

I know a mill in the valley,
By the side of a reed-grown brook --
And mill and valley I see from afar
And my heart grows tender and sad,
My heart grows tender and sad.



Ich weiss eine Mühle im Thale,
Am schilfbewachsenen See; --
Schau Mühl' ich, schau Thal ich von weitem,
So wird mir so wohl und so weh --
Wird mir so wohl und so weh.



The Ratzmill.

FAMILY TREE

A Translation

FROM

“Unser Stammbaum”

COMPILED AND LEFT TO OUR

Relatives and Descendants

BY

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GOTTHARD SCHAFF

1914

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PREFACE.

THE motive of writing the present family record and brief history of our ancestry is explained best perhaps by the old saying: "Blood is thicker than water," pointing, as it seems, to a quality of the human heart that binds us to our kindred, the home and the life and surroundings of our childhood. No matter how far we may drift away from these associations in after-years, they are never forgotten; the reminiscences of our childhood and youth follow us, and in leisure hours we love to think and dream of them. Herein was conceived, some years ago, the first idea of writing the German original of this family record, of which this present work is a translation.

At that time too, there had died recently in Germany two of our elder brothers, while our eldest brother had passed away over thirty years before. With them the name of Schaaf had disappeared from the towns of Nordeck and Treis a. L., where it had existed for more

than two hundred years. We had maintained a correspondence with our brothers for over fifty years, and now this cherished custom, by fate's degree, had come to an abrupt end. These and other similar considerations at the time led to our becoming interested in learning more of the lives of our ancestors, with a view to adding thereto a number of family traditions and reminiscences already in our possession, which had never been recorded and which we, as the two last representatives of a generation, desired to preserve for our relatives and descendants.

This would not have been so easy, had it not been for the kindly assistance of friends. Particularly are we indebted to the Rev. Mr. Grauling of Treis a. L. and the Rev. Mr. Berdux of Winnen for their really cordial willingness to undertake the laborious task of making the necessary extracts from church records, which are hundreds of years old.

Our Ancestors of Treis.

The first ancestor of whom we have any record was Henry Schaaf, who died in 1677 at the age of 73 years, at the town of Treis, on the River Lumda, in Hessen. He lived three hundred years ago, at the time of that terrible Thirty-Years' war which devastated Germany, and no doubt, he bore his full share of those times of misery. Beyond this, our information regarding the lives of our early forefathers is very meager. We have their names, to be sure, but these alone are as deaf and dumb when first we look at them. All we know for a certainty is that once they lived and worked and finally died. Yet each of these recorded names represents a longer or a shorter life-time; a succession of happiness and sorrow, of joy and pain. Only a somewhat closer view of circumstances throws a little light on the human side of those who so long ago played their parts and in turn were laid to rest. All of them, young and old, men and women, enjoyed once their happy childhood lives, when they strolled about with rosy cheeks and for fun romped barefooted through the long days of summer-time. As they grew up, they too, felt the joys of youth. At fair-time or "Kirmes" we can picture them dancing in a nearby meadow or under some great Linden-tree in the center of the town or village. On such occasions four of the most popular boys were selected as "Kirmes-Burschen," who managed the business and had the exclusive privilege of selling refreshments. They were decorated with huge tufts, fastened to their caps, not, however, made of flowers

as nature produces them so beautifully, but of colored paper, glass pearls and large, gayly colored silk ribbons. Later there arrived the time when their hearts were filled with love and they entered into the bonds of matrimony; there were weddings; they rejoiced in their family life, their children and their prosperity.

Rev. Grauling mentions in his letter that our forefathers in Treis were mostly farmers. They drove out early in the morning with meek animals pulling the plow to work the soil. At noon-time, even in those days, the church-bell would call them to rest and the feeding of their animals, and when the sun sank low in the west they would drive homeward, to spend the evening, perhaps sitting on the bench near the house, playing with the little ones, showing them the moon that had so quietly risen above the house tops, while in other parts of the village the young people, perhaps, rendered gay songs.

About St. John's day, when the days are longest and the sun is at its highest, there returns every year the gay time of hay harvesting. Early at daybreak, when the lark sings its last farewell song, every one of the family of our forefathers who could swing a scythe, went out to mow the grass; later it was turned over, and in the afternoon they were busied raking up the fragrant hay and putting it on the broad hay wagon to be stowed away in the spacious lofts of the silent barn. Sometimes they were seen to be in great haste with their work, because dark clouds gathered on the horizon and flashes of lightning were seen, foreboding a refreshing rain. The rain comes down in large, heavy drops to quench the thirsty soil, and in a few days the meadows again are

covered with fresh, green grass. — That is a likeness of everlasting life: the harvest is over, but the spirit which brought it forth and ripened it is not dead, but lives and produces forever. So is our mortal body not the real man, but the spirit which produced it. Our thinking, willing, loving, hoping, believing, in short our spirit, proceeding from the spirit of God and therefore living forever, that is man, that is what we are ourselves, that is what our ancestors are.

“Because I live, ye shall live also.”

Several of our forefathers in Treis are mentioned in the records as having been church-elders — a point that in a measure indicates, or rather gives us a glimpse into their spiritual life. They took interest in church and religion. Our first ancestor mentioned in the records was born some fifty years after the death of Martin Luther, at a time when Germany was in the religious turmoil of the reformation. He was already a Protestant, and perhaps it was he who was dissatisfied with the old order of things and separated from the Catholic church. Any such undertaking, if it is done voluntarily, is significant of a progressive, self-relying character who is in earnest regarding his religious convictions. The supposition is not excluded that he or his near relations were driven to Treis by religious persecution. We find our name often in the southern part of Germany. In the second part of the past century there lived also a famous theologian and writer, by name Philipp Schaaf, in the East of the United States, who came from Switzerland. The spiritual relation here is plain enough, though the blood relationship might

be difficult to establish. There are to-day of the Treis-Dreihausen lineage two brothers, Conrad and Johannes Schaff, who are ministers of the gospel, active in the United States of America. Here one may see how deeply sometimes a certain characteristic is rooted and developed in a family, so it can be traced down through centuries.

Our Ancestors on the Mother's Side.

The first mention of these in the church records of Winnen is as follows: “In the parish of Nordeck were united in marriage, October 26, 1731, Joh. Rock and Anna Katherine Hofmann.” Further we know from narrations of our grandfather that the Rock family came from Leihgestern, near Giessen. It may be supposed, therefore, that the said Joh. Rock came from that place. How he came to take a wife from so remote a place as Nordeck would be of interest to know; alas, we shall have to be contented with only guessing regarding many of these questions. In those days it was customary for young men, when they were through with their apprenticeship to become “journeymen,” who traveled and worked away from home, and it is likely that he thus traveled along the river Lumda in search of work in the mills along that river. So he may well have come to the nearby Burgmuehle (mill of the borough) near Nordeck, whose proprietor bore the name of Hofmann, and there have met his fair Anna Katherine. The young couple did not settle in Nordeck at the time, however, and we lost track of

them for ten years. It is likely they lived in or near the home of the father, where the family increased by three sons. The next information we have of them is again from the church-records of Winnen, where is stated that on the 23rd of March, 1741, a son was born to them, who was named Joh. Adam Rock, and on the 18th of December, 1743, another son was born whom they called Johannes. There were in all five sons who proceeded from our first known ancestors on our mother's side.

When these children had grown up the needs of a larger dwelling place and of better industrial opportunities were felt. The father died early and it devolved upon the widow to conduct the family affairs. At that time it happened that in the town of Mardorf, about eight or ten miles distant, a mill was for sale which she bought, had taken down and carried by wagons drawn by oxen to Nordeck and there built up again in the same way that it had stood near Mardorf. The frontispiece of this book gives a fair idea of how the building appeared from the exterior. The interior was rather queerly arranged. The entrance was through the lower millroom, and from there one had to climb two stairways to the living room and kitchen. There was a saying that all the lumber used for the framework of the building had been cut from one huge oak tree.

Long before this building was erected there stood at that place a one-story building containing only an oil-mill. The oldest record we have of the original oilmill is a lease written in fine, ornamental letters on parchment, and dated June 25, 1711, whereby the mill was leased by the Nobles von Rau, who owned the land and built

the mill, to Georg Wm. Kling. We insert a picture of the document here in about one-third of its original size. The contents are written in a rather quaint, old-fashioned style, the substance of which is about as follows:

"We, Philip Friderich Eitel Rau of the high Teutonic Order, Knight and present commenthur of Oberflorsheim, Johann Adolph, and Carl August, all three brothers of and at Holzhausen, Lords of the manor at Nordeck, make it known by this letter patent for us and our heir-descendants that we have given G. W. Kling, his lawful wife and descendants hereditary fief of the new oilmill." — The tenants were to keep it in good repair and pay all taxes, as if it were their own property, and if a new wheel were required the landlords were to furnish the lumber from their forests. In return the tenants promised to pay an annual rent of seven Thalers and besides that, to deliver to the landlords two hens and two young roosters, unfailing every year at St. Martin's day, and also to feed a dog. — If the rent was not paid inside of two years or at most three years the property was to go back to the landlord. The same would happen if there were no direct heirs.

The Kling family that leased the mill did not long stay in it, as history shows, though it is very likely that it was about thirty years later that the Rock family settled there, went in the oil business and left it to their descendants. Thus we know a grandson of the first Joh. Rock who followed the same trade with his sons.

The erecting of the building and installation of a flour-mill were a rather difficult task for the widow. Of course her five sons were almost all grown up, but she

1787

1787

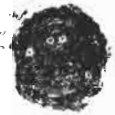
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James ...
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seems to have had her great troubles with them. None of the three eldest sons would or could undertake to conduct the business successfully; they were a loose, unsteady set. One son enlisted as soldier. Another went off and nothing was ever heard of him. Of the oldest son, Johannes, there are, however, records of two sons and one daughter. The fourth son, Joh. Adam, who was born in Nordeck as mentioned above, was at that time employed by the nobleman as a gardener and it was finally agreed that he should take possession of the new mill property.

At that time he was married, as the records show, to Miss Anna Elisabeth, daughter of Joh. Georg Kling, who was probably the son or nephew of the Geo. Wm. Kling to whom the lease of the mill was made. Of the latter there is a record that he died in Nordeck July 28, 1715, at the age of 34 years. There were traditions that the Kling family came from Burggeminde in Ober-Hessen. The bride Anna Elisabeth had served at the castle as cook for nine years and, as tradition has it, was well liked by the noble family, as was also our great grandfather, the gardener. So when they were married the noble lady undertook to endow them. There were even in our time a number of pieces of old furniture in our home which came originally from the castle, also a number of old books. A medical book something like three hundred years old (still in our possession) — and a hymn book, also a big volume: "The True Christianity," in six parts, by Joh. Arndt, with a colored picture of paradise, that was greatly admired by us children.

Thus in every way endowed and aided by the good

will of influential people and by-and-by blessed with a young son who, no doubt, still further increased their happiness, the young people well may have looked hopefully to the future. For what is there more natural and beautiful in life, than when two souls unite and build a home for themselves and raise a family. Alas, we all know how uncertain the hopes are — they vanish only too soon. Our ancestors experienced this in the most sad way.

At that time Elector Frederic II. reigned in Hessen. An ambitious sovereign, he tried to imitate the extravagant rulers of France; he promoted science and art in Cassel; he had costly buildings put up, imported architects, poets, musicians, actors and other expensive luxuries from the capital of France and maintained an army of 16,000 men. The country at that time was exhausted of almost all its young men on account of the Seven Years' War; but the peasants had to be drilled and nearly everybody had to do military service. It was said that Hessen was the most military state in Germany. In those days, too, it was the practice with several German potentates, — instead of protecting their subjects, as should have been their duty, — rather to hire them out, or even to sell them to foreign nations for cash. In this way the Hessian government sent an envoy to London to close a bargain with the English government, engaged at that time in the great struggle with their American colonies. As a result the government of Hessen-Cassel furnished the English in 1775 with 12,800 men, and in 1782 with an additional 6,600 men, which was about $\frac{1}{30}$ of the whole population of Hessen! To raise this number of

men recruiting officers were sent out who seized the men wherever they found them. The poet Seume they seized on his way to Paris, between Fulda and Eisenach, and sent him to America. He wrote: "Nobody was safe from the agents of these traffickers in human souls. Persuasion, cunning, fraud, deceit, all would be used to gain their end. They tore to pieces my academic inscription, the only instrument of my legitimation."

Of these troops only 11,900 returned home in the year 1783 and 1784, — 7,500 having been lost in the war! The subsidies which the elector received from this deal with England amounted to nearly \$15,000,000! History does not say whether the soldiers or their widows and orphans got anything from this immense amount of money. But it is stated that the elector, who died in 1785, left a private fortune of \$37,500,000. There is, however, another version of history that states the elector was personally much opposed to the arrangement with England, but that his parliament acted according to a treaty with England for mutual protection, and that the war bounty of \$14,000,000 was not paid to the elector, but went to the state treasury of Hessen.

Such were the conditions under which our ancestors lived, which destroyed their lives, careers and happiness. Our great-grandfather is marked in the church records as "grenadier," so he had to go to America. This was a hard blow which he not long endured. The traditions are that he died of home-sickness shortly after his arrival in America, at the Camp in New York.

After he had taken leave of his young wife and a nine months old baby-boy there were, besides them, left

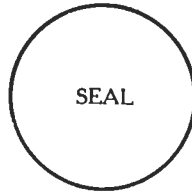
at home the old grandmother, A. C. Hofmann, and a younger brother, Johannes. These together undertook to conduct the mill business. There is not much known of the success of the arrangement. Only four years later, February 27, 1779, the grandmother died at the age of 70 years. And bearing the date of May 10, 1781, there is a lease, or contract, which shows that the widow leased the mill to her brother-in-law for sixteen years. Very likely it was presumed that after that time the now 7 year old boy would be able to run the mill himself, and, as it seems, this really happened. We give here the substance of the contract and a reduced copy of the original, which had been preserved by descendants in Treis a. L. and was kindly sent us for this purpose.

"Actum: Nordeck, May 10, 1781.

