

Account of Grandpa and Grandma Wetrich's Trip to America

Grandpa age 37 and Grandma age 31 left Switzerland March 15, 1852 in company with his sister Lucia, age 35 and husband Samuel Fankhauser age 43. Grandpas had three children: Godfried age 6, Gustave age 4½ and Elizabeth age 3. Fankhauser's had six children, Christian age 16, John age 14, Samuel age 11, Elizabeth age 8, Sophia age 6 and Rosita age 3.

When they arrived in New York City, after 42 days crossing the Atlantic Ocean there was a letter for them, from a brother in Texas telling them not to come to Texas as there was an epidemic of yellow fever there, so they decided to go to a timber county in Ohio.

From New York City, they went by boat up Hudson River to Albany N.Y. there by canal boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo N.Y. From Buffalo on Lake Erie to Cleveland, Ohio. From Cleveland they traveled south on a small mule pulled the boat, a very slow trip over fifty miles

to Navarre, Ohio. Here an overland trip by team, some walking to the pioneer town of Kinburg, Ohio arriving May 15, 1852. It was a trip of endurance, disappointments, hardships and difficulties.

I got this account of this trip from the history book of the descendants of the Faulkhausers family in Kinburg when I visited Mother's birthplace in 1959.

Grandpa's sister Lucia Faulkhauser and family remained in Ohio, but after ten years Grandpa and family of seven children came to Iowa, April 1862 settling in Johnson County. Iowa ~~on~~ Five of Grandpa's children were born in Switzerland, seven in Ohio, and two in Iowa. Two of the children are buried in Switzerland, three in Ohio, and two in Iowa. Seven reached maturity and married.

Grandpa Michael (Wetrich) original spelling Wetrich. People here called it Woodrick Grandpa didn't like it because Switzerland pronounced it He trick the correct way

Grandpa was highly educated and a German scholar, having taught school for 23 years in Switzerland. He intended to follow this occupation after arriving here, but soon found out German was not taught much in the state.

He was a very disappointed and unhappy man. He wasn't a very successful farmer and he did not like to work. As a result they suffered hard hard times until the boys got big enough to farm.

I think grandpa's real love was writing poetry. I have many composition books full of poetry he wrote, all in Swiss script.

Family history of Michael Kuthrich

In a little town of Trub in Canton Bern Switzerland, lived Christian and Luccia Scheidegger Kuthrich, who earned their daily bread by raising cattle and goats, selling Swiss Cheese and farm products.

Nine of their children reached maturity and all came to America, six brothers and one sister settled in Texas near Austin, one sister in Ohio in Kinesburg, Holmes County, one brother Grandpa Michael near Shellman, Iowa in Johnson County.

However their address was Amisk so Shellman was not in existence until later. Amisk is now Joetown.

Their names are as follows although not in the order of their birth.

1. Ulrich died while in the Army in Brownsville, Texas
2. Mathias born 1820 and wife Terna came to America with five children in 1872 and settled in Texas. He passed away in 1914 age 94.
3. John lived in Pflugerville Texas
4. Christian was a Bachelor and is buried in Pflugerville cemetery.
5. Peter also lived in Pflugerville, married and had three sons, none of whom married.
6. John Ulrich died in Army prison camp

7. Anna Elizabeth was born in Basel Canton, Bern Switzerland March 3, 1827 came to America Sept, 1853 and settled in Pflugersville with her brothers. August 1856 she married Conrad Pfluger. Passed away June 1919 age 92.

8. Lucia Kutschick was born Jan 1817 at Signau, Canton Bern Switzerland married Samuel Frankhauser, and came to America in 1852, with six children and settled in Xenieburg Ohio, Holmes County, Passaway Oct. 6, 1901 at age 84 buried in Xenieburg.

9. Michael was born in Canton Bern Switzerland in 1815 and passed away May 22, 1894, age 79.

Married Elizabeth Neederhauser, born in Canton Bern Switzerland ~~1821~~ April 12, 1821. Passed away Oct. 13, 1906 age 85.

Both are buried in the Nassonville Cemetery near Hellman.

To this union were born 14 children 7 of whom reached maturity and were married.

Grandpa and Grandma Michael and Elizabeth Kuttrick and family of three children came to America in 1852. First settled in Kinesburg, Holmes Co. Ohio, then came to Iowa in 1862 and settled in Johnson Co. near Amish (Gettown now,) Iowa

Family record of Michael and Elizabeth Niederhauser Wetrich

Michael born in Trub, Canton Bern Switzerland

Died May 23, 1894 at Hillman. Buried in Wassonville.

Married 1842 to Elizabeth Niederhauser in Switzerland

Born April 12, 1825 in Canton Bern Sw. Died Oct 13, 1906 at farm home of her daughter Lollina Blumenskin.

Buried in Wassonville Cemetery near Hillman.

Came to America in 1852.

Parents of fourteen children, seven of whom reached maturity and married.

Birth Record of Children

1. Johannes

Born July 20, 1844 in Switzerland
Died Feb 17, 1884 Buried in "

2. Johannes Godfried, farmer

Born Jan 26, 1846 in Switzerland
Died ? Buried in Dexter Ia
Married ?

Parents of seven children Etta, John
Frank, Albert, Harry, Owen, Fanny

(our grandpa) 3. Johannes Gustave - farmer

Born Oct. 17, 1847, in Switzerland
Died April 27, 1928 buried in Kellman

(our grandma) Married Feb 18, 1877 to Elizabeth Eckhardt

Born June 21, 1854 Goshen, Indiana
Died Sept. 23, 1911, buried Kellman

Parents of five children

Henry

Married Kathryn Ryan

Ernest

Married Mable Mae Walton

Clarence

Married ~~Beth~~ Bertha Miller

Ara Ponchard

Cora

Married Otto Assman

Ida

Married Frank Swartz

4 Elizabeth

Born Jan 5, 1849 in Switzerland

Died Aug 12, 1911 buried in Kellman

Married Jan 1876 to John Goff farmer

Born July 3 1848 in Germany

Died Feb 3, 1945 buried in Kellman

Seven children George, John, Lena,
Anna, Frank, Phillip

5 Johannes

Born May 10, 1858 Switzerland

Died Dec 17, 1858 Buried "

6 Anna

Born Dec 12, 1852 Kinesburg, Ohio

Died Feb 26, 1955 Buried Kinesburg

7 Michael

Born April 30, 1854 in Kinesburg

Died a birth buried in " Ohio

8 Lena

Born April 11, 1855 Kinesburg.

Died April 19 1928 Buried Des Moines

Married Dec 28, 1876 to John Hoffenegger
started out farming later a barber

Born March 31 Buried in Des Moines

Parents of six children Lawrence, Ida,
Mary, Earnest, Marva and Frank

9. William - farmer

Born July 22, 1857, Xenia, Ohio
Died Sept 13, 1903 Buried in Dexter, Ia
Married Sept 13, 1881 to Anna Gabriel

Died March 1940 - buried Dexter, Iowa
Parents of Ruby, Rosa, Fearly, Carrie
Bernice and Lassy

10 Premature baby: Born April 8, 1859 - Ho

11 Lovina

Born March 21, 1860 in Xenia, Ohio
Died Aug 15, 1955 buried in Masonville
Married Oct 22, 1885 to Frank Blumstein
Born Sept 13, 1861 in Holmes Co Ohio

Alta Munson was Lovina's daughter.
She is the one who got this together.
I got it from her.

Bernice