

# the KAISER FAMILY CHRONICLE



Number 3 (Spring 1984 edition)  
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The Kaiser family newsletter is an annual event, and is published in the spring of each year. It contains material of interest to the descendants of Christoph Kaiser (1819-1893) and Sophia Hoefer Kaiser (1829-1901), who were born in the small farming village of Langenholzhausen, in Lippe-Detmold, Germany; emigrated to the U.S. in 1856; and resided until their deaths in Freeport and Florence Township, Stephenson County, IL. Included in the newsletter are: a short essay concerning some aspect of Kaiser family history; reprints of old-time news articles; family file notes (births, deaths, marriages, etc.); reunion information; progress reports on the compilation of the Kaiser family history; and items contributed by readers (contributions are encouraged!). New subscribers may send their name, address, and a \$3 annual subscription fee to the editors:

David and Karen Williams  
1413 Oakwood Ave.  
Menomonie, WI 54751



Christoph & Sophia Kaiser

## 300 YEARS OF GERMAN IMMIGRATION: a Tricentennial Essay

In 1983, the U.S. celebrated the tricentennial of German immigration to America. Among these immigrants were many of our forebears, including members of the Kaiser, Schauer, and Koertner families, the Vietmeiers, Willems, Habecks, et.al. Some seven million Germans forsook their native lands and languages and came to America during the past 300 years. What trying circumstances in Germany caused so many people to undertake emigration to foreign shores? What circumstances in the small principality of Lippe may have caused the Kaisers to leave their home village of Langenholzhausen in the mid-1850s? Many long scholarly books filled with statistics have been written concerning German immigration to the U.S., as have many shorter, more modest endeavors. This year's Chronicle Essay hopes to draw on just a few of these sources to give us some background concerning the German immigration and its influence on today's America, as well as to give us some insight into the motives of our own immigrant ancestors. We may never learn exactly what the decisive factor in the emigration of a specific ancestor was, but doubtless some or many of the issues cited here will have been underlying causes of their actions, and in their minds at the time they made so momentous a decision....

Nor was emigration less than a serious and hazardous undertaking. Jerome Arpke, descendant and chronicler of the history of a group of Lippers (many from Langenholzhausen itself) who settled in Wisconsin in 1847, feelingly writes in Das Lippe-Detmolder Settlement in Wisconsin: "To travel to America, to move to a different, to a new and unknown world, meant much the same as undergoing a sort of guiltless suicide. To bid goodbye to one's homeland and to emigrate... seemed to many like a farewell for eternity; they expected never again to see each other in this world ... To withstand the pleas and advice of their friends, acquaintances and relatives, our colonists must have had their goals firmly in mind, even more so to courageously be able to overcome the pain of farewells ..." (p. 3-4). Therefore is this essay dedicated to the emigrants--to all emigrants--and to their particular sort of courage...



And after the farewells, the sea voyage. All accounts indicate that this was rarely a comfortable, safe, or easy voyage. Arpke's group of Lippers spent eight weeks on the ocean, short-changed on food and drinking water by a captain so unscrupulous that he did not even land his horrendously overcrowded vessel in the port of New York, the destination stated in the travelling contract, but instead landed them in Quebec to escape the watchful eye of the law in New York which licensed ships. As might be guessed, sanitation on such crowded emigrant ships was generally poor, and epidemics occurred frequently. Many of the travellers, especially children, never reached their "promised land". Arpke's ship suffered 13-14 casualties, of which three were from the group of Lippers of whose history he writes (Arpke, p. 5-7).

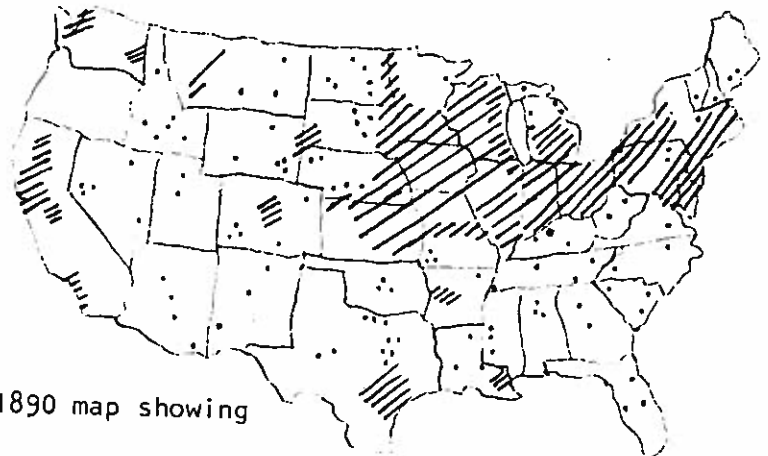
The first clearly German-American settlement on these shores was founded in October 1683 by a group of German Mennonites from Krefeld in the Rhineland. Invited by William Penn to settle in his colony, they located six to seven miles outside Philadelphia and named their settlement "Germantown". Early German immigrants, who flocked mainly to Pennsylvania, were frequently refugees from religious persecution in Europe, which in the 1600s had undergone the throes of both the Reformation and the Counterreformation. Their descendants developed the well-known "Pennsylvania Dutch" culture in the state ("Dutch" being an anglicization of the German word "Deutsch", meaning German or German-speaking). The majority of the Pennsylvania Dutch were members of Lutheran or Reformed churches, but a significantly visible minority, called the "plain people", belonged to religious sects which developed out of Pietism, a religious movement which opposed all formal religious practices. These latter groups included the Mennonites and the Amish, noted for their plain dress and traditional life-styles.

