

Andreas R. Metz

The last Walser hike

*Goodbye
Guscha*



Prolog

There is a village of six houses and more stables nearby, and on the mountain to the Ahonen, which is called Dörfli Guscha.

This is how Bartholomäus Anhorn described at the year 1622 the small Walser village above the St. Luzisteig near Maienfeld.



*The challenge in dealing with history is to
extract the truth and to trace the spirit of those
who experienced it.*

Foreword

A lot has already been written about the Walser in general and about the little village of Guscha in detail, so I don't have much new to report here. But one thing bothered me and aroused my interest. I felt the urge to learn more about it. An emigrant list of people who emigrated from Guscha in the first half of the 19th century made me curious.

In the state archive of the canton of Graubünden in Chur I found their forty-six names in the register of residents from 1850. And even after that there were always families who turned their backs on Guscha and settled somewhere in the world. So I had many questions that I pursued to find answers.

Who were these people and where did they go? Why had they left their village? How did you fare in your new home country? What routes did they take and what means of transport were available to them –

Back then, on the last hike of the Walser from Guscha?

An advantage of today is the Internet with access to almost unlimited information, which, however, cannot always be trusted blindly. In order to verify this data, you need other sources, which I have found in entries in civil status registers, church books, state archives, passenger lists, old writings, lists of residents, etc.

Andreas R. Metz, 2023



Contents



I. Chapter – The Walserism

The colonization of the Alps	08
The free Walser	11
Founding of Mutzen	13
Life on Guscha	15
House sign and family crest	17

II. Chapter - Life in the 19th Century

Hard times	22
Life in Graubünden	24
Up and away	28
Decision and farewell	32
The emigration agencies	35

III. Chapter – Goodbye Guscha

Goodbye home - the last hike	39
The sea voyage	43
An emigrant ship	47

IV. Chapter – The Emigrants

The emigrant list	50
Andrew Riederer	52
The great departure from Guscha	60
The family Just-Just	63

Contents

The family Just-Rufner	68
Jesse James and the family Heldstab-Just (Aust)	69
Andreas Just	70
The poachers	72
The family Just-Flütsch	75

V. Chapter - The years after 1850

The fate of Christina Luchsinger	78
Jacob Just	84
The sea route to Australia	85
The story of Emile and Annie Just in New Zealand	91
Castle Garden and entering the United States	105
Florian Just	109
Katharina Just-Steiger	115
Anna Margareth Just-Boesch	119
Margaret Just-Ortlieb	125

VI. Chapter – The Mutzner family

The 1880's	128
Caspar Mutzner	129
Johannes und Jakob Mutzner	131
Christian Mutzner	136

Epilogue

Final word	143
Guscha today / Acknowledgement	145

The author



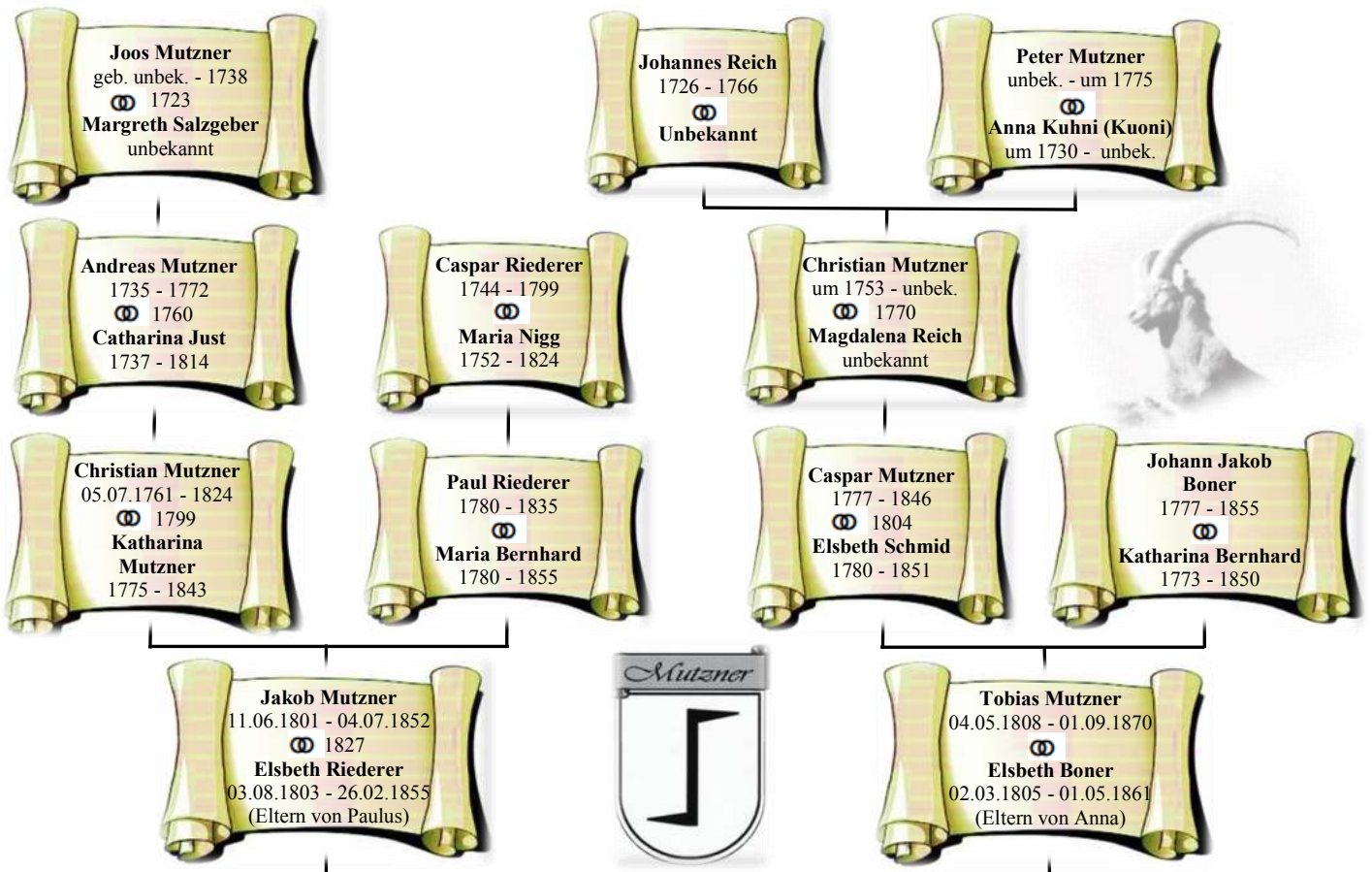
Andreas René Metz was born on December 24, 1963 in Zurich. He is a citizen of Jenaz in Prättigau/GR and his parents are René Metz and Margrit Metz-Hablützel. The family lived in Winterthur/ZH from 1970 to 1996, where he and his brother Werner spent their school days and youth.

Andreas completed a three-year cooking apprenticeship in 1980 and, after police school, joined the Winterthur City Police Corps in 1990, where he served as a police officer for 22 years.

He has been self-employed in gastronomy since 2012 and has a son and three daughters.

Andreas Metz deals intensively with private ancestral research (genealogy) and records his findings in books and family trees.

"Goodbye Guscha" is his third work after "The Golden Knife" and "The Emigrants".



Walser-Blut



Anna Mutzner (1869-1947) was my great-grandmother, which is why Walser blood still flows in my veins. The family tree gives an overview of where the source is.



Andreas René Metz
born 24.12.1963 in Zürich

I. Chapter

The Walserism



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I. Chapter

The colonization of the Alps

Towards the end of Roman rule in what is now Switzerland around 400 AD, the Helvetians were unable to establish their own state. Old Celtic settlements (oppida), such as in Rheinau-Altenburg or Zurich-Lindenhof, were refortified and settled, but the Romanized Helvetii could not prevent the immigration of the Alemanni into the central and eastern Mittelland. The old settlements were initially able to assert themselves as language islands, but over time they were adapted to the immigrants from the north. The Romanesque element was only able to establish itself in western Switzerland and in the Alps. Nevertheless, Celtic influences remain in our country to this day. Rivers, older cities and country names bear Celtic names. For example, the name of the canton of Uri comes from the Celtic "ure" (bull).

Research into the Alemannic tribe, later known as the «Walser», has made great strides in recent decades. What the Glarner chronicler Aegidius Tschudi described and classified 400 years ago as the "here Lüth", descendants of Celtic Gauls, has long since been corrected and rectified. Nevertheless, a lot is still in the dark and to this day the researchers of history, names, historians and archaeologists do not always agree on the much-mentioned and partly mystical Walser trains.

Immigrated from southern Germany via the Bernese Oberland, the ethnic group settled in the Upper Valais towards the end of the early Middle Ages (8th/9th century) and founded various homesteads in the sparsely populated side valleys of the Goms and the southern valleys of the Italian Piedmont, where they often met long-established Roman residents. Two different cultures collided and created a potential for conflict. The tall Alemanni, generally described as blond, blue-eyed, slender, with a tough and idiosyncratic character, stuck to their culture and way of life and traditionally kept to themselves. In the event of a dispute, they expelled the Romansh or forced their language, Walser German, on them. Since the valley bottoms were mostly already inhabited by the local population, the immigrants moved to the higher altitudes. The chosen or assigned settlement areas and the associated climatic conditions were of vital importance for the existence of the immigrated clans. Due to the altitude of 1300 to 1800 m, arable farming with grain planting was only rarely an option.

Greater importance was attached to the management of the meadows, the procurement of large hay supplies, which served to overwinter the corresponding livestock (cows, sheep, goats).

But livestock farming was also restricted by the short alpine vegetation period and could only be operated at great expense and with a great deal of effort. Just think of the steep slopes where the grass had to be cut.



Marriage between the two rival ethnic groups was forbidden for a long time and was therefore impossible. The social bond of the newcomers came first, and they understood themselves as a clan or as a family. This was also revealed to the outside world through their house signs, family markings that they attached to their houses, stables, tools and livestock. Later, these house signs were often continued as family crests. (page 17)

The inheritance

The birth rate in the immigrant families was high and a flock of ten or more offspring was not uncommon, rather the norm. Sometimes you needed the offspring for the work in the house and yard. Back then, there was still a long way to go in school, so the girls and boys had to help earn a living from an early age. It is therefore easy to understand that the land and inheritance farmed by the mountain dwellers were not always sufficient to allow families with many children to make even a modest living.

Inheritance was a legal form of great economic importance from the early Middle Ages to the 18th century. The lenders - these were usually the lords who ruled in the respective region and served as vassals (feudal lords, nobles, knights) of a king or a monastery - gave a borrower a property for use for an indefinite period, against interest or other services, such as enlistment in warlike conflicts. The inheritance also granted the settlers the right to free marriage and above all to free residence and therefore played a central role with social significance in the further development of the Walser people and their migrations.

The constantly growing, restricted living conditions therefore prompted numerous borrowers to make use of their right to freedom of movement in order to find better living conditions elsewhere.

The situation in Upper Valais, which was under the authority of the Bishop of Sitten, was very unsatisfactory at the time. Feuds of the feudal lords, the internal political organization, the legal status of the peasant population and the organization of law and courts were probably more than inadequate. All of this can explain the desire to emigrate, but perhaps the urge to move on (Walser gene) also contributed to the tendency among the settlers in Valais and northern Italy to find new living spaces as early as the 13th century to tap into. This is evident, among other things, in a document from Piedmont, where the surname Claus or Clausen is mentioned for the first time, which is said to have passed to Mutzner in the 15th century. However, it is no longer possible to draw any reliable conclusions that would confirm this.

For around 300-400 years, the immigrants from the north had settled in the side valleys of Upper Valais and Goms, before some of their descendants moved on towards northern Italy, Ticino and the area of today's canton of Graubünden at the end of the 13th century.

Exodus from Valais

The colonists climbed the pass heights of the mighty Valais Alps and the warmer climatic conditions prevailing at the time must have had an accommodating effect on them. They settled towards the end of the 13th century in the Aosta Valley and in Pomatt (in Walser German: Pumatt) in the Val Formazza, which they reached via the 2479 meter high Gries Pass. This mule track has been known since the Bronze Age and was also used extensively by the Romans, since this north-south connection has no topographical difficulties on either side and is one of the few, easily walkable, direct routes from Valais to Italy. Even today, German is the main language spoken in the Walser villages of the Val Formazza, and quite a few resist the increasing 'Italianisation'. Instead, the residents prefer to maintain friendly relations with the German-speaking Valaisans.

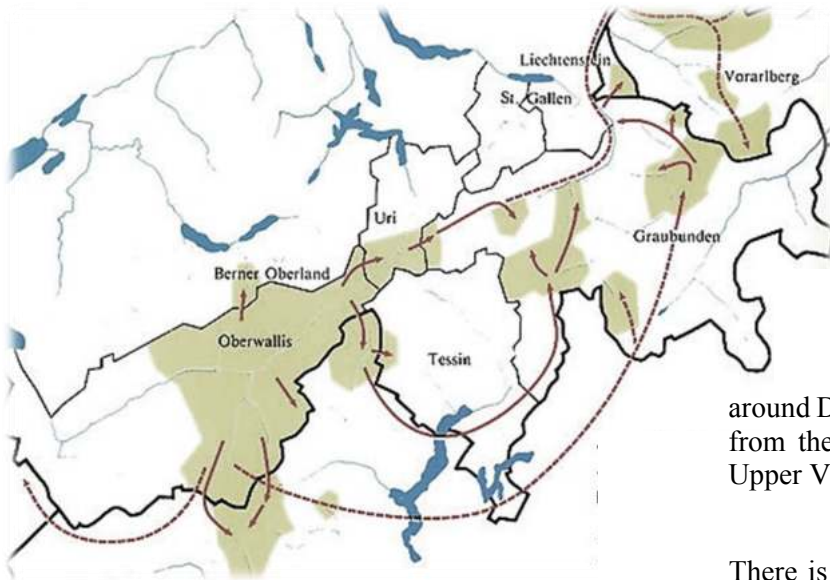
But the space in the side valleys of the Aosta Valley and in the Pumatt soon became too small, so that the tribe spread across Ticino (the most well-known place is Bosco Gurin in the upper Maggia Valley, the only German-speaking community in Ticino) and the San Bernardino migrated to the Hinterreintal and is accordingly referred to as the 'Rheinwaldgruppe'.

At the same time, the immigrants who had settled in Goms expanded their settlement area to the east and as early as the 12th century migrated via the Furka into the Urserental (Uri), which belonged to the Disentis monastery. Descendants of this 'Vorderrhein group' were settled by the monastic lords in the Vorderrheintal in Tavetsch and Obersaxen.

In the 14th century, the Walser migrated back from Goms to the Bernese Oberland, where they received the valley background of the Lauterbrunnen valley and the area around present-day Brienz as their new home.

The feudal lords of Raetia were also aware of the advantages of this tough and hard-working ethnic group from Valais and northern Italy. One was often related or related by marriage to the rulers from the other regions and word got around – also with the Barons of Vaz, who in the High Middle Ages one of the most powerful most noble families in the Alps room and their cousins the Lords of Raron were in Valais. Documentarily they have been proven from about 1135 to 1338 and the gender of 'Vaz' developed over time the time next to the diocese Chur to the most important political power in Upper Rhaetia.





Immigration in Raetia

Around 1289, the Barons of Vaz, led by Walter von Vaz, settled colonists in Tavaus (Davos) and granted them extensive self-government rights in a fiefdom. As a result, the Davos region, which was originally only sparsely populated by Romans, developed into the largest Walser settlement in Graubünden. Accordingly, the settlers who came from central Valais and northern Italy and chose the southernmost migration route were later referred to as the 'Davoser group', although it cannot be ruled out that at least some of them also came from the 'Rheinwald group'.

could come from. The local population of Graubünden called the immigrants from Valais 'Valiser' or 'Valser' and this is how the term Walser came about as we know it today.

The spread of the Walser cannot be seen as a uniform emigration phenomenon, since the settlers left their homeland in small groups and at different times. Often went of emigration to one of the feudal an area offered for settlement small patrol ahead before before the whole Clan went on the hike.

The Walser do not behave themselves as conquerors, but as discrete settlers and did not use force to settle down, even if some conflicts with the Romani people were waiting.

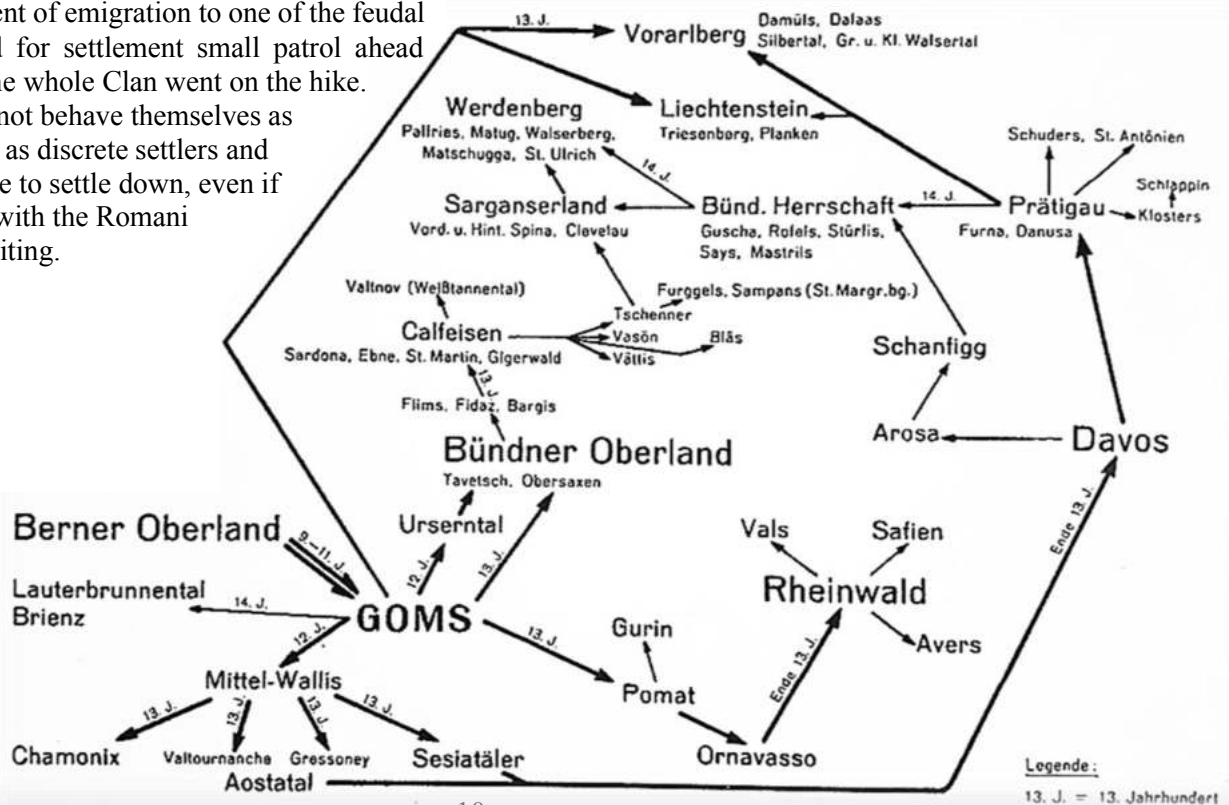
The verbal proof

Due to linguistic agreements, the origin of the Walser colonies in Graubünden could be determined relatively precisely.

The western colonies in the Rhine Forest were settled by the Walsers from Goms via the Val Formazza (Pomatt), while the eastern areas around Davos and the Prättigau were settled mainly from the south by the Walsers from the western Upper Valais the Monte Rosa area took place.

There is a special feature in the Upper Valais and Walser dialects that does not occur in any other Swiss dialect. In certain words, the s becomes sch: In the Upper Valais, the houses are called 'Hiischer', the Walser from Graubünden call them 'Hüüscher', while in the rest of German-speaking Switzerland the expression 'Hiiser' or 'Hüüser' is used.

But the Upper Valais can also be divided into two language groups. In the west, the word heavy is pronounced 'schweer', while in Goms it means 'schwaär'. The same language difference can also be found in the Walser colonies. In southern Valais, in the settlement areas of Monte Rosa, one says 'schweer', while in the east, in the Val Formazza and in Bosco Gurin, it means 'schwaär'. From this it can be concluded that the colonies of Monte Rosa were founded from the valleys south of Visp, while Pumatt in Val Formazza was settled from Goms. Linguistics thus made a significant contribution to researching the Walser migrations.



The free Walsers

The most important Walser colonies in Graubünden were free to choose their mayor and exercise the lower jurisdiction themselves. This local autonomy did not yet exist in Valais at that time, but it was also associated with certain obligations that have already been mentioned (interest payments, military service). Nevertheless, the situation was generally better than in Valais, and once they had paid their dues, they were free to marry or leave the country at will. This is the core of the «Walser freedom», which was only granted to a few colonies in Graubünden. Walser settlements in Valais and outside Raetia generally did not have comparable rights and this status attracted more and more families and entire clans to Graubünden.

The first free Walsers who came to Graubünden and the adjacent areas settled mainly on the edge of the agricultural zones that had already been settled and used by the Romans. That was the area near the tree line caused by the climate, which lies between 1,600 and 1,800 meters above sea level on the north side of the Alps. Trees can only thrive up to 2,300 m in the sheltered Engadin, but the Walser never settled there. At the time of the Walser migrations, the Engadin and its side valleys were controlled by other feudal lords, such as their 'von Planta', and they apparently had no interest in free Walser colonizing their valleys.

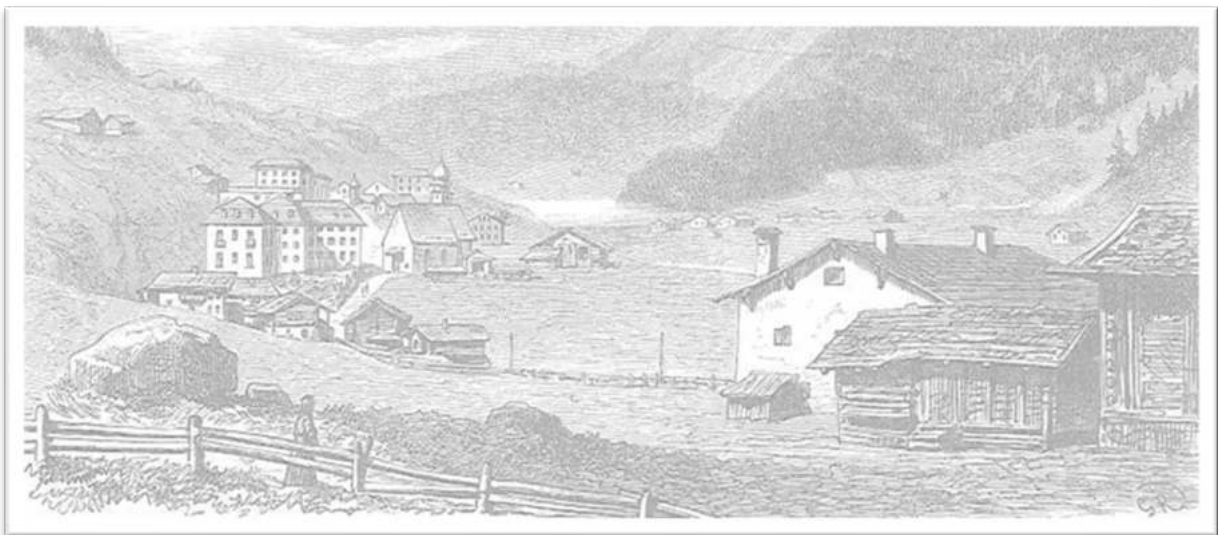
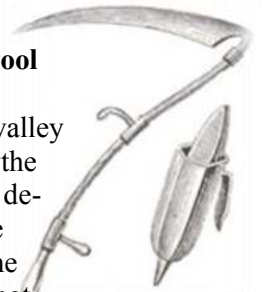
Farming was not possible at this altitude, or only in sheltered locations and only to a very limited extent, which was not enough for full self-sufficiency. Therefore, the life of the Walser was based on animal husbandry and grass farming. To do this, however, they needed large areas, since the vegetation period and grass growth is short on the alpine pastures. Grazing was only possible after the snow had melted for a good five months. The rest of the time the cattle had to stay in the barn and be fed with hay, which was provided during the summer. In contrast to the valley locations, where several grass cuts are possible every year, the Walser could only cut one single cut on the high-lying areas, on nutrient-poor meadows perhaps only every second year.

Where cattle grazed during the growing season, there was no hay at all that year. Therefore, the Walsers needed large areas for their grass farming, which may also explain their single farm and hamlet settlements.

The survival tool

What to the field farmer in the valley his plough was the Walser's scythe and became the most important device. Although there was before the time of Walser hikes a scythe similar tool, this however, it is not suitable for cutting large areas of grass without having to bend down.

It is therefore an interesting finding that the scythe got its current form in the 12th/13th centuries received. At the time when the Walser set out to cultivate new settlement areas. This coincidence in time is probably more than just a coincidence, because the spread of grass economies in high mountainous areas would have been unthinkable without the provision of a suitable, rational tool. The settlement history of Graubünden, Vorarlberg and the St. Gallen Oberland would probably have taken a different direction without the scythe!



When Davos still called Taveus (Taffüs)

How did the Walser come to Guscha?

At the beginning of the 14th century, a clan migrated from the Rheinwald to the Albula Valley. Presumably they followed the route of the 'Davoser Group'. They built their huts and stables above Tiefencastel in Stürvis and Mutten, in an area over which the Bishop of Chur and the Barons of Vaz were competing for control. In Stürvis, a family of 'von Stürfis' is documented as early as the end of the 13th century. They were probably Walsers from the first group of immigrants or scouts to explore the area. Before the Walser moved in, the area near Mutten was only farmed as an alp by the Romanic valley population in Solis. Over the years, groups moved further towards Davos and then via Klosters along the Schesaplana chain over the Aschariner Alp in the Gafiental and settled in Partnun, Aschüel, St. Antönien, Schuders, Stels, Valzeina and other areas in the Prättigau. The landlords back then were still the Barons of Vaz. Donat von Vaz continued his father Walter's 'Walser friendliness' and enfeoffed the immigrants with the alpine regions along the Rätikon.



