

## KEARSE

The ancestry of Kearsse families goes back to 1200 A.D. when the name was first used in Germany. It refers, states Cofer's book on German surnames, to a tribal chief who ruled in 1200 A.D. in the Palatinate area; ~~hence the name is over 760 years old.~~ The first record to be found of the name is that of Tomas Kearsse, who owned a hide of land (80-120 acres) near the town of Trier. The microfilm abstracts from the German State Records show the next record to be that of Gerhard Kearsse, who owned 108 acres at Heppenheim in the Palatinate in 1215, the year following the previous record; his property included a manor house. In 1284 Oscar Keirsse is mentioned as a Knight who went on the Crusades, where Christian fought <sup>Moslem</sup> ~~Arab~~ for the possession of Jerusalem. In 1445 A.D. the city of Darmstadt records show that Paul Kearsse owned a castle there and owed feudal service of 40 men-at-arms to the local Landgrave (ruler). In 1533 the Hesse records show that Count Hans Kearsse defeated a company of Swedish infantry after a fierce battle at Graachin the Saar. In a list of Property Deeds for Munich in 1630 Albert Kearsse is shown as transferring 200 acres of land to the Count of Rechberg and Rotherflawen. In the Hanover State records in 1620 Johann Kearsse is registered as Master Silversmith at the town of Linden. The Land Rolls of the German States show Kearsse property owners during the 1600-1800 period as follows: Gustav Kearsse, 200 acres at Letts in Westphalia, 1665; Karl Kearsse, 100 acres at Langenhagen, 1704; Adolphus Kearsse, 85 acres at Weetz, 1738; Josephus Kearsse, 112 acres at Mainz, 1770; Otto Kearsse, 120 acres at Saalfield, 1790.

From 1760 to the early 1800's more than 14 Kearses families and individuals of the name emigrated from Hamburg and Dutch Ports to the U.S.A. and Canada. A search of the Abstracts of the Dutch Ship's records for Amsterdam and Rotterdam shows a Wilhelm (William) Kearses and a Jakob Kearses as sailing for the U.S.A. on the ship "Albert" on May 3rd, in the year 1768 A.D.