Germany in the 1700s was not a nation as we know it today, but rather a collection of small, disunited dukedoms and principalities. Early census records reflect this: early immigrants cited the country of their birth as "Lippe" or "Bavaria" rather than as "Germany". (Germany did not come into being until 1871, after Prussia had gathered many smaller states under its wings, and the German Empire was formed). Christoph and Sophia Kaiser, for example, listed "Lipa" as their country of birth in the 1860 U.S. Census; in the 1870 census, "Prussia" was listed--a more familiar terminology at that time perhaps, although technically Lippe was never incorporated into Prussia but remained an independent principality until 1933.

During the 1700s and 1800s, many political and economic changes drove thousands of Germans from their homelands. Such changes included the Napoleonic Wars, the 1832 and 1848 political upheavals, economic depressions and poor harvests, and the Industrial Revolution, which impoverished many who relied on handwork occupations for their livelihoods. German emigration to the U.S. began escalating in the 1840s; lulls occurred in the 1860s, due to the Civil War, and in the 1870s, due to improved economic conditions in Germany, which had just won the Franco-Prussian War. During the industrial boom years of the 1870s, people saved to pay for passage to America, and in the 1880s a flood of immigrants (a quarter million in 1883 alone) entered the U.S.

Some seven million German immigrants came to American shores during the past 300 years. The original Pennsylvania Dutch were often farmers and artisans whose skills enhanced the beauty of the eastern Pennsylvania countryside. The political refugees of the mid-1800s were frequently highly educated intellectuals, forced to leave the German states when their revolutions failed. Many settled in U.S. cities and had a great impact on U.S. printing and newspaper industries.

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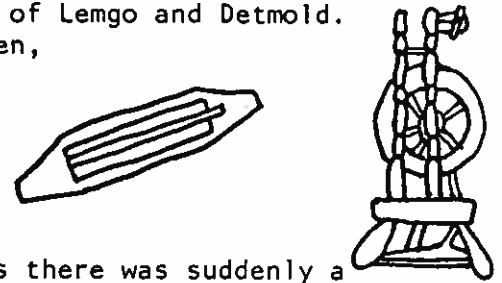
1890 map showing

Distribution of Persons Born in Germany

(Source: Max Hannemann: Das Deutschtum in den vereinigten Staaten. Gotha 1936.)

Those arriving after 1850 were mainly farmers, craftsmen, and small tradesmen, such as spinners and weavers, cobblers, tailors, etc., displaced by the Industrial Revolution. Early German immigration, as already noted, was directed heavily to Pennsylvania. As the U.S. expanded westward, German immigrants settled in the Middle Atlantic states and in the Midwest; in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, the Missouri Valley, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa. This area, as can be seen from the accompanying map, comprises a "German Belt" of ethnic settlement. Wisconsin, with such centers of German- and Swiss-American culture as Milwaukee, New Glarus, Monroe, Watertown and Sheboygan, received proportionately more German immigrants than any other state in the nation. Northern Illinois and Chicago also received a heavy wave of German immigrants, especially in the mid- and late-1800s.

And what exactly was occurring in Lippe in these troubled times? For that information, we turn to the works of Wilhelm Suevern, a noted local historian in Lippe. The following information was extracted from his history of the parish of Hohenhausen, which is directly south of Langenholzhausen. The village of Hohenhausen itself is about six miles southwest of the village of Langenholzhausen on the main road to the cities of Lemgo and Detmold. Although this history was not that specifically of Langenholzhausen, the parishes are so close together that what affected one undoubtedly also affected the other. Suevern himself frequently generalizes and refers to all of "northern Lippe" in his dialog.



The Napoleonic Wars (1795-1815) were a bad time for spinners and weavers in Lippe, but immediately thereafter things boomed, as there was suddenly a great demand for new clothing, bedding and other textiles. The onset of the Industrial Revolution saw the mechanization of the textile industry in England, but people in Lippe believed that the better quality of their handspun linens would win out. The 1820s saw great shipments of Lippe linens to the West Indies and South and Central America, but English competition then began to make itself felt. Machinery improvements yielded better quality yarns, and the demand for cotton fabrics also increased. As the demand for linen decreased, and linen prices dropped, farmers turned their flax fields to potatoes and grains, with the result that in the 1830s flax became rarer and therefore more expensive. This in turn resulted in a few more good years for those spinners and landowners who could grow their own flax supply, but in 1838 linen prices sank to new lows. Spinners received half of what they formerly had for the same production, and unemployment rose. Thus, writes Suevern, "the ancient cottage industry of our villages came gradually but definitively to an end" (p. 169).

Those without family responsibilities sought seasonal employment as bricklayers or mowers in areas outside Lippe, but fathers with large families sought nearby employment. From 1845-1855 the Lipper government employed hundreds in road construction projects, but poverty was still harsh in many families. In 1845-1847, bad harvests drove prices for potatoes and flour way up, and Suevern notes that in the "Hungeryear" of 1847, housewives ground up tree bark and added it to the bread dough to attempt to stretch it to feed as many as possible. Some large farmers were exploitive, and did well in these years by charging high prices for their agricultural products, but there were positive notes as well: in the district of Varenholz (wherein lie Langenholzhausen and Kalldorf), a Relief Society was formed which distributed bread, potatoes, and grain to needy families. Flax was also purchased and distributed to needy spinners. But such efforts were not enough to combat the serious problems facing the population.