Around 1333, a group reached a high valley (Wildenen) between Maienfeld and Seewis, and they named their settlement, which was founded at almost 1,600 meters, Stürfis, presumably because they came from the town of the same name in the Albula Valley and their leader 'Hans von Stürfis' was. Only coniferous wood and hay could be harvested in this 'wild one', and a small amount of barley could be planted. No deciduous trees thrive up there, the area is too barren and the climate too cold for farming. Nevertheless, this settlement existed for three hundred years and shows the inhospitable conditions in which the Walser were able to settle down. They only had to capitulate to nature in the little sun-drenched Calfeisental, and at the beginning of the 15th century the families there moved to lower-lying valley areas such as Vättis or Tschenner. One of the reasons was that their clearing work on the steep slopes gave free rein to the avalanches and Rüfen (mud avalanches).

The Walser probably came from Stürfis via Fläschertal over the Mazorahöhe and the Guscha saddle down to today's Guscha. An alpine hiking route that shepherds still walk with their sheep to change pastures.

Immigration via the Gleggkamm would also have been conceivable. Be that as it may, forty-five years after the first Walser settled Davos, the colonists reached the slopes above St. Luzisteig, right on the border with the Principality of Liechtenstein, and named the settlement Mutzen, derived from Mutten.



Living with the natural hazards

The Walsers had to deal with the whims of nature from the start and it was part of everyday life. Life in the mountain areas was tough and dealing with nature shaped the people and their behavior. It goes without saying that the Walsers, who made a new home for themselves in the mountains and in the wild, were particularly exposed to natural hazards. If they wanted to preserve their habitat, they had to accept the dangers. The stories about avalanches begin with the settlement of the Alps.

As long as nobody knew exactly how they came about, it was believed that they were triggered by evil spirits or as a punishment from God. However, the Walsers of the late Middle Ages already knew how avalanches are triggered. It was observed that the smallest vibrations or noises caused by whips, shouts or bells were enough to set the masses of snow in motion. They also knew about the effects of a protective forest, but in this respect they were in a quandary, because the creation of housing estates made it necessary to clear the forest and if appropriate measures were not taken, there were catastrophes with many victims, such as in 1749 in Rueras, 1695 and 1749 in Bosco Gurin, 1899 in Münster, numerous declines in Galltür etc. etc.

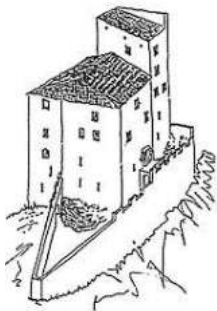
As a result, many settlements had to be abandoned.



The founding of Mutzen – today's Guscha

Mutzen (today's Guscha) is first mentioned in a letter of inheritance from 1366. In it, Albrecht Streiff lends 'Hans Änderlins sun from Mutzen the goods for an inheritance of five pounds Bilyen, in Churer Bisthumb named coin to interest on Martini'. The feudal proprietors are obliged to do military service with 'swords and spears', except for 'disputes with the lords of the city of Mayenvelt.'

However, the Mutzen settlement was founded shortly after the Walser arrived on Stürfis thirty years earlier. At that time, the local territorial lords and holders of the Maienfeld High Court were the Knights of Aspermont, the center of power was their castle Neu-Aspermont ob Jenins, a fief of the higher-ranking barons of Vaz.



Castle Neu-Aspermont

Above all, Mutzen was still heavily forested during the immigration period, and before grass farming could even be considered, the ground first had to be cleared and made usable. Perhaps this explains why Mutzen was named Guscha after the settlement was destroyed in 1622 during the 'Bündner confusion' by Austrian troops, or more aptly 'hordes' under the leadership of Alois Baldiron. The name derives from the Roman word 'cuscha', which means tree trunk.

The two settlements of Mutzen and Stürfis were burned down for the first time in 1499 during the Swabian War.

In view of the topography, one has to ask oneself how the troops got up there, especially since they descended from Stürfis via the 2,050m high alpine route of the Mazorahöhe to Guscha.

After the departure of the Baldironic troops, the Walser rebuilt their homesteads in that uncertain political period when the balance of power was constantly oscillating between the Grisons and Habsburg-Austria.

But Mutzen was not the only settlement that the Walser from Stürfis founded. Rofels, further down in the valley, and the groups of houses in Bovel and on Vatscherinenberg (today Ochsenberg) were also settled and this is how the Walser settlement "Am Berg" came into being. For the next 250 years or so, the loose association of municipalities was to exist until 1633, when Rofel was incorporated into the town of Maienfeld, and the association tacitly dissolved, with Guscha remaining economically and legally independent.

The village of Guscha was described by the chronicler and pastor Nicolin Sererhart von Seewis around 1742 with the following words:

"The third neighborhood that belongs to Meienfeld-Kirch (apart from Rofels and Bovel) is Guscha, located next to the fruit of St. Luzisteig on a high, steep mountain, consists of twelve houses, and when you are up there, has a pleasant prospect (View) towards Chur, Switzerland and over the Steig down. They had a good cattle ranch and also some corn wax. From the land they can have nothing but what they themselves carry up on their humps, for the road is so narrow that no loaded horse can be brought up and the cattle can hardly be brought down. They have church rights in Meienfeld, but they have nothing to say in matters of authority and elections and they do not receive the slightest emoluments (revenues) from the canton of Graubünden. So they are not really Bündner and also not Austrian subjects and one would not like to call them the small republic of twelve houses for that reason."



The settlement area Guscha above the St. Luzisteig. Clearly visible are the clearings carried out by the Walser, which created a clearing. Before 1333 everything was still forested here.

The fall of Stürfis

A Maienfeld document shows that the families of Enderli, Jakob, Ulrich, Konrad and Bernhard Mutzner, Bartli Nigg and Thoma Senti from Stürfis had already migrated to the farms at Vaterscherinenberg and Bovel around 1500 and in exchange for their goods and grazing rights had exchanged Maienfeld citizenship. They could continue to use their former property on Stürfis for a fee of two pounds and 30 shillings. In this way, over time, all goods and alpine rights came to Maienfeld. In addition, the proximity of the border, which led to frequent attacks and looting from Vorarlberg and Liechtenstein in the defenseless seclusion of Stürfis, especially in times of war, may also have contributed to the abandonment of the settlement.

Stürfis was also not spared from various plague epidemics and the 'Black Death' also decimated the population. According to tradition, the last Stürfiser were a pair of siblings named Mutzner, who did not want to leave their dearly loved mountain home and fell victim to the plague in their old age in 1629. After the lonely deceased had been found in their hut, they were buried in the small cemetery at St. Niklaus-Kirchlein on Stürfis. With this the Walser settlement between Falknis, Vilan and Naafkopf ceased to exist.

Today Stürfis is only managed as an alp during the summer months. A memorial stone with a plaque on the settlement's former church hill bears witness to the Walser past.



Life on Guscha

It was simply a constant struggle for survival that the residents had to fight every day. No trace of Walser romance. The slopes were so sloping that even the citizens of Maienfeld scoffed at 'those up there': 'They have to put shackles on their chickens and tie the children up so they don't tumble down the steep slopes!' In fact, only two narrow, steep footpaths, which couldn't be driven on with a car, led from the Guscha down into the valley. One path led to St. Luzisteig and on to Maienfeld, a shorter one over the Guscha ravine to Balzers. The Guschner people used these two mule tracks to bring their cattle, wood and sticks to the local markets in the valley in order to exchange or sell goods that they could not produce themselves, such as salt or rice. They carried all their goods up the mountain on a back stretcher, the so-called «Reff». Above all, they promoted the economic and social exchange with the neighboring Liechtensteiners and are likely to have laid the foundation for the good relations that have lasted to this day.

The city of Maienfeld was not fundamentally dismissive of the residents of Guscha. Nevertheless, the relationships among each other were not easy. On the one hand the idiosyncratic Walser and on the other the autocratic Maienfelder, who saw themselves on a higher level. The decrees and laws that the city fathers of Maienfeld enacted were certainly not always to the advantage of the Guschner. As early as the 15th century, disputes regarding the course of borders and the use of forests and wood were increasing. When the settlement of Rofels was included in municipal law in 1633, Guscha received a much worse political and civil position than before. They had to pay a tax to the Maienfeld city lords, but had no share in the benefits of the citizens and no civic duties. These regulations remained in place until well into the 19th century, although they were not compatible with the enactment of the canton's constitution at the beginning of the same century. On the contrary -

In 1829, the Guschners received an additional agreement, which further reduced their legal status. Among other things, they were ordered to pay arrears of confinement and wuhrgeld. For many residents of Dörfli, this was the 'death blow' to Guscha, because these demands on a small community, which worked hard every day to survive and cash was almost non-existent, prompted numerous Guschners to emigrate, be it in other district communities, in neighboring countries or even overseas. The Guschner lived in family groups with traditionally many children. The death rate among young people was high and during a hard, snowy winter, the residents could only bring their deceased down to the "Lichlegli" of their little St. Luzisteig church



after the spring had melted. They earned their living by keeping animals; Cows and goats gave milk, chickens gave eggs, and sheep gave wool for making clothes and blankets. Sometimes it was also possible to do some farming; Cabbage, turnips, later also potatoes, but also some barley was planted, as can be seen from the chronicles:

'Item anno 1516 great damage happened on Mutzen and the hail, hew and Korn completely smashed'.

During the "heyday" up to 170 people, men, women and above all children, lived on Guscha. In 1742 there were still 140 people divided into twelve families who lived in houses with the names: Rainhaus, Tolenborthaus, Brunnenhaus, Neuhaus, Oberhaus, Krachenhaus and Tobelhaus.

Guscha had no schoolhouse and the children were taught in the teacher's room. It was only around 1826 that they were allowed to go to school in Maienfeld, which meant a daily walk of two hours there and back. It therefore happened that a mother moved to Maienfeld with the children over the winter and ran her own household, or the children took lodgings with acquaintances near the city (Rofels, Bovel).

The people of Guschner supplemented their need for meat by hunting deer, stags and chamois, but golden eagles and marmots were not spared either. The extent to which hunting was then limited to domestic areas and did not spread to foreign countries such as neighboring Liechtenstein or Vorarlberg remains to be seen. Certainly there were also cases of poaching, as we will learn later using the example of Andreas Just. (page 72)



War, sickness and misery

Diseases such as dysentery, typhus and the real bogeyman - the plague, which was highly contagious and usually led to death within a few hours - kept spreading until the 19th century (no comparison to today's corona virus). The science of medicine at that time had no means against it, and where the disease appeared, it was not the medicine man who was called, but the clergy, who gave the last consolation, which is why many priests also contracted the plague and ultimately died.

The Walsers benefited from the fact that they usually built their houses in scattered settlements and at a great distance from the cities, so that they could keep enough distance between themselves. This prevented a widespread spread of the disease among the mountain dwellers. Nevertheless, they were not spared, but the number of illnesses and deaths was significantly lower than in the narrow towns and villages of the valley. There, the plague often swept away entire families in one night, and in a few days the entire population of a hamlet.

Already in the years 1493 and 1507 hundreds of men, women and children died in Maienfeld alone. In the two years 1595/96, so many people fell victim to the plague that the cemetery had to be relocated. In Fläsch there were eighty-eight deaths within three months.

In 1611, the plague returned to the Sarganserland, which is why guards were posted at the St. Luzisteig crossing and other access routes, as well as at the town gates of Maienfeld. No one was allowed into the city who did not have a certificate certifying that they came from a 'healthy place' (looks somehow familiar to me, Corona measures 2020/21) and the beggars who were given the alms that were in the Church were gathered outside the city walls.

The disease reappeared violently in 1629, the year of disaster when the Austrians invaded the country for the third time and subjugated the people with unprecedented severity. The plague lasted seven months. A directory that has been preserved to this day notes four burials for Maienfeld on August 13, 1629, eight for August 20, and rarely a day remained empty. At that time, 22,000 people, a quarter of the entire population, died of the plague in the three federations.

The plague also raged in the Austrian armies with the same intensity. More than 2,000 warriors are said to have been buried in the fields near Maienfeld, but there was no stopping the bloody activity, and so Bartholomäus Anhorn wrote:

"War and death, hardship and misery do not want to end in rule."



The family names on Guscha

The most common family names are Just, Riederer, Nigg and Mutzner, with the Mutzner clan relocating to Rofels early on and most of them settling there. From the 18th century onwards, it was mainly the Just and Riederer families who made up the majority of the inhabitants of Guscha. Around 1800, the whole of Guscha's able-bodied team consisted of only three men named Riederer, whereas about fifteen bore the name Just. In 1845 the last Riederer, Andreas, emigrated to America with his family. (page 52)

It is therefore not surprising that the last resident of Guscha was called Just. It was Mathis Just in 1969 who, after 630 years since it was founded by his ancestors, did not have to leave the settlement entirely voluntarily. But this is a different story - like so many stories that tell of the "Free Walsers on Guscha".



Mathis Just, born in 1898 when he moved out in 1969

As early as 1800, some families began to move away from Guscha. The exodus peaked in mid-century, caused by the same reasons thousands of people across Europe were fleeing their homes at the time; Wars, poverty, famine, diseases, climate change, desperation, etc. It was also a burden for the people of Guscha that the then city fathers of Maienfeld banned the 'Walser up there, who had to tie their chickens and children' with the decree of 1829 that hadn't made life easier either.

Who knows - maybe one or the other Just, Riederer or Mutzner would have stayed otherwise -

House sign and family crest of the Guschner Walser

House signs (house brands) are personality signs that indicate a family or an individual person and can be found on houses, stables, wells and on furniture and equipment. Families used to mark their possessions with them. House signs are geometric figures formed only by assembling strokes. Contracts and other documents were sometimes also 'signed' with the sign, since one was not always able to read and write in the early years.

The Graubünden State Archive contains the largest collection (approx. 10,000) of house signs from Graubünden families and individuals.

JUST



Andris
JUST



Andris jun.
JUST



Anton
JUST



Christian
JUST



Christian jun.
JUST



Florian (Fluri)
JUST



Peter
JUST

RIEDERER



Bernhard
RIEDERER



Hans
RIEDERER



Kaspar
RIEDERER



Peter
RIEDERER



Andreas
RIEDERER



Stoffel
BONER



Christoffel
BONER



Christian
BONER

(the last of his name,
emigrated to America
in 1845)

BONER



MUTZNER



Paul
MUTZNER



Hans
MUTZNER



Andreas
MUTZNER



Christian
MUTZNER

NIGG



Hans
NIGG



Andres
NIGG



Bernhard
NIGG



Bernhard
NIGG

In the Principality of Liechtenstein, a stamp issue was dedicated to the house emblems of the Walser



The (almost) forgotten culture

The Walser colonies did not form a unit in the Roman regions and were widely scattered. Due to the relative isolation, certain colonies have retained numerous characteristics to this day, while other Walser people adapted more quickly and mixed with the neighboring population. In the Bernese Oberland and in Savoy in particular, the untrained eye will hardly find any traces of the Walser settlement from back then. The last recognizable element of an early Walser culture is the language related to the Upper Valais dialect.

In the 19th century, the Walser people of Graubünden lost all awareness of the Walser culture. The memory of the wanderings of their ancestors from the Valais had faded.

In the 20th century, the Walser language continued to decline due to the development of traffic and tourism and was replaced by German and Italian dialects. Only in the originally settled areas in certain regions of Graubünden and Vorarlberg is the 'Walser' culture continued.

In the 21st century, awareness of the Walser culture has grown again and efforts are being made to preserve the old Walser settlements, to revive the culture, language and traditions and to promote exchange among the descendants of the Walser in the community.

II. Chapter

Life in the 19th Century



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II. Chapter

Hard times

In 1798 the Rhaetian Free State was occupied by the French after they had proclaimed the Helvetic Republic on April 12 of the same year on the soil of the old Confederation and had to be held by French arms. Now the republics of the 'Three Leagues', which contractually were a place facing the old Confederation, faced the unfortunate alternative of deciding for France or Austria, because alone and independently they could do it in the middle these two powerful and warring states do not remain.

It was only with great difficulty that neutrality could be maintained for some time and the Bündner War Council ordered 6,000 men to be deployed to cover the territorial borders. The differences between France and Austria grew and a peaceful solution to the conflict seemed a long way off. In the Three Leagues, people were divided (patriots and aristocrats) and did not agree on which side to take. However, a predominantly Catholic majority voted in favor of Austria, since the aristocrats hoped that this would give them the Valtellina and other subject areas, which had broken away from Bunden in 1797 and joined the Cisalpine Republic founded by Napoleon and the French connected, would get back again.

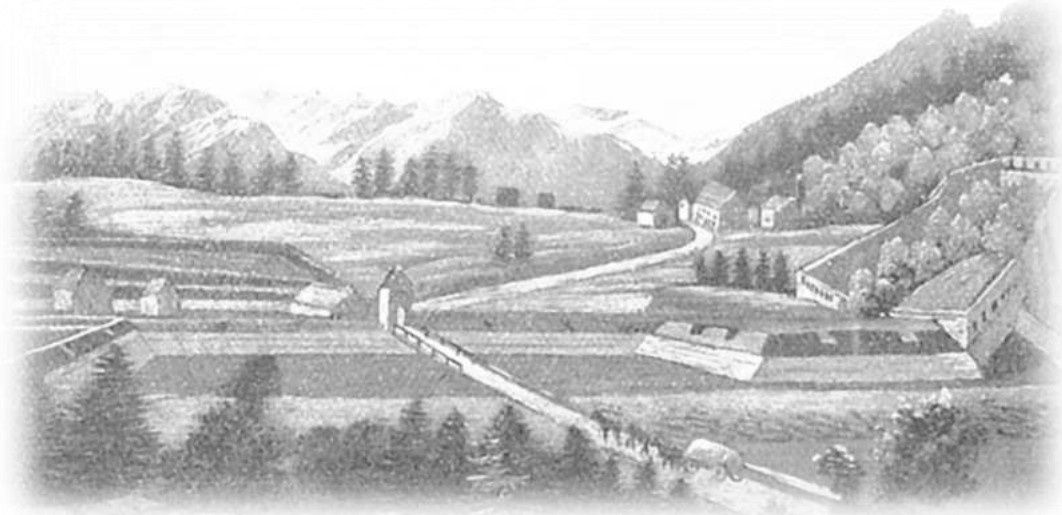
As a result, the patriotically Helvetic rulers of Maienfeld threatened to break away from the federations and join the Helvetic Republic on their own initiative. When more and more French troops were marching up in the Sarganserland at the end of September 1798 and these were already moving into Uri and Ticino, the French envoy no longer wanted to wait any longer to see whether the people of Graubünden would now voluntarily let the French into the country and join the Helvetic Republic. With the days of diplomacy fruitlessly over, it seemed only a matter of time before French troops would invade this important country. In order to resist this, the Bündner War Council asked the Austrians for support on October 17 to defend the passes and borders to protect Bünden. The Austrians were responsible for feeding their troops and were not allowed to interfere in the country's internal affairs, as stated in the treaty.

The following day, the Austrian invasion began via the Luzisteig with 4,000 men under the command of Major General Franz Xaver von Auffenberg, who also commanded the Bündner militias. But this Austrian glory in Graubünden did not last long, and the French response was not long in coming.

On March 6, 1799, the commander-in-chief of the French troops in Switzerland, General André Masséna, issued an ultimatum to his opponent von Auffenberg to leave the Bünden area again. On the same day, without waiting for an answer, Masséna sent his troops in the direction of Luzisteig, where the Austrians were based. Opposite Balzers he crossed the Rhine, whereby the construction of a temporary bridge took a long time. In order to prevent the Austrians from sending reinforcements to Luzisteig, Masséna had Feldkirch attacked with a brigade. At the same time he feigned a sham attack from Ragaz to Maienfeld. When his troops arrived from Balzers on the Luzisteig on the afternoon of March 6, 1799, he was determined to take the fortress. There was no way he wanted to remain in the narrow valley with his forces separated and a wretched bridge behind him.



General André Masséna
1758-1817



The Luzisteig Fortress around 1833

Starting from Balzers, Masséna had one group climb the Fläscherberg and another climb the Falknis via Guscha in order to avoid the Luzisteig ski jump. He himself attacked the positions head-on with a battalion and five cannon, and when his troops fell in the rear of the Austrians from the heights of Guscha and the Fläscherberg, the bloody battle, in which eight hundred soldiers lost their lives, was over after four hours. Four hundred Austrians were taken prisoner, and the rest hastily retreated, leaving their guns behind.

General Masséna advanced with increased power towards Chur, where he captured his opponent von Auffenberg with most of his remaining troops.

On the same day, French armies under the command of General Demont reached Reichenau victoriously from Ragaz via the Kunkelspass. They continued to advance to Disentis via the Oberalp and Gotthard to Bellinzona and Misox. The Austrians were blown up all along the line, beaten and soon thrown out of all the leagues, so that the leagues now decided to join Helvetia.

Between the lines

In the meantime, Archduke Karl's great victory over the troops of French General Jourdan near Stockach on Lake Constance on March 25 marked a turning point in the war. The Austrians felt encouraged in their war fortunes and attacked the Lower Engadine and, on May 1st, 1799, the Luzisteig at the same time less than two months after the devastating defeat. General Hotze seized the same successful attack plans from Masséna via the Fläscherberg and Guscha. However, since his battalions got lost in the mountain range of the Falcon and consequently did not arrive in time to support the frontal attack troops, the whole plan failed.

In addition, the shots fired from the Guscha by a vanguard, which had met an enemy patrol, were taken for the agreed attack signal and the front had therefore attacked too early. When the Austrians noticed the mistake, it was already too late and defeat could no longer be averted.

The Guschners saw the warmongering around the Luzisteig up close with every attack. From the front row, so to speak, they looked down on the evil happenings down in the valley. They heard the salvos of muzzle-loading muskets, the crack and thunder of cannons, the whinnying of horses, the shouts and wailing cries of soldiers in their agony, and later found them dead or wounded in the woods.

The second attack

On May 14, just two weeks after the defeat, the Austrians launched their second attack with a total of 19 battalions and 8 squadrons, divided into four columns, which invaded Graubünden from four directions. The main power, under the leadership of General Hotze, marched against the Luzisteig with twenty-one guns. The second and third columns with a total of eight battalions came along the border with Liechtenstein via the Gamperdona valley to the Maienfeld Alps. From there one column descended to Maienfeld, Jenins and Malans while the other descended directly into the Prättigau and advanced towards Landquart. Four more battalions advanced over the Gargäller Joch to St. Antönien and seized the upper part of the Prättigau. This second attack by General Hotze was successful in every respect.

Masters in Graubünden, which they were now again, the Austrians wanted to become masters of Switzerland as well. However, this was prevented by the French in further battles on the Limmat-Linth line, so that the Austrians and their allied Russian troops had to withdraw in October 1799.

The final annexation came in 1803 thanks to the mediation acts of Emperor Napoléon and the protection of a French garrison, who soon evacuated Bünden of the canton Rätien with the name Kanton Graubünden to the Swiss Confederation.



Life in Graubünden in the 19th Century

But anyone who thought they were looking forward to better times was greatly mistaken. Although Graubünden was characterized by stability and peace until the middle of the century, the effects of the Napoleonic wars were felt for years to come. This and other factors played a major role in the forthcoming waves of emigration in the 19th century, from which the Walser on Guscha were not spared.

Agricultural

The majority of the population of Graubünden made a living from mountain farming well into the 19th century. The principle of self-sufficiency applied as far as possible. In the humid climate of the northern slopes of the Alps, only cattle breeding came into question at high altitudes and the sale of animals was the main source of income for the farmers. The large and lucrative cattle markets took place on the southern slopes of the Alps. The products that could not be produced in-house were also bought there.

Animal husbandry has always played an important role. Initially, mainly small livestock such as sheep, goats or pigs were bred. It was not until the late Middle Ages that livestock breeding and the associated dairy farming gained in importance. Alpine farming was often organized as a cooperative. The long winter months were the time for peasant homework (textile and woodwork) and for the management of the forests.

In the inner and southern Alpine valleys, the conditions for grain cultivation were more favourable. The topography and the short vegetation period resulted in a gradual management of the forage areas over time. Because of the miserable road network, the principle applied: "The cattle go to the feed", in complete contrast to today's central stable. Most farms in Graubünden stuck to traditional forms of farming for a long time. Everyday life was characterized by strenuous physical work for the whole family and assignments on widely scattered plots. In the course of the year, the farmers followed the forage grounds at the various altitude levels, from the valley floor to the alpine pastures. Whenever possible, the farming families processed the products themselves, with a huge amount of work and as little capital as possible. This applied, for example, to the long journey from the grain field to the bakehouse or from the flax field to the wintry spinning and weaving room.

In 1717, potatoes were first cultivated in the Marschlins castle garden in the 'Three Bünden'. This plant only gained real importance during the famine years of 1770-1773 and 1816. In the course of the 19th century it finally became a staple food as a substitute for missing grain.



Marschlins Castle near Igis around 1870

In addition to arable farming, existing and new special cultures such as wine and fruit cultivation, chestnut cultivation in Bergell or the cultivation of hemp and other fiber plants were promoted.

The craft

Traditional Graubünden handicrafts were based primarily on the local resources of wood, stone, hydroelectric power and ore deposits and were mostly linked to farming until well into the 19th century. The job prospects, for example as a miller, blacksmith, carpenter or potter, were too modest. In addition, itinerant craftsmen were strong competitors, for example when it came to building houses. Outside the centers there were few craftsmen who were not farmers at the same time. Moreover, whenever possible, the farmers tried to do all the work themselves. Itinerant traders, grocers and markets provided the population with the rest of their needs.