"Appeared before this court here Elisabeth, the widow of Joh. Adam Rock, and the guardians of her son Johannes, who desire to lease the mill, situated here, at the long sea, wherein everything is in good condition (except the water-wheel which might be renewed) for sixteen years from the month of April to the miller Johannes Rock, with the condition that he pay the annual mill rent to his gracious Lordship, also 6 bushels of grain instead of feeding the dog and also annually five dollars capital interest, and that he bear all levies, and keep the building in good repair. Whereby the tenant agrees to house and board the widow and her son during the 16 years free, for which she agrees to lend a helping hand at work, except in wintertime to do some spinning for herself, at the same time giving up the products of a meadow (hay) for household use. It is also agreed that, in case the boy,

after his fourteenth year, should hire out or be apprenticed, the leaseholder shall pay him annually \$1.60. — The parties concerned have this contract legally acknowledged and to that purpose set their signatures and seal to it.

× × ×
Elisabeth, Joh. Adam Rock's
widow's handmark.
Ludwig Hofmann.
Johannes Goebel.
Johannes Rock.



F. H. Tassius
High Noble of Rau
his administrator.

The Johannes Rock mentioned here, who leased the mill, married on February 26, 1782, Anna Margareth Kling, a younger sister of the widow Rock. From this union descended a son, George by name, who married on February 20, 1812, Christine Lemmer, and thus became the founder of the Rock family in Treis a. L.

The much tried woman whose name under the above document is indicated by three crosses lived for twenty years more and departed this life after she had seen her son supplied with another life partner to fill her place, and after a young daughter had seen the light of day. The little girl bore the same name as her own. Our mother was born May 5, 1800, and her grandmother died December 24, 1800, at the age of 55 years.

We now again resort to the records of the church, where is inscribed the following: "In the parish of Nordeck were married May 11, 1798, Johannes Rock (son of Joh. A. Rock) born May 1, 1774, and Anna Barbara Wissner of Winnen, born January 3, 1774. Thus was started a new generation with our grandfather as

the head. The bride possessed some property, consisting not of cash, but of real estate. This made it necessary to combine the mill business with farming; barn and stable became necessary, and as there was no money on hand for the purpose, the funds had to be borrowed. The burden of the debt thus incurred made things difficult for grandfather forever afterwards. The combining of the two lines of business also more than doubled the labor, despite the fact that our grandmother was not of a strong constitution. There is not much known of their business career. They lived during the reign of Napoleon in Germany, when, it was said, times were rather good and prices for products high, which was, of course, favorable for those who had something to sell. Moreover, since Nordeck was not situated near any principal highway, it did not suffer much from the ravages of moving armies. Grandfather, however, seems not to have prospered very well, and when his daughter had reached the age of 21 years and a chance to marry a man with a nice fortune in cash presented itself, he may have been glad to unload the burden on younger shoulders.

Our grandparents had three children: One son died at the age of 21 years under symptoms of a violent fever and a younger daughter at the age of 31 years. Our mother, who was the oldest, had grown tall, and was a handsome girl, they said. She was "young and gay," as she said herself, partook of the youthful pastimes and liked to dance and to sing. — Her fiancé also was good looking, and from his heart the most gentle and god-fearing man one could find. But he did not possess those worldly qualities that would have inspired so lively a

nature as our mother's. Father was somewhat older too, and mother would have liked better to marry a younger man in the village; but the straightened circumstances of grandfather made it necessary to consider the pecuniary point. Our father brought with him a handsome little fortune in cash, and that turned the balance in his favor.— So it goes often in this world: Our most cherished wishes, our fondest hopes often are crossed by the mere whims of destiny. Thus it was in this case. Our mother did not get the husband she wanted, yet her marriage may never-the-less be called a happy one. The blessing of six children was bestowed upon her with marked regularity, of whom the youngest lived only a few months. Five boys grew up and prospered, all of a tall and slender stature, and the girls agreed they were the best looking fellows in the village.

Reminiscences of Our Early Life.

Of course, in our younger days mother had a hard time of it. There was no help from a girl in the family, and we boys were a rather lively crowd when we sat in a row around the table, but our healthy appetite made cooking in a degree easy. Our diet consisted of little or no meat. Vegetable, fruit, milk and flour dishes, and particularly good rye-bread spread well with jam made from prunes, most of the time was in abundance. Our grandfather in earlier years,—likely moved by a certain presentiment that such might come handy in future days—

had planted three dozen plum trees that were now in their full maturity. While little boys, we also were in the noble habit of eating fresh fruit before breakfast. It was fresh, moistened by dew with the bright morning sun shining on it. In summertime when the fruit ripened, there was always some that fell from the trees during the night, and this was picked up early in the morning and eaten.

In these doings we did not confine ourselves strictly to our own property. There were neighbors who had an old tree with sweet little pears, and there was a handy opening in the hedge that surrounded the garden, that never was closed, and which we used in our robberies. Our neighbors of the "Prophete Mill" were well off and had no children and thus granted to us little fellows many favors. But we also owned, besides the "Zwetschen," or late plum trees, about one and a half dozen large fruit trees of other kinds; such as "Pflaumen," or early plums, pears, apples and cherries. Many of the trees had been planted by our grandfather's mother, and nearly all were of a rare cultivated species. Who may know but that our ancestors got them through their connection with the noble family or brought them from their original home? And you may be sure, we never inquired about it when we ate the fruit, yet to-day we recognize the loving care of our grand, and great-grandparents. In the rear of the barn, along the water, there were bushes of gooseberries and currants. In our childhood there were also hedges in the field with blackberries and strawberries, but the finest of them grew along the creek above the mill.

In this manner the life of our childhood shaped itself

quite agreeably. We lived free in close touch with nature and our instinct led us to make the best of the opportunity to play and to exercise our faculties.

Quite in early childhood, when mother took us with her when she went to the "lappen," a small patch of ground, about five minutes northeast from the mill, surrounded by hedges to protect it from the northwinds, to spade and to sow lettuce and cabbage and to plant early potatoes, we would pass the time looking over the bushes for violets and fancy little snailhouses. Around the "lappen" stood several fruit trees, and particularly two large cherry trees, which we in later years often climbed to eat cherries.

Another piece of ground that remained unforgotten in our minds was the "Eselskopf," literally the "ass's head," probably called so because the asses from the mill would occasionally go to feed on the scanty bits of grass that grew there. The spot is situated halfway between the mill and the "lappen." On summer-evenings we often went there to play. We would run, jump, stand on our heads, turn somersaults, lie down flat on the ground and roll down the hill like the trunk of a tree, etc. Our "turner-exercises" we made on a low horizontally stretched out branch of the old apple tree that, according to tradition, our great-grandmother planted. Nearby to the grass-patch were sandpits where we were often busied for hours, playing mill, digging tunnels, making walls, etc. At other places there was clay. We often tried to do some pottery work but never had any success in that line. All this represents our Kindergarten period, of course, without teacher and without system, yet not altogether without benefit to us.

One of the principal factors in our youthful playing was the water. When in spring the thaw set in and the water ran everywhere, we never grew tired of busying ourselves with it. The running water represented in our imagination wells and fountains, and wherever it would do, a dam was made and a watermill was put in operation. To do this, we needed only a twig of willow or alder and a pocket-knife to make the wheel, and let it run on the water. We made overshot and undershot-mills in that way. That we very often cut our fingers, wet our feet and soiled our clothes, was not looked very favorably upon, and was often forbidden, but we could not altogether be kept away from the water, and there was little or no fear of sickness of any kind. When in spring and summer the weather was dry, we used to race around the premises and play at hide-and-seek. Then it was that the old hollow poplar tree by the side of the waterwheel used to serve as a convenient hiding place — as indicated in the frontispiece.

As we grew older our faculties in mechanics were exercised. It was not customary in those days to buy playthings for children. Playing and playthings were not considered to be necessary or desirable. One knew only of useful labor, and the children were wanted to help in that way as early as possible. The word "play" for children was not even known or used by us children, nevertheless we played and had our playthings. The elder brothers made them for the younger. Thus brother George made a miniature flourmill, a true copy of the large mill. In the same way he made an oldfashioned oilmill, including press and all. Balthasar supplied us

with little sleds and wagons. In later years George became a millwright and Balthasar a wheelwright. Among our supply of playthings there were also weapons: The crossbow, bow and arrow, the sling of King David, etc. In the use of these things brother George was very skillful.

In our garret grandfather had stored the different parts of an oldfashioned turning-lathe. One day George went and put them together, fastened over-head the end of a pole that served as a spring, and tied a string to it, so it would reach down to the floor, where was tied a sort of footboard. The string was to be twisted once around the piece that was to be turned, which then was fastened in the lathe, so that now by moving the footboard up and down with the foot, the piece would revolve back and forth, and so could be shaped. This lathe was very useful in many ways. We made our own tops, turned a set of ninepins and balls, made a bowling-path at the foot of the Eselskopf and played at ninepins.

Even in early days we tried our hands at making musical instruments. When our mother fixed up her spinning wheel for the winter, and the old catgut string had to be replaced by a new one, we never failed to look around for a little board, over which we several times stretched the old string, put a kind of bridge under them, and so had a zither. The tuning may not have been very correct, but we thought it sounded fine. In spring, when the sap in the trees rose, we made pipes from the bark of willow twigs, and hautboys and shalms. We made lots of noise with them, but it was good lung practice. After we grew a little older we made organ pipes, and by the use of the lathe tried to make flutes.

The Eselskopf offered, besides the advantages mentioned above, a good chance to look around. We could see from there a large part of the Lumda valley with its half dozen villages. Of a quiet Sunday morning we could hear the church bells sound from far and near. The large bell in the church of Treis would send its deep and clear sounds along the quiet fields quite early in the morning. But the chimes of Allendorf had the most harmonious and charming ring, to which we always listened with particular interest. About noontime on Sundays, we, and also some member of the Prophet family, would walk up to the Eselskopf to wait for the people to come from church. We could hear the little bell toll while the minister spoke the Lord's prayer. Soon after we could see the people pass the Winnen heights; then it was time to notify mother to get the dinner ready. The old people, Johannes and Joh. Adam of the Prophet family, and sometimes the sons Balthasar or Johannes walked often to the Eselskopf to see how far everybody was in their fieldwork. They could locate every piece of ground and knew to whom it belonged. Besides Johannes, the senior of the family, would walk in summertime regularly at six o'clock in the morning across the dam of the near mill-pond and gaze over the fields and the valley.

The millers in those days, when they went to church, were dressed in light blue coats, short buckskin breeches, long stockings and buckled shoes and a felt hat with broad brim tied up "à la Washington." A suit like that lasted usually a lifetime. Our grandfather was attired in a similar way but father differed somewhat from them. He wore a dark blue coat decorated with the medal of

honor from the war times. Grandfather and the senior members of the Prophet family wore on weekdays white linen coats, open in front, all in the eighteenth century style. Father wore a white linen blouse, closed in front, and short breeches. The young folks wore blue blouses and long breeches. Old people also wore fine cloth caps, trimmed with fur, and with a gold wire tassel fastened to the middle of the top. Particularly the senior gentlemen in the Prophete mill wore these fur caps also in summer.

After the spading of the "lappen" and two gardens was finished, — a piece of work in which we helped in later years — when the seeds were in the ground and grandfather had trimmed the trees and put the garden fence in good repair, then, by-and-by spring came along in all its glory. In the valley where we lived, the slopes in the north and south were covered with a dense growth of beach-woods which furnished the background to the immense panorama that opened up before our eyes every year. Day by day we noticed how the trees decked themselves with fresh light green: first a few single ones, then more and more every day till very shortly the whole forest showed off in full rich green, enlivened with the light and shade by the golden rays of the spring sun. Here and there the blooming crown of a wild fruit tree could be seen among the green.

A display of similar interest would also appear nearby. The orchards of the town as well as those of the neighboring mills, and our own fruit trees could continually be seen by us, and when the time of blossoming came, there was a sight that one could never forget! And when after a few days the blossoms fell to the ground like

snowflakes we always felt sad. All the beauty had passed away. — Nature teaches us early to lose and also to create new and elevating hopes. The blossoms had fulfilled their purpose. The trees had been fertilized and new hopes came with their ripening fruit.

The cultivation of flowers was not much looked after at our home. Mother had hardly time for it, and nobody else thought of it, but some few flowers made, like the poet's fairy, "with every young year their appearance." One did not know whence they came, nor whose loving heart planted them in years past. Still at about Easter-time, when the ground thawed, we often went into the little garden to see if the "morning stars" had yet pushed their yellow-greenish points from the ground. There were two big bushes of narcissus, the one yellow and the other white. They were simple, like we picture the stars, and very beautiful. Besides these there were a number of rosebushes that were not visible in winter, but every springtime they would sprout out from the ground along the northward mill-brook under the plum trees, and in the month of June would bear fragrant red roses. There was also a bush, the blossoms of which looked like snowballs, and a lilac bush, whose blooming beauty would gladden the eye and fill the air with fragrance about Whitsuntide or "Pfungsten." By the side of the mill there was a meadow that bore wild flowers in numberless amount and variety — it was a beautiful sight.

All these impressions have become pictures that live indelibly in memory, and are, it seems, of lasting benefit. They constitute a picture gallery in which one likes to roam even in old age. Even now we like to remember

the calm beach forests where thrush and ousel sings and the cuckoo calls, or the orchard that resounds with the songs of the birds, and where the neat wagtail near the water runs up and down in the sand; or the bush nearby, where the hedge-sparrow sounds its sweet melodies. And then the time when, in the barn behind the rafters, the red-tails built their little nest, and in the morning with day-break sounded from the roof their merry songs, and the storks daily came over from Treis — where they had their nest on the roof of a barn. At the "alte See" (old sea) they got their meals, consisting of live frogs, of which they swallowed a great many; and when they grew tired, they would stand on one of their long legs to rest. The hawk, too, would soar in circles, high in the air, looking for prey.

It is too full, it is too fair
The creator's great world,
That joyless we should wander
Through meadow, woods and field.

Sie ist zu voll, sie ist zu schön,
Des Schöpfers grosse Welt,
Um freudenleer dahin zu geh'n,
Durch Wies' und Hain und Feld.

