

PAHAPILL FAMILY BOOK – Author’s notes



*John (Johannes) Pahapill – graduation picture
1979 – M.A.Sc (Management Sciences) – University of Waterloo*

The **Pahapill Family Book** is based on information and genealogy data collected for and stored in the master-file of **Pahapill Family Tree**. In preparing the family tree, a great deal of information has been provided by various members of the Pahapill clan, both in Estonia and elsewhere. I am deeply grateful for their help, valuable input and advice!

I was born on January 14, 1929 at the Tehna farm and homestead, in the village of Võhma, Mustjala County, on the island of Saaremaa, in the Republic of Estonia; am the first child of Julius and Heleene Pahapill (kn. Saagpakk); have three brothers, Raimund, Forselius and Aare and one sister, Anne. I have two sons Carl and Eric, and five grandchildren: Andrew, Justine, Aleksa, Stefan and Kristi.

In September 1944, ahead of the oncoming occupation of Estonia by the Soviet Red Army, our whole family – including my 77 years old grandmother – escaped across the Baltic Sea to Sweden. These notes provide a brief overview of my early life in Estonia, my seven years in Sweden, and (at the time of this writing) some 60 years in Canada – mostly in the city of Toronto – where we arrived as landed immigrants in mid-1951 and made our new home. On May 16, 1957 I became Canadian Citizen; by birth, I am citizen of the Republic of Estonia.

In Saaremaa, Estonia (1929 – 1944):

Completed the 6-year “Võhma” Public School in May 1943; and a year later, finished the first-year of the five-year high-school “Saaremaa Ühisgümnaasium” in Kuressaare. With our escape to Sweden in September 1944, my full-time secondary school studies ended abruptly.

In Sweden (1944 – 1951); first two years in Canada (1951 – 1953):

As the eldest child of an 8-member “displaced persons” family – with four under-aged children and an elderly grandmother – I entered the workforce at age 16 in Sweden, in the spring of 1945. In parallel with the daily full-time work, I undertook intensive evening studies and correspondence courses, to continue my secondary-school education.

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Pahapill Family Book – Author’s notes, continued:

By the time of my arrival in Canada, I had managed to acquire the required high school standing in most regular subjects except two – English literature and composition; these were completed during my first two years in Canada, again through evening-school studies.

In Canada – 1953 and beyond:

As is already indicated, my secondary-school work was completed in Toronto, in the spring of 1953 (recall: the process begun – on full-time basis – in Estonia in the school-year of 1943/44, continued through various night-school studies and correspondence courses for seven years in Sweden and two years in Canada). With savings from earnings of the first two years of full-time employment in Canada (the first few months as a common labourer, later as design draftsman), and from summer-employment between the four years of full-time university studies (1953-1957), I was able to pay the college tuition fees; in September 1953, I had once again become a full-time student – this time at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Engineering. From there, I graduated in May 1957, with the Bachelor of Applied Science degree (in Mechanical Engineering). In April 1958, I was accepted as member of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Ontario.

Upon graduation from University of Toronto, I found interesting and rewarding work in my chosen profession, and was fully employed for some 37 years – until my retirement in early 1994. Details of my various professional and managerial responsibilities – and a number of voluntary community work / leadership engagements – can be viewed from the web site of <http://pahapill.ca/john.htm>; in Estonian, from http://pahapill.ca/john_ee.htm .

In parallel with the full-time professional and management responsibilities after graduation from University of Toronto, and the various community-work undertakings, I continued to upgrade my academic standing through part-time studies at the University of Waterloo off-campus educational programs, earning Master of Applied Science Degree (in Management Sciences), in May 1979.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada
September 23, 2010 (*January 26, 2014*)
John Johannes Pahapill