The manufacture of crockery from Lavez (soapstone) has been a specialty of the southern valleys of Graubünden since Roman times. From the 18th century, numerous companies for the production of the so-called "Tavetscher ovens" from soapstone slabs were established in Disentis and the surrounding area. Several small businesses tried their luck in processing local raw materials such as clay and stone. In 1786 a pottery workshop was established in St. Antönien in the Prättigau. Up until 1898, tableware, stove tiles and water pipes were manufactured there. Another pottery existed from 1834 to around 1920 in the Bündner Oberland. With the advent of modern transport links, most of these workshops disappeared in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Nourishment

Up until well into the 20th century, the mountain farmers subsisted mainly on dairy products and meat. Although the arable farming limit was higher in the Middle Ages than it is today, they did not succeed, or only to a limited extent, in expanding their range of foods through the cultivation of crops and vegetables. This fact led, also due to the seasons, to an often somewhat one-sided, simple and sometimes even poor menu. So many Walser farmers regularly brought their products such as cheese, butter, animal skins and furs to the markets in the valley or even further away to Ticino and northern Italy, from where they returned home with corn, maize and rice. Vegetable lovers and vegetarians, not to mention vegans, would have had a hard time with the Walser cuisine of the time, because the 'green stuff' played a rather subordinate role in the recipes.

There have been close ties between the Valais region of origin and the Walsers in Ticino, northern Italy, Sarganserland, Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg for centuries, not only in the linguistic and cultural areas, but also in culinary terms. In the Walser areas of Graubünden, almost the same or at least very similar dishes used to be on the table, which primarily differed in their different names as well as smaller variants in terms of the ingredients and preparation. Contacts with the Romansh and the inhabitants of the Italian-speaking southern valleys in Bünden, but also in Tyrol and Lombardy, have had a positive effect on the eating habits of the Walser.

The way of life of the mountain farmers and the associated income from meals depended on the working hours. In the morning the farmer had to feed and milk his cattle and was usually up and about long before daybreak. Then came the day's work, such as sledging, fetching hay from the mountain meadows, chopping wood in the forest, carrying it home and splitting it, mucking out the stables and much more. Breakfast, which consisted mainly of milk, flour or oat soup, was eaten before the cattle were fed in the morning. A first main meal at ten o'clock in the morning, followed by another meal at three in the afternoon before supper was eaten after feeding the cattle.



Milk, Cheese and Meat

The Walsers had plenty of milk and meat and it wasn't just served on Sundays. Where there were no smoke chambers, the meat, bacon, ham and sausages were dried in the mountain air in the kilns. Despite claims to the contrary, the Walsers also raised pigs, as evidenced by documents from the early 15th century in Vorarlberg.

In addition to domestic livestock, at least in the patent hunting canton of Graubünden, venison was also available. So there was enough milk and meat to be found in the Walser households, even if not at all times. On the other hand, with the small amount of agriculture, there was no bread and in some places in the mountains it was just a pastry for a long time. Instead of the precious flour, the durable dried fruits, such as apple slices and dried pears, were gladly introduced.

During the 18th century and even until more recently, little attention was paid to growing vegetables in Bünden. The strongest vegetable growers were the Prättigauer, Churer and the Herrschäftler. The 'Chabis-Ischnätzä' was one of the autumn tasks for the self-supporters. The cabbage heads were finely chopped with the Chabis slicer, seasoned with salt and juniper berries in a vat and pressed in several steps, so that the 'Suurchrut' was ready to be enjoyed in 4-6 weeks.

What the farmer doesn't know...

The derogatory townspeople proverb, «What the farmer doesn't know, he doesn't eat» has its truth content in the fact that the person who is most tied to his home is also most attached to his native food and can only find it good, enjoyable and healthy. Eating habits and the tastes formed by them are part of his being, and he actually feels offended when he is asked to eat other foods, or he feels sorry for the rich in the hotels who are there to devour the filth of the world, which they call 'delicacies'. While a Graubünden farmer only wants to start his heavy day's work after a 'Tüggäribel' for breakfast, the Mittelland farmer still thinks that corn can only be used as pig or chicken feed, according to Richard Weiss in Swiss Folklore from 1945.

The city of Chur with its five guilds was an exception. Between 1465 and 1840, these monopoly corporations determined the economic and political life of the city of Chur. After a devastating fire that destroyed large parts of the city, the citizens of Chur received from Emperor Friedrich III. in 1464 the new right to introduce guilds, which also arose a year later.



Rebleutenzunft

Field-, Vineyard- and Meadow owners, Scholars, Officers, Nobles



Schuhmacherzunft

Butchers, Tanners and Shoemaker



Schmiedezunft

Stonemasons, Masons, Carpenters, Painters, Glaziers, Saddlers, Wheelwrights, Cooper, Wheelmakers, Blacksmiths

Pfisterzunft

Millers, Grain drivers, Innkeepers, Barbers, Bakers



Schneiderzunft

Furriers, Grocers, Rope makers, Hat makers, Weavers, Tailors, Clothshearers and other Textile trades

Power was now in the hands of the craftsmen's associations and the citizens of Chur could appoint mayors, councils and court authorities without the bishop, the former lord of the city, having a say. From then on, a political career was only possible as a guild member. That is why nobles also allowed themselves to be accepted into a guild, mainly as landowners. Only townfolk could become guild members. Non-citizens, serfs and those born out of wedlock were excluded from membership, as were all women. A guild regulation regulated organization and activities down to the smallest detail. There were regulations on working hours, the number of apprentices and journeymen per company, the admission of new masters, etc. But agriculture, which played an important role in Chur until well into modern times, was also covered by the guild regulations. For example, the guilds had to provide the various shepherds for the cattle kept in the city. The guild regulations regulated all economic activities such as prices, wages or sales times. It also determined the size of the businesses, how many businesses in a given branch were permitted in the city, and the quality of the products.

In the 19th century there were increasing demands for a broader right to have a say in politics and for freedom of trade. The guild regulations met with increasing criticism and were finally abolished in 1840.

Chur about 1850



Tambora - The volcano that changed the world

Not in the slightest and in no way could the inhabitants of Graubünden and other areas have guessed what was in store for them, caused by a volcanic eruption at the other end of the world that exceeded any imagination. Just emerging from the Napoleonic War years, people found themselves caught up in one of the world's greatest natural disasters ever documented. And all citizens in Graubünden - including the Guschner - were affected!

The year-long drama began on April 10, 1815 on the small Indonesian island of Sumbawa, when the Tambora volcano ejected dozens of cubic kilometers of ash and magma from its gullet. The volcano, at around 4,300 meters one of the highest peaks in the archipelago, collapsed and has since measured almost 2,900 meters. A seven-kilometre-wide caldera formed that can even be seen from space.

Only those who left the island in time survived. The eruption is said to have been heard on the island of Sumatra, more than 2,500 kilometers away. Huge tsunamis hit the region's islands, and the sky darkened for days. More than 10,000 people are said to have died immediately, more than 100,000 in the Indonesian region alone as a result of starvation and diseases such as cholera or typhus.



The Year without a Summer

The Tambora eruption was not just a regional catastrophe. Tons of ash and sulfur fell into the stratosphere in a very short time and this had worldwide consequences - up to the present day. In Central Europe, these did not appear until a year later.

The year 1816 had just begun to spring when the snow returned and the cold stayed. In regions like Switzerland and Baden-Württemberg, it hardly stopped raining or snowing for months. Eastern Switzerland and the canton of Graubünden were hit particularly hard. The sky darkened and violent, unprecedented thunderstorms swept across the country. Extreme floods followed the thaw and flooded the farmers' fields for weeks, so that the seed rotted or could not be sown at all.

Crafty merchants - or should I rather say crooks - initially went from farm to farm and bought the last year's stocks of potatoes and grain from the farmers in order to later sell them again for a multiple. Many a farmer must have bitterly regretted this a few weeks later! It got cold, wet and dark - and apart from grass nothing grew or only a little.

Hunger rolls stretched with plaster of paris, acorn or sawdust were said to have been baked. Theft of food (egg thieves, live animals, etc.) was commonplace, as was disease and death from malnutrition. Unimaginable misery must have prevailed back then.

The people had to slaughter their draft animals and in their distress they dug up the seed potatoes. Many people fled to other, unfamiliar areas. It should have been the last famine in Switzerland.

Incidentally, Mary Godwin (who became world famous as a writer under the name Mary Shelley) is said to have written her novel "Frankenstein" because the heavy rain meant she could hardly leave the house near Lake Geneva, where she was staying with friends and her stepsister was.

Things only got better again in 1818 and the situation gradually calmed down, but by then a number of people had emigrated to the USA.

The eruption of the Tambora and the "Year without a Summer" of 1816 are closely linked to Switzerland, and our country was sometimes one of the regions most affected! A severe famine in the east of the Confederation cost countless lives, brought death and despair and was the trigger for the first large wave of overseas migration.



Up and away

Emigration and immigration always happen side by side and are two sides of the same coin. Emigration in one place means immigration in another. At that time, the decision to emigrate was not primarily made out of pure thirst for adventure, but because living conditions had become difficult or impossible. Hunger, poverty and unemployment drove tens of thousands of Swiss people abroad in the 19th century as a result of economic hardship.

As a poor mountain farming country, Graubünden saw a large number of emigrants well into the 20th century. Up until 1859, thousands of young allies had themselves recruited by foreign rulers for military service, mostly for a few years and under wretched conditions, many of them dying on the battlefields of Europe.



Up until 1890, the mountain canton was mostly a country of emigration. There were more emigrants than immigrants. There were few sources of income besides mountain farming. Commercial emigration from Graubünden led numerous professionals abroad and can basically be divided into two categories; Either the citizens left the canton with the intention of returning home after a shorter or longer period and investing the money they had earned abroad in their home country in order to enjoy life with it, or they emigrated and took up permanent residence abroad. The first category includes, for example, the chimney sweeps who moved to Italy or Vienna, the glaziers or flat painters who earned their living in France, or the resin collectors who traveled through Austria and Bavaria. Many others also earned their living as liquor or milk sellers, cobblers or knife sharpeners. The leading occupation of the population from the southern valleys such as the Engadin or the Misox was that of the confectioner, which first concentrated on Venice and Lombardy (where the recipe for the Bündner nut cake came from) and spread to France and Russia. Women tended to work in the immediate vicinity, for example as domestic help or buffet ladies in Northern Italy. "Schwabengangers" were children and young people who hired themselves out to southern German farmers during the summer for low wages and new clothes.

The second category consisted of citizens who left the country forever and sought a new home far away with no thought of returning, which was not always possible. In the first two decades of the 19th century, many families made their way to Poland and Russia, specifically to the Crimean Peninsula. They were attracted by several clergymen who had moved there at the end of the 18th century. But only a few found the happiness they had hoped for there and many fell into great misery and returned home on the way there.

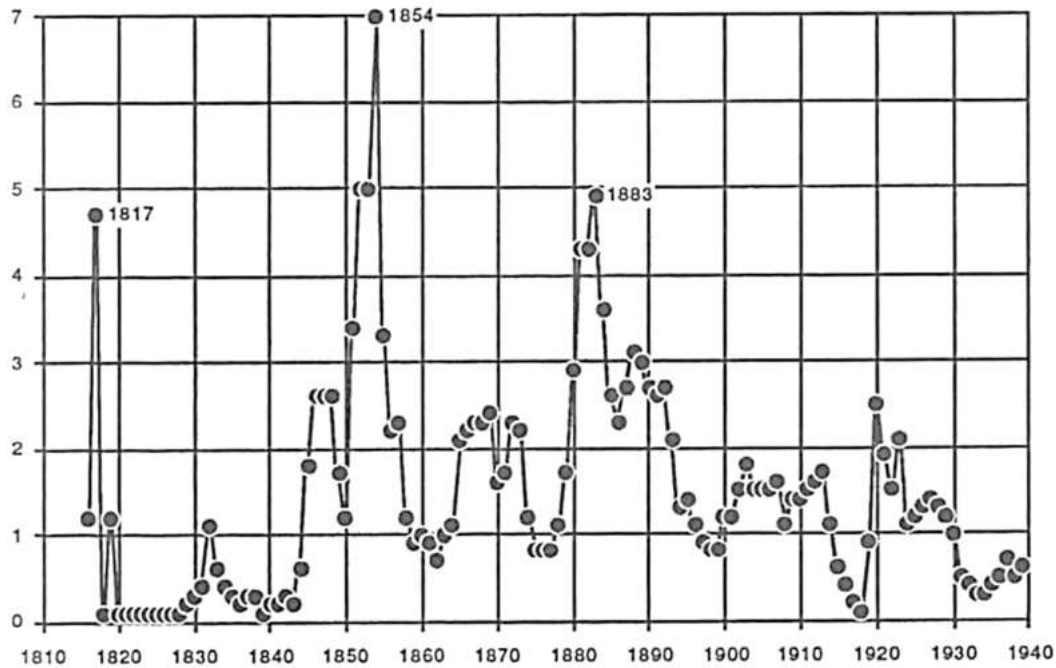
Emigration on a larger scale began in the 1930s and the time came when the Guschner also left their homeland. Between 1845 and 1850, forty-six residents of Guscha emigrated, mostly to America, but Italy and Prussia were also among their destinations. This is shown in a list in the 1850 census book. In the second half of the 19th century, too, some people left Walser-Dörfli, such as Jakob Just, who set off for Australia with his family in 1855 (page 84), so that in 1862 only two families lived on the Guscha.

The exodus increases

Emigration from Switzerland was constant throughout the 19th century, but regional and global conditions led to periods of increased numbers of emigrants during that period. The first big spike in the statistics occurs in 1816 and 1817, after the eruption of the Tambora volcano. In parts of the Confederation, up to 10% of the resident population emigrated in these two years.

The second major rash of 1851-1855 is due to successive crop failures and the potato blight of the early 1850s. During the same period, the United States experienced an economic boom, so that the most important destination for emigrants now became the United States, the land of opportunity. During this time, it was mainly craftsmen, traders and farmers from rural areas who left the country along with their families. A temperate climate, vast undeveloped lands and a booming economy beckoned. Several gold rushes from 1848 to 1896 also attracted adventurers.





Mass emigration did not really start until the middle of the 19th century, when the USA and Australia became the main destinations. From 1851 to 1860 the exodus reached its first peak when around 50,000 people emigrated overseas during this decade. After a slight decline in the 1860s and 1870s, when 35,000 people left the country for overseas, the figure from 1881 to 1890 was over 90,000. After that, the number of emigrants per decade leveled off at between 40,000 and 50,000 before dropping to a few thousand in the 1930s.

The last major emigration wave of the 19th century can be seen in the years 1880-1884. Since towards the end of the 1870s in North America there were signs of a recovery in the economic situation for the first time after the end of the Civil War (1861-65), which culminated in a boom in the 80s and at the same time the economic situation in Switzerland developed in the opposite direction, many Swiss decided to try their luck overseas. The sinking world market price for grain led to countless Swiss farmers being driven to ruin, as they were unable to keep up with foreign competition due to ongoing problems with the fragmentation of goods.

On the other hand, the "Homestead Act", which came into force in the USA in 1862, significantly promoted settlement migration and the development of the national territory of the USA. Anyone over the age of twenty-one or the head of a family could purchase a piece of land for a symbolic price. After five years of cultivation, you automatically became the owner of this property.

In the second half of the century, a new form of migration emerged that was no longer primarily characterized by flight from dire need. Now people who saw better job opportunities and social advancement for themselves overseas decided to emigrate – in a word: economic refugees!

Between 1820 and the beginning of the First World War in 1914, around 60 million people from Europe crossed the Atlantic towards America. The old continent dumped part of its population surplus in the New World. By far not all of them found the hoped-for prosperity, and some penniless emigrants were already stranded in the port of destination. What is certain, however, is that this massive emigration for the regions of origin in Europe - in Switzerland from 1850 these were namely the cantons of Graubünden, Ticino, Aargau, Schaffhausen and Valais - represented a noticeable relief.

The Swiss emigration policy

The cantons have different emigration policies. The canton of Aargau, for example, relied on an extremely active emigration aid, in contrast to the canton of St. Gallen, where emigration was neither forbidden nor officially supported.

Rather, local communities - in contrast to the canton - often played a more active role. It's no wonder that the authorities in some communities did their best to encourage people to emigrate. The boundaries between state-supported emigration and deportation were fluid.

Officially ordered deportation

Since the local churches were responsible for caring for the poor, they often supported those who wanted to emigrate, for example by covering the travel expenses. Those on the fringes were encouraged to emigrate, it even happened that they were deported from the local communities and forced to emigrate. The communities often acted in their own interests, as they hoped that emigration would relieve the poor fund. Citizens who were particularly unable to work or who were criminals were often forced to emigrate by being expelled from the country. Quite a few of these unwanted people who were unable to work, sick or old died during the long crossing.



An active emigration policy was also pursued in the canton of Graubünden. Professional smuggler organizations not only advertised in Graubünden for an easy life on the distant continent. For the journey they often took the last money from those who wanted to emigrate and even received a commission from the home community. She was happy to have to support one less poor person. The municipal administrations began to promote such or similar practices and to regard them as a measure to abolish pauperism (mass poverty of the 19th century).

The enticing prospects of the gentlemen of 'Vergueiro&Comp.' in Brazil persuaded several communities to deport their needy in this way. And they were far from the only ones! At that time, many Swiss communities made travel advances to their families who were willing to emigrate, but often on the condition that all of the family's belongings were confiscated.

The municipality of Fanas in Prättigau shows us an example of active emigration assistance. As the population steadily increased in the late 18th and 19th centuries, livelihoods became increasingly scarce. For many residents, the only option left was to leave their homes. In 1855, the situation in the lower Prättigau had become so difficult that the Fanas community organized a major emigration to Brazil. 50 people followed this call and emigrated to Brazil under the leadership of the teacher Thomas Davatz. He wrote a diary, the original of which has been preserved, and impressively describes the difficult life of these emigrants. The municipality provided the group with 20,000 francs in the form of an advance as travel money, which was never repaid.

Davatz actually wanted to emigrate to North America first, but the official propaganda of the Brazilian government, which provided interest free travel advances and other benefits for two years, convinced the teacher Thomas Davatz and he finally decided to go to South America. However, the fact that these privileges had ceased to exist after 1855 was not mentioned.

Davatz then campaigned non-violently for the contractually guaranteed rights of the Swiss settlers in Brazil. However, since the conflicts could not be completely resolved, Davatz returned to Switzerland in 1857 and a year later wrote a report on the living conditions of the emigrants in Brazil. These statements caused a stir in Europe and had consequences for German and Swiss emigration policy.

Thomas Davatz



23.04.1815 in Fanas -
06.02.1888 in Landquart

The travel arrangements

Life in the 19th century was really no picnic for most people. In addition to all the reasons mentioned, there were additional individual factors for the residents of Guscha that made many people leave Dörfli, and even leave Switzerland. As already mentioned, according to the decree of the city of Maienfeld in 1829, the Gu-schner had to pay Wuhr taxes, among other things. This income was used by the city to build and maintain the Rhine dams. At that time, the Rhine found its way towards Walensee at will, passing close to the town of Maienfeld and flooding the meadows and fields of the farmers when the water was high. In order to force it between the new Wuhre, the entire river had to be diverted and dammed in several places. But why should the Guschner people pay for something on the mountain, even if they could have done it that didn't benefit them? Although they belonged politically to the city of Maienfeld, they had no civil rights. Even if a Guschner lived in Maienfeld, he was not allowed to use the meadows to graze his cattle, as the case of Christian Just shows, who did exactly this at the end of the 19th century and was therefore fined CHF 2.70 was punished. But that too is another story, which I have already explained in detail in Chapter 2 of the book "The Golden Knife". Many Guschners, who felt their existence threatened, preferred to pack their bags before the middle of the 19th century and began preparing for the journey, although other major hurdles had to be overcome first. To leave the country, you needed an emigration permit and a passport or a certificate of residence and, of course, travel money. Then the so-called invoice call had to be issued and published in the cantonal official gazette. Only then was the way clear for emigration.

Public Notice

Apparently it was not uncommon not to settle any existing debts when leaving home. In order to prevent the negative consequences of such a course of action, those wishing to emigrate had to notify their home communities of their intentions some time before departure so that the authorities could issue a so-called invoice call. This was published in the canton's official gazette in all Graubünden municipalities so that creditors knew about their debtor's imminent departure and so that outstanding bills could be collected.

Invoice call from Matthias Just-Flütsch; emigrated to the USA in April 1847

Bekanntmachung.

Da der hiesige Einwohner **Math. Just**, Bürger der Gemeinde Guscha willens ist mit seiner Familie nach Amerika auszuwandern, so wurde denselben auf sein Ansuchen ein gesetzlicher Rechnungsruf bewilligt. Es werden demnach alle Kreditoren und Debitoren des obgedachten **Math. Just** anmit aufgefordert ihre Rechnungen dem hiezu obrigkeitlich bestätigten Rechnungsempfänger **Hr. Werkmeister Paul Kominoth** dahier, innert der im Kantonsgesetz bestimmten Zeit einzugeben, und zwar bei gesetzlicher Abhandlung im Unterlassungsfall
Maienfeld, den 24. Oktober 1846.

Namens des Gemeinderaths,
der Amtstatthalter
Mär. Franz.

Der Kleine Rath des Kantons Graubünden
verordnet den Druck und den öffentlichen Ruf und Anschlag ob-
stehender Bekanntmachung in allen Gemeinden dieses Kantons.
Chur, den 26. Oktober 1846.

Aus Auftrag des Hochlöbl. Kleinen Rathes:

Die Ständeskanzlei.

Invoice call from Andreas Just-Zimmermann; emigrated to the USA in Sept. 1846

Bekanntmachung.

Auf eigenes Ansuchen des Altgeschwornen **Andreas Just** von
scha, der nach Amerika auszuwandern gedenkt, wurde demselben
hiesiger Obrigkeit ein Rechnungsruf bewilligt, weshalb anmit
sämmliche Creditoren desselben die Aufforderung ergeht, ihre
Rechnungen schriftlich beim Stadtvogteiamte in hier, innert der
gesetzlichen Termine einzureichen, indem später angemeldete For-
derungen unberücksichtigt bleiben müßten.

Maienfeld, den 28 April 1846.

Namens des Gemeinderaths:
Andr. v. Sprecher, Stadtvogt.

Der Kleine Rath des Kantons Graubünden
ordnet den Druck und den öffentlichen Ruf und Anschlag ob-
stehender Bekanntmachung in allen Gemeinden dieses Kantons.
Chur, den 30 April 1846.

Aus Auftrag des Hochlöbl. Kleinen Rathes:

Die Ständeskanzlei.

Decision and Farewell

But above all came the decision - In the 19th century, the decision to leave home and seek happiness abroad usually meant a final separation from family, relatives and friends, as well as a separation from familiar places, intense memories and habits . It was certainly one of the hardest and most painful moments to decide against the familiar old and in favor of something unknown and new. In contrast to today, where every city or every continent can be reached in a few hours' flight, the term decision meant a clear demarcation.



Farewell to the emigrants - oil painting by Christian Ludwig Bokelmann

The statement by Johannes Tobler, who left Appenzellerland for South Carolina in North America, illustrates how difficult it was to leave his homeland:

"I thought it would be easier. Lord, this hour hurts. You hate to lose your mother. But it churns in the heart of the heart when one's homeland dies before one's eyes.»

Pastor Samuel Mori from Bern wrote in 1885 from his new home in Kentucky/USA:

«As you can well imagine, it is an extremely serious decision to leave your possessions, your long-accustomed and loved city, your beautiful mountains and above all your homeland, probably never to return, then a be -to go through a difficult journey, finally to go to a country where everything is different. It takes a lot of courage and determination to do this, but even more trust in God and surrender."

Due to the longing for a better life, those willing to emigrate took on the hardship of the journey. And so the journey into the unknown began with changing feelings - of melancholy and sadness, but at the same time with confidence, hope and joy in an unknown part of the world.

Land of hope

The news of a new, legendary country over the ocean spread like wildfire in Graubünden. In the middle of the 19th century, with the advent of the mass media, more and more newspapers came into being, simplifying and accelerating the procurement of information. A newspaper created specifically for those willing to emigrate, 'Der Kolonist' has been reporting weekly since 1851 with helpful information and positive descriptions, thus contributing to the image of America as a land of plenty.

During that time, the economic conditions in the USA were actually more favorable than those in Switzerland. For this reason, the hardships and dangers of the journey and the difficult start overseas were often downplayed or concealed, also with the intention of persuading as many people as possible to emigrate in order to relieve the poor coffers of the home communities.

Positive reports in letters - which were sometimes gladly printed in the newspapers - from acquaintances and relatives made it easier for those affected to decide to emigrate and thus fueled further emigration:

"Since the incalculable meadows are free for every colonist to graze and mow, they give them the easiest means to carry out sheep and cattle breeding as extensively as they can ever wish, and thereby secure and productive ones to open a source of wealth."

"The climate is temperate and healthy, the soil is fertile and easy to cultivate; everything you sow and plant thrives.»

"In short, no part of America, and no country in the world, offers so many comforts and conveniences to the colonist who wishes to settle there as does this beautiful colony."

Even back then, newspapers (today social media, television, and the internet are also) were manipulative tools. Failed emigrants rarely contacted those at home, and the newspapers avoided printing negatives from overseas. Proof that not all reports had to be credible is shown by the example of a group of emigrants lured to America by the author Rudolf von May. When they arrived at their destination, they found the situation even worse than at home. In that case, and probably in many others, a hard winter and depleted supplies caused great suffering overseas.