With the approaching summer the thriving, pulsating life of spring ceases. The fruits begin to ripen; the sun sends its yellow rays down and colors the ripening grain; the bees swarm around humming as they gather nectar from the white and red clover blossoms, and the harvesters, mostly women and girls, cut the grain with the

sickle. The evenings are quiet. The mills rest through the night for want of water during the summertime, and around the alderbushes play the lighting bugs. One hears only the chirping of the cricket, or the call of the quail in the field, and sometimes the flutelike sounds of a dreaming reedsongster among the reeds of the pond, or the "click-click" of a mill far off by the Lumda.

In the years of our childhood all kinds of repairing was done to the mill, in which we were highly interested. Two huge wheels, a beam and the millstones were renewed, but, before that could be done, the lumber had to be cut and sawed. For such work father's ability in this line stood in good stead; — he was a carpenter by trade, so, we remember how he stood on top of an elevated log and directed the huge saw, while grandfather stood below the scaffold to pull the saw. Thus the logs were split into such shape as to be suitable for the construction of the wheels. This was a laborious and slow process, but it was almost the only way in which to prepare lumber. When there was a house to be built in summertime, the carpenters were at work in the morning at 5 o'clock and toiled until as late as 8 in the evening, and two men cut about as much in a week as now is done in about half an hour with a circle or bandsaw.

The first thing to be done in the morning usually was the sharpening of the tools, and when one went at those heavy saws with the file, a kind of a ringing, howling sound was produced that could be heard miles away. On a quiet morning we often heard the sharpening of the saws in Allendorf, nearly two miles away. To construct the large wheels, four millwrights were engaged

who came from the town of Beuern. The wheelbeam consisted of a good-sized trunk of an oaktree, about two feet in diameter which had to be turned to its proper shape. To that work the neighbors were invited to help keep the tree in rotation while it was shaped.

* * *

When the second grass is mown and the starlings gather in flocks on the bare meadows to migrate to the south, when the stork stops his visits, "when the swallows homeward fly and the roses cease to bloom," then fall has come. Then is the time to gather in the potatoes and fruits, to cook prune-jam in a large copper kettle. The fire had to be kept up the whole night, and the substance had to be stirred continually to keep it from burning. All the younger members of the family sat around the fire to take their turn in stirring, while others were busy baking waffles of potatoes, that were consumed with great relish. A part of the prunes were dried, for which purpose there was a dryoven near the garden. There we used to build a hut of aldertwigs around the fireplace and watch the crackling fire for a while in the evening. People have a fondness for sitting around blazing fires: it seems to be something they inherited from their remote ancestors, from the campfires during their countless wars and outdoor living. Hence the open fireplaces in England, the Yulelog and Christbaum probably originated in that way.

This brings to mind also the noble family von Rau, that lived in our time at the castle of Nordeck. It was customary every three years in the fall to take the fish

from the ponds near the mill, but before that could be done the water had to be let out of the pond. This consumed two days and two nights in the case of the "old sea," near our mill, and on this occasion the nobles would arrange a night's camping outdoors. The forester, Martin Pfaff, put up a hut of green twigs, reedgrass and straw near the outlet of the water. In the afternoon two or three of the noblemen would arrive, equipped with shotguns and several dogs, a big campfire would then be started and the gentlemen camped outdoors for a night. When it grew too cold in the night, they would come to our mill to have coffee made. Some six or seven hundred years ago the inhabitants of the castle must have been great fish eaters. This is shown by the many fishponds around Nordeck. There must have been about a dozen, but they are all lying dry now, except two that are used also by the mills. At several places the name is preserved, but there are more where only the elevation of the ground indicates its former use. All lasts only for a time: the ponds are no more and the powerful nobility is no more.

The world now is at war with capital, another invisible power that may become as harmful — even perhaps more so in its consequences to humanity, than ever was the nobility. Yet that the feudal conditions were very oppressive for the people may be imagined. Grandfather used to relate that according to the custom of the middle ages the millers were vassals of the nobility and a part of their military force; so, at one time they were ordered to appear armed at the village. The nobleman rode up to them and demanded to see the burgomaster,

and when he appeared the nobleman shot him down like a dog. Grandfather did not know how long ago that had been, but to such cruel deeds the people connected all kinds of stories, that it was not safe up there by the castle. Great-grandmother, who served in the castle, often "had seen spectres," and surely believed that spirits were about. Her sleeping place had been beneath the tower-room. Often at midnight she heard a shuffling and throwing about of things, but when they had looked in the morning, everything had been in its place, and the furniture was as dust-covered as usual!

* * *

One of the usual occupations in our early days was the tending of the animals. Mother kept geese; she needed the feathers for beds for the growing family, and also the meat in the winter. It was mostly sold, however, to pay running expenses. So we had early our experience with geese. As soon as the young slipped from the eggs we were busy gathering fresh nettle, that often pricked our hands. We cut them up and mixed them with bran and a little water and fed the goslings. But the old geese thanked us little for it. Particularly when they have young ones they are very bold, and we had to handle them very diplomatically so as not to excite their ire. Geese want to be treated considerately, like other creatures, and if that was not done they offered resistance. The old goose or gander had probably much less respect for little fellows like us, than we had for them. Later on the asses and cows must be tended in the pasture. High time for enjoyment of this duty, however, came in

autumn, when the second grass was cut, for then the animals were driven into the open fields, away down to Steinbach and the Ochsenwiese, around near the Weiden mill. When the weather waxed cool we made a fire and roasted potatoes in the glowing ashes, — they tasted delicious without fat or salt. Sometimes we had the company of others who were out on the same errand and then games were played; but as often as not, one would be all alone with his animals and God's beautiful nature.

When the sun neared the western horizon we would judge from its position the time to drive home. At other times of the day the sun does not tolerate being looked at straight in the face, but as the evening nears it becomes gentler and more confidential; one gazes at it then with interest and a sense of companionship and as it slowly sinks and disappears beyond the western hills, then it is as if one were parting from a friend. But the golden evening glow it leaves behind is always the promise of a fine day to-morrow. Now the time has come to fare homeward. The days in the fall are short and darkness sets in early; but look, there already sails the full-moon in the eastern sky, gazing so sad and friendly upon the quiet fields; the evening star shines brightly and one by one the forerunners of the myriads of stars appear. — Ah, these heavenly stars are sublime companions! In childhood we think little about these things — it is all a matter of course; but it is not to be wondered at, that mankind in its childhood worshipped the sun as a deity, and the angels of heaven appeared first to the shepherds in the field.

And one must not forget the great migratory birds, the cranes and snow geese that ever held an interest for us. They often flew in large flocks high in the air above our heads. Particularly in the autumn time they winged southward in double rows, the shape of a giant letter "V," but when they returned north in the spring, there were not many of them left; on cloudy days one sometimes could hear only their cries. They would never come down in our vicinity, consequently we had an erroneous idea of their size. The crane is the largest bird of Europe and measures about four feet in height. There must be immense stretches of inaccessible marshlands in the North, where these numbers of birds can live without being exterminated by man.

When the snowgeese southward fly, then they expect cold weather in Germany, and then is the time when the housework begins. Our mother and aunt put their spinning wheels in order, to spin during the next months the yarn for the linen and also a limited amount of wool. The demand for linen in the family was large: bedding, shirts and working clothes for the men consisted almost entirely of linen, and the labor that was connected with this line of industry was not very easy or clean. It was done exclusively by the women, and the men did not meddle with it, except that the weaving was done by men who made a business of it in wintertime. It was all manual labor in those days, the weaver threw the shuttle back and forth by hand.

When the flax was ripe it was pulled, root and all, out of the ground and conveyed to the barn, where it was drawn through a kind of iron rake to separate the

seed-knots from the stems. This usually was done in the evening, and when there were any girls, usually some boys would call to help in the work. After the stems had been dried thoroughly in the sun, they went through a process of breaking up by means of a wooden breaker. This instrument was handled by women, and it took good, strong arms to do it, as well as good, hearty lungs to stand the clouds of dust that flew up from it. By this process the bark was separated from the inner substance or waste. The flax then was pounded with a thin steel plate and then pulled through a kind of steel comb arrangement until it was fine, almost like silk, and ready for spinning.

This was a task that required much skill and perseverance; the spinning lasted many days and almost half the nights during the winter. It was therefore quite natural that they tried to make this wearisome work more agreeable by sociability. Thus the wife of our neighbor Prophet often came to us to spin, and when her husband had time he came later to see her home. These were Uncle Balthasar and Aunt Anna-Kathrine, both held by us children in high esteem; and they liked us children too, because they were not blessed with any themselves. Aunt Anna-Kathrine was some years younger than mother, and had a wonderfully fine spinning wheel which was highly admired by us. It was made of reddish-brown plum-tree wood, highly polished, with loose rings, and the ends of the different parts were ornamented with small ivory knobs. It was a piece of the bride's dowry, made by the then young master C. Wissner.

At these social meetings mother and her friend used

to sing the songs of their younger days, all of a sentimental turn and of the ever inexhaustible theme of love. During those long winter evenings and spinning parties too, when grandfather was in the right mood he would tell interesting stories. We do not recollect all of them, but some were of so startling a nature that they made lasting impressions on us, and may therefore be mentioned. One evening, he said, he walked home from Giessen, a distance of 12 miles. It was winter and the night was dark and disagreeable. The way to Nordeck runs through a woods and past the notorious "Hangelstein" and the "devil's pulpit." As he passed that place he perceived close to his side a large black shape nearly the size of an ass; it grunted three times like a hog, but with a coarser and more terrifying sound. One may well imagine that grandfather was frightened almost to death! In his terror he cried: "Depart from here, you denizens of hell, you shall not harm me," and then took to prayer. When he looked around the spectre had disappeared, but above in the woods a noise arose as if all the wood-piles were being upset. Grandfather fell sick from this experience, and mother said he was not like himself for three months thereafter. The saying goes that other people have been molested there in a similar way, and that the evil one preached there at his pulpit once every year!

Grandfather told also another story. On one fine summer day in the afternoon, as he was walking home from Allendorf through the fields, at a certain place he saw a man with shiny boots, a spade in his hand, pacing along the furrow of a piece of land. He thought it was

the minister and intended to greet him, but when he looked up, the apparition had vanished. With this another incident was connected: Years before a usurer had lived in Allendorf, who, it had been said, had been wandering after death, and once he had owned that piece of ground.

To judge from these narrations it would seem that grandfather had the faculty of perceiving spiritual things, and he inherited this from his mother, who seems to have been gifted likewise.

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamed of in your philosophy."

Grandfather was one of those prophetic souls in whom presentiment is strong; on one fine summer day, for instance, the old poplar tree by the side of the mill fell over, seemingly without cause; that was to him a sure sign that he would go, too, very soon. And so indeed it proved to be, for without a sign of any illness one morning his immortal spirit had left its mortal body. We children all slept in the same room without knowing the time of his departing. It was on the morning of June 13, 1844, that he died at the age of 70 years, 1 month and 12 days. Grandfather was by heart religious without displaying it much outwardly. Once he advised me, when I had grown up, to buy for myself the prayer-book of Ben. Schmolke. When I left home I thought of his advice and tried to buy it but could not find it anywhere for sale, being such an old publication.

Father was of a more quiet, reserved nature, but when grandfather told his stories he sometimes would corroborate by telling some old tale of the ruins of the

Totenberg, of his soldier life, or of the large churchbell having been uprooted at Obersailbach by a wild boar. He also told us of the healthgiving well. Father had not been in Russia nor at Leipzig with Napoleon. Hessen was ruled by Jerome Napoleon, but it seems they had not recruited in Hessen for that campaign. Only after the French left Germany was father drawn for military service, and when Napoleon returned from Elba the Hessians marched towards France, but did not get farther than Coblenz, for the battle of Waterloo made it unnecessary to go farther.

* * *

Now a few words about the living room where the above stories were told, where we worked, spun, laughed, cried, and even sometimes danced. This room was of medium size, yet larger than one usually finds in the houses of towns, because of the diverse uses to which it was put. In one corner stood the bed where our parents slept, surrounded by a curtain. At the opposite end stood the table, behind which, along the wall, was a bench, long enough to lie down upon and rest occasionally. By the inner wall stood a simple cubical-shaped iron stove, connected with a hole in the wall that opened into the kitchen, from where the firing was done. For additional furnishing there were a number of wood or cane chairs available, and also an easy chair for the old folks. Over-head to the crossbeam in many houses a woodbar was fastened horizontally, so that it could be turned in any direction in the room. From this bar hung down a simple contrivance that could be shortened or

lengthened at will, on which the iron oil lamp was suspended, which thus could be turned in any direction. The feeble light was produced in our time from rapeseed oil. The room was whitewashed, with occasionally a border near the ceiling. Small industries like tailoring, shoemaking and even cabinetmaking were carried on in the living room. And so, as ours was used by grandfather chiefly for mill-repairing, there were besides the few things mentioned a work and cutting bench, a chopping block, saws and other tools, which hung on the wall, or were stuck in a rack. These tools were very helpful to us in our many mechanical enterprises, but we had to do most of our work when grandfather was not around.

The kitchen was furnished in the same primitive fashion. In every kitchen in rural districts the chimney started with a large opening in the ceiling. This lower space was used for the smoking of meat and sausage. Higher up, where it grew narrower, a pair of swallows had fastened and built their nest to the chimney wall. The fireplace consisted of a kind of stone table, in the middle of which was a small cavity where the wood-fire burned, while from the ceiling extended an iron hook, arranged so that it could be lowered or raised, and to this the cooking pot was hung. This is the way we had it in our early days. Later on we used a kind of range. In our early days matches were not yet known. In order to keep fire the burning coal had to be covered well with ashes, but sometimes this would fail and then the family was in a bad fix. Grandfather smoked and had a steel and flint outfit with which to make fire, but when

he was not at home there was no other way out of it, one of us boys had to go to the Prophete mill to borrow fire!

* * *

We must return once more to our rural spinning gatherings. It happened almost every year that the girls from the village came to our mill for a day of spinning. They came in the morning and spun until afternoon, when they took a rest and went outdoors. When there was snow on the ground they pulled a large sleigh up the hill, mounted it and coasted down the hill, but this resulted often in an accident: the sleigh would go wrong or turn over and the crowd would go into the snow, but that was great fun.