"O tell me, why did you leave there?" the poet Ferdinand Freiligrath cried of the Lipper emigrants in the port of Amsterdam. Ach, he did not know of the distress

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of his poor Lipper compatriots, or he would have understood why they left their homeland in multitudes, in order to seek a new, better life in the woods of Wisconsin and the prairies of Missouri. Certainly, some young folk had already crossed the ocean out of wanderlust, in order to get ahead in the world, or to escape a punishment. But the departure of whole families and groups of villagers first began in 1846 and 1847, years of scarcity when spinning and weaving provided little income, when the brickyards lay still, when the potatoe and grain harvests failed ....

"In February, 1847, thirteen families left Langenholzhausen. They and an equally large group from Brakelsiek were the forefunders of the thousands of emigrants who left the villages of Lippe for America during the next half century. In Erder they climbed with sack and pack aboard the Weser river boats and barges, and in Bremen they boarded the great sailing ships. For six long weeks they were on the ocean! Great hardships and strenuous work awaited the settlers--but Lippers are tough ...

"And then the stream of emigrants did not let up. In times of scarcity and unemployment it swelled mightily, and in Detmold the government rejoiced, because it had found no effective way to combat the poverty and unemployment in the country ..." (p. 172)

Suevern notes further that the stream of emigration did not slow until about 1855. Another flood of emigration occurred in the years immediately after the American Civil War (1865-1869). Good times followed the victory in the Franco-Prussian War: the economy improved, harvests were good--few people emigrated. But the early 1880s brought an economic depression which again fanned the emigration fever. During this time, a number of Christoph Kaiser's nieces and nephews came to Freeport; they were the children of his sister Charlotte, who had married Hermann Friedrich Moritz Rickmeier in 1849, and remained in Langenholzhausen. Her husband died there in 1883, and she in 1902, at the age of 77. The years 1892-1893 saw a last great flood of emigrants from Lippe: there were again a number of bad years and northern Lippe, where lay the districts of Hohenhausen and Varenholz (which includes the parish and village of Langenholzhausen and the village of Kalldorf) was especially hard-hit. In the last years of the nineteenth century, emigration slowed to a trickle as the economy improved and a number of social welfare reforms were instituted.



Mack Walker, in his Germany And The Migration, makes an interesting point which is seconded by Jerome Arpke. Walker writes: "As times grew worse taxes grew higher to support the poor; taxes were a way in which the economic depression and unemployment struck politically at the sort of people who emigrated--people who might have been safe had they been left alone. Unemployment drove the poor tax up and left fewer to pay it; the worried villager felt the squeeze ... This and the fear of underemployment and decline were the economic motives of the moderately prosperous whose emigration was to often so hard for contemporaries to explain" (p. 65). Arpke says of the Langenholzhauseners: "Emigration was certainly a difficult and outwardly risky undertaking, if one takes into consideration the circumstances of those who wished to emigrate. The worth of their few worldly possessions scarcely stretched to cover the cost of their passage, and the thought of arriving beggar-poor in a strange land was certainly not pleasant. Many were thereby discouraged and remained at home ..." (p. 3). It was thus not the poorest, nor the wealthiest, who emigrated, but the hard-working middle

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class farmers and tradesmen. And among them, in 1856, we find Christoph and Sophia Kaiser and their family ... leaving behind in Langenholzhausen a farmstead which the Kaisers seemed to have owned, and of which Christoph as oldest son was the heir; and Sophia's parents; and siblings on both sides, although some of Christoph's brothers were already in Freeport, IL, and some of Sophia's siblings followed later. Christoph's elderly parents, Christoph and Catherina (Hahne) Kaiser, either travelled with them or followed soon after, and the farmstead was sold to the Hoelscher family ....

Seven million German immigrants--of whom Christoph and Sophia Kaiser were two. Although life in their homelands may have been difficult and sometimes harsh, the times the immigrants faced for their period of adjustment in America were also difficult--not only economically, but also psychologically and spiritually. We applaud their courage and their persistence--for they had a dream of a better life for themselves and their children, and grandchildren--and they attained that dream. The Kaisers worked a number of years in Freeport, scrimped and saved, and purchased a farm in Florence Township which provided well for them and their children; and we, their descendants, have reaped the harvest ....



### ESSAY --SOURCES

1. Arpke, Jerome C., Das Lippe-Detmolder Settlement in Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Germania Publishing Co., 1895.
2. Eichhoff, Jurgen, "German Immigration to America: History and Heritage"; a lecture delivered March 31, 1984, at "Tracing Your Roots in Germany", a workshop in Sparta, WI, sponsored by the Monroe/Juneau/Jackson County (WI) Genealogy Workshop.
3. Peter, August Wilhelm, Lippe--Eine Heimat- und Landeskunde, Detmold, Germany, Lippischer Heimatbund, 1970, pp. 280-289, 391-403.
4. Steinbach, Peter, Der Eintritt Lippes in das Industriezeitalter, Lemgo, Germany, F.L. Wagener, 1976.
5. Suevern, Wilhelm, Das Kirchspiel Hohenhausen, Lemgo, Germany, F.L. Wagener, 1965, pp. 163-174.
6. Walker, Mack, Germany and the Migration, Harvard University Press, 1964, p. 65.

(All translations of quotations from German sources by K. and D. Williams.)

NOTE: The Essay in last year's Chronicle (#2, 1983) was entitled "A Brief History of the Village of Langenholzhausen, Part I: Founding to 1684". This essay will be continued in a later issue, once research has been completed.