Heinrich Huber's report

In February 1844, Heinrich Huber, Wallenstadt's former municipal council clerk (at that time still written with two l's), was delegated by the municipality on Lake Walen to travel to America to find out what circumstances emigrants overseas were exposed to. After about 14 months he returned to Switzerland and in April 1845 felt it his duty to share his experiences with others to make it accessible to the public in his «Report on Emigration to America». It was particularly important to him that future emigrants could benefit from his experiences and advice.

The 55-page report begins by describing the transport of Sargans to Le Havre, from where he embarked on the sea voyage in a three-master named 'Dublin'. Huber described the navigation as not very difficult, since the weather was mostly fine and he was able to spend most of the voyage on the upper deck in the fresh air. Despite good conditions, the crossing to New Orleans took forty-four days.

In his report, Huber primarily addresses the possibilities of cultivating the land. On several pages he describes in detail the advantages of animal husbandry, arable farming and winegrowing, the climate and beekeeping. He points out the requirements and compares them with Switzerland. His descriptions are mostly positive and you can tell he's passionate about North America. (Page 34)

It is easy to imagine, even probable, that the Guschner emigrants were aware of Heinrich Huber's report from nearby Wallenstadt and that this influenced their decision about their future home. But the communities also banged their drums and the agents of the emigration agencies were out and about trying to persuade the undecided to emigrate, often with false promises.

In addition to the situation at home, the perceived attractiveness of the destination country was of great importance for the decision to emigrate. So called pull factors are intended to induce people to emigrate to a certain place. Around 32 million people left Europe for the USA in the 19th century. Between 1850 and 1890, Germans made up the largest group among them. Initially, the Swiss state supported emigration, but later attempts were made to prevent this, since young workers in particular made the long journey.

Two hundred years ago, if a decision had been made to move permanently overseas, those willing to emigrate were confronted with major organizational problems. In most cases, they had neither the necessary knowledge nor the appropriate contacts to plan the trip on their own. The ports for overseas trips such as Le Havre, Hamburg or Bremerhaven were far away abroad. At that time there were no airplanes, the railway network, if it existed at all, was very limited and was limited to connections between the big cities. Le Havre was only connected to the rail network in 1847, and just traveling with bag and baggage to the departure ports was then - in contrast to today - a challenge.

So how does one get to America from Guscha in our story? Nowadays you go to a travel agency or, even easier, you book a suitable all-round arrangement from the comfort of your own home on the Internet, including full board and travel protection and cancellation insurance. But in the 19th century, these words weren't even known!

sehr hartem Lehm. Der Boden im Allgemeinen erhielt durch den tausendjährigen Pflanzenmoder eine solche Fruchtbarkeit, daß man in diesem Theile von Illinois bisher noch nirgends an das Düngen eines Feldes gedacht hat. Man hat mir Felder gezeigt, die seit 20 Jahren im Anbau sind, und jedes Jahr Ernten von Mais oder Türkenkorn, Hafer, Weizen, Gersten, Roggen und Buchweizen (Heidekorn) gebracht haben, ohne daß man je gedüngt hätte.

Ein Mann, oder ebenso gut ein Knabe von 14 bis 16 Jahren, pflügt gewöhnlich mit einem Paar Ochsen oder einem Paar Pferden. Keinen einzigen faustgroßen Stein trifft man öfters auf der Oberfläche von 40 Jucharten an. Man erwartet, daß ein Arbeiter, der mit dem Pflügen umzugehen weiß, in hier 30 Akre Land bearbeitet. (Juchart heißt Acre und hält 43,560 Quadratfuß.)

Die Ernten sind im Allgemeinen gut; den reichlichsten Ertrag gibt immerhin der Mais oder Türkenkorn, dessen Stengel hier 12 und noch mehr Fuß hoch wird und bei 60 Büschel (das Büschel zu 2²/₁₀₀ Schweizerviertel, oder in Graubünden eine Quartone) auf den Acre abwirft.

Alle Getreide, Küchengewächse, Kartoffeln, Hauf, Flach, Delpflanzen, die in der Schweiz gedeihen, kommen hier auch fort. Den größten Ertrag der Delpflanzen gibt die Rastorfbohne; das Büschel gibt in St. Louis 90 Cent bis 1 Dollar. So üppige Wiesen, wie in der Schweiz viele sind, hat man hier nicht, dazu ist das Wetter meistens zu trocken. In Baumgärten fehlt es noch auf den umliegenden Farmen von Highland, obwohl die Äpfel und Pfirsiche ungemein gut gedeihen; man hat genügende Beispiele, daß der Pfirsichbaum im dritten Jahr nach seinem Aufkeimen Früchte bringt. Birnen und süße Kirschchen sind noch wenige; die Pflanzungen sind noch zu neu; doch junge Baumgärten sieht man überall, und an Äpfel und Pfirsiche ist jetzt schon kein Mangel. Der Apfelmoss, den man hier allgemein trinkt, ist kräftiger und besser, als er in Europa ist, und mag wohl noch

den Thurgauer und Rheinthaler übertreffen. — Einer der größten Obstgärten besitzt ein Herr Lieutenant Joseph Ledergerber, von St. Gallen, in der Nähe von Lebanon; er verkauft jährlich für eine große Summe Geld Most in St. Louis und der Umgegend. Die größte Baumschule besitzt ein Herr Arnold in Alton; dieselbe übertrifft jede Baumschule in der Schweiz. Es sind circa 6 Akre ganz regelmäßig angepflanzt mit Äpfeln, süßen Kirschchen, Pflaumen, Aprikosen, Pfirsichen zc., noch aber sehr wenige Birnbäume. Das Stück gepflanzte Äpfelbäume wird zu 10 Cent, die gepflanzten süßen Kirschchen- und Pflaumbäume (6¹/₂ Schuh hohe, kräftige Stämme) zu 25 Cent per Stück verkauft. Eine Baumschule darf in Highland noch angelegt werden. Alle Jahre werden mehrere hundert Stücke von Alton bezogen; jeder neue Farmer will einen Obstgarten haben; auch ich besorgte während meinem Aufenthalt in Alton den Ankauf mehrerer hundert Stücke für die neuen Farmer in Highland.

Was die Wohnungen auf den verschiedenen Pflanzungen betrifft, so sind dieselben noch sehr verschieden. Man sieht einige recht schöne Backsteinhäuser; Blockhäuser sind hier wenige mehr, und neue werden nur selten mehr gebaut. Farmhäuser sind am üblichsten; bei Erbauung derselben wird zuerst ein Geripp von meist gesägtem Holz aufgestellt, ähnlich wie bei uns in der Schweiz die Wickel- oder Kiegelhäuser; dann wird das Haus auswendig mit dünnen Brettern (Wetterbord) überzogen, daß dieselben dachartig, eines über das andere, herunterliegen. Ein solches Haus wird selten mehr als 1¹/₂ Stock hoch; Stube, Küche und ein Nebenzimmerchen nehmen den ersten Stock ein; meistens wird in der Stube beim Kaminfeuer oder beim eisernen Kochherd, welcher zugleich als Ofen dient, gekocht. Diese Einrichtung ist sehr einfach und gut. Die eisernen Kochherde sind sehr wohlfeil zu kaufen; in St. Louis bezahlt man für einen eisernen Kochherd sammt Koch-, Back- und Kaffeegeschirr von Eisen und Weißblech, je nach der Größe, 14 bis 20 Dollar und auch darüber.

Stallungen und Scheunen baut man in diesem Theil von Amerika nicht so groß und weitläufig, wie in der Schweiz, obwohl die Felder viel größer sind als dorten und mancher Farmer hundert und mehr Stück Rindvieh hält. Alles Vieh, Pferde, Schafe und Schweine, außer dem Zugvieh, läuft das ganze Jahr im Freien herum. Das Futter, ja selbst das Getreide, wird meistens in großen Schubern aufbewahrt und hält sich sehr gut. Mancher Farmer hat sein Haus mit 50 bis 60 der größten Schubern von Prarieheu (welches er auf der allgemeinen Prarie sammelt, ohne einen Heller zu zahlen, außer den Arbeitslohn) und Getreide umstellt, welches von Weitem eine Festung von Thürmen vorstellt; gewöhnlich sind mehrere Fuder an einem solchen Schuber (Haufen).

Mit dem Flegel wird gar nicht gedroschen, denn das wäre eine zu strenge und langweilige Arbeit in Amerika. Viele lassen ihr Getreide von Pferden ausdreschen; andere halten oder miethen Dreschmaschinen. Der Besitzer einer solchen Dreschmaschine bringt dieselbe von einer Pflanzung zur andern und drescht das Getreide um billige Entschädigung. Viele Maschinen dreschen und reinigen das Getreide und füllen sogar die Säcke, ohne weiters eine Hand anzulegen. Für das Büschel Hafer wird 2 Cent und für anderes Getreide 3 Cent bezahlt; eine solche Maschine erfordert zehn Mann zur Besorgung, und sechs Pferde, um sie im Gange zu erhalten, drescht dann aber auch täglich 400 Büschel Weizen und darüber, oder anderes Getreide, wenn es vorhanden ist. Der Pflanzler bestellt acht Mann und zwei Pferde zu dieser Maschine. Um den Platz wieder zu räumen, muß das Stroh verbrannt werden, weil man es zu nichts braucht. Ebenso werden im Winter viele tausend Fuder stehendes Prarieheu verbrannt, um dem künftigen Nachwuchs Platz zu machen. Im Herbst und Winter sieht man fast alle Abend dergleichen Prariebrände; mitunter kann auch Schaden daraus entstehen durch Verbrennung von Fencen (Zäunen); der Pflanzler kann aber dieses verhüten, wenn er außer der Fence

einige Furchen pflügt, oder in etwas Entfernung einen Graben aufwirft.

Die Arbeit auf dem Felde ist hier nicht sehr schwer; mit der Hacke wird selten im Felde gearbeitet; zum Zätten wird der Pflug angewendet. Man hat hier eine Menge prächtige Patentpflüge, die leicht und gut gehen, und nur mit einem Pferd und einem Knaben von 14 Jahren bestellt werden. Diese Pflüge kommen zu vielen Tausenden von den östlichen Staaten und werden zu 5 bis 10 Dollar das Stück in St. Louis verkauft, wo man selbe immer in großem Vorrath findet; erst seit Kurzem werden selbe auch in St. Louis gefertigt. Eine der schwersten und köstlichsten Arbeiten in diesem Land ist die Herstellung und der Unterhalt der Zäune. Alle Felder müssen mit einem sehr starken Zaun umgeben werden, um die Pferde, Schweine und das Vieh davon abzuhalten, da dieselben frei, ohne Aufsicht und Hirten herumlaufen. Dieses bezweckt man gewöhnlich, indem man große Eichen oder andere Bäume in zehn Fuß lange Latten spaltet (unter dem Namen Fencriegel) und diese im Zikat bis auf die Höhe von sechs bis sieben Fuß auf einander legt. Dieser Zaun kostet viel Arbeit und erfordert sehr viel und gutes Holz, entspricht aber dem Zwecke am sichersten. Seit einigen Jahren hat man angefangen, tiefe Gräben um die Felder zu ziehen, den Grund innert dem Graben aufzudämmen und mit Rasen zu bedecken. Dieser Schanzzaun wird schon viel angewendet; er erfordert jedoch noch Verbesserung, da zuweilen noch Schweine darüber wegkletterten; doch man wird diesem Uebelstand durch Hecken oder andere Mittel noch abzuwehren wissen.

Von der Viehzucht.

Obwohl man von Highland aus beinahe auf allen umliegenden Hügeln Pflanzungen erblickt, so stoßen dennoch die Felder auf eine große Entfernung noch keineswegs zusammen; nach allen Richtungen hin sieht man noch große unbebaute Prarien, wo Pferde, Vieh, Schafe und Schweine



Nach Amerika

über Paris-Havre
zu günstigsten Reisebedingungen und unter Begleitung zum Seehafen
befördern wir jede Woche größere Gesellschaften.

Zwilchenbart, Passagegeschäft,

gegründet 1834

Basel, 9 Centralbahnplatz (Schweiz) und New-York, 61 Greenwich-Street
oder deren Agenten: Zwilchenbart, St. Gallen, Schützengasse 10, u. Aug. Thiemeyer,
Kaufmann, Altstätten.

Einzige Schiffsagentur mit eigenem Bureau in New-York zur Empfangnahme und Weiter-
beförderung der Passagiere, sowie des Gepäcks.

As already mentioned, the emigration agencies, which sprang up like mushrooms in the second half of the 19th century, played a major role in organizing the trip. But just like among the mushrooms, there were some that were better left alone!

One of the top addresses in Switzerland was the "Swiss Emigration Company" founded in Basel in 1834 by Andreas Zwilchenbart (1786-1866) and the "Swiss Emigration Institute Beck & Herzog" founded in 1848. In 1882 there were nine such agencies in Switzerland – six of them based in Basel alone. The emigration agencies not only sold their customers the ship tickets for the crossing to the New World, they also organized the journey to the port of embarkation and provided board and lodging.

Andreas Zwilchenbart's agency, for example, had an office in New York and owned the "Grütli" hotel near the "Castle Garden" landing field. From 1850, Zwilchenbart used direct special trains for transport to the port of embarkation, whose timetable was coordinated with that of the ships. The agency at Basel train station was the first address for our emigrants, as shown by the existing travel contracts.

Incidentally, the father of the company founder had been a pastor in Kilchberg.



*Agentur Zwilchenbart
at Centralbahnplatz in Basel*

Nach Amerika

befördere Auswanderer am Billigsten und Besten
mit den anerkannt sicher und schnell fahrenden
Postdampfern der Red Star Line. Ab Basel je-
den Freitag Morgen; Ankunft Seehofen gleichen
Tag Nachts 11 Uhr.

Für jede Abfahrt habe Gesellschaften und
lasse solche bis zur Einschiffung begleiten. —
Auswanderer, die Vertrag abzuschließen wünschen,
ebenso solche die mit Freikarten versehen, belieben
sich zu wenden an:

Louis Kaiser in Basel

General-Agent der RED STAR LINE
für die Schweiz
oder an dessen Agenten: Emil Frey in Olten.
Leo Jäggi, Wirth in Fuluibach. (Direct)

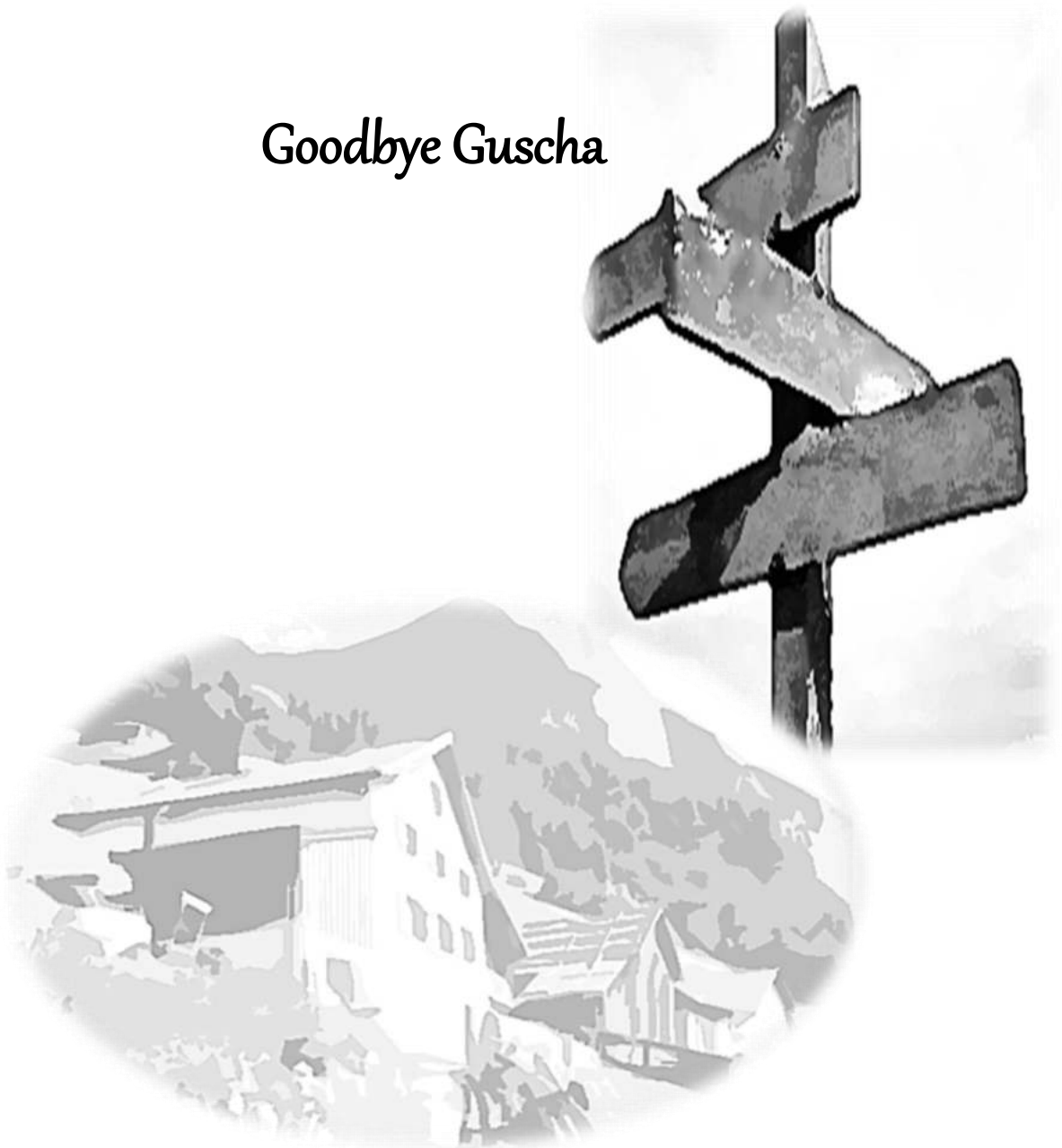
No legal regulations

Not infrequently there were so-called "black sheep" among the agents who wooed all over the country for those willing to emigrate. With tempting promises, dubious machinations and overpriced advance payments, they cheated the emigrants out of their little money and shipped them onto ships on which the conditions were similar to those of a slave ship.

The activity of the agencies was initially - if at all - regulated by cantonal regulations. The federal government soon saw a need for action in view of the sometimes questionable practices. However, it was not until 1880 that federal law was enacted regarding the operation of emigration agencies. This laid down the requirements for the agencies and contained various specific provisions for the protection of emigrants, which particularly affected food, medical care and space on the ships. From the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century, the trip from hell tripped into a "package trip".

III. Chapter

Goodbye Guscha



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III. Chapter

Goodbye home – the last hike

After a tearful farewell to parents, siblings, relatives, friends and a last look back, the emigrants usually set off on foot or they were lucky and were able to ride on a horse-drawn carriage that temporarily had the same route. There have also been private stagecoach companies in Graubünden since 1823, the connections of which have been constantly expanded, especially over the Alpine passes.

Like all other Graubünden emigrants, the Guschners first had to get to Basel, because the city on the knee of the Rhine was the gateway to the ports of departure on the Atlantic, above all the city of Le Havre in France, from where most of the Guschner emigrants left Europe. Since transport was not possible due to the 'non-existence' of airplanes or railways, only land or waterways remained.

Well - from Guscha there were two possible travel routes to Basel. Either via the Luzisteig to Balzers and down the Rhine Valley to Lake Constance to Bregenz, because from there ships sailed to Constance and further down the Rhine to Basel, whereby the natural obstacle of the Rhine Falls had to be avoided at Schaffhausen. This route was popular with emigrants from Vorarlberg and southern Germany.

The other possibility was the route via Lake Walen to Zurich and from there on to Basel. Most of the emigrants from the canton of Graubünden chose this route, as can be gathered from the available reports in diaries. So let's take a closer look at this path. Today it can be done in two hours, 170 years ago the route was like half a trip around the world!

The ferry, which since late antiquity has ensured the Rhine crossing of the Reichsstrasse from the Lake Zurich area between Ragaz and Maienfeld for man, horse and carriage, crossed the Rhine, which at that time with Wuhren always became a new river-bed had been squeezed, but this was not always put up with. Exactly these Wuhren were for many Guschner a reason why they were now on their last hike. We continued on foot or by car to Sargans and then in the direction of Walenstadt. From there, the journey took a steamboat across Lake Walen.

Lake Walen (Walensee)

In the north the 'Churfürsten', in the south the 'Kerenzerberg', in between lies the 'Walensee'. The two mountain ranges form natural obstacles to convenient land transit traffic. The Alemanni did not understand the Rhaeto-Romanic language of the Walensee residents and called the lake 'Vualahsee', and Riva, as Walenstadt was called in the 9th century, 'Vualahstade' - the Italian shore, which means: incomprehensible, different. 'Vualahstade' became 'Vualastad' over time, then 'Wallastatt' and finally 'Wallenstadt'. It was not until 1956 that the place name was corrected to today's Walenstadt.



Steamboat "MINERVA" 1839 in the port of Wallenstadt

Before 1848 there was no road link along the lake. You had to take the arduous detour via the Kerenzerberg if you didn't want to cross the water. The sea route has therefore played a major role since Roman times and was the most important travel and trade route well into the 19th century, getting from the Linth plain to Walenstadt and on to Graubünden. Numerous accidents and tragedies can therefore be found in the history of the lake. This was also the case in 1570, when on January 11th a ship loaded with salt and wine with 60 people and six horses on board got caught in a foehn storm and capsized. Only fourteen people were able to save themselves on the shore. Among the dead was one of my great-ancestors, the then governor of Davos - Hans von Sprecher!

The beginning of steamship travel

The project for a direct, end-to-end steamship connection from Zurich to Wallenstadt had to be abandoned in 1834 for traffic reasons, but above all for political reasons. For the affected cantons of Zurich, Glarus, St. Gallen and Schwyz, revenue from customs and transit fees was the priority and no agreement was reached. Therefore, in 1836, a 'Aktiengesellschaft für die Dampfschiffahrt auf dem Wallensee' was founded in Sankt Gallen with state aid. They immediately commissioned an iron ship from the Zurich company 'Caspar Escher'. The 'LINTH ESCHER I' was used from September 4, 1837 and offered space for 500 people. It was the first steamship built by Escher Wyss, and in 1839 the Wallensee company merged with the Zurichsee company to form the 'Vereinigte Dampfschiff-Gesellschaft für den Zürich- und Wallensee'.

As a first measure, the two steamships of the merged companies were exchanged. The 'MINERVA', which also had space for 500 people, came from Lake Zurich to Lake Walen and in return the 'LINTH ESCHER I' switched to Lake Zurich. The success of the new company was huge!

The 'MINERVA' ran from May 20, 1839 to mid-May 1848 and then under the name 'SPLÜGEN' until October 1859 once a day in transit on the Walensee between Wallenstadt and Weesen, without calling at other ports. The steamboat only stopped at the heights of Unterterzen, Murg and Mühlehorn to pick up mail and passengers who were brought to the ship on small rowing boats.

Since there was no shipping connection on the Linth between Lake Walen and Lake Zurich, so-called express cars were used between the steamboat stations on the Weesen to Rapperswil route.



Express wagons (Eilwagen) were the predecessors of the more convenient and comfortable mail coaches and were mainly used to transport express mail. Initially without a top, people were also transported with it over the course of time. In 1830, for example, the journey from Chur over the Splügen Pass to Chiavenna, Como and on to Milan took more than 36 hours.

Arrival in Zürich

There were certainly also beautiful moments on the arduous journey. The travelers on Lake Zurich were able to enjoy the trip on deck when the weather was fine and admire the romantic landscape to their left and right with its lush meadows and beautiful houses. After a journey of several hours, the steamboat finally arrived in the port of Zurich.



Landing stage at Hechtplatz around 1845

From Zurich there were two ways to get to Basel, because that's where the next stage led. Either you chose the land route, boarded the mail coach in Zurich and drove via Baden and over the Bözberg to Basel, or you stayed on the water. The route Walensee, Linth, Lake Zurich, Limmat, Aare, Rhine was an important national waterway until the roads and railways were built in the 19th century. Zurich functioned as a transshipment point, where goods were transhipped from seagoing ships with a draft to flat river boats that were suitable for low-water navigation. The landing stage at Hechtplatz was one of several piers in the city on both sides of the Limmat bank. There were others at Weinplatz, at the Kornhaus in front of Fraumünster, at Bauschänzli and at Schiffländeplatz.



View from Walenstadt across Lake Walen towards Weesen.

The Guschner emigrants already had the same sight in the middle of the 19th century. It was probably the last glimpse of the Walser's beloved mountains. The Churfirnen fall to the right and the Kerenzerberg to the left. In the background the Glarner Alps. They crossed Lake Walen from this point on the Minerva steamboat.

The old bishop city of Basel

Since the 7th century, Basel was a bishopric whose divine rule lasted until the Reformation of 1529.

Many a traveler may already have turned back at this point, but at the latest at the transatlantic departure ports! Either they were no longer sure of their cause, the hardships were too great or, as in most cases, they had no money left, having been robbed or cheated by shady characters at the beginning of their journey. But most of them moved on, and nothing more was heard from the others.

In Basel, the emigrants from the small village of Guscha left Switzerland for good.



Basel Minster with Munsterplatz, which is lined with many canons' houses

At that time, Basel, together with Geneva, was one of the largest cities in Switzerland. In the first federal census of 1850, the population density was 30,000 inhabitants (as of 2022: 202,000) and rose rapidly in the second half of the 19th century, when Basel became the largest industrial city in our country rise. The city of Zurich only surpassed Basel with over 120,000 inhabitants in 1893 with the incorporation of several outlying communities.

The first railway line in Switzerland

By 1840, a few hundred kilometers of railway tracks had already been built and were in operation in Switzerland's neighboring countries. But it didn't really work out for us. Disagreements about the route and disputes between the cantons about cross-cantonal projects did not make things any easier.