After these pranks they would start for the mill room to be weighed, and here again curious things happened, for the smallest girl sometimes was heavier than the biggest, which was wonderful until it was found that the small girl had heavy iron weights concealed in her dress. Brother Balthasar used to manage those things well. Then it would happen that somebody would smash an earthenware pot at the door with a terrible crash, which would start all on the run to catch the culprit and blacken his face with soot from the chimney. Meanwhile evening came on, when the young fellows from the village arrived singing, and accompanied by two musicians. In those days the young men of Nordeck prided themselves on having among their number the best singers in the neighboring countryside. It was not long before the musicians of the Pfaff family tuned up their fiddles and the spin-

ning wheels were put aside, and dancing began that lasted until late into the night.

In the winter there were several spinning societies in the village. They were formed according to age and met in the home of one of the members, and each society had its own crowd of young fellows that visited them in the evening and added a great deal to the charm of the entertainment. There were sung all the old folk-songs, in which Germany is so rich, and also the songs that had been learned at school were revived, while for a change in the programme someone would grab the flax distaff, which then would have to be redeemed with a kiss. In these gatherings there was little spent for alcoholic drink, and for that reason mother preferred to have us attend the spinning societies rather than drink and play cards at the tavern. Only the bad habit of smoking existed already in those days.

On the eve of lent the girls treated their company to doughnuts and coffee. After that the evenings grew shorter and the "spinning-bees" were ended. Social gatherings were now confined to the Sunday evenings. The spinning season was a thing of the past, leaving only their pleasant remembrances in our young hearts. For those simple children of nature they were of about as much import as is the grand opera season in large cities for fashionable society. A few weeks passed away soon, when spring weather came, and the gardens must be spaded. For that purpose groups of girls gathered again and did the work in the dusk of the evening, when, informed by unseen post, some boys again were on hand to help in the work. On Sunday afternoons in summer



Anna Wisker and Helene Wisker.
Two Representatives of the Spinning Societies.

the young people often met at the entrance of the "Allee" in the rear of the castle and sometimes near the "Rock," or younger groups in the "Wanderstrauch."

Thus was association between the young people customary and without restriction, yet without particular intimacy — young folks who like to sit together and talk nonsense and feel themselves highly amused. O, who knows not the irrepressible cheerfulness of youth, the friendly words and mirthful, smiling faces of dear comrades and the joy of roaming with them through field and forest!

II.

The Ratzmill and the Lumda Valley.

For those readers who are not acquainted with the scene of our story it may be said that the mill in which we were born is illustrated in the frontispiece, such was its appearance in our time. According to tradition, the name "Ratzmühle" was given by a nobleman. At a time when the place was vacant, he found the nest of a "Ratz" or polecat in one of the buckets of the waterwheel. The mill is situated about ten miles south of the old, picturesque city of Marburg on the Lahn, on a brook that within a short distance drives five mills and flows into the Lumda. The brook has its source in a large spring directly south of the village of Nordeck, and is enlarged by several other springs farther east, as well as from a

canal, constructed somewhere about the year 1835, which brings the waters from the "Herrenwald." In summertime when the supply is small the water is gathered in ponds, and the mills are worked only by day, but when in the spring and fall the snow and rainwaters come down, the wheels are turning day and night.

The mills belonged in former times to the nobility of Nordeck, a village situated on the slope of a plain which extends along the north of the Lumda valley, and which contains the rare and very useful "dolerit" or "lungstone." The stone is of volcanic origin and proceeded probably millions of years ago as lava from a volcano east of here. Near Nordeck the stonemasses are broken up and widely scattered about, no doubt by volcanic action, while at the boundary between Nordeck and Londorf the deposits by similar action are buried deep underground.

Because of this peculiar volcanic and general scenic character the Lumda valley offers at this point varied beauties. In the north there are the forest-covered, rocky hills, while the lower land contains meadows and farmland that can not be excelled. In wintertime the snow-clad hills and the smooth, ice-covered ponds were a source of healthful physical exercise. When the winter had passed, and with the coming of spring and the mild winds the masses of snow and ice melted, then we could perceive how in the distance the turbulent floods of the Lumda tumbled roaring over the milldam. The whole valley was flooded with water; the waterwheel of the Kleinmühle moved slowly, as if wading in the flood, and the golden rays of the setting sun were reflected as if

from a sea of water. Soon after the wheat and rye fields showed off in gorgeous green, the larks arose to their first singing exercises, and the March ousel with its yellow-lined bill sounded its flutelike notes at the source of our millbrook as prelude to the thousand-voiced chorus with which the feathered songsters in the next months were to gladden the hearts of man. And when in summer the grain neared ripening and the fresh summer breeze blew across the wide expanse of grain-laden stalks, it looked like the waves of the sea.

There are four or five villages situated in the valley that constitute, so to speak, a small world by themselves and lie away from the large thoroughfares. Only lately has a branch from the Main-Weser railroad been built through it. The inhabitants have a different dialect of speech from their neighbors. If one goes an hour's walk northwest over the hill, one finds there people different entirely in speech and demeanor. Toward the east our dialect extends farther. It seems that our region had been settled in remote times from Saxony; at least a similarity of dialects seems to indicate that.

Allendorf is the most important place in the valley. We copy a few historical dates concerning the town from the "Führer," by E. Schneider: The peculiarly shaped church tower which is first noticeable was built about 1400. Landgrave Henry II gave the place in the year 1567 to Herman Schutzbar. In 1479, following a stroke of lightning, the town burned down almost entirely. From 1575 to 1635 and again in 1668 the plague raged there, and in 1636, during the 30 Years' War, the town was

pillaged. In the vicinity of the Aspenkoeppel are traces of a volcano that threw out basalt stone.

Londorf was known as far back as the middle of the eighth century as *Lundorf*, the name probably being derived from that of the river *Lumda*. The church, dating from the 14th century, contains tombstones of the nobles of *Rabenau*. One of the church bells is called "appel" and is said to have been unearthed by a plow near *Odenhausen*, at a place where in olden times there had been a village by name of *Oppenborn*.

Treis, situated at the western end of the valley, is mentioned in documents of the 11th and 12th centuries. Formerly it together with *Sichertshausen* constituted a jurisdiction and belonged until 1237 to the lords of *Mehrenberg* and later passed to the *Schutzbar-Milchling* family. The ruins of their borough are still to be seen at the *Totenberg* nearby. There are also remnants of towers and walls which are believed to be ruins of a fort from the times of the Romans, as we are informed. The church is built in the Romanic style of about 1100. *Treis* also possesses a well whose waters were supposed to make people young, but which would run only every seven years. Landgrave Charles visited the place in 1717 and drank several glasses of its water. Notwithstanding the fact that it was found to be only common wellwater, great and wonderful cures were spoken of. In 1798-1799 sick people from France visited the place.

Winnen is to be found at the northwestern end of the valley. The small old church of our days has since been restored and enlarged and has in its eastern choir-

window valuable stained glass pictures of four female saints with a vineyard above, dating from the time of about 1300. To this church we were carried to be christened and there, fourteen years later, we were confirmed. In 1845 a new organ was installed, and because it could not be finished by Whitsuntide our confirmation had to be postponed a few weeks. After the confirming the young people had to attend Sunday school for two years.

Our School Years.

It often happened that after Sunday school our school-teacher, Gustav Amend, wanted to practice at the new organ, so he engaged us to tread the organ bellows for him. On such occasions he would sometimes test our ear for music, asking us to decide which chords were harmonious or not so. And then sometimes he opened the organ and took us inside to show and explain to us its construction. Of course on such occasions we were all ears and all eyes. It made such an impression that to-day we have a clear knowledge of its mechanism. At that time, too, our teacher bought a square piano of Vienna construction, and he did not fail to show us that, inside and outside. It seems it was intuitively a fixed fact with him, that some day we should engage in that kind of business, and he gave in that way the first impulse to the career in business life which we followed later on.

Notwithstanding the good qualities of our teacher, however, he was not liked very well. He was angered too easily and consequently made somewhat too free use of the cane. But we could never complain. One Sunday

there was an awful snowstorm and almost half of the children had not been to church. Monday morning he commanded those who had not been in church to stand up. I had to stand up too, but while he was furiously at work with his cane I quietly sat down. Finally I was reported by one of the children. He paused a moment: "So," said he then, "but I am ashamed to whack a big fellow like you," threw the cane in the corner and proceeded with other work. So he was always favorably inclined toward us, and wrote us later many a fine letter; nevertheless I was not an ideal pupil. It was extremely difficult for me to learn lessons by heart, particularly if I did not understand the sense of them. Brother John A. was more gifted in that way; he could memorize a whole sermon, which surprised even the minister himself.

The largest part of my school time was spent with the old school-master, who, as I remember, taught only three rules in grammar: 1) Write in such manner as one properly speaks. 2) Write words according to their origin. The third rule I do not remember. In those good old times the school attendance was very irregular. My first summer vacation was so long that I had forgotten the way to school, so I turned back home again, telling the wonderful story that the school was not there anymore. The fact was that a barn had been built during summer, so the school could no longer be seen from a distance. When our neighbor Prophet met me the next time, he assured me the school was to be discontinued and an oil mill was to be made of it; — he knew I liked the thundering noise of these old-fashioned oil mills. But when I came home with that story I was laughed at again.

The Castle.

Above the village, halfway up the hill on a projection of level ground, rises the rather extensive structure of the castle of Nordeck, with its high watch tower, dating from the times of private warfare of the knighthood of the middle ages, from which one can overlook the whole valley, and which lends to the surrounding country a character of antiquity.

In our childhood we always looked up to it with a feeling of mystery. We copy again from the "Führer" the following historical dates: The castle is first mentioned in documents either of 1093 or 1222, and constituted in olden times together with Londorf, Allendorf and a part of the district of Ebsdorf, a dominion possessed by the nobles of Nordeck. The first Lord of Nordeck was Thimo, who lived about 1080 and was married to Hildegard, a daughter of "Lewis with the beard" of Thüringen. In the thirteenth century, it is said, Henry Raspe IV of Thüringen conquered the castle and kept it for himself. In 1296 King Adolph of Nassau gave it to Landgrave Henry I of Hessen, and in 1336 Henry II left it to his brother during his lifetime. After his death in 1367 Hermann Schutzbar acquired it from Henry II, together with Allendorf. In 1395 his son Detrich had possession of it. From 1488 to 1605 the family von Rau of Holzhausen held possession. In 1608 Landgrave Moriz I gave it to the other line of the same family, and in 1672 Landgravin Hedwig Sophia invested Jost von Rau zu Holzhausen with it. In 1675 the ruined eastern wing was restored by Philipp Adolph von Rau. The chapel has been restored several

times. In 1841 it was done by reason of a fight between the young folks of Nordeck and Winnen. At that time the organ was installed.

The Revolution of 1848.

This reminds us of another episode. It was in the year 1848, when all nations of Europe were in a state of unrest. In Nordeck they knew nothing of the political questions that were to be solved, but revolution seemed to be in the air and anyone who had a gun put it in order. Neighbor Prophet brought us an old musket and gave us money to have the old flint lock changed to one of the percussion type so we could do some target shooting.

The people of Nordeck had at that time a grudge against the Nobles von Rau because of a disagreement over the amount of land rent, which had resulted in the withdrawal of the land from the peasants and the renting to one tenant by the name of Schulteis from the Wetterau. Out of this strained relations resulted, and when in 1848 the young generation everywhere was exercising its mischievousness, a number of young fellows in Nordeck planned to insult the Baron von Rau and his housekeeper who lived in the castle. To give the matter a kind of military appearance they invited a man by name of C. Amend who used to be official drummer of the old time civil guards, to sound the alarm on his drum. In this manner they proceeded one evening to the castle with all kinds of abusive language and noise to insult the people up there, and it was said they threw stones into the windows.

Thus far the business seemed a perfect success; until about a week or so later, quite unexpectedly, Hessian legions appeared, mounted on horseback and on foot. They advanced slowly and with caution, anticipating a hard fight with the rebels. The Hussars on horseback were ahead, and a company of sharpshooters in the rear, with a lieutenant as commander-in-chief. As there was no resistance offered the seat of rebellion was occupied without the stroke of a sword. They halted in front of the school-house, dismissed the children, and the school was made the headquarters of the guards while the official headquarters were in the castle. The first military act was to put a guard at the outlet of every street. A line of pickets was established, and mounted reconnoitering expeditions undertaken. But all to no avail; nowhere was to be found an enemy. And now they proceeded to reestablish law and order. The burgomaster was arrested and brought before the lieutenant, who treated him harshly and wanted to know if there was not a conspiracy of some kind afoot, threatening him with a flogging unless he should confess.

Finally the martial law was dissolved and the proceedings left to the civil courts. Those who merely went along with the crowd, as did two of our elder brothers, were given 8 days in jail, but the poor drummer who had nothing to do with instigating or planning the affair, was looked upon as the leader and sentenced to several years in the penitentiary — where he also died.

Meanwhile the soldiers had a good time. All the saloons were crowded from morning till night. Other old soldiers who formerly belonged to the same corps would

join them to sing, eat, drink and be merry, and when after a few weeks they had to go, they would have liked to stay longer, and many a tear was shed at leave-taking.

III.

Our Occupation and Life in the Wide World.

Now the time had arrived when it was thought that everyone of us should learn a trade. Philipp, the eldest son was intended to stay in the mill; Balthasar had learned to be a wheelwright and George a millwright, while we, the two youngest sons, were intended to be cabinet-makers. At about the same time, however, other intentions began to ripen in us, which were not spoken of. Our parents did not think, nor did they have the means of having us learn the trade that we desired. In those days we already had a full perception of the mechanism not only of the new organ in Winnen and the one at Nordeck, but also of that of our school-master's new piano. Years before we had made, as playthings, organ pipes and flutes, but nobody in the family took any interest in that, except ourselves, who always exchanged our ideas on our experiences in that line.