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

Our thanks to contributors to this issue go to: Marjorie Gaul Collins of Polo, IL; LaVonne Krusey Heid of Rockford, IL; Ervin and Faye Gitz, and Carolyn and Bob Moyer, all of Freeport, IL; Bernie Habeck of Minneapolis, MN; Glennen and Katie Kaiser of Florence Station, IL; Mrs. Laurel Kaiser of Estelline, SD; and Pauline Krusey Moring of Baileyville, IL.

Contributions to this newsletter are requested of readers, and will be gratefully received. We've been having fundcollecting Kaiser "family recipes" this year; are there any more out there that you know came from Grandma Caroline, or Oma Sophie, or Great-Aunt Agnes? (or one of your favorite Kaiser family cooks?) Recipes that have been family favorites for

generations are a treasure; and if they have a story behind them, or have won a prize at the county fair, be sure to include that information! Continuity in the kitchen!

Family file notes -- births, marriages, deaths, anniversaries, graduations, etc. -- need to come from proud grandparents, or parents, or other relatives in the know .... Send them in! Just the facts are fine, but if you want to add any further information or details, please do so!

Other contribution possibilities: a photocopy of an old newspaper clipping from your scrapbook for "Yesteryear's News" -- a photo taken at the preceding year's Kaiser Family Reunion that you thought was especially good and wanted to share! Or????

Send contributions to the editors (see address on page 1). Thank you!



### KAISER FAMILY KITCHEN!!

#### Alvina Koertner Kaiser's Sweet-Sour Pickles

300 little cucumbers (or take all sizes of cucumbers, cut up and count 300 pieces)	
2/3 cup salt	4 T. dry mustard
1 qt. vinegar	4 T. salt
1/4 cup mixed spices	4 T. sugar
3 lb. sugar	

Clean the cucumbers and place in a stone jar. Sprinkle with the salt and mix thoroughly. Cover with boiling water and let stand overnight.

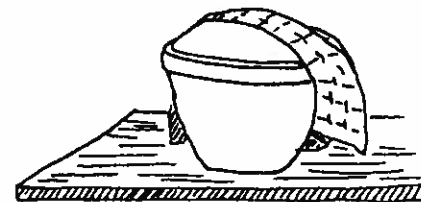
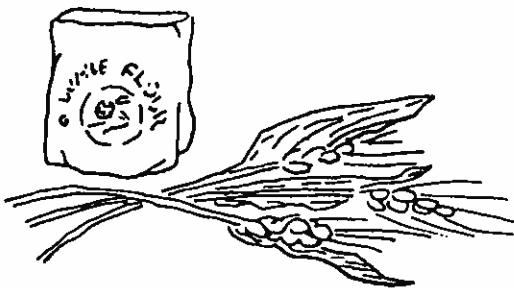
Next morning: drain and dry cucumber pieces, and return to stone jar. Mix vinegar with the dry mustard, salt, and 4 T. sugar. Pour over cucumbers and stir well. Cover with the mixed spices and put in a cool place.

Next morning: weigh out the 3 pounds sugar and each morning sprinkle a handful over the pickles and stir. When all the sugar is added, the pickles are ready to eat. They will keep in an open jar.

This recipe may be doubled if there is not enough syrup to cover the pickles. NOTE: Weight pickles with a plate to make sure they are kept covered by-syrup and don't float, allowing pickles to become dry and shriveled. The crock or jar should be kept covered with a cloth.

--Contributed by Carolyn Kaiser Moyer

Carolyn also writes: "I'm adding another recipe for sandwich spread which is super, I think. I surely remember Mom making this in the fall to use up vegetables in the garden. She always made home-made bread, and this spread was delicious on it for an after-school snack. Yum!"



ALVINA KOERTNER KAISER'S SANDWICH SPREAD

- 1 pint green tomatoes, ground
- 3 green peppers, ground
- 1 cup water
- 3 red peppers, ground
- 1 1/2 cups cider vinegar

Add one heaping T. salt and stir through. Let stand one hour and 15 minutes. Drain through colander. Cook this ground mixture with vinegar and water for 10 minutes, counting from the time it starts boiling. While mixture is boiling, prepare dressing:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup thick sour cream
- 1/2 cup sweet pickle, ground
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. Coleman dry mustard
- 2 heaping T. flour

Beat with vigor the eggs with sour cream; mix the dry ingredients together and add to the egg mixture. Stir this into the boiling vegetable mixture slowly, stirring constantly until it thickens. Then add ground pickle and cook till the pickle is heated thoroughly. Pour into canning jars and seal. Let jars cool, and store.

--Contributed by Carolyn Kaiser Moyer

Bernadine Habeck writes from Minneapolis: "These cookies get first class use-- we're cookie eaters!"