Contrary to the general assumption and history teaching at school that the first railway in Switzerland was the "Spanish Brötli Railway" from Zurich to Baden in 1847, the first ran three years earlier, on June 15, 1844 Train, driven by the «Napoléon» steam locomotive, from St. Louis in France across the Swiss border into the still provisional station in front of the city of Basel.

A year and a half later, on December 11, 1845, the official opening of Switzerland's first railway station followed - long before the "Spanish Brötli Railway"!

Five pairs of trains operated on the route daily. After the last train entered the city in the evening, the iron portcullis in the railway gate of the city wall was lowered by guards and opened again in the morning.

What next?

It was only around 1850 that the emigration agency "Zwilchenbart" offered package deals with direct special trains from Basel to Le Havre. So it was out of the question for the earlier emigrants.

One way to get from Basel to Le Havre back then was to take the stagecoach via Mühlhausen - Dijon - Paris. Another variant is offered by a letter from the two emigrants from Untervaz, Georg Krättli and Samuel Allemann, who dared to jump across the "big pond" together. From Basel they took the newly completed rail link to St. Louis and on to Strassburg, with the train stopping more than it ran, as they reported. They also noticed that most towns in Alsace end with '...heim'. Impressed by the new technology, they wrote home:

"All the cattle of the Untervazer would not be able to pull as many wagons as the steam locomotive did."

In Strasbourg they got to the Rhine with a 'Horse-Omnibus', called 'Rössliträm' in Switzerland, where they boarded a steamship to Rotterdam. From there it went on to Le Havre for the transatlantic crossing to the USA.



French omnibus in Paris in the middle of the 19th century.

Most Guschner emigrants left Europe in Le Havre. But there were others, such as Mathias Just-Flütsch, who set sail with his family from Antwerp in 1847 on the ship 'Charlemagne'. Jacob Just and his family's voyage to Australia began in 1855 in Dieppe, a port north of Le Havre. But we'll find out more about that later. (page 84)

The sea voyage

Anyone who thinks that the crossing was a romantic voyage will find themselves wrong, even if Heinrich Huber described the voyage as 'little difficult' in his emigration report from 1845. No wonder, because as a representative of the municipality of Wallenstadt he was also able to enjoy the 'luxury' of a cabin. But on the ships there was also a tween deck where the emigrants had to live for weeks under inhumane condition

Until the middle of the 19th century, the crossing to the new world took place with sailing ships. These required between thirty and eighty days for the route to America, depending on the wind and weather conditions, and many times longer to Australia.

However, the steam sailing ships developed around 1840, often erroneously called steamships, were not yet comparable to the great ocean giants of the 20th century. In principle, they were still sailing ships, which were only supported by auxiliary engines. This made it possible to continue sailing when the sea was calm and were sometimes used for maneuvering in the ports. This made more reliable timetables possible and the journey lengths were significantly reduced.

Only from 1880, with the beginning of industrialization, there were steam-driven propeller drives. These ships sailed across the Atlantic in seven to ten days, which significantly improved travel comfort and cut travel times by weeks.

The ships

Actually, the sailing ships of that time were cargo ships that transported goods between America and Europe. The ships on the way overseas were loaded with hardware, salt, bricks, glass and textiles. However, the import of goods transported on the way back to Europe, such as cotton, tobacco, grain, beef and pork, was of much greater commercial importance.

The shipping companies sensed a welcome additional business with the emigrants, and the demand gradually made the transport of passengers a separate line of business. They had a so-called tween deck installed on the ships between the upper deck and the hold, and the dual use of the ships for the transport of goods and people brought the shipping companies a good additional income.

This often meant great deprivation for the passengers on board, because permanently installed facilities such as cabins or sanitary facilities would have reduced the loading space too much and were therefore simply left out.

Sparse light fell into the tween deck only through the few, small hatches and at the same time ensured little ventilation. On the wooden, two-storey bunks, which were intended for five people, there were only straw mattresses and each adult had space of almost half a meter and the children half. The room was divided into two areas, separated only by light curtains. On one side the women and children slept, on the other the men. The narrow aisle in between was cluttered with luggage, crates, trunks, bundles and duffel bags. There were no tables or benches to sit down. The confinement, the prevailing restlessness and the screaming of children were present throughout the crossing, as were illnesses, heat, cold and the stuffy air.



More comfort thanks to legal regulations

Some provisions intended to regulate the transport of people were hesitantly enforced, also due to the federal laws and requirements for the emigration agencies of 1880. The height of the tween deck was initially set at 1.72 meters and later increased to 1.83 meters. It became the rule that every emigrant, whether adult or child, was entitled to at least a bed. There was one toilet for every 50 passengers, and since the 1880s, a cook for steerage passengers, as well as tables and benches, had been standard on an Atlantic crossing.



It was only towards the end of the 19th century that ships were built exclusively for passenger transport, where washrooms, separate departments for families and groups as well as separate kitchens and sick rooms were also provided. Ships in the second half of the century, and especially steamships towards the end of the 19th century, were noticeably better equipped. Nevertheless, the journey was still an ordeal for the emigrants. While there was feasting and celebrations on the upper deck, people were crammed together in catastrophic conditions on the tween deck – the more, the better.

Conditions on board

Most reports, recorded in diaries or letters, begin with the date of the entry and the weather and, above all, the wind conditions. Whether there was a storm, calm or moderate wind, high or normal swell was of the utmost importance, because it decided how pleasant - or more appropriately - unpleasant the current situation on board was. When a violent storm raged, all the emigrants had to hold out in the steerage, often for days. People were crammed together in a very small space and it is obvious that physical fights also broke out.



Theft and physical assaults among the passengers, as well as on the part of the crew members, were not uncommon. The cramped conditions, the constant restlessness, and depending on the season, the heat or cold as well as the stuffy air and the smell of tar used against bad odors in the sleeping quarters must have been unbearable.

In addition, during the day there was a constant noise level from the screaming of children and from the lamenting and wailing, coughing and sneezing of fellow passengers, which also continued at night through individual intimate statements.

In stormy weather it could also happen that the crates on the steerage were thrown back and forth, even though they were nailed down with wooden blocks and the children in particular were injured as a result. During heavy rain, water penetrated the steerage deck, so that the passengers and their beds got wet and the blankets had to be dried on deck on sunny days.

And the obligatory seasickness at the beginning of the journey continued to affect almost all passengers.

The German emigrant Heinrich Georg, who dared to make the crossing with his eight-year-old son on the schooner 'Besta' in 1852, wrote in his diary:

«At 7 p.m. there was a situation that can be experienced, but cannot be described. – ...the other 200 passengers, all in the same room, now began to ruthlessly get rid of all the food they had on their bodies, there were pictures, performances, splashing, wailing and uncleanness to such an extent Exactly that I had to vomit once in disgust.»

The Catering

At the time when the first Guschner Walser traveled across the Atlantic, the emigrants still had to largely prepare their own meals on the few stoves available on the ships. Cooking turned out to be a constant problem for the women, as there were not enough cooking places on the upper deck. Those who could not fight for a stove every day with a lot of energy had to do without warm food.

Heinrich Georg wrote in his diary:

«It is very difficult to cook when the weather is bad and there are strong fluctuations, and it is then left to the most skilful men, who often find that when they think they have finished their meal, someone else moves their kettles out of sheer mischief or hangs, causing her laboriously prepared food to roll onto the deck and fall into the dirt.»

One reads such and similar stories again and again in the emigration reports. It was solely due to the good will of the captain and the discipline of the emigrants to organize cooking groups for certain times of the day.

Especially in the first few years of the crossing, the food often ran out before the end of the voyage, and the people on board had to starve. The shipping companies were usually to blame for this, as they miscalculated the food per passenger or deliberately set very low consumption in order to save costs.

The food on board was correspondingly meager given the circumstances and consisted mainly of thin soup, peas and lentils, ship's biscuit and dried fruit. Perishable goods such as fresh fruit or meat were only available at the beginning of the journey, as there were no refrigeration facilities. Only freshly caught fish offered variety - if you caught any.

Hygienic situation

The lack of washing facilities sometimes led to catastrophic hygienic conditions with serious consequences for the health of the people on board. There were only a few toilets, people washed themselves with sea water from barrels.

Diseases such as cholera, typhoid or mouth rot were therefore not uncommon, and the confinement on board favored the spread of epidemics among the emaciated passengers within a few days. Due to the monotonous and low-vitamin food, or the malnutrition, there was above all the danger of scurvy, which was feared by seafarers. The disease had sometimes wiped out half a ship's crew. Skorput causes bleeding in the mouth and stomach and occasionally ulcers.

An unknown author describes in 1806 how the illness manifested itself in him:

«By September 6th the scurvy in my mouth had reached its peak; Teeth, gums, tongue, everything was burnt black and the teeth were completely useless. Few and bad medicines and an even worse surgeon were available; However, it did not last more than 44 days, I had rashes all over my body, and here and there bruises appeared.»



Cooking area on the upper deck. Until the middle of the 19th century, the emigrants had to cook for themselves. It was not until around 1880 that a ship's cook was standard on board a ship.



An average of ten percent of all travelers are said to have died during the crossing. A crossing of the "Leibnitz" from Hamburg to New York gained notoriety.

From November 1, 1868 to January 21, 1869, 105 passengers died of cholera, the remaining 300 survivors reached the destination in deplorable condition. Locals gave the immigrant ships the ominous nickname "coffin ships" (Sargschiffe) after the incident.

The ship as a place of residence served merely as a means to an end, to get from a place of bondage, poverty, confinement and painful farewells to an imaginary place of longing, a place of a better life and a happy future.

At that time Graubünden was the old home for the Guschners. There was no new home (yet) and so they found themselves with all the other passengers, a motley crew, consisting of men, women and children of all ages, from all social classes and professional groups, different nationalities and religious affiliations, in an intermediate state.

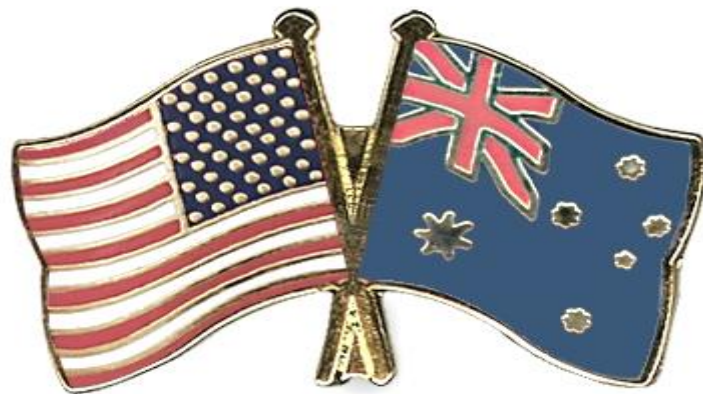
Of course, the sea voyage of the emigrants is a transitional phase and this can basically be divided into three sections:

- In the **separation phase**, the emigrants leave their old state, their homeland.
- In the **threshold or conversion phase**, they are on the journey between old and new.
- During the **integration phase**, reintegration takes place in the new home country.

The above explanations should have made it clear what problems the passengers in the steerage had to contend with and which challenges they had to overcome. There was not much left of the seafaring romance that is often sung about, even if there were demonstrably beautiful moments on the ships.

IV. Chapter

The Emigrants



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IV. Chapter

The emigrant list

In the large book of the 1850 census, which is located in the Graubünden State Archives in Chur, the names and years of birth of those people who had left the canton by that year to emigrate abroad are listed. Altogether forty-six names of men, women and children who were citizens of Guscha are mentioned. It was the last time their names were registered in Switzerland. But names alone were not enough for me. I wanted to know where they moved to and what their new life looked like – far away from their ‘Walserdörfli’, which their ancestors had founded a long time ago.

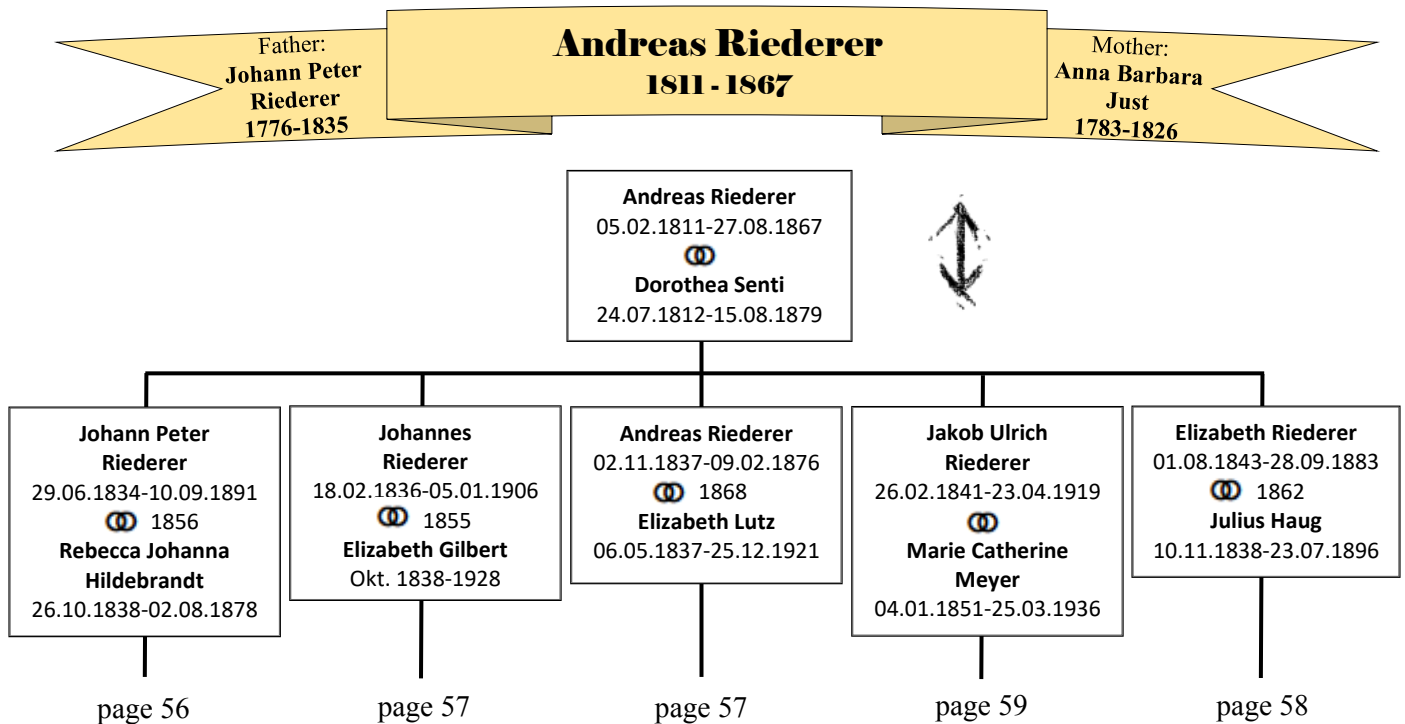


The first to be mentioned is Anna Gelb-Müller, born in 1806 with her children Johannes (*1824), Agnes (*1826) and Christian (*1827). Although the Gelb family was a citizen of Guscha, they had probably never lived up on the village. The family emigrated to Italy without the father, we don't know why, and I haven't found any traces of the family Gelb either, in complete contrast to the second family on the list: Riederer-Senti!

Fortsetzung Nr. 100.	Personen.		Geburtsjahr.		Eheverhältnisse.		Familienstand.		Geburtsort und -zeitpunkt.	Anmerkungen.
	Vorname.	Zug- oder Nachname.	Monat.	Jahr.	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.		
59	Maria	Anna		1800						} Italien
60	Johann	Johannes		1804						
61		Anna		1808						
62		Christian		1812						
63	Peter	Andreas		1811						Amerika
64	nach Karte	Dorothea		1813						
65	Peter	Joh. Peter		1814						
66		Johannes		1820						
67		Andreas		1822						
68		Jacob Ulrich		1821						
69		Elisabeth		1822						
70	Johann	Leonhard		1830						
71		Andreas		1819						
72	Peter	Elisabeth		1829						
73	Johann	Christian		1842						
74		Joh. Peter		1844						
75		Jacob		?						
76	Peter und Joh.	Katharina		1839						
77	Johann	Andreas		1822						
78		Peter		1831						
79		Katharina		1827						
80		Rob. Georg		1814						
81	nach Congell	Anna		1820						
82	Johann	Andreas		1816						
83	nach Tisch	Peter		1814						
84	Johann	Peter		1824						
85		Andreas		1803						
86	nach Zimmermann	Maria Elisabeth		1814						
87	Johann	Maria		1824						

(Mit 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)

Emigrated to the USA in 1845



225 years after the arrival of the first Pilgrim Fathers on the 'Mayflower'

In November 1620, 102 settlers from England arrived on the "Mayflower" after a 66-day sea voyage on Cape Cod, a large peninsula on the coast of Massachusetts in New England/USA.

225 years later, Andreas Riederer's family was one of the first Guschners to pack their bags and leave their village in the spring of 1845, just as the harsh winter was over and the snow had melted. The youngest daughter Elsbeth was not even two years old when the whole family made their way to Le Havre, where they left Europe on the ship with the sonorous name "Duchesse d'Orleans". However, they did not go to New Orleans, but reached the port of New York on April 28, 1845.



The distance from Le Havre to New York as the crow flies is 5,650 kilometers. At that time, the crossing with a sailing ship to New York took between 30 days in good conditions and 80 days in bad wind conditions.

Passenger list of the Duchesse d'Orleans

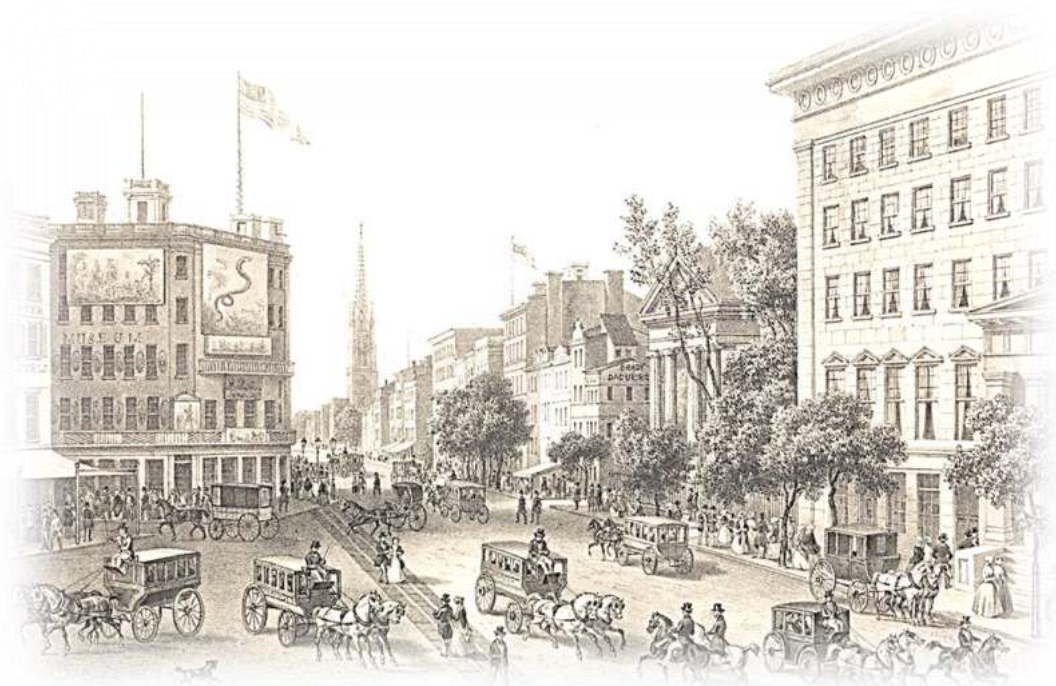
District of New York — Port of New York

I, *J. H. David* do solemnly, sincerely, and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the Duties of *New York*, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Duchesse d'Orleans* whereof I am Master, from *Havre* *J. H. David* before me, *M. L. Davis* Sworn to the *28th April* *1845* *798* *85* *75* *J. H. David* List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the *Ship Duchesse d'Orleans* whereof is Master, from *Havre* burthen *798* *85* *75* *J. H. David* TONS.

Printed by Alph. Leavitt

NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	COUNTRY to which they severally belong	COUNTRY in which they intend to become inhabitants.	OCCUPATION.	DIED ON THE VOYAGE.
1 Rose Harcourt	20	f	"	"	"	"
2 Benjamin Roberts	23	m	"	"	"	"
3 Henry Muller	32	m	<i>Kingdom of Prussia</i>	"	"	"
4 Anna	1	f	"	"	"	"
5 Anna	26	f	"	"	"	"
6 Henry	24	m	"	"	"	"
7 Henry	27	m	"	"	"	"
8 Charles Nicolson	24	m	"	"	"	"
9 George	22	f	"	"	"	"
10 John	9	m	"	"	"	"
11 John	8	m	"	"	"	"
12 Anna	4	m	"	"	"	"
13 Jacob	11	m	"	"	"	"
14 Elizabeth	12	f	"	"	"	"
15 John	57	m	"	"	"	"
16 Catherine	51	f	"	"	"	"
17 Jean	31	m	"	"	"	"
18 Jacob	28	m	"	"	"	"
19 Anna	7	f	"	"	"	"
20 Michael	5	m	"	"	"	"
21 Margaret	4	f	"	"	"	"
22 Mathias	3	m	"	"	"	"
23 Anna	21	f	"	"	"	"
24 Mary	43	m	"	"	"	"
25 Barbara	20	f	"	"	"	"
26 Dan	18	m	"	"	"	"
27 Basile	7	f	"	"	"	"
28 Sophia	1	f	"	"	"	"
29 Johann	32	m	<i>France</i>	<i>Ohio</i>	"	"
30 Mathias	24	f	"	"	"	"
31 Johann	24	m	"	"	"	"
32 Johann	23	m	"	"	"	"

From New York to Kansas



New York around 1850

Due to its location on the Atlantic Ocean and the inland waterway of the Hudson River, New York has been a popular and frequent port of call for immigrants from all over the world since 1825. When the Riederer family arrived there in 1845, the city already had over half a million inhabitants – and the trend was increasing. Today, New York City is by far the largest city in the USA with 8.5 million inhabitants.



The town of Holton, which became the home of the Riederers, is located in the northeastern part of the state of Kansas in Jackson County, not far from Kansas City, which is not part of the state of Kansas as one might expect, but is the largest city in Missouri.

The so-called "Town Company" bought the land around the docks in 1838 and named it "Town of Kansas" (the name came from the Kansa Indian tribe, also called "Kaw" or "Kanza"). On March 28, 1853, the City of Kansas was incorporated into the state of Missouri.

Holton population list for 1865

	Tina Stone	3/12	m						
210	Andrew Riederer	44	m		Farmer	1400	724	Smith	m
	Tara Riederer	42	f					"	m
	Andrew Riederer jr	26	m	1	11 B			"	S
	Jacob Riederer	28	m		Farmer			"	S
	Dora Riederer	18	f					His	
212	Anna Stone	31	m		Farmer	1400	724	Smith	m



The Riederer family did not travel directly to Kansas after arriving in New York. The Riederers first reached Lake Erie via the waterways and then via Lake Huron they advanced to Lake Michigan. There is evidence that they first settled in Polk, in northern Wisconsin, where their last three children were born in 1846-1850. It wasn't until the 1950s that they moved further south - in true Walser fashion - and found their new home in Kansas. First in Leavenworth County, two years later in Stranger Creek, where they stayed for only a year before finally relocating to Holton, Jackson County.

Andreas Riederer became a farmer in Holton/Kansas and fought in the Civil War of August 1862 for three years with the 11th Cavalry of the Union troops against the southern states.

He survived the war but died two years after his discharge from the army on Aug. 27, 1867 at the age of 56. His tombstone is in Holton Cemetery.



From Riederer to Reiderer to Reederer

The English spelling of names unfamiliar to Americans were often written the way they are pronounced in English. As a result, the spellings changed and made research considerably more difficult.

Mrs. Dorothea Reiderer, aged 67 years, died this morning at 3 o'clock. The funeral sermon will be preached at the German Evangelical church, of which church she was a member, to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

Obituary of Dorothea Riederer-Senti in the 'Holton Recorder' of Aug. 14, 1879

In addition to his wife Dorothea and the five children who were born in Guscha, Andreas Riederer also left behind his three children who were born in the USA:

- Christian, born 1846 - unknown
- Dorothea Catherine, born July 1849, died 1931 in Holton
- Christine, born 1850 - unknown

The descendants of Andreas Riederer and Dorothea Senti

Johann (John) Peter Riederer (was 10 years old when crossing)

- * 29.06.1834 in Guscha/Maienfeld
- † 10.09.1891 in Holton/Kansas(KS)
- ⊗ 09.11.1856 to Rebecca Johanna Marian Hildebrandt, born 26.10.1838 in Prussia (D), died 02.08.1878 in Holton/KS

6 Sons:

- Andrew Riederer, 1862 - 1865
- William Frederick Riederer, 1863 - Mai 1956
- Henry Edward Riederer, 04.06.1871 - 29.04.1947
- Albert Andrew Riederer, 03.10.1872 - 26.05.1953
- John Henry Riederer, 18.03.1876 - 07.05.1956
- Andrew Riederer, 08.07.1878 - 1951

6 Daughters:

- Louisa Laura Riederer, 07.06.1857 - 09.04.1938
- Elizabeth Riederer, 09.07.1861 - 10.01.1949
- Wilhelmina Riederer, 01.10.1864 - 05.05.1865
- Caroline Riederer, Nov. 1866 - unknown
- Rosetta Riederer, 13.04.1868 - 24.09.1869
- Emma Emily Riederer, 08.07.1869 - 20.02.1946



*Henry Edward
Riederer*



Elizabeth Riederer

John Peter Riederer grew up in Polk/Wisconsin until he was 23 years old. In June 1857 the entire Riederer family left Wisconsin and settled in Kansas. A year earlier, John Peter had married his wife Johanna Hildebrandt, the daughter of German immigrants. In Franklin Township, he bought 160 Morgan wild land and worked it as a farmer. In 1880 he built a stone rolling mill, the 'Elk Mills', which was well frequented by the townsfolk and which reached a daily capacity of fifty kegs. John Peter Riederer was one of the most popular men in his community. In connection with his farm, he ran the mill successfully, so that the farm grew and grew, eventually reaching 240 morgan, which provided a handsome income.