Before we go any further it must be mentioned that we had grown up, and in consequence a new church suit of clothes became necessary. There existed in our family the laudable tradition that everyone was sup-

posed to earn it himself. So Philipp had served as mill-assistant in the Krebsmühle near Beuren, while Balthasar had served at the Stadtmühle in Allendorf, George in the Mittelstmühle, and myself, in the Grossmühle, both near Busek. John Adam was made an exception on account of the ill health of mother, which necessitated his staying at home. Our wages were 1 Gulden (40 cents) per week. We were proud of such high pay because hired men working in the fields did not get so much. 52 Gulden a year was considered a heap of money in our estimation; we got our suits of clothes for it and had money left over.

My first experience away from home, among well-to-do people impressed me very favorably, but after 1¼ year's service I had to go home again to be apprenticed to G. Hofmann, who had traveled some and was an experienced mechanic. We made besides other work a costly veneered set of furniture for the bridal dowry of Anna K. Henkel, who married G. Kormann. There was in those days no place where veneers could be bought, so we had to saw them by hand from the log of a cherry tree. The furniture was so highly admired by the bride that my master and I were invited to the wedding, which lasted two days.

On the 18th of June, 1851, four young men, myself, Balth. Heuser, Joh. Pfaff and Balth. Heuser (Moettes) together left our native home forever, except for a brief visit. Our future lay dark before us, but our hearts were full of bright hope, so we took it lightly. On the Sunday before our departure our comrades arranged a "hop" in the shade of the green beachwoods in commemoration

of the event, and we took a walk up to the "Hohe Eiche" (high oak), to take a look into the wide, wide world from that celebrated vantage-point. One can see from there far beyond the bounds of the valley: to the south the ruins of Gleiberg and Vetzberg, to the left the Taunus and beyond, in the blue distance, the mountains of the Rhine; Southeast the Vogelsberg and the Roehn; closer, in the foreground, a beautiful view of the nearby Lumda valley with its villages.

O, valleys far, o hills,
O, beautiful, green forest!

O Thäler weit, o Höhen,
O schöner, grüner Wald!

On bidding us farewell the girls presented us with tufts of roses, carnations and forget-me-nots, and nearly all the young fellows accompanied us a way, as with merry song we parted from the village. In Giessen the last of our companions parted from us, and we took an omnibus to Langoens. The railroad only lately had been finished to that place, so we took it and arrived that evening in Mayence on the Rhine. The next morning we were looking at a procession of the Feast of Corpus Christi, when all at once a brother stepped out from the ranks and demanded that I take off my cap, or he would knock it off my head. Of course, I took his advice.

On the same morning we boarded a steamer that carried us from Mayence down the Rhine, through the famous romantic beauties of its landscape to Düsseldorf and the next day through the plains of Holland to Rotter-

dam. There a larger steamer waited, by which we landed the next day, Sunday, in London. We had a cousin living there, by name of Joh. Adam Schaaf, and my other companions also had relatives there. We were now in London, the largest and wealthiest city in Europe, where so many people run like mad in the streets to and fro without even looking at one another, and where one at street crossings faces the risk of being run over by the innumerable vehicles. As foreigners, without knowledge of the English language, it was hard to find suitable employment.

Such a condition contrasted harshly with the idyllic life we had lived from our childhood at home. It was enough to give anyone the blues; no wonder we grew home-sick. There was, however, in my case, a wonderful cure for this troublesome affliction, which I will relate for the benefit of others. About six years before there had migrated from our village to London a family who had among other children two daughters, of whom the older was confirmed in the same year as myself. When we came to London these girls had grown to be admirable young ladies, and it was quite natural that the house of the Grieb family should become the headquarters for us new arrivals from the same place in Germany. There we felt at home, and it was particularly the younger daughter Elisabeth in whom I became interested. She already knew the English language and she occasionally instructed me in it, and a more amiable teacher I could have found nowhere. When we sat together there were peace and harmony in our hearts. There was now no trace of home-sickness, and it was as if things had always

been so and would always remain so which, however, did not come true. The friend of my youth is still living as a comfortably fixed widow and grandmother, and now, after a lapse of sixty years, we occasionally take pleasure in exchanging greetings.

After I knew a little English I also found employment in a piano factory, in the sounding board department. This was the first step toward realizing my ideal. I worked then in several other piano factories until April, 1855, when I went back to Germany to see my mother, for father had died recently.

On the 12th day of August, 1855, Jacob Pfaff and myself departed for America. We made the voyage in a sailing ship from Hamburg, and arrived in New York at the end of September. There I soon found employment making a few piano cases, and then worked at key-making for Dunham & Sons. From childhood, however, I had grown up living in the open country, and city life never agreed very well with my health. I liked my work in the piano trade well enough, but I also saw the hopeless difficulties in the way of a workman's ever becoming established in it, and to be a factory worker all my life-time was not what I was after. So I grew dissatisfied and made up my mind to go west. Good people told me that New York was the place for me to stay in, but I did not care and started out in the spring of 1856.

I landed first in Chicago, stopping at the Revere House on Kinzie Street. When going to the sitting room next morning I found on the table an advertisement of

the advantages for settlers in Wisconsin, and particularly the attractions of its capitol, Madison, with its beautiful surrounding lakes. So I took the next train to that place,—and that was as far as the railroad went at that time. I found work at once, but it was not at piano making but at building of frame houses. One warm early summer-day we shingled a roof, and in the evening I had big blisters on the back of my neck from sunburn. Otherwise everything went well until winter. Then there was no more work. One day I joined a party going out hare hunting, and froze my feet, but did not shoot any hare. At that time I heard of St. Louis on the Mississippi being a good place for mechanics, so, in February, 1857, I went to that city. There were no piano factories there either, so I had to take up house-building again.

In the fall of 1858 brother John Adam came over from Europe and went through the same routine as I had: first an apprenticeship with Geo. Hofmann, then in 1855 the journey to London to earn the money with which to come to America.

There was nothing to be done in piano making until 1861 when the civil war began, when we made the acquaintance of a piano maker by name of Louis Merkel, who had a nicely arranged small shop, but little money and was rather discouraged. All business was at a standstill and St. Louis in the throes of the civil war, so none of us had anything to do. We had saved a little money, so we formed a limited partnership with Merkel to make half a dozen upright pianos after the French oblique construction. Brother J. A. made the cases; I myself took care of the sounding boards, keys and actions. In those

days these articles could not be bought in this country, so we had to make them ourselves with the aid of a lathe worked by foot. Merkel wound the strings, felted the hammers and took care of the varnishing and polishing of the cases. Merkel was a thoroughly skilled piano builder and I learned a great deal from him.

Since that time we have been closely associated with piano-making. In St. Louis we were also connected with other piano manufacturing enterprises until on New Year, 1868, we established the firm of Schaff Brothers in Chicago. We conducted the business under personal supervision until 1890. We had worked hard in the course of 22 years and gained a good reputation for our instruments, but had not come to the financial independence to enable us to put the business on the footing of modern industrial methods, with extensive machinery, etc. This was now done by organizing a stock company by which younger help and more capital was secured to enlarge the business, so that it could meet the requirements of our times. It was also of great benefit in every way to ourselves. In 1890 another step in the upward direction was taken: We found that the high factory rents, taxes and other disadvantages in Chicago should be avoided if possible, and so it was concluded to move the factory to Huntington, in the state of Indiana, where the enterprising citizens of that lively town endowed the company so liberally and aided it financially so generously that it now, with its own factory and ample facilities of every kind, is equipped to do good work. Under the very able management of our Mr. F. C. Adist it can be said, without boast, that there is to-day not a better piano

made either in this or any other country, than the Schaff Brothers Company pianos.

* * *

It is now over 46 years since the establishment of this firm. One of its founders, brother John Adam, passed from us a few years ago. It is as the good book says: "The days of our years are three score and ten," etc. Ps. 90, 10. The vocation we choose over half a century ago brought us ample labor and our share of sorrow, but when to-day we glance back over the field of our activity it seems there is also truth in the old German saying: "What we wish for in our youth, we shall have in abundance when aged."

At the time when we came out west, there were no piano factories here. In larger cities were a few masters who did repairing and made occasionally a square piano. The upright piano was not known here, and the six French obliques which we made in 1862 in St. Louis were most likely the first upright pianos ever made in the middle west of the United States. At about that time in the east the Steinways also began to make uprights. In those days square pianos were made almost exclusively, although a few grands were also made. The demand in the west was supplied from the east, and agents of eastern firms insisted that pianos could not be made in the west. And it seemed so too: a few attempts to make pianos on a larger scale here had not succeeded. The Knauer Bros. gave up the business after the great fire of Chicago, and the same happened with the St. Louis Piano Mfg. Co.

We did not get discouraged, however, and began first with the making of square pianos, and when after three years our modest factory was destroyed by the Chicago fire, we began to arrange for making exclusively upright pianos, and for a number of years were in this line without competition, being the only manufacturers. When our success in making good instruments was noticed however, larger factories soon started up, of which three or four originated directly from us, either the founders having acquired their first knowledge of piano-making through having been employed by us, or through other business connection with us in the piano line.

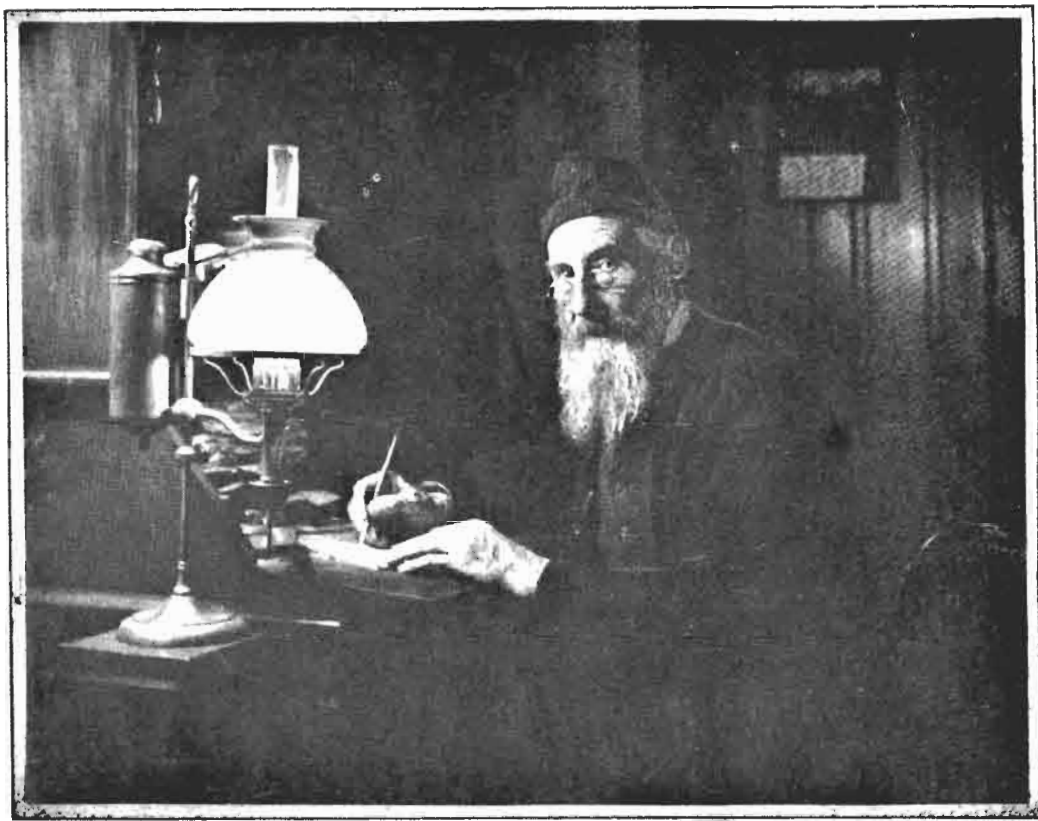
So there is no calling, no sphere of action too small to become the cause of larger enterprises. It is like the stone that we throw in the water, that spreads its rings wider and wider. So there has originated during the last twenty years in Chicago and its environs a piano industry that stands unparalleled in history for its vast growth and magnitude, and we always rejoiced that it was our good fortune to be permitted to partake of this grand work; that we had health and perseverance enough to aid in building up an industry which gives many thousands good employment, and adds much to elevate and beautify the life of mankind.

* * *

Now that our task is done we can not lay it aside without first improving the opportunity of remembering several of the friends who, during our long years of labor, always have taken a most active part in our pioneering work; who always have been ready to assist us in

word and deed. These friends were Max A. F. Haass, Ph.; George Lieberknecht and C. R. Elias. The sound counsels and musical understanding of these men are to be thanked for much of our achievements. Mr. Elias especially was identified with us from the first and until but a short time ago was superintendent of the factory.

NOTE. — It may be of interest to mention the fact that the accompanying portrait was originally a piece of amateur work by our son, George K., who, in a spirit of fun, took it by flashlight one winter evening as the writer was busily engaged on the present volume. It may well be awarded a place herein, as it gives a rather life-like idea of how the author appeared at his task. The picture, it may be said in passing, took a prize in a contest held by the Chicago Record Herald for amateur photographers.



Gotthard Schaff.

FAMILY TREE

EXTRACTS

From the Church Records at Treis a. L.

HEINRICH SCHAAF.

Died June 16, 1677, at the age of 73 years.

He had 2 children:

1. Wilhelm.
2. Joel Schaaf, died April 27, 1667.

WILHELM SCHAAF, ^{married}
died Dec. 8, 1715. Oct. 14, 1661, to MARGARETHA OPPER.

4 children:

1. Johann Heinrich.
2. Johann Martin.
3. Anna, born Oct. 8, 1667, died Apr. 6, 1668.
4. Johannes, born Oct. 21, 1674, died Oct. 9, 1688.

JOH. HEINRICH SCHAAF, ^{married}
born Jan. 13, 1663, Sept. 23, 1693, to DOROTHEA,
died Nov. 6, 1700. daughter of H. B. Berghöfer.

3 children:

1. Anna, Elisabeth, born Feb. 23, 1694, married Dec. 1, 1718, to Joh. Philipp Müller.
2. Anna Katharina, born Feb. 12, 1696, died June 3, 1696.
3. Anna Margaretha, born Oct. 16, 1698.