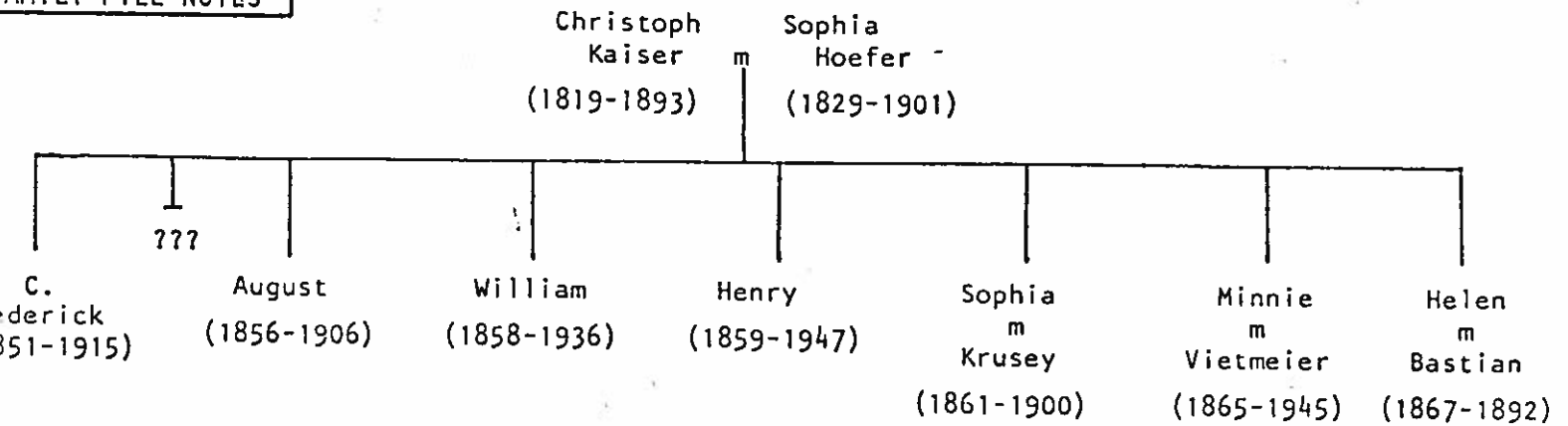
AUNT EMMA SCHAUER KAISER'S NUTMEG COOKIES

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2/3 c. cream
- 2 eggs beaten separately
- 2 c. sifted flour
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda (dissolve in the cream)

Drop by teaspoons on greased cookie sheet. Bake about 10 minutes in 350 degree oven (don't overbake or they'll be dry). When cool, frost with powdered sugar icing and sprinkle with nutmeg.

--Contributed by Bernadine Kaiser Habeck

**FAMILY FILE NOTES**



The purpose of this section is to keep track of important events in the lives of Kaiser descendants by recording those which occurred during the year preceding the publication of this newsletter. Appropriate items would be births, marriages, deaths, divorces, college graduations, military enlistments or discharges, silver or golden anniversary celebrations, etc. Please forward any such "Family File Notes to the editors!

FAMILY FILE NOTES (cont.)BIRTHS

- \* Candace Mae Krusey (descendant of Sophia Kaiser Krusey) born July 12, 1983, in Parkersburg, Iowa. Parents: Charles and Jolene Krusey.
- \* David Michael Mahr (descendant of Helen Kaiser Bastian), born November 5, 1983, in St. Charles, IL. Weighed in at 8 lb. 10 oz.! Parents: Roger and Marily (Gitz) Mahr. "Very happy and proud grandparents": Faye and Ervin Gitz!
- \* Sarah Renae Dumpman (descendant of Sophia Kaiser Krusey), born February, 1984. Parents: Gary and Pam (Kloeping) Dumpman of Orangeville, IL
- \* Whitney Michelle Staas (descendant of Sophia Kaiser Krusey), born May 26, 1984. Parents: Jay and Stacy Staas of (?) Birmingham GA (?).

MARRIAGES

- \* Delores Smith Ludwig (desc. Sophia Kaiser Krusey) to Robert Printz; m. 12 Feb., 1983.
- \* James Robert Collins (desc. Sophia Kaiser Krusey) to Sandy Reiss; m. 29 April, 1983.
- \* Julie Krum (desc. Sophia Kaiser Krusey) to Timothy Becpe (pardon our spelling--please correct us!); m. 14 May, 1983.

ANNIVERSARIES

- \* 50th Wedding Anniversary: Mildred DeVries m. Lorence Vietmeier (grandson of Minnie Kaiser Vietmeier) at the rural Forreston home of his parents Elmer & Ida Vietmeier on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1933. They have four sons and nine grandchildren, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their family on January 8, 1984. They now reside in Forreston after farming in the vicinity for many years. CONGRATULATIONS!



THE LORENCE VIETMEIERS

DEATHS

- \* Fred E. Kaiser was born on May 8, 1907 on a farm in Grange Township, Deuel County, SD to F.W.A. Kaiser and Kate Poppen Kaiser. He attended school in Estelline, SD, and then attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, graduating from there in 1929. He was united in marriage to Laurel Schleuter on December 5, 1937 at Clear Lake, SD. They farmed on the home place where he lived all his life. He passed away at the Deuel County Memorial Hospital in Clear Lake, SD on Tuesday morning, April 19, 1983, reaching the age of 75 years, 11 months and 12 days. He was a member of the United Church of Christ of Estelline and served on the following boards: Estelline School Board, Deuel County Soil Conservation Board for 25 years, Estelline Co-operative Grain Company and the Grange Township Board. Fred is survived by his wife Laurel of rural Estelline, SD; one daughter (Kay) Mrs. Glenn Johnson of Jackson, Minn.; one son, Kurt Kaiser, who lives on the home farm; one sister, Mrs. Belva Meyers of Estelline, SD, and two grandchildren, Glenice and Gena Johnson. He was preceded in death by his father and mother.



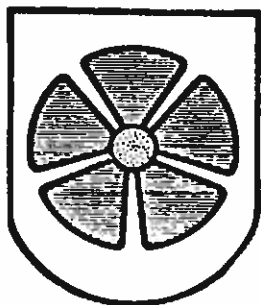
## FAMILY FILE NOTES

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## DEATHS (cont.)

