferdinand lived next door to Isaac and had three boys and a girl named Nettie (Flora Jeanette), all under 10. When Nettie was 14 her mother Elizabeth died, leaving Nettie to help raise her brothers.

At this point I need to catch you up on Will Ream to bring the story to full circle. At the time of Elizabeth Dewine Ebner's death in 1876, he was 16 years old, teaching school in the winters and working on the farm of his father, Sampson Mitchell Ream, in Lucas County, Iowa, about 130 miles due west of Burlington. By then there was regular train service between Chariton and Burlington, which was a market for the Reams' farm products. Will's father was a first cousin to Elizabeth, so Will was a second cousin to Nettie Ebner. Isaac Dewein died the winter of 1881 at the age of 69.

Will moved briefly to Burlington that fall to attend college in Burlington when he was 21 years old. Though the schooling only lasted a few months,<sup>15</sup> he was in close contact with his cousins the Ebners. Will and Nettie developed a letter writing relationship which lasted for years, well after his courtship with Nora Crockett.

Nettie was still living with her 69 year old father, the gunsmith, in 1900 when she was 38 years old. Her younger brother Rolland lived with them with his wife and three young children. Her father died in 1908 and she lived with another brother with his wife in 1910. At the age of 50, Nettie finally married a widowed German immigrant name Viet Appel with whom she lived for 30 years until his death. She died in Burlington in 1944 at the age of 82, outliving her cousin Will by five years.

Kim Bateman, August 2022  
Spring City, Utah  
[kim.bateman@gmail.com](mailto:kim.bateman@gmail.com)

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<sup>14</sup> According to 1860 U. S. census.

<sup>15</sup> I'll spare you the interesting details of that story, which you can read in Will's biography, *Letters of Books and Slates*, attached to his Memories in Family Search.