JOH. MARTIN SCHAAF, ^{married}
born Oct. 12, 1665, Feb. 14, 1689, to KATHARINE,
died Apr. 29, 1723. daughter of Joh. B. Göbel.

6 children:

1. Anna Dorothea, born Aug. 16, 1691, died March 11, 1692.
2. Joh. Bartholomäus, born June 1, 1693, died Feb. 28, 1697.
3. Johann Adam.
4. Johann Philipp, born July 19, 1696, died Aug. 4, 1697.
5. Anna Christina, born July 22, 1702, married Oct. 5, 1721, to Philipp Kehr.
6. Johannes, born May 17, 1707, died Apr. 27, 1710.

JOHANN ADAM SCHAAF, ^{married}
born Apr. 17, 1699, May 20, 1721, to ELEONORE,
died Nov. 4, 1768. daughter of Johann Adam Barthel.

5 children:

1. Johann Adam, born Feb. 24, 1722, died Jan. 21, 1723.
2. Tobias.
3. Johann Philipp, born Feb. 21, 1723, died Feb. 24, 1731.
4. Anna Margretha, born Feb. 11, 1725, married Apr. 27, 1747, to Philipp Opper.
5. Johannes.

TOBIAS SCHAAF, ^{married}
born June 19, 1728, July 27, 1751, to ANNA MARIA,
died June 27, 1802. daughter of Johannes Berghöfer.

4 children:

1. Anna Maria, born Aug. 4, 1752, died Nov. 14, 1752.
2. Johann Konrad, born Apr. 21, 1760, died May 26, 1760.
3. Johannes, born July 3, 1754, died Jan. 24, 1760.
4. Anna Margretha, born Sept. 17, 1756.

JOHANNES SCHAAF,
born Aug. 3, 1732,
died May 17, 1788.

married
June 17, 1756, to ANNA KATHARINA,
daughter of Mathäus Berghöfer.

5 children:

1. Johannes.
2. Johann Adam, born Dec. 10, 1757, died Feb. 17, 1763.
3. Johann Heinrich, born Dec. 23, 1764, died Jan. 25, 1816.
4. Johann Michael, born May 13, 1774, died Sept. 15, 1774.
5. Anna Christine, born Dec. 21, 1769, died Jan. 21, 1770.

JOHANNES SCHAAF,
born Dec. 1, 1760,
died Apr. 10, 1831.

married
Mar. 14, 1782, to KATHARINE,
daughter of Konrad Blank.

5 children:

1. Heinrich Schaaf.
2. Johann Georg.
3. Anna Margrethe, born May 21, 1787, died Nov. 9, 1829.
4. Anna Katharine, born Feb. 16, 1788, married Jan. 23, 1815, to Philipp Göbel.
5. Maria Kathrine, born Feb. 24, 1803, died Feb. 26, 1805.

HEINRICH SCHAAF,
born Apr. 6, 1783,
died Sept. 3, 1844.

married to ANNA MARGRETHA,
daughter of Philipp Göbel.

8 children:

1. Katharina, born Aug. 15, 1812, died June 14, 1820.
2. Johann Adam.
3. Anna Katharina, born Feb., 1818, died Sept. 16, 1819.
4. Margaretha, born October 19, 1820, married Apr. 24, 1845, to Tobias Will.
5. Helena, born Feb. 4, 1823, died at the age of 87.
6. Elisabetha, born Aug. 2, 1826, was married, and died in Switzerland.
7. Christine, born Oct. 25, 1824, married June 20, 1851, to Otto Schick.
8. Philipp, born June 28, 1829, died March 29, 1847.

The London-Chicago Lineage.

JOHANN ADAM SCHAAF, married to ANNA MARIA ZWERMANN,
Son of Heinrich Schaaf and Anna M., née Göbel. from Kranzberg in Nassau; died
Jan. 9, 1864.

Born Nov. 11, 1814, migrated
to London in March, 1836,
died there Aug. 4, 1864.

6 children:

1. Georg, born Oct. 25, 1842, died April 12, 1854.
2. Balthasar, born July 19, 1844, died September 15, 1849.
3. John.
4. Adam.
5. Henry.
6. Georg.

After the early death of the parents, the four remaining sons made Chicago their home in 1869-70.

JOHN SCHAAF, born Aug. 13, 1846, here conducted for many years an extensive manufacturing business and died Sept. 4, 1907.

ADAM SCHAAF, during the first years of his residence in Chicago was employed by us, and later for a number of years was with the firm of A. Reed & Sons, piano dealers. After that he established himself as a piano dealer, and in 1891 started to manufacture pianos.

ADAM SCHAAF, married to CAROLINE,
born Aug. 9, 1849, daughter of Blasius and Mariana
died July 23, 1902. Gall.

The union was blessed with 4 children.

HENRY SCHAAF, married
April 1879 to ANNA HISGEN,
born Feb. 1, 1852. born Mar. 3, 1855.

1 daughter:

Caroline Anna, born Apr. 28, 1885, married to Dr. H. C. Hurd.

GEORGE SCHAAF,
born Feb. 10, 1854.

married to

ANNIE SULLIVAN,
born June 24, 1851,
died Jan. 31, 1903.

1 son:

George H. Schaaf, born Nov. 8, 1889.

2nd marriage
May 13, 1906, to

ESTELLA BURTON,
born June 29, 1862.

JOHANN MICHAEL ROCK,
born March 7, 1768,

married
Nov. 23, 1797, to

KATHARINE SCHÄFER,
died Feb. 18, 1812.

died Feb. 23, 1835.

2nd marriage
Sept. 25, 1812, to

ELISABETH HEUSER,
died Jan. 7, 1852.

5 children:

1. Elisabeth, born June 17, 1813.
2. Barbara, born Nov. 11, 1815.
3. Balthasar, born Jan. 1, 1818.
4. Johannes, born Aug. 20, 1820.
5. Johann Georg, born Sept. 1, 1826.

The Rock Family.

EXTRACTS

from the church records at Winnen and Treis a. L.

JOHANNES ROCK,
died Feb. 26, 1758.

married
Oct. 26, 1731, to

ANNA KATH. HOFMANN,
died Feb. 27, 1779.

5 children:

1. Johannes.
2. {
3. { names unknown.
4. Johann Adam.
5. Johannes.

JOHANNES ROCK,

married to

KATHARINE PFEIFER,

born at Nordeck, Mar. 25, 1778,
died Feb. 21, 1848.

from Gladenbach,
died Jan. 21, 1839.

5 children:

1. Johannes, born April 22, 1809, died Nov. 23, 1892.
2. Philipp, born Aug. 8, 1811, married to Ebsdorf.
3. Joh. Jakob, born Jan. 28, 1814.
4. Elisabeth, born April 29, 1818.
5. Katharine, born April 22, 1807.

JOHANNES ROCK,

married to

CHRISTINE WISSNER,
from Allendorf.

3 children:

1. Johann Michael.
2. Johannes.
3. A daughter, was married to Mr. Spohr.

JOHANNES ROCK,

married
Feb. 26, 1782, to

ANNA MARGARETHA,

fifth son of Joh. Rock and
Anna Kath., née Hofmann,
born at Nordeck, Dec. 18,
1743, died at Treis, Sept.
9, 1814.

daughter of Joh. Georg Kling,
probably from Burggemin-
den.

1 son: Joh. George.

Lineage of Treis.

JOHANN GEORG ROCK, ^{married} Oct. 13, 1808, to ANNA MARGRETHE,
 son of the miller Joh. Rock, daughter of Philipp Lemmer at
 born at Nordeck, died at Treis and Marg., née Becker,
 the age of 44 years on born Feb. 1, 1772, died May
 Nov. 10, 1826, at Treis a. L. 13, 1811.

1 child: Christine, born Jan. 3, 1810, died Jan. 10, 1810.

^{2nd marriage} Feb. 20, 1812, to CHRISTINE LEMMER,
 born Oct. 30, 1774,
 died Jan. 9, 1854.

4 children:

1. Elisabeth.
2. Johann Heinrich.
3. Konrad.
4. Maria Elisabeth.

ELISABETH ROCK, ^{married} Feb. 11, 1842, to WENDEL BATTENFELD,
 from Treis, from Winnen,
 born May 15, 1812, born July 27, 1815,
 died Feb. 3, 1856. died May 28, 1864.

4 children:

1. Christine, born Nov. 16, 1842.
2. Wilhelm, born Jan 15, 1844.
3. Heinrich, born April 9, 1846.
4. Margarethe, born Jan. 1, 1852.

All migrated to America.

JOHANN HEINR. ROCK, ^{married} Nov. 10, 1842, to ANNA MARGRETHA,
 born Jan. 25, 1816, daughter of Otto Schick and
 died Dec. 26, 1894. Kath., née Müller.

7 children:

1. Tobias, born Feb. 20, 1843, married in Wieseck.
2. Anna Christine, born April 14, 1845, married to Heinrich Steinmüller,
 at Beuern.
3. Elisabeth, born Feb. 1, 1848, died July 17, 1903.

4. Anna Margretha, born Jan 25, 1851, was married to Phil. Fischer
 at Hachborn.

5. Johann Heinrich, born Feb. 28, 1853.

6. Johannes, born Feb. 20, 1856, died Nov. 18, 1875.

7. Johann Konrad, born April 16, 1859, died Feb. 1, 1863.

MARIA ELISABETH ROCK, ^{married} Nov. 6, 1846, to HEINRICH SETH,
 born Dec. 20, 1821, at Treis a. L.
 died Jan. 14, 1890.

6 children:

1. Anna Elisabeth.
2. Maria Katharine, born Sept. 3, 1851, died 1889.
3. Marie Elisabeth, born Aug. 18, 1853, died Sept. 13, 1864.
4. Margarethe.
5. Juliane.
6. Anna Katharina Dorette.

ANNA ELISABETH SETH, ^{married} April 1871 to WILHELM BATTENFELD,
 born April 20, 1849. New York, U. S. A.

MARGRETHA SETH, ^{married} 1877 to KASPAR LEMMER
 born March 2, 1856. of Hassenhausen.

1 child: Johannes, born Dec. 10, 1877.

JULIANE SETH, ^{married} in America to WILHELM BATTENFELD
 born Aug. 20, 1858. from Winnen.

ANNA KATH. DOR. SETH, ^{married} Apr. 23, 1881, to JOH. KONRAD GÖBEL,
 born Sept. 9, 1861. at Treis a. L.

6 children:

1. Johann Heinrich, born Oct. 17, 1881.
2. Margarete, born July 29, 1883.
3. Wilhelm Göbel, born Nov. 3, 1884, at present teacher at Bischofs-
 heim a. R., Germany.

4. Christine, born Dec. 11, 1887.
5. Philipp, born Aug. 31, 1896, died Feb. 28, 1897.
6. Karl, born Oct. 15, 1899.

JOHANN HEINR. ROCK, ^{married to} KATHARINE,
 son of Joh. Heinr. Rock and daughter of Phil. Göbel,
 Marg., née Schick, born Jan. 2, 1867.
 born Feb. 28, 1853.

5 children:

1. Christine, born Jan. 13, 1891.
2. Philipp, born March 13, 1893.
3. Elisabeth, born Sept. 15, 1896.
4. Johann Heinrich, born June 15, 1898.
5. Johann Konrad, born June 5, 1902.

Lineage of Rock-Schaaf.

JOHANN ADAM ROCK, ^{married to} ANNA ELISABETH,
 son of Joh. Rock and Anna daughter of Joh. Georg Kling and
 Kath., née Hofmann, Anna Helene, née Bietz,
 born March 23, 1741, born Oct. 21, 1744,
 died in the Hessian camp at died Dec. 24, 1800.
 New York about 1775.

2 children:

1. Leonhart, born Dec. 11, 1772.
2. Johannes.

JOHANNES ROCK, ^{married} ANNA BARB. WISSNER,
 born May 1, 1774, May 11, 1798, to daughter of Joh. Wissner and
 died June 13, 1844. Marie, née Rühl,
 born Jan. 3, 1774,
 died Nov. 20, 1820.

3 children:

1. ELISABETH.
2. Philipp, born June 27, 1804, died Jan. 9, 1825.
3. Anna Barbara, born Oct. 23, 1807, died Jan. 4, 1839.

JOHANN GEO. SCHAAF, ^{married} ELISABETH,
 son of Joh. Schaaf and Oct. 5, 1821, to daughter of Johannes Rock and
 Katharine, née Blank, Anna Barbara, née Wissner,
 born at Treis a. L., Feb. 26, from Winnen,
 1786, born May 5, 1800,
 died March 9, 1855. died March 25, 1857.

6 children:

1. Philipp.
2. Balthasar.
3. Georg.
4. Gotthard.
5. Joh. Adam.
6. Johannes, born Sept. 4, 1838, died Dec. 27, 1838.

PHILIPP SCHAAF, ^{married} KATHARINA RÜHL,
 born June 2, 1822, Dec. 11, 1857, to at Nordeck,
 died Oct. 1, 1873. daughter of Balthasar Rühl and
 Barbara, née Braun,
 born Oct. 5, 1829,
 died June 8, 1870.

3 children:

1. Elisabeth.
2. Katharina Schaaf, born Dec. 29, 1863, married Aug. 3, 1892, to Jacob Wilhelm, born at Nordeck, Oct. 27, 1863, residing at Mühlheim a. M.
3. Balthasar Schaaf, born July 11, 1867, died at Nordeck, March 3, 1892.

ELISABETH SCHAAF, ^{married} LUDWIG KRIEP,
 of Nordeck, Oct. 19, 1884, to of Nordeck,
 born Sept. 10, 1858. residing at Mühlheim a. M.
 born Aug. 10, 1858.

2 children:

1. Katharina Kriep, born July 13, 1890.
2. Jakob Kriep, born Nov. 11, 1894.

Lineage of Dreihausen.

BALTHASAR SCHAAF
from Nordeck,
born Oct. 13, 1824,
died Nov. 15, 1899.

married
Jan. 22, 1859, to

KATHARINE GRÜN,
daughter of Joh. Grün at Drei-
hausen and Klara, née Rauch,
from Heskem,
born July 3, 1836.