John Peter Riederer

John Peter Riederer (sitting with his hand in his jacket) with his wife Rebecca (standing in the middle) his daughters and sons with daughters-in-law



Elk Mills around 1884

Johannes (John) Riederer (was 9 years old when crossing)

* 18.02.1836 in Guscha/Maienfeld

† 05.01.1906 in San Diego/CA

⊙ 1855 to Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Gilbert, born Okt. 1838 in Darmstadt (D), died 1928 in Holton/KS

3 Sons:

- Andrew Riederer, born 1862 in Holton/KS, died. 1865 in Holton/KS

- William Riederer, born 1864 in Holton/KS, died unknown

- John Riederer, born 11.08.1870 in Kansas, died 14.10.1946 in Los Angeles/CA

6 Daughters:

- Caroline 'Carrie' Riederer, born 24.02.1859 in Holton/KS, died. 24.08.1939 in Paxico/KS

- Mary Riederer, born 1862 in Holton/KS, died. 1869 in Holton/KS

- Julia Riederer, born 06.03.1864 in Holton/KS, died. 29.03.1942 in Kansas City/MO

- Emma Riederer, born 1866 in Holton/KS, died unknown

- Louise 'Lulu' Riederer, born 02.12.1872 in Holton/KS, died. 29.07.1926 in Higginsville/MO

- Hattie Riederer, born 08.09.1875 in Arrington/KS, died 18.02.1950 in Kansas City/MO

Andreas (Andrew) Riederer (was 7 years old when crossing)

* 02.11.1837 in Guscha/Maienfeld

† 09.02.1876 in Holton/KS

⊙ 1868 to Elisabeth Lutz, born 06.05.1837 in Bavaria (D), died 25.12.1921 in Holton/KS



Only one daughter is known of the two:

Anna Riederer was born on September 18, 1873 in Holton, KS born and died sixteen days later on October 04, 1873.



Elisabeth Lutz

Certificate of convocation from Andrew Riederer

Like his father, Andrew served in the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Company B for the Northern States during the Civil War. Many an immigrant from Switzerland fought for one side or the other in the Secession War between 1862 and 1865, and in view of this fact, one sees oneself transported back to the mercenary system of Europe, when the Swiss also opposed each other in foreign troops. At that time they were recruited for money, but in America they fought for their freedom and ideology..

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF *Kansas* **COUNTY OF** *Jackson*

I, *Andrew Riederer* born in *Switzerland*
in the State of *Germany* aged *twenty four* years, and by
occupation a *Sightwriter* Do Hereby Acknowledge, To have volun-
teered this *Sixteenth* day of *Aug -* 186*2*, to serve as a
SOLDIER, in the Army of the United States, for the period of **THREE**
YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept such
bounty, pay, rations and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers.

And I, *Andrew Riederer* do solemnly swear, that I will bear true
faith and allegiance to the **United States of America**, and that I will serve them
honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever: and that I will
observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the
officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at *Horton Kansas*
this *16th* day of *Aug* 186*2* } *Andrew Riederer*
2^d Lt. A. C. Smith

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer, agreeable to the General Regula-
tions of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would, in any way, dis-
qualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

A. C. Smith
EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, *Andrew Riederer*
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgement, and belief, he is of
lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed
the Regulations which govern the Recruiting Service. This soldier has *blue eyes, dark hair, dark*
complexion, is *five* feet *6 1/2* inches high. *2^d Lt. A. C. Smith*

A. C. Smith
11th Regiment of Kansas - Volunteers.
RECRUITING OFFICER

Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Riederer (was 18 months old when crossing)

- * 01.08.1845 in Guscha/Maienfeld
 - † 28.09.1883 in Leavenworth/KS
 - ⊙ 1862 to Julius Haug, born 30.05.1840 in Stuttgart (D), died 23.07.1896 in Leavenworth/KS
- 1 Son:
- Edward Theodore Haug, born 26.12.1871 in Liberty/KS, died 28.08.1934 in Concordia/KS

- 2 Daughters:
- Willemina 'Minnie' Haug, born 19.09.1863 in Holton/KS, died 24.05.1947 in Kansas City/MO
- Dora Haug, born 1867 in Kansas, died unknown

Jacob Ulrich Riederer (was 5 years old when crossing)

- * 26.02.1841 in Guscha/Maiendorf
- † 23.04.1919 in Holton/KS
- ∞ 08.04.1867 to Mary Catherine Meyer, born 04.01.1851 in Glattfelden/ZH, died 25.04.1936 in Holton



Their 13 children



Dorithea 'Dora' Riederer
 born 28.04.1869 in Holton
 died 28.11.1944 in Holton
 married to Henry J. Klusmire



John Jacob Riederer
 born 18.06.1871 in Holton
 died 29.09.1953 in Holton
 I. Marriage to Jennie May Gabel
 II. Marriage to Myrtle Gideon



Rosetta Amelia Riederer
 born 18.04.1872 in Holton
 died 23.02.1941 in Los Angeles/CA
 I. Marriage to Martin Bogott
 II. Marriage to Philipp Stepp



Bertha Matilda Riederer
 born 23.02.1874 in Holton
 died 04.03.1974 in Sacramento/CA
 married to Edwin A. Martin



Anna Christina Riederer
 born Nov. 1876 in Holton
 died 28.11.1944 in Holton
 married to Albert W. Rolley



Clara Josephine Riederer
 born 04.04.1877 in Holton
 died 05.01.1930 in Sabetha/NE
 married to Knox Steele Shaw



Sophia E. Riederer
 born 10.02.1880 in Holton
 died 28.11.1969 in Concord/CA
 I. Marriage to William Hoover
 II. Marriage to Edward Tyler



Mary Edna Riederer
 born 10.01.1882 in Holton
 died 07.11.1975 in Pasadena/CA
 not married



Elizabeth D. Riederer
 born März 1883 in Holton
 died 31.05.1940 in Holton
 married to Frederick Henry Hinnen



Andrew Milton Riederer
 born 09.03.1887 in Holton
 died 31.12.1976 in Holton
 married to Laura Charlotte Fernkopf



Floyd Lewis Riederer
 born 03.11.1890 in Holton
 died 19.05.1967 in Dodge City/KS
 married to Vivian Mary Nuzman

Died in infancy

Charlotte Riederer
 born 23.01.1879 in Holton
 died 01.02.1880 in Holton

Lottie Floriany Riederer
 born 04.02.1885 in Holton
 died 22.05.1889 in Holton

The great departure from Guscha

On May 26, 1846, the sailing ship "Pactolus" docked in the port of New Orleans in the state of Louisiana. Sixteen people with the surname Just disembarked. They came from three families from the Guscha settlement and had left their village together. It was probably a fifth or more of the population at the time, and more were to follow that same year. Together the men, women and children traveled to Le Havre, from where they set sail; the eldest fifty-seven and the youngest two years old, while Guscha was to become more and more depopulated over the years.



From here they cast off - The port of Le Havre around 1850

There they were - after a nearly two-month crossing, in the port of New Orleans, the gateway to the 'Wild West':

- **Anna Margareth Just**, born March 13, 1796 with her children:
 - **Andreas Just**, born September 12, 1819 (page 63)
 - **Peter Just**, born 1824 (page 65)
 - **Leonard Just**, born 1830
 - **Tobias Just**, born April 26, 1838

The wife of the aforementioned Andreas Just also left the "Pactolus".

- **Elisabeth Just-Bernhard**, born January 28th, 1809 and her two sons:
 - **Christian Just**, born 08.01.1843 (page 64)
 - **Johann Peter Just**, born 1844

Next were:

- **Johann Georg Just**, born 1814 and his wife
- **Anna Just-Conzett**, born 1826

- Jakob Just, born in 1801 with his wife Katherina Just-Rufner, born on July 4th, 1789 and the children:

- **Andreas Just**, born 1822
- **Margareth Just**, born 1824
- **Katherine Just**, born 12.04.1827 (page 68)
- **Peter Just**, born 1831

Here they arrived:
New Orleans around 1850





The journey to New Orleans usually took two weeks longer than to New York. Today the city in the Mississippi Delta is best known for its music. It's the cradle of jazz, blues, zydeco, and Cajun, and a multicultural magnet in every sense. Founded in 1718 by the French, in the meantime ceded to the Spaniards for political reasons and then regained, Napoleon sold the city and the entire Louisiana colony for 15 million US dollars to the United States under President Thomas Jefferson in 1803. But the city also has a dark history!



In the 19th century, New Orleans became the hub and most important slave trading post in the USA, replacing Charleston in South Carolina. From 1803 to 1861, the city was the busiest slave market in the nation.

In the 1850's the highest concentration of millionaires in America was between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, spawned by the slave economy on the sugar cane plantations along the Mississippi River. At the time, Louisiana was producing an estimated 450 million pounds of sugar worth more than \$20 million a year. But the elegant villas on the shore did not hide the misery and could not hide the fact that this was an enslaved society.

The warm, humid southern climate was ideal for the mosquitoes that carry the malarial virus - an often fatal hazard. During the worst outbreak in 1853 alone, around 12,000 people died in New Orleans, a tenth of the city's population at the time, as a result of the disease. Since immigrants were the most susceptible, yellow fever was also called the "foreign disease".

The city's population doubled in the 1830s and 1840s and was over 110,000 in 1845 when the Just family arrived in the city. New Orleans was the third largest city in the country, the largest in the South and the fourth largest port in the world. Behind the city was an uninhabitable swamp. Floods, hurricanes and fires were a constant threat then as they are today.

It was the time of the pioneers, the time of the «Wild West», when the emigrants from Guscha arrived in America.

The legendary Western heroes like Jesse James (1847-1882), Billy the Kid (1859-1881) or Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) and Doc Holiday (1851-1887) weren't even born yet. The previously independent Republic of Texas has just been incorporated into the USA as the 28th state. The Indian tribes in the east and south of the country had been largely wiped out or pushed west.

Under President Polk, the Democratic Party ruled the country in 1846. James Knox Polk was the 11th President of the United States. When he took office on March 4, 1845, he was the youngest in office at the age of 49, and although he only ruled for one term, his presidency changed the country significantly. Through his father's inheritance, he came into possession of much land and owned a few slaves for most of his life. In 1831 he established a cotton plantation on land his father had left him near Sommerville, Tennessee. The slaves on Polk's plantation were treated brutally, less than half of all children lived to the age of 15. He himself rarely bought or sold slaves, and in his will he decreed that his slaves should be set free after his death and that of his wife. Polk died three months into his four-year tenure.



The means of transport

As in Europe, until the advent of the railways, roads and rivers were the most important transport routes. The first railroad in the USA was opened in Massachusetts in 1826 and was used to transport granite from the quarries to the Neponset River for shipment. At the beginning of the 19th century, the transport system was improved by the construction of canals between the lakes and rivers. However, due to geographical circumstances, this was not possible everywhere. The Appalachians prevented the construction of a waterway from the east coast to the west of the country. In 1827, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was founded as the first American railroad company to build a railroad line for freight and passenger traffic to the Ohio River. On Christmas 1852, after twelve years of construction, the goal was reached. It was not until May 10, 1869 that the first transcontinental rail line, connecting the California coast in the west with the Atlantic Ocean in the east, was opened by the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific. What used to be a six-month adventure across the prairie by covered wagon now took less than a week.

Inland shipping

It is an impressive sight - the constantly rotating, large paddle wheel at the stern of a paddle steamer, which together with the flat hull makes it possible to navigate shallow waters with the many sandbanks.

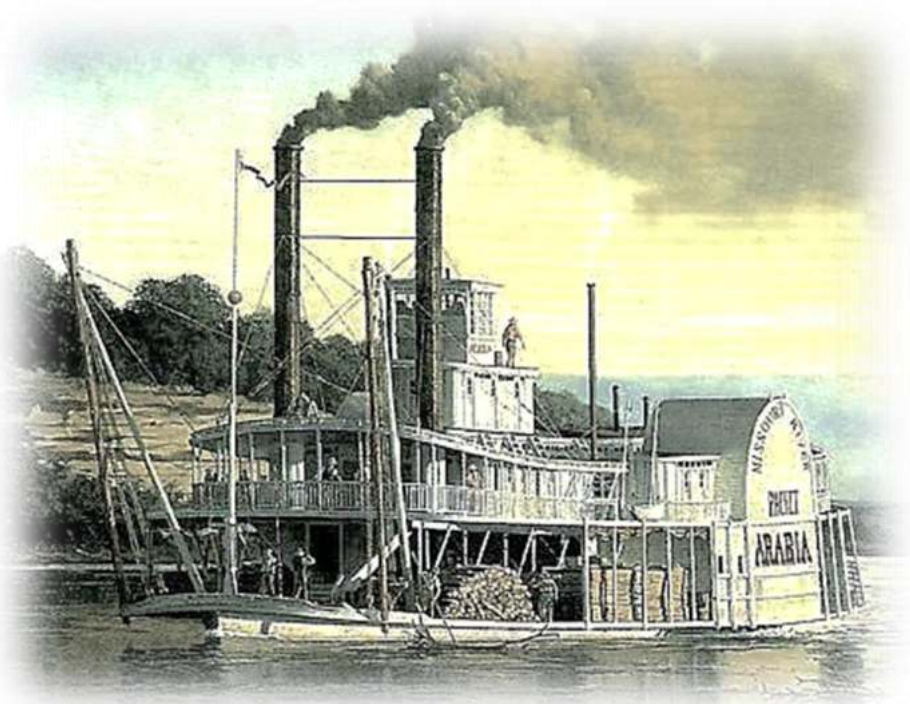
River steamboat travel was at its peak in the mid-19th century in the United States, and towns and settlements sprang up all along the rivers. Especially at the confluence of tributaries, the trading hubs grew faster than the current could flow.

Natchez as the most important cotton port, Memphis, St. Louis at the confluence of the Missouri or the city of Cairo at the mouth of the Ohio River are just a few examples.

It was also time for the sixteen Justs to move further inland to Missouri, Kansas or Ohio. On such or similar wheeled steamers, they first traveled north up the Mississippi.

*Ol' man river
That ol' man river
he must know something
But he don't say nothing*

*Cause he just keeps rolling
He keeps rolling along
He don't plant tators
He don't plant cotton
Them that plants 'em is soon forgotten
But ol' man river
Just keeps rolling along*

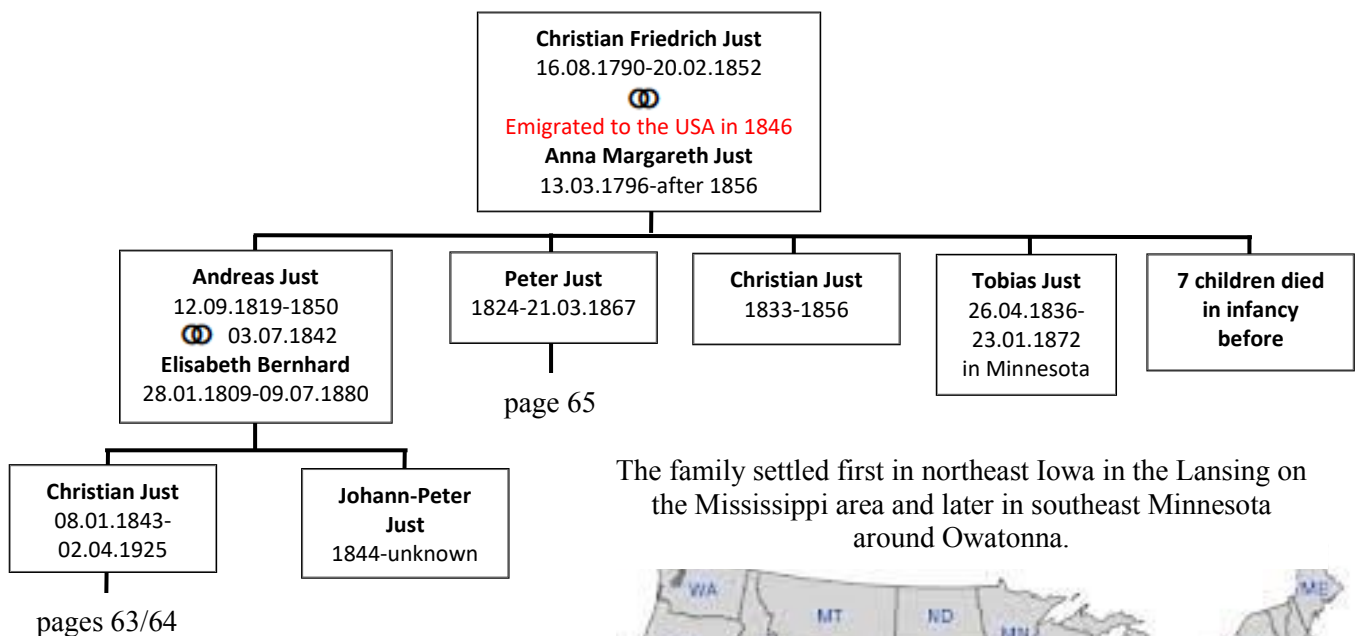


The Just-Just family

Emigrated to the USA in 1846

On the following pages we look at where the individual branches of the Just from Guscha family went and in which states they settled.

Beginning with Anna Margareth Just and her children; Andreas, Peter, Christian and Tobias. The name of her husband, Christian Friedrich Just, was not on the passenger list of the 'Pactolus'. I don't know why he didn't emigrate to America with his family. The relationships in this family are somewhat confusing, which is why I will only base myself on the facts that are available to me. According to a record in the church register of Dresden/Prussia, it is documented that Christian Friedrich Just, born on August 16, 1790 in Guscha, died in Dresden on February 20, 1852. How and when he got there, and whether his family first moved to the Empire before they dared to jump across the 'big pond', cannot be said with absolute certainty. Let's take a look at the family tree.



The family settled first in northeast Iowa in the Lansing on the Mississippi area and later in southeast Minnesota around Owatonna.



Andreas Just (was 27 years old when crossing)

- * 12.09.1819 in Guscha/Maienfled
- † 1850 in Galena/Illinois
- ⊗ 03.07.1842 in Maienfled/GR to Elisabeth Bernhard, born 28.01.1809 in Jenins/GR, died 09.07.1880 in Deerfield/Minnesota.

After the death of Andreas Just, Elisabeth Just married Conrad Engle from Baden-Baden (D)

Christian Just (Son of Andreas Just and Elisabeth Bernhard, was 3 years old when crossing)

- * 08.01.1843 in Guscha/Maienfled
- † 02.04.1925 in Owatonna/Minnesota (MN)
- ⊗ I. Marriage 21.11.1863 to Mary Jane Minder, born 24.12.1846 in Potter Township/PA, died 13.01.1880 in Deerfield/MN

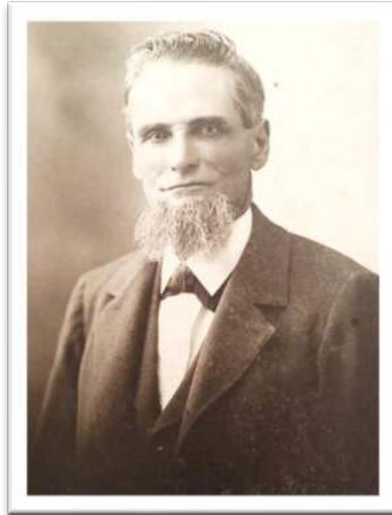
***Christian Just and Mary Jane Minder had 5 sons and 4 daughters together.
In America, her name Just is now spelled 'Yust', 'Yost', 'Youst' or 'Aust'.***



Georg Andrew Yust

born 17.07.1864 in Lansing/Iowa
died 03.02.1953 in Stewartville/MN

married to Marie Elisabeth Laux



Father Christian Just, born 1843

3 more Sons:

- Charles William Yust, 09.09.1867 in Lansing/Iowa - 20.01.1919 in Owatonna/MN,
married to Edith Rosebrock
- Hermann Theodore Yust, 20.08.1876 in Deerfield/MN - 01.09.1945 in Owatonna/MN,
married to Anna Schendel
- Harvey Albert Yust, 11.12.1879 in Deerfield/MN - 26.11.1956 in Farmington/MN,
I. Marriage to Mary Herda, II. Marriage to Mabel Morgan

4 Daughters:

- Sara Elizabeth Yust, 18.12.1865 in Lansing/Iowa - 21.05.1950 in Fort Steilacoom/WA,
married to Harry Paul Creager
- Caroline Marie Yust, 23.01.1869 in Lansing/Iowa - 29.10.1952 in Concord/MN,
married to Charles Edgar Erdmann
- Clara Minnie Yust, 09.08.1871 in Lansing/Iowa - 19.07.1951 in Modesto/CA,
married to John Henry Rosebrock
- Josephine Anna Yust, 22.02.1878 in Deerfield/MN - 09.01.1959 in Owatonna/MN, married to Rudolf Gese

On July 18, 1881, eighteen months after the death of his first wife, Christian Just (Yust) married Ernestine Putzke, who was born on July 11, 1852 in Neubrandenburg (D) and died on January 24, 1944 in Owatonna/MN. They had five more children together:



Emma Bertha Yust

30.06.1882 in Deerfield/MN –
04.06.1953 in Owatonna/MN

married to Henry Frederick Hunt



Ernestine Putzke-Yust



Anna Helena Yust

11.10.1884 in Deerfield/MN -
16.10.1972 in Columbus/KS

married to Martin Ferdinand Ellermann

Arthur Hildebert Yust

13.08.1889 in Deerfield/MN -
09.01.1975 in Faribault/MN

married to Mabel Helen Morgan



Ella Alwina Yust

11.12.1886 in Deerfield/MN -
27.08.1971 in Owatonna/MN

Edith Bertha Yust

03.10.1892 in Deerfield/MN -
02.04.1987 in Owatonna/MN

Peter Just (Son of Christian Friedrich Just and Anna Margreth Just, was 22 years old when crossing)

* 1824 in Guscha/Maienfeld

† 21.03.1867 in Lansing/Iowa

Ⓞ 23.08.1859 to Margaretha Anna Stocker, born 31.12.1844 in Wädenswil/ZH, died 20.08.1919 in Farmington Township/MN

2 Sons:

- Peter Yust Jr., born 10.10.1861 in Lansing/IA, died 23.10.1927 in Saint Charles/MN
Marriage 01.12.1887 to Emma Weyrmuller

- Christian Yust, born 26.07.1863 in Lansing/IA, died 11.08.1954 in Olmsted County/MN, Marriage 04.02.1892 to Cealia Burch

1 Daughter:

- Margareth Yust, born 31.03.1866 in Lansing/IA, died 04.07.1882 in Lansing/IA



Peter Yust Jr.

The second journey

Peter Just probably traveled back to Europe temporarily around 1858. According to a passenger list, he arrived in New York on July 18, 1859 on the Zurich ship, together with the Stocker family from Wädenswil. Their names were listed one below the other in the passenger list, so it can be assumed that they embarked together in Le Havre. They were:

- Peter Just, Barbara Stocker with their two sons Peter and Martin, and their daughter Margaretha Anna.

Apparently, the families knew each other from before and kept in touch. I assume that Peter Just, now a US citizen, helped the Stockers emigrate and therefore traveled back to Switzerland. A marriage certificate shows that Peter Just and Margaretha Anna Stocker got married a month after their arrival in Lansing, Peter Just's hometown. At that time Margaretha was only fifteen years old!

In 1860 Peter Just lived with his young wife Margaretha, her mother Barbara, and her brother Peter in a household in Lansing, Iowa, as shown in the population list for that year, shown below. Peter Just owned a farm that was valued at \$1,500, which was above average compared to other farms. A year later their son Peter Yust Jr. was born. Christian followed in 1863 and in 1866 their daughter Margareth, who was only sixteen years old. After the death of her husband Peter Just, Margaretha Anna married the German immigrant Heinrich Zeitler in 1868 and had nine more children before she died in Minnesota in 1919 at the age of seventy-five.

TABLE 1.—Free Inhabitants in *Lansing Township* in the County of *Iowa* enumerated by me, on the *5th* day of *June* 1860. *J. A. Rice Lansing*

No.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth Naming the State or Country.
		Age.	Sex.	Whites, Colored, or Mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	
1	John Wurst	39	m		Farmer	500	50	Switzerland
	Angelina "	31	f		Housekeeper			Prussia
	John P. "	41	m					Switzerland
2	John Crysten	39	m		Farmer	500	150	Switzerland
	Barnet Wurst	23	m			500	30	Baden
	Cardine "	17	f		Housekeeper			Ohio
3	Peter Just	32	m		Farmer	1500	200	Switzerland
	Margaret "	19	f		Housekeeper			
	Peter Stocker	23	m		Farm laborer			
	Barby "	50	f		Housekeeper			
4	Peter Wurst	33	m		Farmer	2000	200	Baden

Passenger list of the "Zurich" from July 18, 1859

SMITH & LACKWOOD, Custom House Brokers, 52 Pine Street.

District of New York—Port of New York.

I, David C. Decker Master of the Ship Zurich do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said Ship Zurich at Hoore from which port said Ship Zurich has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

Sworn to this 18 July 1859 Before me [Signature] So help me God. [Signature]

List of Manifest Of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the Ship Zurich whereof D. C. Decker is Master, from Hoore burthen 517 20/95 tons.