- \* Helen L. Larson Albert (wife of Merrill A. Albert, grandson of C. Fred Kaiser; see following obituary); m. 23 Sept. 1931; d. 15 June, 1983, Carson City, Nevada.
- \* Merrill Alfred Albert (son of Simon B. and Mary Kaiser Albert, dau. of C. Fred Kaiser), b. 21. November, 1905 in Florence Township, IL; d. 1 February, 1984, in Carson City, Nevada, his residence since leaving the Cedarville, IL area in 1963. Burial was at Lone Mountain Cemetery, Carson City.

## LIPPE: LAND OF THE "HECKENROSE"



Lemgo

You may have noticed the various little flower motifs scattered throughout the pages of Issues #1 and #2 of the Chronicle. Those little flowers weren't just any old little decorations! And an explanation of their significance is now forthcoming!

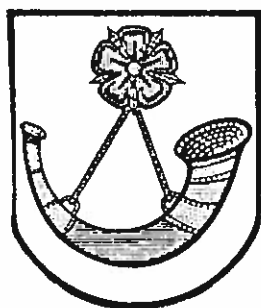
Just as the states of the U.S. each have their various state flowers (i.e. Illinois & Wisconsin have the violet; Iowa the wild rose), so does Lippe claim a state flower. The former principality is known as the Land of the "Heckenrose" (L. Rosa canina--the dog-rose), a five-petaled hedge rose which was selected as a symbol for their coat-of-arms by the ancestors of Lippe's ruling house. Wilhelm Suevern, in his essay "Eight Hundred Years of Lipper Local History",\* writes: "At the beginning of Lippe's history stands a heroic song, "Das Lippeflorium", a song about the national flower of Lippe. Therein, about the year 1260, Justinus, a schoolmaster from Lippstadt, chronicled the glorious and everchanging heroic life of "Bernhardus de Lippia" in powerful Latin hexameters."



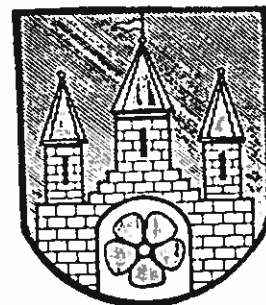
Detmold

The name Lippe stems from the Lippe River in western Germany on which nobles of the Lipper house situated the ancestral castle. Bernhard the Second, who received a city charter from Kaiser Frederick Barbarossa (of the Crusades and "red-beard" fame!), founded the city of Lemgo, near his castle of Brake, about the year 1200. Lemgo was thus the first chartered city built in Lipper territory, and on its coat-of-arms was the variant of the "Heckenrose" seen at the left. All the cities founded by Bernhard von Lippe's line (who ruled in Lippe through 1918) have some form of the "Heckenrose" in their coats-of-arms. The "Heckenrose" is also found in countless decorations and woodcarvings on the half-timbered houses throughout the region.

In the village of Langenholzhausen itself, there is one hotel and one bed-and-breakfast house. The hotel, a small but very tidy and clean establishment with a lovely dining room which serves tasty meals, is itself called "Die Lippische Rose". We much enjoyed our five-day stay there in September of 1980, and highly recommend its hospitality!



Horn



Blomberg

## REUNION NOTES

1983

Hot, hot weather attended the Third Annual Kaiser Family Reunion on Sunday, August 7, 1983, but about 30 souls braved the heat to relax in lawn chairs at the shady Florence Station home of Glennen & Katy Kaiser. Attendees included the 11-month-old Cunningham twins, Sarah and Shay, whose birth had been noted in the last Chronicle! They and Evodia Wessels, who regaled us with recollections of her grandfather C. Frederick Kaiser (eldest son of Christoph and Sophia), stole the show. The program theme was "Memories: Yours, Mine and Ours"; a list of "memory triggers" was distributed, and we discussed writing our personal histories, as well as our recollections of now deceased relatives, for the projected Kaiser Family History book. Samples of already published family histories (on loan from the local public library!) were also reviewed. We also had a good gab fest, a lot of fun sharing old (and new!) photos, and a great potluck dinner!

Potlucks are fantastic--always! A business meeting set the Kaiser Family Reunion for the first Sunday of August each year, BUT, BUT, BUT see the following entry concerning the 1984 reunion...

1984

COME ONE, COME ALL!

from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon, California ??? --wherever Kaiser family descendants and friends may reside! And mark your calendars for SUNDAY, AUGUST 12. This is one week later than planned by the business meeting last summer, but the Krusey branch of the Kaiser family, which normally holds a Krusey reunion on the third Sunday in August, was only able to rent a shelter house on August 5, so the Kaiser reunion accomodated by moving to the 12th -- hope this date is good for everyone, Kruseys included. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE--THE REUNION WILL BE

AUGUST 12th!!! The Place is again the Florence Station, IL home of Glennen and Katy Kaiser; a share-a-dish meal at 12:30 p.m. Anyone who would like more information, or directions to their home, is asked to contact the Glennen Kaisers at 815/235-9364, or to write them at:

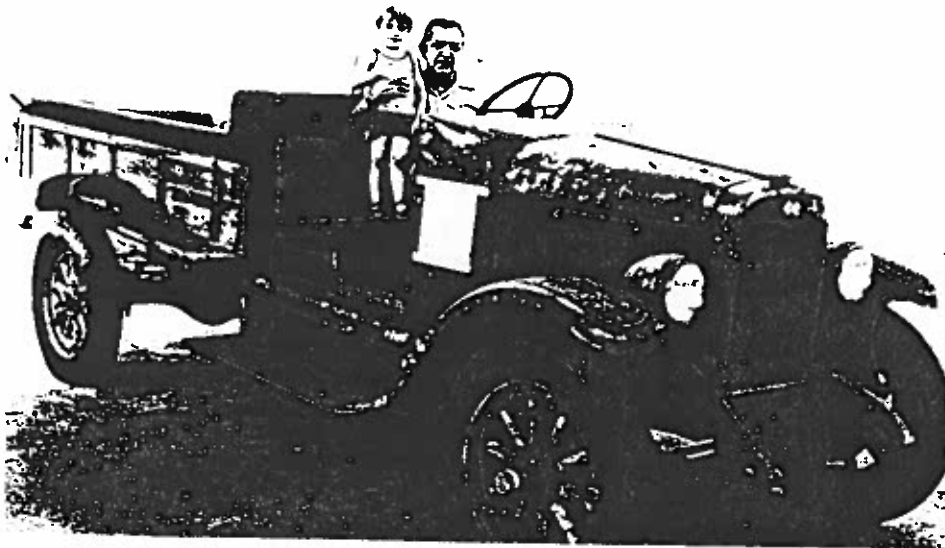
5729 S. Clover Rd.  
Freeport, IL 61032

The program for the Fourth Annual Kaiser Family Reunion: Visiting, and photo sharing, and Address sharing (please bring your address book along to help compile current addresses of Kaiser descendants); Other highlights include:

- \* For the Courageous: a ride in a 1929 Intl pickup truck, lovingly restored by Bob Moyer and son-in-law Larry Boll...
- \* A short talk about the old Kaiser homestead by those "in the know", including Carolyn Kaiser Moyer, who is working on piecing together a photo of it from some recently discovered partial photos (owned by Koertner relatives in Minnesota!)



THE CUNNINGHAMS



- \* It is rumored that Karl Koertner, family historian of the Koertner clan, is planning on attending the Kaiser reunion this year--further reports have it that he is a great storyteller! The Koertner family traces their descent from Cordt Heinrich Koertner, who with his four sons Conrad, Simon, Friedrich and Wilhelm, all emigrated in 1852 from the small village of Kalldorf, just a few miles west of Langenholzhausen (home village of the Kaisers) in Lippe. Kalldorf was included in the parish of Langenholzhausen, so the Kaisers and Koertners attended church in Langenholzhausen together on Sundays! Karl Koertner compiled a Koertner family history in 1957--maybe he can give us some how-to hints!
- \* Optional tour of the Florence M.E. Church cemetery, where are located the graves of Christoph and Sophia (Hoefler) Kaiser and their children and in-laws C. Frederick and Sophia (Nesemeier) Kaiser; John & Sophia (Kaiser) Krusey; and Michael and Helen (Kaiser) Bastian. Have we left anyone out? Before the tour, Katie Kaiser and Karen Williams will give a short talk about cemetery records and genealogy in Stephenson County.

1984

The KRUSEY FAMILY REUNION (Sophia Kaiser m. John Krusey) is traditionally held the third Sunday of August. This year, however, due to reservation problems, it will be held on SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, at the Ben Miller Park in German Valley, IL. For further information, please contact LaVonne Krusey Heid, 232 Shoreland Rd., Rockford, IL. (phone 815/633-5759). People may also contact Pauline Krusey Moring, Baileyville, IL 61009.

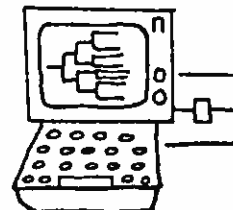
### PROGRESS REPORT on the Compilation of the Kaiser Family History ...

Thanks go to those readers and reunion attendees who have turned in the family record sheet(s) which accompanied the last Chronicle issue. Record sheets for many branches of the family are still needed, however. If you have need of more than one family record sheet (for your parents' family, your children and/or grandchildren's families, etc.) the original can be photocopied. Extra sheets will also be available at the Reunion. Completed family sheets should be returned to the editors, or to any of the compilers listed below.

TRACING OF DESCENDANTS continues also with the compilation of current addresses of Kaiser descendants. Please indicate the addresses on any family record sheets you send in; and also bring your address book to the 1984 Kaiser Family Reunion!

COMPILATION of information on our Kaiser ancestors also continues, although at a somewhat slower pace! David Williams did further work at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. on a business trip last fall. He is busy checking the microfilm records of the passenger ships which arrived at the port of New York, seeking the U.S. entry records of Kaisers and Hoefers from Langenholzhausen (that is, the entry records of Christoph Kaiser's parents and siblings, and some of Sophia Hoefler Kaiser's siblings). The records for the port of New York are not indexed; all other entry ports do have indexed records, but they were ruled out early in the search, although many Lippers did arrive through New Orleans. David has now searched all ship's records from December 17, 1855 through August of 1856.

Karen Williams attended a workshop at Sparta, WI on German genealogical research ("Tracing Your Roots in Germany") in March of this year. The Essay in this Chronicle is based in part on the lecture of Dr. Juergen Eichhoff, professor of German at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Also, the Computer Age has now caught up with us! Karen attend a "Computers and Genealogy" conference at River Falls, WI in April. This latter conference was very informative in terms of computer software available to aid genealogists in the various aspects of genealogical research.



We're hoping to soon put a home computer to use as a tool to help analyze and organize the many extracts of old church records we have collected over the years. More on this in next year's Chronicle!