7 children:

1. Konrad, born Oct. 21, 1860, died Nov. 30, 1860.
2. Philipp.
3. Konrad.
4. Georg, born Dec. 16, 1866, died March 30, 1871.
5. Katharine, born Dec. 29, 1868.
6. Peter, born May 8, 1871, died Jan 28, 1892.
7. Johannes.

PHILIPP SCHAAF,
born Aug. 26, 1861,
residing at Dreihausen.

married
July 17, 1896, to

ELISABETH SCHNEIDER
from Hachborn,
born June 29, 1868.

5 children:

1. Balthasar, born May 8, 1897.
2. Johannes, born June 7, 1899.
3. Katharine, born Dec. 31, 1900, died July 3, 1905.
4. Heinrich, born Aug. 24, 1903.
5. Konrad, born May 26, 1906.

KONRAD SCHAAF,
Luth. Pastor at Russellville,
Mo., U. S. A.
born March 31, 1865.

married
Oct. 10, 1889, to

KAROLINE,
daughter of Joachim and Lisette
Bünger.

JOHANNES SCHAAF,
Luth. Pastor at Wilber, Neb.,
U. S. A.,
born Jan. 30, 1873.

married
June 12, 1896, to

MINNA LÜCKE.

5 children:

1. Theophilus, born Aug. 20, 1898.
2. Caecilie, born April 12, 1900.
3. Emil, born May 14, 1902.
4. Konrad Ernst Theodor, born Oct. 7, 1904.
5. Alma, born June 22, 1906.

Lineage of Nordeck.

GEORGE SCHAAF,
born Aug. 25, 1826,
died Dec. 21, 1901.

married
at Nordeck to

ANNA,
daughter of Joh. Ciriax, from
Kappel, near Marburg, and
Eva Elisabeth, née Wissner.

6 children:

1. Philipp.
2. Margrethe.
3. Katharine.
4. Eva Elisabeth.
5. Balthasar, died Feb. 10, 1886, at the age of 17 years.
6. Anna Katharine.

ANNA KATHARINE,
née SCHAAF,
born June 4, 1871.

married to

GEORGE WISKER,
son of Jakob Wisker and Eva
Elisabeth, née Henkel.

2 children:

1. Anna, born May 4, 1895.
2. Helena, born Jan 8, 1897.



RUDOLPH. R. REDLICH. MATHILDA. GEORGE. ELISABETH. JOHN SCHROPELL.
CLARA. EMILIE. CRESS. MARIA SCHAFF. GOTTHARD SCHAFF. WALTER. JOHN.

The Nordeck-Chicago Lineage.

GOTTHARD SCHAFF,
born March 29, 1831.

married
Sept. 25, 1863, to

CATHARINA MARIA,
daughter of Johann Heinr. Krohn
and Anna, née Clasen, at
Appen in Holstein,
born Feb. 8, 1830,
died Oct. 25, 1901.

4 children:

1. Elisabeth.
2. Mathilda.
3. Georg.
4. Emilie.

MATHILDE SCHAFF,
born at St. Louis, Mo.,
Feb. 24, 1866.

married
May 20, 1888, to

RUDOLPH REDLICH,
son of Dr. Henr. Redlich from
Dresden, Saxony, and Hen-
rietta, née Schrecke, from
Stolzenau, Hannover,
born in Chicago, Aug. 28, 1862.

3 children:

1. Rudolph, born April 23, 1889.
2. Clara, born Dec. 19, 1890.
3. Anita, born Nov. 1, 1894, died March 9, 1895.

ELISABETH SCHAFF,
born at St. Louis, Mo.,
June 29, 1864.

married
Aug. 10, 1887, to

ROBERT SEVERIN,
born at Elgin, Ill., May 23, 1858,
died Nov. 30, 1888.

1 child: Walter Severin, born May 12, 1888.

2nd marriage
Nov. 19, 1895, to

JOHN SCHROPELL,
son of John Schropell from Nord-
ling and Carolina, née Richter,
from Schliet,
born at Toledo, Ohio, U. S. A.,
Aug. 11, 1858.

2 children:

1. Virginia, born Oct. 11, 1900, died May 8, 1902.
2. John, born Dec. 6, 1904.

GEORGE K. SCHAFF,
born at St. Louis, Mo.,
Dec. 6, 1867.

married to

KATHARINE FRANK
of Chicago.

1 child: Cress Schaff, born Jan. 1, 1899.

2nd marriage
July 5, 1909, to

DOROTHEA L.,
daughter of Chas. W. Overton
and Cathryn E., née MacIntyre,
England,
born in Streator, Ill., Nov. 22, 1883.

1 child: Forrest O. H. Schaff, born Nov. 26, 1912.

JOHANN ADAM SCHAFF, ^{married}
born Feb. 22, 1835, Sept. 1, 1864, to HELENE,
died Jan. 14, 1910. daughter of Blasius and Mariana
Gall, from Wittesheim, Elsass,
born June 8, 1845.

5 children:

1. Louise.
3. Caroline, born March 20, 1867.
3. Wilhelmine.
4. Mathilda, born April 7, 1871.
5. Wilhelm G.

LOUISE SCHAFF, ^{married}
born in Chicago, Apr. 28, 1887, to CHAS. O. JOHNSON.
June 16, 1865.

2 children:

1. Chas. Edmond.
2. Robert E.

CHAS. EDM. JOHNSON, ^{married}
born Sept. 22, 1888, May 14, 1913, to HENRIETTA ALICE,
daughter of S. W. Raudenbush
and Ina, née Russell,
born in St. Paul, Minn., May 4,
1889.

1 child: Louise Alice Johnson, born May 19, 1914.

ROBERT E. JOHNSON, ^{married}
born Aug. 20, 1890, Oct. 15, 1913, to HARRIET JUNE,
daughter of Henry Street and
Florence, née Crane,
born in Hebron, Ill., Nov. 16, 1891.

WILHELMINA SCHAFF, ^{married}
born March 18, 1869, June 6, 1894, to WM. S. GILBREATH,

2 children:

1. Sydnor, born May 6, 1895.
2. John, born Sept. 2, 1902.

WM. G. SCHAFF, ^{married}
born at Chicago, July 3, 1873, Nov. 19, 1903, to MATHILDA ELISABETH,
daughter of Wm. F. Miller and
Margaret, née McGrath, at
New York,
born Feb. 22, 1884.

2 children:

1. Helen Miller Schaff, born May 20, 1906.
2. William G. Schaff, jr., born at New Rochelle, N. Y., Dec. 22, 1912.



HELENE SCHAFF



JOHN A. SCHAFF



CAROLINE



WILHELMINA



WILHELM



MATHILDA

Now we have come to the close of our task, yet it seems there remains something we must say before we lay it aside. This little volume will reach, preferably, only the hands of our kindred, our children and our grandchildren, to whom, with few exceptions, we never again shall have the opportunity to speak and to whom we should like to impart a few words of counsel for their guidance on life's way. It is nothing new, this that we have in mind to say. Good and prudent men have taught it and preached it in all ages, yet human nature is so constituted that it is always the part of wisdom to recall to mind what often has been repeated.

There is implanted in the heart of every human being a longing after happiness — and for the sake of this we exhort youth, boys and girls, to take care before all other things, of their health, for health is the ground-work of all happiness and of all success in this life. Man is the crown of creation, a true "Temple of God," which we may not desecrate without destroying, in the same breath, our happiness.

But man consists not alone of body. He has a three-

fold nature, the bodily, the intellectual, the moral or spiritual. It is the design of providence that these attributes develop; and in proportion as this development takes place just so do we attain more nearly to our earthly happiness. Bodily development, physical beauty, existed in ancient times. Intellect in our own times has attained a lofty plane, but the moral nature of man — that is a side of his character which still awaits the future for its full perfection. The teachings of Christ, it is true, are preached daily, but it occurs to few that in their daily routine they are to live accordingly, to "love their neighbors as themselves." With most of mankind on the contrary, one might even say, the spirit of love does not reach beyond the family circle — and yet our goal of happiness lies in this, that we love all works of the creator, and in them the creator himself.

Foster, therefore, none but clean, charitable thoughts, for they entail health and beauty of the body and peacefulness of the soul. Let each impress in his heart deeply, indelibly, never-to-be-forgotten, those three momentous words of the apostle: "*Seek after Love.*"



C. M. STAIGER, PRINTER, CHICAGO

I have found the project of updating "Unser Stammbaum" to be fascinating. It has introduced me to people I had not known before and has motivated me to communicate with relatives whom I had neither seen nor heard from in many years. The cooperation and enthusiasm for the project has been wonderful. Surely, John Adam and Gotthard would have been pleased.

An abbreviated chart is included to facilitate the understanding of the family tree and also to show at a glance how we are descendant from Heinrich Schaaf and Johannes Rock. The information that is being added with the printing of this edition of "Unser Stammbaum" includes all the descendants of Louise, Wilhelmina, and Wilhelm Schaff, children of John Adam Schaff and Helene Gall. Also, in the updated family tree I have numbered the generations beginning with John Adam's children.

Susan G. Lane

November, 1979

NOTE: The picture of me seated at Gotthard Schaff's desk was taken by my husband Lee Lane.



Susan G. Lane

John Adam Schaff arrived in the United States in 1858, three years after his brother Gotthard. During the time of the Civil War, John Adam, Gotthard, and Louis Merkel, from St. Louis, Missouri, formed a limited partnership with the purpose of making six upright pianos. They divided the piano making process into three parts, each person responsible for his own part. Then on January 1, 1868, the firm of Schaff Brothers was established in Chicago, Illinois, to build pianos. Out of this business a need grew to make bass piano strings wound with copper wire. A machine was devised and patented by John Adam for that purpose and a business evolved out of the production of bass strings and was incorporated in 1904. The original officers of the organization were John Adam Schaff, president; his son, Wilhelm Schaff, vice-president; and his daughter, Louise Schaff Johnson, secretary. John Adam Schaff died in 1910, while still president of the string company.

During the depression the company was declared bankrupt and was reorganized on January 10, 1931, as the Schaff Piano String Company with Louise Johnson as president. Also, during this time, Wilhelm Schaff went to New York City and succeeded Stephen L. Mapes as president of the Mapes Piano String Company, manufacturers of covered piano strings. That company is now in Elizabethton, Tennessee and operated by Wilhelm's

daughter-in-law, Jane Lorson Schaff, and her three sons William, Robert and Frank.

At the time of the reorganization of the string company, Louise Johnson carried on a long series of communications with people related to the string business. These letters are a personal glimpse into the painful struggle that she faced to keep the company going during the early thirties. An example is a letter to Mr. Heath of the Everett Piano Company written on December 23, 1932:

Dear Mr. Heath:

The extra strings ordered in yours of the 19th went forward December 20th. We trust they will reach you in time for your needs.

The old year nears its end. Would it were the winter ending, and the dawn of an ECONOMIC SPRING, but the sky is still beclouded. It is thru adversity and because of it, nature develops the vaccine that arms us with the forces that make for ultimate triumph over even greater future trials.

Ad Astra Astrix (To the Stars thru difficulties.)

The depression? It will end.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Another letter to Grinnell Brothers, Holly, Michigan; January 25, 1932:

Gentlemen:

We are indeed pleased to enter your order for 36 Sets — style 27 Copper Bass Strings. Price 2.85 per set

We give this reduction to show our good will. Even though the copper price favors us, production is so low and overhead so high we must continue to suffer for lack of a profit.

But we are all up against the same discouraging conditions.

Thanking you for your favor,

Also of interest is a letter dated March 23, 1932, written by Louise Johnson to Samuel Raudenbush of Minneapolis. Samuel's daughter Henrietta and Louise's son Edmund were husband and wife. Her letter says, in part:

Selling those Schillers is cheering news. The week has been unusually quiet with us. No matter how things go we have to keep cool. Worry and fear are the curse and bane of life, and the things we worry about most are the things that never happen. So a lot of the agony we go thru is controllable and of our own manufacture.

Keeping busy — knowing that one is necessary to some one is sure to result in happiness. SERVICE is the one thing that brings lasting peace.

Best love to yourself, Mrs. R., and the family,

Finally in November, 1933, a word of optimism:

Business has been very satisfactory the last few months.

Early in the year there was plenty of tug and worry. But why worry — after all this is a big country and a great amount of goods are consumed and there is still a vast amount of accumulated wealth.

Thank you for your favor and your friendly interest.

Edmund Charles Johnson, Louise Johnson's older son, had been associated with the piano company before the reorganization but, in a letter dated February 14, 1931, Louise makes it quite clear that he no longer had any connection with the company, "The same stockholders as the old company except that E. C. Johnson is no stockholder nor is he in any way connected with the new corporation."

A copy of the company's 1938 income tax return shows Robert Emery Johnson, Louise Johnson's younger son, as manager of the company, and Louise as president. In 1940 Louise died.

Robert continued as manager and Matilda Schaff, another daughter of John Adam, was secretary-treasurer. Further tax returns show that in 1945 Robert's son, R. E. Johnson, Jr., became the assistant manager. The Schaff Piano String Company and the Schaff Piano Supply Company are now run and operated by John Adam Schaff's great, great grandchildren David, Stephen, and Herbert Johnson, and Lucie Johnson, the widow of Robert Johnson, Jr.

David Johnson kindly made available the letters of Louise Johnson which have been quoted, plus copies of tax returns and

ledgers which have helped to date events. Lucie Johnson contributed an interesting article about the string company which includes important information, but whose source and date are unfortunately unknown.

A family tree is not only a documentation of generations of people, but is as well a bit of history, their personal history. Also, an important element of such a project is the warm feeling it hopefully might promote between family members. Gotthard and John Adam Schaff must have felt something similar as they concluded their message to their descendants with, "three momentous words, 'Seek after Love'." It seems fitting now to conclude once again in the spirit of those words.