NAME	Age	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong	The country to which they intend to become inhabitants	Died on the voyage	Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage
51 Naly	Nobelin	16	m				
52	Morgan	32	f				
53	Cotho	33	f				
54 Frank	Cotho	33	f				
55 Lue	Wash	16	f				
56 Bachman	Cotho	31	f				
57 Tingen	Thomas	32	m	Switzerland	Switzerland		
58 Muesche	Pron	16	m				
59	Pouffe	12	m				
60 Paul	Peter	42	m	Netherlands	Netherlands		Second Cabin
61 Heber	Wash	49	f	Switzerland	Switzerland		1st Cabin
62	Peter	32	m				
63	Morgan	14	f				
64 Heber	Martin	13	m				
65 Jim	Sebastian	43	m				
66 Mulla	Horio	42	f				
67 Gage	Caroline	26	f				
68	Thief	10	m				
69 Sunday	Naibe	35	f				
70 Hinder	Carl	32	m	Prussia	Prussia		
71	Thief	39	m				
72 Wessel	Wash	38	f				
73 Thief	Louis	31	m				
74 Dinkel	Peter	37	m				

And what became of the others?

There is not much information about the fate of Andreas and Peter Just's two brothers, Christian and Tobias, or Andreas' second son, Johann-Peter. According to the 1856 population register of Center Township in Iowa, mother Anna Margareth Just lived with her sons Christian and Tobias Just on a farm near Lansing in Iowa, in the immediate vicinity of her grandson Christian Just, born 1843, his mother Elisabeth Bernhard and her second husband Conrad Engle (her first husband and son of Anna Margareth Just, Andreas Just, died 1850). The date of Margareth Just's death is not known, but must be after 1856. Her son Tobias Just died on January 23, 1872 in Fairbault/Minnesota at the age of thirty-four. His brother Christian, born in Maienfeld in 1837 (still registered on the passenger list of 1846) is not on this list. He died on September 16, 1856 in Allamakee County. There is also no information about the life of the second son of Andreas and Elisabeth Just-Bernhard, Johann-Peter Just, born in 1844, who was two years old when the ship was crossed.

Lansing/Iowa

After her arrival in the USA, Anna Margareth Just and her four children first lived in Center, a small town in central Iowa. In the 1860s they moved to Lansing, a settlement on the Mississippi River in Allamakee County, in far northeast Iowa. The 2020 census recorded a population of 968 people.

In 1848, William Garrison was the first white settler to come to what is now Lansing and acquired extensive property. In 1849 a coaching inn was established and operated by Garrison.

In 1851 John Haney, his son James Haney and H.H. Houghton bought the land and established a settlement. It was named after the city of Lansing in Michigan. In 1864 the town was granted town status and in 1867 it was elevated to city status. Due to its location on the Mississippi, Lansing became a trading center for the surrounding agriculture. Sawmills were set up, processing logs floated downstream all day. In 1899, J. M. Turner founded a factory for mother-of-pearl buttons, employing several hundred workers, mostly women.



Lansing around 1913

Owatonna/Minnesota

Margareth Just's grandson, Christian Yust (the name was now spelled with a Y), moved to Owatonna in southern Minnesota, not far (140 miles) from Lansing in the neighboring state of Iowa. He was married twice and left there an enormous descent.

Owatonna was first settled in 1853 and is now a city of 26,000 in Steele County, Minnesota. In 1886 the Minnesota State School for Dependent and Neglected Children was built. The school was a boarding school until 1945 for state orphans who were admitted and taught the value of drill, discipline and work. The children who died in the institution were buried in the cemetery behind the school.



The Just-Rufner family
Emigrated to the USA in 1846

On May 26, 1846, the Just-Rufner family arrived in New Orleans on the Pactolus (page 60). There are only hints about the lives of the two girls Katherine and Anna Margreta.

Katherine Just (Aust)



When Catharina Just (spelled Katherine Aust in the USA) was born on Guscha on April 12, 1827, her father Jakob was twenty-six and her mother Katharina Just-Rufner thirty-eight years old. She arrived in New Orleans with her parents and her siblings, Andreas, Peter and Anna Margreta. Her eldest brother Jacob died in Guscha on December 19, 1843. The family relocated to the state of Missouri and varied locations over the following decades, but they were never far apart:

- 1850 in District 42, Jefferson County
(Jefferson County is near St. Louis on the Mississippi)
- 1870 in Morau, Morgan County
- 1880 in Saline, Miller County
(Both places are adjacent west of St. Louis,
on the way to Kansas City)

The father Jakob Just must have died before 1850, since, contrary to his wife, he is not in the ste of Jefferson County appears. Published from 1870 also the name of the mother Katharina Just-Rufner nowhere else. There is no information about her life.



*Catharina Just's baptismal certificate
in the Maienfeld church book of 1827*

Hans Heinrich (John Henry) Heldstab arrived in America in 1846 on the same ship as the Just-Rufner family, the Pactolus.



Shortly after her arrival, Katherine married John Henry Heldstab on June 12, 1846 in St. Louis/Missouri. It can be assumed that the two met on the ship or already knew each other from Switzerland. Appropriate indications point to this in any case. Johann Henry Heldstab was born on July 18, 1819 in Klosters im Prättigau and died on January 16, 1900 in Miller County/MO. He was a confectioner by trade. Over the next 23 years they had at least twelve children.

Katherine Just-Heldstab died on November 27, 1918 in Mt. Pleasant, Miller County, Missouri at the advanced age of 91.

Anna Margreta Just

She was born on April 5, 1824 in Guscha and died on July 6, 1899 in Liestal in the canton of Baselland. But how come? She was standing with her parents and siblings at the port of New Orleans in Louisiana/USA in 1846!

On January 25, 1847, Anna Margreta married Martin Plattner, an immigrant from Basel who had been living in the USA since October 1834. They had six children in total, four of whom died in infancy.

In the early 1850s, however, Anna Margreta and her husband Martin returned to Europe, because their son Anton Plattner was born in Bern on May 25, 1855. Incidentally, he emigrated to the USA in 1879, just like his parents did. He died in Missouri on the first day of 1911. Together with his wife Mary Grewe he left a great line of descent and the Plattner name still exists in the USA today.

No traces of the two brothers of Katherine and Anna Margreta Just, Andreas and Peter, can be found in the USA. It is therefore quite possible that they too died young in their new homeland.

The children of Katherine Just (Aust) and John Henry Heldstab
Resident List June 28, 1870 Moreau Township, Morgan County, Missouri

— William	2	M W				Texas		
Heldstab John	53	M W	Farmer	1000	020	Switzerland	1	1
— Catherine	44	F W	Housewife			Switzerland	1	1
— Peter	21	M W	Farmer			Missouri	1	1
— Adolph	18	M W	Farmer			Missouri	1	1
— Rhinehart	14	M W	Farmer			Missouri	1	1
— Mary	10	F W	at home			Missouri	1	1
— Emma	9	F W				Missouri	1	1
— Henrietta	6	F W				Missouri	1	1
— Charles	4	M W				Missouri	1	1
— Lucy	12	F W				Missouri	1	1
W. J. Ireland James	58	M W	Farmer		900	Tennessee		
— Sally	58	F W	Housewife			Tennessee		

- **John Heldstab**, 1847 in St. Louis/Missouri (MO) - 1889 in Miller County/MO (didn't live with his parents anymore in 1870)
- **Peter Heldstab**, 29.12.1848 in St. Louis/MO - 13.09.1934 in Miller County/MO
- **Martha Heldstab**, 01.03.1850 in St. Louis/MO - 04.01.1938 in Mokane/MO (didn't live with her parents anymore in 1870), Marriage 1865 to Gustave Rauschelbach - 5 Children
- **Mary Heldstab**, Juli 1851 in St. Louis/MO - 1859 in Missouri (died at the age of 9)
- **Adolph Heldstab**, 1854 in St. Louis/MO - 27.04.1895 in Tuscumbia/MO, Marriage 22.08.1876 to Martha Uber, 19.08.1853 in Somerset/Pennsylvania - 01.10.1915 in Miller County/MO

The descendants of Adolph and Martha Heldstab:



- John Adolph Heldstab 1877-1953
- Estella Heldstab 1878-unknown
- Laura Heldstab 1880-unknown
- Ophelia Aurora Heldstab 1882-1953
- Margaret Leona Heldstab 1883-1978
- Anna Martha Heldstab 1885-1933
- Lucy Heldstab 1887-1946
- Belle Heldstab 1888-unknown
- Laura Ellen Heldstab 1891-1964
- Martha Anna Heldstab 1895-unknown

- **Rhinehart Heldstab**, 19.04.1856 in Missouri - 01.06.1935 in Tuscumbia/MO
- **Mary Heldstab**, 1860 in Missouri - 29.01.1949, Marriage 1895 to Charles Hollenbeck 1854 - unknown
- **Emma Heldstab**, 14.04.1861 in Missouri - 15.03.1946 in Ettersville/MO, married to William Gartin
- **Ginnettie Heldstab**, around 1864 in Missouri - 29.03.1938 in Ettersville/MO
- **Henrietta Heldstab**, 1864 in Missouri - 29.03.1938 in Ettersville/MO, married to Joel Carrender
- **Charles Heldstab**, 01.06.1866 in Missouri - 11.10.1912 in Eldon/MO
- **Lucy Heldstab**, 24.05.1870 in Barnett/MO - 31.08.1941 in Miller County/MO, married to Samuel Russell

The family of John Henry and Katherine Heldstab-Just (Aust) lived in the same area of Missouri at the same time as the notorious Jesse James (1847-1882, photo right) with up to mischief with his brother Frank and the Younger brothers. It is therefore quite possible that they knew him personally.



Father:
Andreas Just
 1773-1821

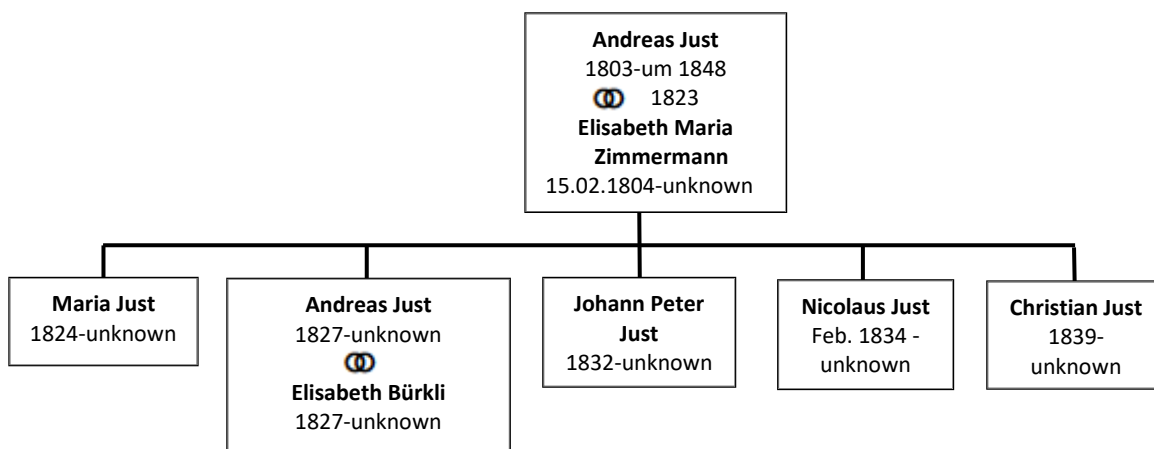
Andreas Just
 1803 - around 1848

Mother:
Agatha Just
 1776-1834

Emigrated to the USA in 1846

The wave of emigration from Guscha continued in the course of 1846. After the above-mentioned group of sixteen Justs set foot on American soil in the spring, another Just family set off again in the autumn of the same year - namely that of Andreas Just, who six years earlier had caused quite a stir not only in the canton of Graubünden!

Not much is documented about the lives of individual family members in the United States. The Just-Zimmermann family arrived in New Orleans on October 26, 1846 on the ship "Diana" and settled first in St. Louis/Missouri and later in neighboring Illinois.



Cassian	Beschler	28	f				
J.D.	Allivants	43	m				
Nsel	Woitic	33	m				
Andreas	Just	49	m	(Gussilans)			
Maria	"	48	f				
Andreas	"	80	m				
Maria	"	82	f				
Peter	"	8	m				
Niclaus	"	7	m				
Cristen	"	9	m				
Just	Elisabetto	20	m				
Christian	Ruffner	89	m				
Amalia	"	48	f				

Andreas Just's daughter-in-law, Elisabeth Bürkli from Meilen/ZH, was also there. She was the wife of his eldest son Andreas. The two had three children between 1858 and 1862.

The poachers

*This is the story that happened in 1840 in the border area between Graubünden, Liechtenstein and Austria, almost entailed a state affair and that went down in the history books.
At the forefront – Andreas Just, born in 1803!*

The information below was compiled by Hans Mutzner, municipal archivist from Maienfeld, from a lecture given by former Landammann Hans Bantli, born in 1921, and made available to me in a manner that I owe a debt of gratitude.

Fascinated and spurred on by telling the story of the last inhabitant of Guscha, Mathis Just, born 1898 (a grandson of Christian Just, who was involved in the story), Hans Bantli later researched in the report published by Prime Minister and local historian Dr. Alexander Frick in Schaan/FL, written "With soldiers against poachers", at the registry office in Jenins, in the Maienfeld district archive, the cantonal library and the state archive in Chur and in the state archive of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Vaduz. Based on the files found, Hans Bantli was able to reconstruct the incident almost completely.

It should also be mentioned that there was no hunting plan in the canton of Graubünden at the time and everyone was allowed to go stalking. However, this did not apply to neighboring countries!



It was October 2nd, 1840. Andreas Just from Guscha, Johannes Lampert from Jenins and on the other hand the brothers Christian and Florian Just (who emigrated to the USA in 1859, page 109) from Guscha originally wanted to hunt independently. Due to the unforeseen encounter, it was decided to go hunting together. Christian Just shot a stately gemsbok in the Guschner area, which he professionally disemboweled and hid under the red tips to take with him on the way home.



Since there was nothing more to hunt in the Guschner area, the four men decided to go across the nearby national border, because the most beautiful animals were on the other side of the border anyway, over in the princely district, where a hunter rarely came. In the course of the day they accidentally came across Jakob Rüedi and Thomas Bernhard from Maienfeld and Johann Liesch from Malans. Since the 'Herrschäftler' knew each other quite well, the group moved on together and were startled by a shot on Liechtenstein territory in the late afternoon. Despite careful observation, the Bündner Jäger could not locate the shooter. The fired shot, however, resulted in a herd of chamois coming towards them. As it turned out later, the unknown shooter was none other than the princely game warden Christoph Hartmann, who injured one of these chamois but did not kill him. That was completed by one of our Graubünden hunters.

They didn't listen to Hartmann's call, but followed the pack in the direction of Alp Gritsch. The game warden showed no desire to deal with so many robbers and watched the hunters as they approached the huts on Alp Gritsch towards evening. Because of the falling darkness he was quite sure that they would spend the night there.

Now the game warden Hartmann hurried down the valley using the shortest route and reported the incident to the governing bailiff Menzinger at the castle in Vaduz. Although it was approaching midnight, he had the contingent commander, Lieutenant Bloudek, awakened and gave the order for soldiers to march to Alp Gritsch immediately in order to arrest the poachers who had entered Liechtenstein territory. Since the officer lacked mountain experience, he handed over command to Corporal Xaver Sele, with the clear order:

'Do not attack, proceed cautiously and do not use violence' - if the poachers surrender voluntarily, they should only be treated as prisoners who must not be harmed. Should they, however, make use of their weapons, it is for the soldiers to answer violence with violence.'

Fourteen volunteers, all locals whose names are known, have signed up for the night's endeavour, and Corporal Sele has forty rifle cartridges for her carbines. The bayonets were left in quarters because of their heavy weight. Shortly after midnight the detachment, led by corporal and game warden Hartmann, set off.

Before they approached Alp Gritsch, Corporal Sele gave each soldier two cartridges to load the rifles with. Day was slowly coming and smoke was rising from the chimney of the alpine dairy, an unmistakable sign that the hunters had not yet marched off.



According to the agreement, game warden Hartmann crept over to the hut while the soldiers waited about twenty paces away for the agreed sign of their offspring. At that moment the hut door was opened from the inside and Florian Just stepped out to check the weather. At the sight of the unknown hunter (Hartmann) Florian is startled and wants to close the door again immediately, which the nimble game warden knew how to prevent and at the same time was able to cause the offspring of the soldiers with the agreed signal. Hartmann walked calmly into the hut, where the people from Graubünden were still sitting around the fire in the semi-darkness. These jumped up to get to their hunting sockets. Hartmann tried to prevent this and a brawl ensued, using the rifle butts as a bludgeon. One of the people from Graubünden managed to hit the game warden with a butt, which fired a shot and missed the soldier Johann Beck by a hair's breadth, but singed his whiskers. This set off a chain reaction and several soldiers fired their single-shot rifles into the darkness of the hut. Game warden Hartmann recognized the danger of this aimless shooting and shouted: "Don't shoot, by hand, by hand!" A few soldiers then pushed their way inside and a wild brawl ensued, with the people of Graubünden, who also had military training, proving to be equal opponents. However, it soon became apparent that the butts of the soldiers' carbines proved to be a better weapon than those of the hunting rifles. Our Bündner Jäger were pushed to the wall by the superiority, but they didn't want to give up for a long time. It was only when another shot was fired in the hut and Johannes Lampert from Jenins collapsed dying with a cry that peace returned and the poachers finally surrendered. They now had to give up their weapons and the injured washed their wounds at the alpine well. The unconscious were brought to their senses with cold mountain water.

Only with Johannes Lampert was this no longer of any use! Johannes Lampert was dead and was poorly covered up. The other men now stood quietly facing each other. Embittered by the death of their comrade, they mutually accused each other of having shot unnecessarily. The corpse was first left on Alp Gritsch before being taken to the house of the treasurer Josef Bargetze in Triesen the next day.

With the prisoners in the middle, the convoy moved down the valley and in the early afternoon of October 3, the somewhat strange train arrived at Vaduz Castle. With the exception of Andreas Just, all hunters had been injured by grazing shots or blows from the butt and had to be treated medically. Then the interrogation began, which was conducted personally by Landvogt Menzinger - in the presence of the district judges Johannes Wachter, Michael Seger and Andreas Rheingerber, as well as the clerk Miliczek and assessor Dünser, who wrote the extremely precise and detailed minutes. Likewise, game warden Christoph Hartmann and Corporal Xaver Sele were strictly interrogated under oath.



Vaduz Castle around 1850

The number of shots fired by the soldiers at the hunters was not exactly clarified. They almost unanimously declared that they had not known that the hunter, who was unknown to them, was the royal game warden. If they had only suspected that, it would not have come to this and they would of course have given him the wounded chamois. After the interrogations, all Graubünden hunters were imprisoned in Vaduz. The corpse of the unfortunate Johannes Lampert was examined by two doctors in Triesen and an autopsy report was drawn up. He gave the cause of death as 'a bullet that ricocheted off and was flattened tore open the hunter's stomach and destroyed vital organs'. After the autopsy, the body was released and taken to Jenins.



The aftermath

The authorities, from the community to the high court and the cantonal government, immediately dealt with the case. As early as October 5th, the small council of Graubünden (today Graubünden government) wrote to the sovereign in Vienna, describing the whole incident and asking him for mercy for those involved. His Serene Highness Alois II is requested to refrain from imprisonment and instead to impose a fine. Practically at the same time, the magistrate from the High Court of Maienfeld issued a surety bond for the attention of the bailiff in Vaduz, which was followed a few days later by the prisoner's bond.

On October 8th, the bailiff described the incident in a 16-page note to the Graubünden government and stated that the main offense was "resistance to the military". At the same time, he requests that the detainees' certificates of good character and their criminal records be delivered. To everyone's surprise, on October 9th, 1840, Landvogt Menzinger released the six Bündner hunters!

In a 32-page report on what happened the day after, the governor of Vaduz informed the sovereign in Vienna, in which he also justified his reasons for dismissal, among other things.

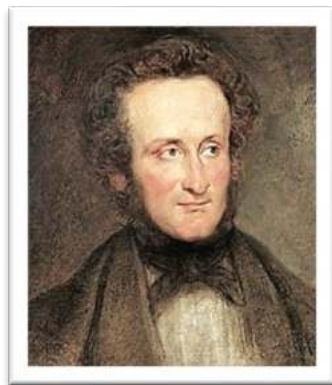
On November 1, 1840, Prince Alois II wrote to the Graubünden government that the proceedings finally came to a successful end and that only the costs incurred due to the hunters' rebelliousness had to be paid on time.

Landvogt Menzinger received a hefty reprimand from his Prince Alois II for dismissing the Bündner hunters without his consent. She concluded by saying:

"The servant should never anticipate his master in acts of thought."

Game warden Christoph Hartmann, on the other hand, was commended. As recognition he received the double barrel of one poacher and the powder keg of another.

To this day it was probably the only time that the Liechtenstein military contingent used force of arms in its own country.



Alois II, Prince of Liechtenstein (1796-1858)

The Just-Flütsch family

Emigrated to the USA in 1847

On the passenger list of the "Charlemagne", which left Antwerp in Belgium and arrived in New Orleans on May 15, 1847, the following names are found, among others;

- Mathias Just, age 52 (born according to the emigrant list in 1793)
- Elsbeth Just, 50 (b. 1797)
- Barbara Just, 20 (b. 1826)
- Florian Just, 16 (b. 1830)
- Christian Flutsch, 23
- Hans Just, 22 (b. 1825)
- Hans Just, 6 months

Other family names from Maienfeld (Bosch) are immediately below. Apparently, several families from the town in the Bündner rule left together. The exact family relationships and degrees of kinship can no longer be determined from this. The creation of a passenger list in the middle of the 19th century has to be imagined as follows;

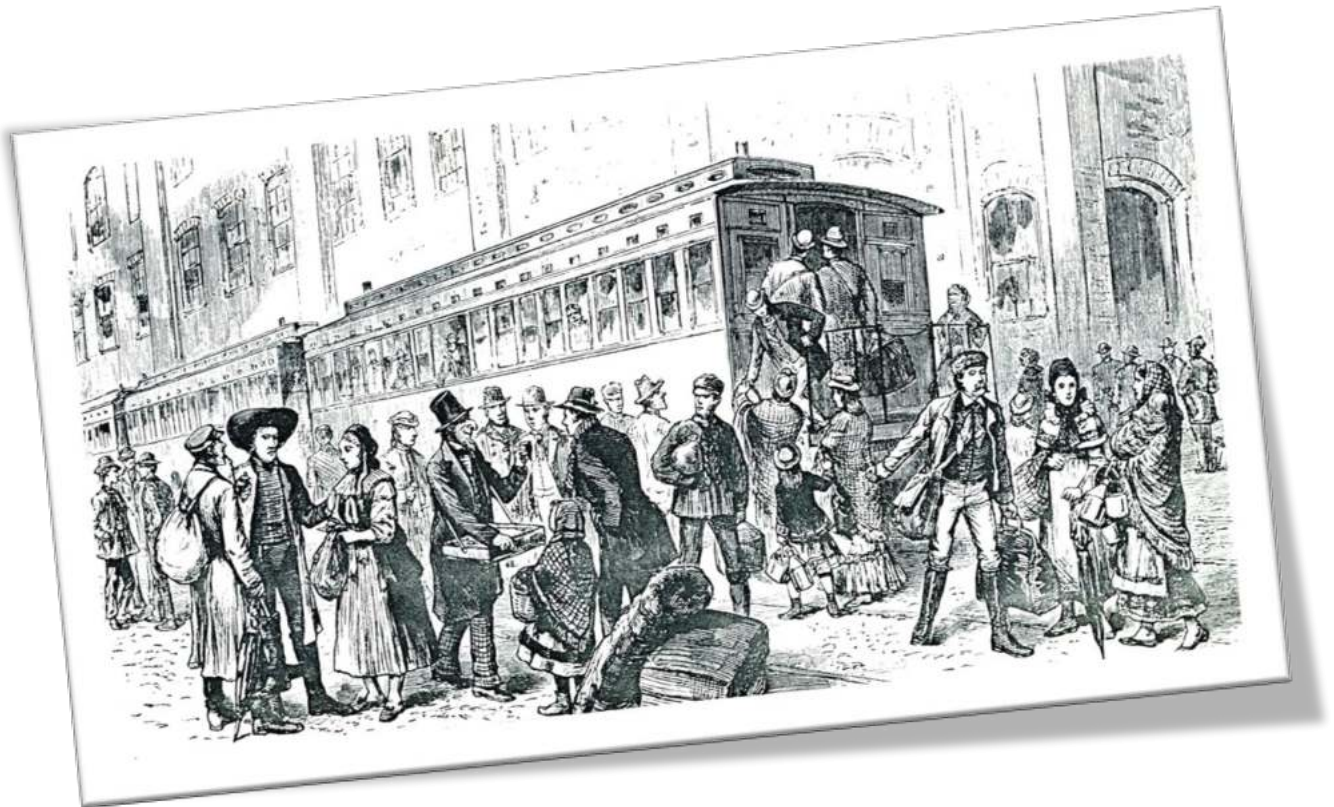
After a long, arduous journey, the passengers who want to emigrate stand in a column in front of a table behind which a ship or dock worker is sitting and asking people from all over Europe about their names and ages. Since the employee usually only speaks the local language, he writes down the names as he understands them and how they are written in his own language. Peter often becomes Pierre, Andreas André, Johannes John, Valentin Daletin, etc. The same with the surnames; Just becomes Jost or Juse, Flütsch becomes Flutsch, Bösch becomes Bosch etc. Some of the wives were registered with their single names. No dates of birth were recorded, only the stated age and country of origin, the number of pieces of luggage and occasionally the name of a person who was on the ship was missing. To make matters worse, the passenger lists were written by hand at the time and legibility left a lot to be desired. I spent days studying the passenger lists in order to be able to assign the names to the individual families, but I was not always able to do this satisfactorily. But that too is part of genealogy - certain things remain hidden in the darkness of the past times.