Katy Kaiser and Carolyn Moyer have been busy collecting and organizing the Kaiser family photograph collection. But wedding photos for both of Henry Kaiser's two marriages--to Friederika Schauer and to Rosa Schollhammer--are still missing. Please check your old photo albums or collections. Carolyn has also been trying to piece together a photo of the old Kaiser farmstead in Florence Township, Stephenson County, from a number of found photos. The original house burned down in 1936 (see Chronicle, Issue #1, p. 3). Does anyone out in Iowa perhaps have a full view of the old homestead?? Perhaps with the old folks standing in front of it? Or??

THE GOAL: Eventual (!) publication of an attractive, historically accurate, well-researched and documented genealogy, illustrated by photographs of family sites and members; a readable work fleshed out by character sketches and biographical information.

#### COMPILERS:

BERNADINE HABECK (new address: 12030 54th Ave. N, Plymouth, MN 55442. Gathering information on descendants of William and Henry Kaiser, who settled in Sutherland, IA in the 1880s.

GLENNEN AND KATY KAISER, 5729 S. Clover Rd., Freeport, IL 61032, and CAROLYN AND BOB MOYER, 514 W. American, Freeport, IL 61032. Collecting genealogical data on descendants of the Kaiser and Schauer families; researching records in the Freeport, IL area; preparing a collection of family photos with which to illustrate the family history. Katy and Glennen have a camera and tripod setup which allows them to photograph prized family photos on anyone's kitchen table; numerous relatives have shared their photographic heirlooms with them.

PAULINE KRUSEY MORING, R.R. #1, Baileyville, IL 61007. Pauline is serving as compiler for the Krusey branch of the family (descendants of Sophia Kaiser and John Krusey.)

DAVID AND KAREN WILLIAMS, 1413 Oakwood Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751. Editors of the Kaiser Family Chronicle. Knowledgeable in German language and old German script. Currently researching the family background in Germany and early Freeport, consulting early church records, and researching the history of the village of Langenholzhausen, Lippe-Detmold, Germany.



Group photo from the

KAISER Family Reunion

MEMORIES: "Yours, Mine & Ours"

For the family history we hope to publish, the following memory triggers may help you remember important events, actions, characteristics, etc. Write it all down--you can edit it later!

Your memories of your parents and grandparents (people born before 1940)

Birthdates and places, names (named for anyone?)  
 Physical characteristics--height, weight, coloring, bald, glasses, disabilities, dress  
 Personalities and changes over their lifetimes, and why  
 Talents, hobbies, skills, interests  
 Involvements in religious, civic, social or trade activities.  
 Careers, homes and residents, general financial situation  
 Their relationships with: spouse, parents, children, siblings, other relatives, friend  
 Tastes in books, magazines, TV, radio, art, music, recreation  
 Memorable family pets, vacations or outings  
 How did the family celebrate holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, July 4, birthda  
 What were family rules and expectations for children?  
 Health problems, accidents, pregnancies and childbirth  
 Schooling--when, where, their attitudes about it  
 Political and religious affiliations  
 Beliefs, values, favorite sayings  
 Courtship and marriage--when and how did your parents (grandparents) meet? What did  
 they like about each other? When and where married? Reactions of their families?  
 When and how did they die? How did family members react? How was their estate settled  
 Mention memorable experience you had with them as a child; as an adult

Information about you and your spouse (born 1940-1965) for family history

Your parents names  
 Your birthplace and date  
 Your full name. Why did your parents name you as they did?  
 By what name do you prefer to be called?  
 Where did you grow up? Where do you consider your "hometown" or "home place"?  
 Church membership  
 Schooling: High School attended. Graduation year  
 Colleges attended. Year graduated. Major.  
 Military Experience--when, what branch, where stationed, rank  
 Self description--your physical characteristics, temperament, interests, hobbies,  
 career, significant events in your life  
 Where did you meet your spouse. Date of marriage, and place. If divorced, date.  
 Current address  
 If spouse deceased, date, place, cause of death  
Children: Full names, birthdates and places.  
 If deceased, date and cause of death  
 Write a few descriptive sentences about each child

Your personal history

The brief information above about you is important for a family history, and most of it probably will fit in a published family history. However, there is much more about you that others around you, and future generations, would welcome knowing. Imagine if we had the information which follows written by the forefathers we've been learning about! This then is an encouragement to write your own autobiography. It may not be a literary masterpiece--or it might!--but it will be appreciated by your descendants as they wonder what Grandpa Dave or Grandma Katy was like.

Facts--where born, when, name, where lived, when, schools attended, military record  
where worked, when, at what type of job, who married, where, when?  
Physical Characteristics--appearance, whom do you resemble, etc.  
Health record--impact of family health histories  
Your childhood--homes lived in, pets, clubs, schools, teachers (good and bad), friends,  
hobbies, illnesses, nicknames (and why!)  
Impressions--of your parents, your siblings, your homes and neighborhoods, schools,  
work, etc., church, religious beliefs  
What influences important to your personal development--people, events, experiences,  
church, travel, books, health, teachers, classes, ideas  
Beliefs and values--tell about your involvements in and feelings about social issues,  
politics, religion. How have these changed over the years?  
Hobbies, Interests, Activities--favorite recreational activities, groups you belong  
to, tastes in TV, radio, music, books magazines, sports, typical vacations  
Feelings about your role as a parent and/or grandparent, or about not having children  
Mention special memories, humorous events, various family stories  
Feelings about retirement, marriage, achievements in life, crises, disappointments  
What presidents have you liked? Why?  
List ten things you'd like to accomplish in your lifetime  
Make five predictions about life 100 years from now

This is only a beginning. Start here and flesh out a portrait of your life.

Happy Memories!