- p. 33 Heinrich Schaaf
(d. 1677)
- p. 33 Wilhelm Schaaf — Margaretha Opper
(d. 1715)
- p. 33 Johann Martin Schaaf — Katharine Gobel
(1665-1723)
- p. 33 Johann Adam Schaaf — Eleonore Barthel
(1699-1768)
- p. 34 Johannes Schaaf — Anna Katharina Berghofer
(1732-1788)
- p. 34 Johannes Schaaf — Katharine Blank
(1760-1831)
- p. 37
- p. 40
- Johannes Rock — Anna Katharine Hofmann p. 35
(d. 1758)
- Johann Adam Rock — Anna Elisabeth Kling p. 37
(1741-1775)
- Johannes Rock — Anna Barbara Wissner p. 37
(1774-1844)
- Johann Georg Schaaf — Elisabeth Rock p. 37
(1786-1855) (1800-1857)
- Johann Adam Schaff — Helene Gall p. 40
(1835-1910) (1845- ?)
- 5 children
1. Louise Mary Schaff — Charles O. Johnson
2 children
Edmund Charles Johnson
Robert Emery Johnson
 2. Caroline Schaff
 3. Wilhelmina Schaff — William Sydnor Gilbreath
2 children
William Sydnor Gilbreath, Jr.
John Schaff Gilbreath
 4. Mathilda Schaff
 5. Wilhelm G. Schaff — Mathilda Elisabeth Miller
2 children
Helen Miller Schaff
William G. Schaff, Jr.

DESCENDANTS OF LOUISE SCHAFF JOHNSON

Louise Mary Schaff (1) married Charles O. Johnson
 born June 16, 1865 April 28, 1887 born in 1865
 in Chicago, Illinois in St. Paul, Minnesota
 died Jan. 25, 1940

- 2 children
 1. Edmund Charles (2)
 2. Robert Emery (2)

Edmund Charles Johnson (2) married Henrietta Alice Raudenbush
 born Sept. 22, 1888 May 14, 1913 born May 3, 1889
 in St. Paul, Minnesota in St. Paul, Minnesota
 died April 1, 1959 daughter of Samuel Wesley
 Raudenbush and Ina Frances Russell
 died Jan. 18, 1938

- 2 children
 1. Louise Alice (3)
 2. Edmund Charles, Jr. (3)

Louise Alice Johnson (3) married John Schaff Gilbreath (2)
 born May 19, 1914 July 12, 1937 born Sept. 2, 1902
 in Oak Park, Illinois in New York, New York
 son of Wm. S. Gilbreath
 and Wilhelmina Schaff (1)

- 3 children
 1. Susan (4)
 2. John Schaff, Jr., born June 3, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan (4)
 3. Stephen Edmond, born June 3, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan (4)

Susan Gilbreath (4) married Lee Roy Lane, Jr.
 born December 2, 1942 June 21, 1967 born September 10, 1943
 in Detroit, Michigan in Ft. Stockton, Texas
 son of Lee Roy Lane and
 Helen Marie Osborne

Edmund Charles Johnson, Jr. (3) married Janet Clock
 born August 29, 1915 February 3, 1938 born March 26, 1918
 in Oak Park, Illinois in Geneva, Iowa
 daughter of Oakley and Lola Clock
 2 children

1. Heather (4)
 2. Andrew, born July 6, 1952, Santa Monica, California (4)

Heather Johnson (4) married Frederick Douglass, III
 born September 14, 1946 September 2, 1968 born April 22, 1946
 in Santa Monica, California in Philadelphia, Penn.
 son of Frederick Melvin Douglass, Jr.
 and Mary Baldwin

Robert Emery Johnson (2) married Hattie June Street
 born August 20, 1890 October 14, 1913 born November 16, 1889
 in St. Paul, Minnesota in Hebron, Illinois
 died December, 1973 daughter of Henry Street
 and Florence Crane
 died May, 1964

- 4 children
 1. Florence Mary, born Oct. 12, 1914, in Hebron, Illinois (3)
 2. Helen Schaff (3)
 3. Robert Emery, Jr. (3)
 4. Mary Elizabeth (3)

Helen Schaff Johnson (3) married William R. Alfini
 born February 20, 1916 March 18, 1939 born December 31, 1916
 in Hebron, Illinois in Chicago, Illinois
 son of Alfonso Alfini and
 Theresa Rutkowski

- 5 children
 1. William R., Jr. (4)
 2. Louise Florence (4)
 3. John Alfonso (4)
 4. Raymond Joseph (4)
 5. Mary Frances, born April 18, 1953, in Evanston, Illinois (4)

William R. Alfini, Jr. (4) married Cherrie Haltom
born March 18, 1943 June 20, 1976 born January 29, 1947
in Chicago, Illinois in Santa Rosa, California
daughter of Aubrey Haltom
and Ethel Rector

1 child

1. Naomi Dawn, born May 15, 1977, in Davenport, Iowa (5)
-

Louise Florence Alfini (4)
born September 25, 1946
in Chicago, Illinois

1 child

1. Ras, born April 4, 1976, in Evanston, Illinois (5)
-

John Alfonso Alfini (4) married Patricia Reilly
born August 10, 1948 September 13, 1969 born November 25, 1949
in Chicago, Illinois in Chicago, Illinois
daughter of Edward Reilly
and Maxine Jones

2 children

1. Susan, born May 13, 1977, in Evanston, Illinois (5)
 2. Christine, born December 17, 1978, in Evanston, Illinois (5)
-

Raymond Joseph Alfini (4) married Cynthia Cummins
born June 7, 1950 April 1, 1973 born March 1, 1952
in Evanston, Illinois in Chicago, Illinois
daughter of George Cummins
and Merlene Anderson

Robert Emery Johnson, Jr. (3) married Lucie F. Nichols
born June 17, 1917 June 6, 1944 born April 1, 1918
in Hebron, Illinois in Albert Lea, Minnesota
died June 13, 1975 daughter of Herbert Lewis
Nichols and Florence McCormick

4 children

1. David Schaff (4)
 2. Stephen Lewis (4)
 3. Herbert Lewis (4)
 4. Kathryn Elizabeth, born Dec. 11, 1952, in Oak Park, Ill. (4)
-

David Schaff Johnson (4) married Luan Ward
born November 1, 1945 (divorced) daughter of Desmond Ward
in Oak Park, Illinois and Marvella

2 children

1. Megan Elizabeth, born April 15, 1968, in Falls Church, Va. (5)
2. Lynnea Michelle, born July 20, 1970, in Hinsdale, Ill. (5)
married Laurel Jean Fuhrman
July 25, 1975 born May 18, 1950
in Oak Park, Illinois
daughter of Richard Ernest
Fuhrman and Lillian
Elizabeth Schaefer

2 children

1. Jennifer Lynn, born Dec. 1, 1970, in Oak Park, Ill. (adopted)
 2. Lindsey Jean, born April 16, 1977, in Arlington Heights, Ill. (5)
-

Stephen Lewis Johnson (4) married Mary Jane Mills
born April 23, 1948 August 31, 1974 born October 10, 1949
in Oak Park, Illinois in Ft. Dodge, Iowa
daughter of Orval Lavan
Mills and Jeanne Terese O'Connor

2 children

1. Heather Joy, born Oct. 10, 1977, in Arlington Heights, Ill. (5)
2. Ryan Mills, born Feb. 7, 1979, in Arlington Heights, Ill. (5)

Herbert Lewis Johnson (4) married Pattie Raine
born July 24, 1950 January 6, 1973 born May 4, 1952
in Oak Park, Illinois daughter of Jack Finch Raine
and Ina Ingaborg Backlund

2 children

1. Courtney Leigh, born Dec. 3, 1976, in Arlington Heights, Ill. (5)
2. Robert Eric, born Nov. 24, 1978, in Arlington Heights, Ill. (5)

Mary Elizabeth Johnson (3) married John Weldon Trimble
born February 1, 1919 April 5, 1941 born November 16, 1915
in Hebron, Illinois in Chicago, Illinois
son of John Henry Trimble
and Elizabeth Lee Creamer

2 children

1. Judith Lee (4)
2. Mary Ann, born August 11, 1944, in St. Louis, Missouri (4)

Judith Lee Trimble (4) married Carl Hopkins Lee
born October 13, 1942 December 11, 1965 born July 12, 1942
in Oak Park, Illinois in Millersburg, Ohio
son of Carl Almon Hopkins
and Elizabeth Lindsey

2 children

1. Christine Lindsey, born Dec. 5, 1968, in Walnut Creek, Cal. (5)
2. Karen Elizabeth, born Dec. 5, 1968, in Walnut Creek, Cal. (5)

DESCENDANTS OF *WILHELMINA SCHAFF GILBREATH*

Wilhelmina Schaff (1) married William Sydnor Gilbreath
born March 18, 1869 June 6, 1894 born in 1868
in Chicago, Illinois in Grenada, Mississippi
died October 27, 1964 son of Erasmus Corwin
Gilbreath and Susan Corse
died in 1936

2 children

1. William Sydnor, Jr. (2)
2. John Schaff (2)

William Sydnor Gilbreath, Jr. (2) married Marian Dickens
born May 9, 1895 April 29, 1922 born September 23, 1899
in Chicago, Illinois in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
died December 24, 1969 daughter of John Allen
Dickens and Rose Forster

3 children

1. Marion Dickens (3)
2. Nan Corse (3)
3. William Sydnor, III (3)

Marion Dickens Gilbreath (3) married Robert Teichert Skinner
born May 10, 1923 August 25, 1945 born October 4, 1921
in Detroit, Michigan in Sacramento, California
son of Ralph Leslie Skinner
and Caroline Teichert

2 children

1. Robert Teichert, Jr. (4)
2. William Gilbreath (4)

Robert T. Skinner, Jr. (4) married Ann Hazeltine
born February 10, 1947 Sept. 28, 1971 born in Pasadena, Calif.
in Pontiac, Michigan (divorced) daughter of Herbert Samuel
Hazeltine, Jr. and Frances
Sue Coffin

1 child

1. Jonathan Phelps, born Sept. 28, 1973, Pasadena, Ca. (5)

William Gilbreath Skinner (4) married Margaret Ann Cooper
born March 20, 1949 May 22, 1977 born August 8, 1953
in Sacramento, California in Los Angeles, California
daughter of Lawrence Cooper
and Eleanor Mauler

1 child

1. Sara Dickens, born Jan. 26, 1977, in La Canada, Ca. (5)

Nan Corse Gilbreath (3) married James Milton Chandler
born July 22, 1926 April 14, 1951 born February 25, 1927
in Detroit, Michigan in Chicago, Illinois
son of Milton Evans and
Marian Margaret Maus

2 children

1. James Gilbreath, born Sept. 13, 1953, in Pontiac, Mich. (4)
2. Thomas Evans, born Nov. 4, 1955, in Pontiac, Mich. (4)

Wm. Sydnor Gilbreath, III (3) married Emilie de Mun Smith
born July 31, 1930 August 10, 1958 born November 13, 1934
in Detroit, Michigan (divorced) in Houston, Texas
daughter of Cabanne Smith
and Lucy Thompson

1 child

1. Cabanne de Mun, born May 24, 1959, in New York, New York (4)
married
June 26, 1965

Anne Tyson
born December 12, 1927
in Chicago, Illinois
daughter of Howell Newbold
Tyson and Rosalind Seatree

2 children

1. Rollin Tyson, born Feb. 25, 1957, in Los Angeles, Ca. (adopted)
2. Sydney Seatree, born Aug. 21, 1967, in New York, New York (4)

John Schaff Gilbreath (2) married Louise Alice Johnson (3)
born September 2, 1902 July 12, 1937 born May 19, 1914
in New York, New York in Oak Park, Illinois
daughter of Edmund Charles
Johnson (2) and
Henrietta Raudenbush

3 children

1. Susan (4)
2. John Schaff, Jr., born June 3, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan (4)
3. Stephen Edmond, born June 3, 1946, in Detroit, Michigan (4)

Susan Gilbreath (4) married Lee Roy Lane, Jr.
born December 2, 1942 June 21, 1967 born September 10, 1943
in Detroit, Michigan in Ft. Stockton, Texas
son of Lee Roy Lane and
Helen Marie Osborne

DESCENDANTS OF *WILHELM SCHAFF*

William G. Schaff (1) married Mathilda Elizabeth Miller
 born July 3, 1873 November 19, 1903 born February 22, 1884
 in Chicago, Illinois in New York, New York
 died in 1961 daughter of Wm. F. Miller
 in Elizabethton, Tennessee and Margaret McGrath
 died in 1954
 in New York, New York

2 children

1. Helen Miller (2)
 2. William G., Jr. (2)
-

Helen Miller Schaff (2) married Walter Howard Weber
 born May 20, 1906 September 23, 1925 born January 3, 1897
 in New York, New York in New York, New York
 died April 18, 1977 son of Louis and Emma Weber
 in New Rochelle, New York died September 10, 1977
 in New Rochelle, New York

1 child

1. Betty Ann (3)
-

Betty Ann Weber (3) married John Hilton Cutting II
 born February 25, 1930 January 22, 1955 born December 22, 1920
 in New Rochelle, New York in New Rochelle, New York
 son of Southard J. Cutting
 and Helen Schuman

2 children

1. Helen Elizabeth, born Feb. 18, 1957, in New Rochelle, N.Y. (4)
2. John Hilton, III, born June 15, 1960, New Rochelle, N.Y. (4)

William G. Schaff, Jr. (2) married Jane Lorson
 born December 22, 1912 July 29, 1939 born October 14, 1914
 in New Rochelle, New York in New York, New York
 died March 28, 1971 daughter of Frank Lorson and
 in Ft. Myers, Florida Josephine Plate

4 children

1. William Lorson (3)
 2. Robert Lorson, born July 14, 1944, in New York, N.Y. (3)
 3. Jonathan Lorson, born June 15, 1948, in Mt. Kisco, N.Y. (3)
 died in 1962, in New York, N.Y.
 4. Frank Lorson, born June 27, 1954, Mt. Kisco, N.Y. (3)
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William Lorson Schaff (3) married Lois Gass
 born November 10, 1941 November 4, 1961 born February 19, 1943
 in New Rochelle, New York in Greeneville, Tennessee
 daughter of Charles Harden
 Gass and Hazel Lucille Casteel

3 children

1. Regina Fara, born April 7, 1962, Frankfort, Germany (4)
2. Stephanie Susan, born Aug. 10, 1963, Elizabethton, Tenn. (4)
3. Mark Timothy, born Sept. 19, 1965, Elizabethton, Tenn. (4)