This also includes the whereabouts of the Just-Flütsch family in the USA. I was only able to find indications that the family settled in the state of Wisconsin, where emigrants from the Flütsch family from Schiers im Prättigau also lived, such as Valentin, his brother Kaspar and his sister Zeda Flütsch, who was married to Andreas Just from Guscha (born 1816). Valentin and Kaspar came to the town of Hurricane in Grant County, Wisconsin in the mid-1860s. Zeda and Andreas Just, who are proven to have emigrated before 1850, could probably have arrived on the "Pactolus" in 1846.

Elisabeth	J	f	52	5	"	"	Seven chests
Friedrich	Bosch	M	37			"	
Friedrich	Baker	M	32			"	
Christiana	J	f	26			"	
Wilhelm	J	M	5	4	"	"	Four chests
Edward	J	M	14			"	
Mathias	Just	M	52			"	
Elisabeth	Flutsch	f	50			"	
Barbara	Just	f	20	4	"	"	Two chests
Florian	J	f	16			"	
Andreas	Bosch	M	29			"	
Christian	Flutsch	f	23			"	
Jacob	Bosch	M	16			"	
Wase	J	M	52			"	
Jacob	J	M	19			"	
Katharina	J	f	17			"	
Margaretha	J	f	14	9	"	"	Four chests
Maria	J	f	9			"	
Ursula	J	f	7			"	
Hans	Just	M	22			"	
Maria	Beanger	f	26	3	"	"	Two chests
Hans	Just	M	12			"	One chest

V. Chapter

The years after 1850



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V. Chapter

The years after 1850

Even after the great wave of emigration in 1846, there were always families from Guscha who packed their bags. Their traces are often lost shortly after they left their home village. It can therefore be assumed that the families either emigrated to Italy or further afield to Australia. At the time, both countries were the most popular destinations for Graubünden emigrants alongside the USA. The last name on the 1850 emigrant list was that of a little girl named Cathrina (Christina) Luchsinger. Her fate overseas was accompanied by a life without love and came to a tragic end.

Father:
Unknown

Christina Luchsinger
1839 - 1889

Mother:
Ursula Just
1813-1897

Emigrated to the USA in 1851

Extremely complicated family relationships

Christina Luchsinger was probably born on February 9th, 1839 as an illegitimate child under the name Cathrina Just. Depending on the source, her first name and the year of her birth varies between 1839 and 1842. The name Luchsinger is often also spelled 'Luzinger' or 'Lutzinger'. Her age was given as 9 on the 1851 passenger list. Her father's name is not known, but according to entries in a family diary from the USA, it could be Andreas Just. Her mother's name was Ursula Just, born April 22, 1813 in Guscha, daughter of Anna Cammerer and Christian Just, who according to a story was dragged to death by a bull on Guscha. On May 4th, 1843, Ursula Just married Nicholas Luchsinger from Schwanden from Glarus, whose first wife had died a year earlier. Nicholas adopted little Christina and over the next few years three half brothers were added:

- Jacob, 1844-1941
- Andreas, 1846-1942
- Nicholas, 1848-1851

The whole family actually wanted to emigrate to America in 1848. But since Nikolas junior was born that year and the mother Ursula had to take care of the baby, the father traveled ahead alone in 1848. However, on May 6th, 1851, the last offspring died in Switzerland at the age of only three years. Now Ursula decided to follow her husband along with their children Christina, Jakob and Andreas. In July 1851 they boarded the ship "Gallia" in Le Havre for the crossing to New York, where they arrived on September 4th of the same year. Also present were Ursula's 79-year-old mother-in-law (Salome), her two brothers-in-law Fritz and Johannes Luchsinger, as well as her sister-in-law Ursula, nephew Andreas and niece Christine Luchsinger. All in all, the Luchsinger "travel group" consisted of ten people.



Christina Luchsinger
09.02.1841-22.10.1889
(Foto around 1865)



Ursula Luchsinger - Just
22.04.1813-19.03.1897
(Foto around 1865)

Ursula met her husband Nicholas in New York and the Luchsinger family first settled in the city, where they lived for five years and from there moved on to a small town called DePue in Bureau County, Illinois in 1857, hundert miles southwest of Chicago, where they spent the rest of their lives. In the Bureau County censuses of 1870 and 1880, Nicholas listed his occupation as blacksmith.

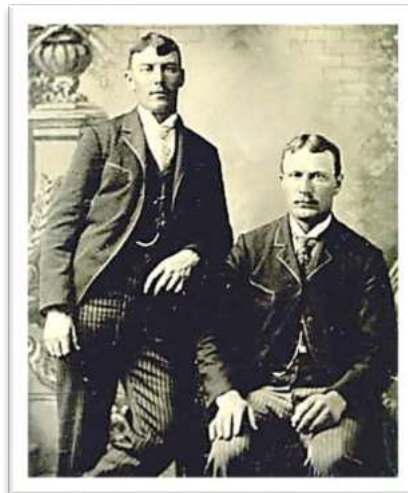
Only her son Andreas Luchsinger moved on to California after 1910, where he died in 1942 in the Nappa Valley.



Nicholas Luchsinger
15.01.1815-22.12.1906
(Foto around 1865)

Christina Luchsinger's half brothers (Foto around 1865)

Andreas Luchsinger
(1846-1942)



Jakob Luchsinger
(1844-1941)

Ursula Luchsinger's obituary in the Ottawa Free Trader newspaper in 1897

Died, at her home in DePue, March 19, Mrs. Ursula Lusinger. Mrs. Lusinger, whose maiden name was Ursula Just, was born in Mienfeld, Switzerland, April 22, 1813. She was married to Nicholas Lusinger in 1843 and emigrated to the United States with her husband, in 1851. They resided in New York six years, moving to Illinois in 1857. She joined the German Methodist church at Peru in 1858 and later, in 1890, joined the Congregational church at DePue. She was a consistent Christian mother for 39 years. Four children, three sons and a daughter, blessed her union with Mr. Lusinger. Two of the sons and the aged husband survive her. The services were conducted by Rev. Wilson, of Spring Valley, who in a very impressive sermon poured the balm of hope on the stricken hearts and reconciled them to their loss.

The loveless life of Christina Luchsinger

In September 1859, at the age of eighteen, Christina Luchsinger married William (Wilhelm) Horn (1833-1916), who had immigrated to the USA with his parents from Germany in 1848. Their first child (Charles Edward Horn) was born on December 11, 1860 in DePue, Illinois. It is not known where his father William Horn was at that time, certainly not with his wife Christina in Illinois. There is evidence that he was in the gold fields in California around 1860 trying to get a claim so that he could buy a farm with arable land from the hoped-for gold find. Apparently he had found some, which would explain his later wealth.



William Horn
15.03.1833-16.06.1916
(in Union Army uniform around 1863)

In 1862, during the Civil War, William Horn joined the Union (Northern States) Volunteer Forces of the 104th Illinois Infantry. He fought for three years, including at the Battle of Atlanta, until his capture in 1865. He was then taken to Virginia, where he was exchanged for Confederate soldiers. With earnings from his army service (pay was about \$10 a month), he bought a farm in the community of Grand-Rapids, LaSalle County. Christina Luchsinger-Horn gave birth to eight more children there, the last (Otto) in August 1882. She was already forty at the time and suffered from depression and psychological problems. No wonder, because over the past few years her husband William has often locked her in the shed and abused her for days, so Christina considered a divorce, which was classified as "madness" in the USA at the time.

However, a judge dismissed the divorce petition as barred, despite acknowledging that Christina had been 'treated cruelly'. William had his wife declared insane and taken her to Kankakee Hospital in La Salle County for treatment of the insane. Christina was later classified as 'untreatable' and committed to the Utica, Illinois District Institution for the Insane before being sent back home to her abusive husband's farm, where she lived in difficult living conditions.

Suicide or Accident?

Christina Luchsinger-Horn died on October 22, 1889 at the age of 48 in La Salle/Illinois. A few days earlier, she was hit by a freight train in the Peru/Illinois marshalling yard. Unconscious, she was taken to St. Mary's Hospital with various broken bones, where her leg had to be amputated. According to the newspapers, her death was described as a suicide. But it shouldn't have been that easy! Her injuries indicated that she had attempted to pull herself onto a moving freight train and slipped and fell under the wheels due to the long dress she was wearing and the wet and cold conditions of that night.

Christina was probably on her way to visit her family in La Salle, where she hoped for protection from her husband, but was turned away. The family confirmed this information to the Ottawa newspaper. Since Christina was unconscious for a long time after the accident, it took a few days to find out who she was. She died as a result of her injuries and was buried in a cemetery in La Salle.

Her husband William Horn, who owned a farm and 240 morgan land (about 60 ha), was not present at the funeral. But not even after her death did Christina rest. She was later reburied in Grand Rapids, where her tombstone is now on the Luchsinger family plot.



In the October 1889 Ottawa Free Trader newspaper I found the following article about the death of Christina Luchsinger-Horn.

An inmate of Kankakee and the Workhouse - abused by her husband!



The woman who was hit by a shunter in La Salle on Friday night, an accident first brought to public attention by the FREE TRADER columns, is Mrs. Horn of Grand Ridge.

Ten days ago, Mrs. Bridget Gaynor escaped from the county penitentiary. On Saturday Major Gibson learned that a woman had been injured at La Salle and was asked to investigate on the assumption that the injured person could be said Mrs Gaynor. He called the head of the asylum and it turned out that it couldn't be Mrs. Gaynor because, although crazy, she was of a very cautious nature.

Superintendent Breuning came yesterday morning and informed the Major that the injured woman was of German descent and had been in the Kankakee Asylum for a number of years. Major Gibson drove at once to La Salle, to St. Mary's Hospital, and found Mrs. Horn on a bunk. A leg was amputated and an arm was broken. The doctor informed him that she had apparently gone down to the marshalling yard with the intention of committing suicide by throwing herself in front of a passing freight train. A few years ago, Mrs. Horn was declared insane and sent to Kankakee for treatment, but since she didn't seem to be doing better, she was declared incurable.

William Horn, her husband, a wealthy Grand Ridge farmer, owns a magnificent farm of 240 Morgan land and as a wealthy man he had to reside and pay for his wife's meals in the institution himself.

Mr. Horn paid for a while, but about 15 months ago he announced he was sick of paying a hundred dollars a year and took his demented wife home.

Nobody knows what happened in this house between the time they were taken and the time they fled ten days ago. Mrs. Horn then went to Ottawa, Illinois, to see County Agent Gibson, who immediately recognized her as her former protégé. She sought advice regarding a divorce and was referred to District Attorney Blake, to whom she told her story of common cruelty which, if based on fact, has few parallels in the history of the courts of this country. Regarding her death, when asked by a FREE TRADER reporter, Blake said:

"She came to my office about ten days ago and said she wanted to divorce her husband, who was making her life a burden. After talking to her for a while, I knew that inside she was disturbed and a bit irrational. She told me that she had a sister who lived in the city of Peru, Illinois and other facts about her relatives. She told me that her husband and sons whipped and beat her, that they never gave her more than half her food and gave her no money, and that she was forced to do all sorts of drudgery. To give Mrs. Horn time and opportunity to recover from her mental confusion, I told her that I would not be able to investigate her case for the next ten days. She told me that she was waiting and in a boarding house.

She told me she would wait and stay in a guesthouse, but I advised her to go to Peru to her sister until I could check."

After that performance, Mrs. Horn, the wife of a wealthy man who owned a magnificent farm and \$20,000 worth of real estate, became a wanderer in the countryside of beautiful La Salle County.

Henry Gunn of Tonica, who was in the county agent's office last night, testified that at the time Mrs Horn was declared insane her relatives referred to her as 'poor'.

"What kind of man is this horn?" "Well, you can perhaps imagine what kind of man it must be to declare his wife poor when she owns land near Grand Ridge, and what kind of man he is that refuses to pay his wife's board in the institution. I know him, but that's all I have to say."

Mr. Horn did not attend his wife's funeral. William Horn didn't even send a wreath of flowers to place on her grave.

Major Gibson was asked who would pay for Christina Horn's funeral expenses.

«Horn will! I've instructed the coroner to give her a proper burial and bill Horn for it. It will be ensured that Horn pays!"



Escape to Germany

After the publication of this article, William Horn preferred to flee the United States and travel to Germany. He soon returned to the USA with Wilhelmine Waldhauer and married her in New York in 1890. He later brought his wife to Ottawa, Illinois and fathered four more children.

It is not known whether William Horn paid for his first wife's funeral expenses - it is unlikely. Their descendants still live under the name Horn in the USA.



The nine children of Christina Luchsinger and William Horn



Charles Edward Horn, born Dec. 11, 1860 in Bureau County, Illinois, died Jan. 12, 1902 in Meadow Grove/ Nebraska, with his wife Ernestine 'Tina' Volk (1876-1934) and the children Eva (1897-1984) and Edward (1898-1985)



William Horn Jr., born March 18, 1862 in La Salle County/Illinois, died November 28, 1920 in Newman Grove/Nebraska, with his wife Margareth Catherine Bahnsen (1875-1959).



Albert Gustav Horn, born August 10, 1866 in La Salle County/Illinois, died November 30, 1948 in Tilden/Nebraska, with his wife Tillie Marie Kinkle (1880-1930)
- five children



Martha Lydia Horn, born on August 24, 1870 in La Salle County/Illinois, died on January 18, 1940 in Battle Creek/Nebraska, with her husband Frederick Georg Volk (1869-1925)
- two sons



Rose M. Horn, born April 6, 1872 in La Salle County, Illinois, died May 2, 1964 in Pontiac, Illinois, with her husband William W. Morrison (1865-1947)
- three children



Julia A. Horn, born October 27, 1874 in La Salle County/Illinois, died June 9, 1961 in La Salle County/Illinois, married with William Henry Bedei (1870-1961)
- three children



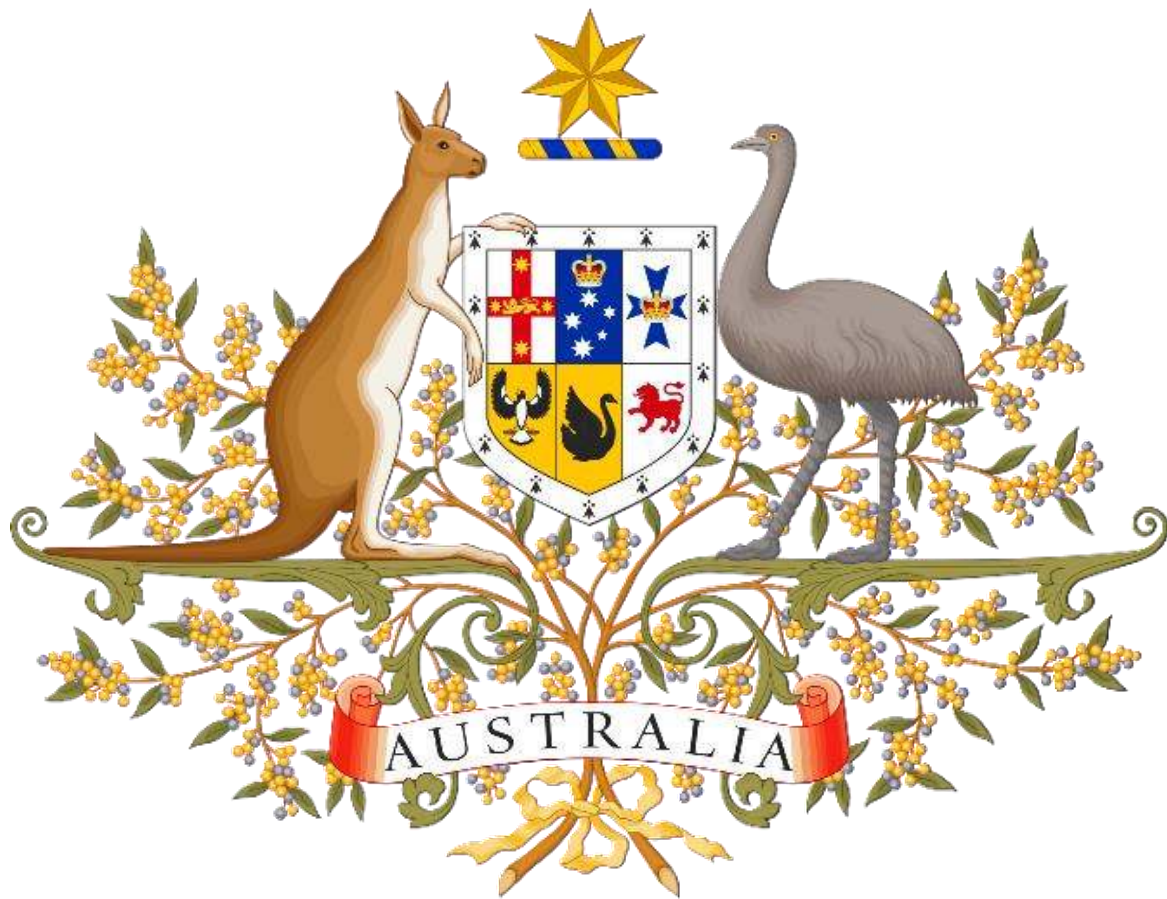
Gustav Adolph Horn, born on Aug. 23, 1876 in La Salle County/Illinois, died on Dec. 17, 1921 in Rockford/Ohio, married with Mary Ann Rensch (1884-1985)
- two daughters



Otto Emil 'Jack' Horn, born on Aug. 24, 1882 in La Salle County/Illinois, died on May 8, 1921 in Platte County/Nebraska, married with Winnifred Isabelle Cox (1890-1983)
- two children



Hermann Horn, born November 22, 1879 in La Salle County/Illinois, died July 8, 1967 in Ottawa/Illinois, married with Agnes Elizabeth Baird (1884-1969)
- three children



The Victorian Gold Rush in Australia lasted from 1851 to the late 1860s and brought about a period of extreme prosperity for the country and a huge influx of immigrants from around the world. A Guschner named Jacob Just set out in 1855 to get a piece of the cake for himself. He moved to Steiglitz, west of Melbourne, where gold had been found three years earlier on the land of Irish immigrant Robert William Stieglitz (his father was from Dresden). He called the settlement “Steiglitz”, based on his family name. Today Steiglitz is a ghost town, but 170 years ago the town was booming - if only for a short time!

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- Jürg Mutzner-Gloor, Stammbäume
- www.ancestry.com
- Donald (Don) Just, Melbourne/Australien, Jacob Just's great-great-grandson
www.justd.com/just/

Father:
**Christian
Just**
1784-1850

Jacob Just
1818 - 1898

Mother:
**Anna
Cammerer**
1792-1838

Emigrated to Australia in 1855



Jacob Just

Jacob Just was born in Guscha in 1818 and was a brother of Ursula Just (page 79). His profession was a carpenter and carpenter, and when Jacob was working on a church construction in St. Imier/BE in 1850, he met his wife Rosina Albertina Jung. From then on, Jacob Just lived in the Bernese Jura until he left Switzerland five years later. He died on July 1st, 1898 and the newspaper 'Geelong Advertiser' paid tribute to him as a well known person in the whole district, especially among Swiss compatriots.

Jacob Just
1818-01.07.1898
⊕ 1850
Rosina Jung
15.04.1831-18.02.1909



Rosina Albertina Jung

She was born on April 15, 1831 as the daughter of David Ludwig Jung from Offenbach/D and Euphrosine Susann Mesey from Murten in St. Imier/BE. In 1850 Rosina Jung married Jacob Just from Guscha in Corgément near St. Imier and a year later her eldest son Emile Ulysse was born. Rosina brought a pair of jeweller's glasses with her from Switzerland and occasionally worked in watch repairs; In 1861 an Australian newspaper reported on her as a watchmaker in Steiglitz.

Emile Ulysse Just
1851-12.10.1937



Emile Ulysse Just

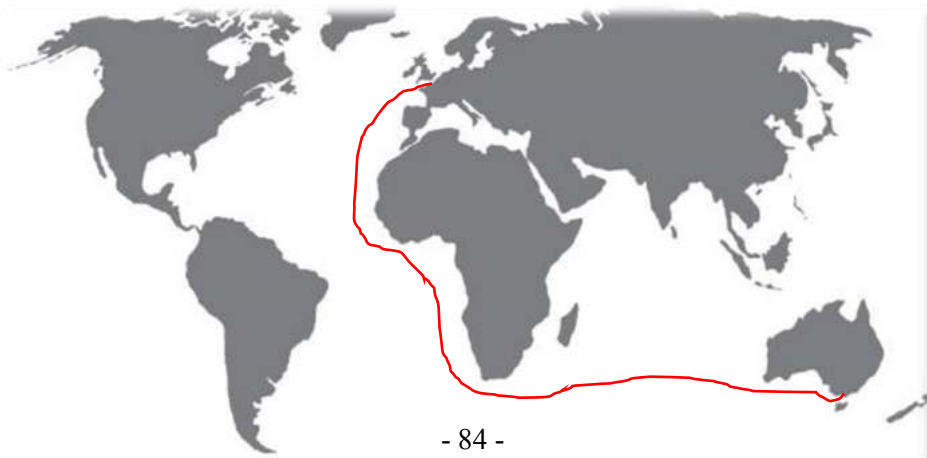
He was born in St. Imier/BE in 1851. Emile traveled to Australia with his parents as a four-year-old and only child at the time. In 1878 he married Annie Maria Adams, who was born in Victoria/AUS in 1849. A year later they moved to New Zealand, more specifically to Stafford on the South Island and later to the area around Christchurch on the Pacific coast, with their daughter Maude Amelia Miriam Just, who had just been born in Australia. By 1888 the family had grown to six children. Emile Just died on October 12, 1937 at the age of 86 in his hometown of Christchurch, leaving behind a great legacy. To this day, his descendants live on the other side of the world. Do they know anything about Guscha? (Page 91)

Arrival Down Under

«The French ship 'Gertrude' passed through the bay last night. She was traveling many miles at dusk and is said to have come from 'Dieppe'."

This was the headline on May 21, 1855 on page 4 of the Argus Melbourne newspaper.

Jacob Just, Rosina Just-Jung and their son Emile were on this ship. Jacob Just was the first Guschner who emigrated to Australia with his family and, to my knowledge, he was also the only one who left Guscha for the other end of the world, Down Under.



The long and dangerous sea route to Australia

Since the Suez Canal was only completed in 1869, only the route remained through until then the stormy and dangerous waters of the 'Cape of Good Hope' off the southern tip of Africa to cross from Europe to Australia. The journey took what felt like an eternity with the sailing ships in the middle of the 19th century. As a rule, the 10,000 nautical miles (19,000 km) required between three and four months - but it could also be five!



During this time you did not see a piece of land and like the emigrants to America, the emigrants (sometimes also convicts from England) to Australia also suffered from lack of space, seasickness, malnutrition, cold, diseases, vermin and death became a constant companion on the journey. In addition, at the end of the voyage you had to sail through the Bass Strait, which separates Tasmania from mainland Australia and was considered one of the most difficult waterways in the world to navigate. It is not uncommon for the dreaded cross-seas to arise there; unpredictable wave crests, caused by stormy westerly winds and strong counter-currents at a relatively low average water depth of only fifty to seventy meters. The fact that the rugged cliffs of King Island lie in the middle of the western entrance to Bass Strait didn't make the passage any less dangerous. Nowadays, navigating through this strait is relatively easy. In the days of sailing ships, which used the simplest navigational instruments, things looked very different! The nerve-wracking affair of sailing into Bass Strait from the west has been described as 'riding through the eye of the needle'.

Captain James Forbes discovered a faster route in 1852, in which instead of sailing along the 39th parallel, he followed what appeared to be the shortest route through the southern Indian Ocean to Australia, further south towards Antarctica the great circle route. His ship, the 'Marco Polo', with seven hundred emigrants on board, encountered icebergs and had to contend with giant waves en route, but entered Melbourne harbor after only 68 days. That was practically half the usual travel time from England, and the record trip came at exactly the right time, because the gold rush was heading towards its peak around Melbourne in Victoria, attracting thousands more adventurers and gold diggers to follow Australia.

Today, thousands of ships sail safely through the Bass Strait every year, passing over a hundred wrecks of known locations. Some of these cliffs and reefs, which were fatal to the ships, are now tourist attractions. They are reminiscent of the people who courageously set out on a journey halfway around the world in the 19th century and courageously dared to 'ride through the eye of the needle' on the last leg - all of this in search of a better life!

The Pension Suisse on James Street

Jacob Just moved with his wife Rosina and son Emile to Steiglitz, a newly established gold mining town eighty kilometers west of Melbourne in the hills of the Brisbane Ranges. Jacob was a carpenter there and was looking for the yellow precious metal in the gold fields. In 1874 the family moved to Geelong, 30 miles south on the coast. There he ran the 'Pension Suisse' with his wife. Apparently, this was to the satisfaction of their customers, as the thank-you letter from a newspaper proves.

Jacob Just died on July 1, 1898, his wife Rosina on February 18, 1909. Her tombstone is in Geelong Eastern Cemetery, along with their daughter Albertina Bertha, who died in 1883 at the age of 24.



Created by Jacob and Rosina Albertina Just in memory of their eldest beloved daughter Albertina Bertha who died 15th April 1883 aged 24 years and 8 months. So he giveth his beloved sleep. Jacob Just who died 1st July 1898 in the 81st year of his age. Rosina Albertina his beloved wife who died 18th Feby. 1909 in the 78th year of her age

LETTER OF THANKS.—I, the undersigned, beg to state that I am very much pleased with the manner in which the visitors, belonging to the following brigades and band, conducted themselves while staying in my house:—Beechworth No. 1 Fire Brigade, Rutherglen Fire Brigade, City Brass Band (Albury).
J. JUST,
Pension Suisse, James street.

**Of Jacob and Rosina Just-Jung's seven children, only
Emile Just was born in Switzerland in 1851.
He emigrated from Australia to New Zealand in 1879!**

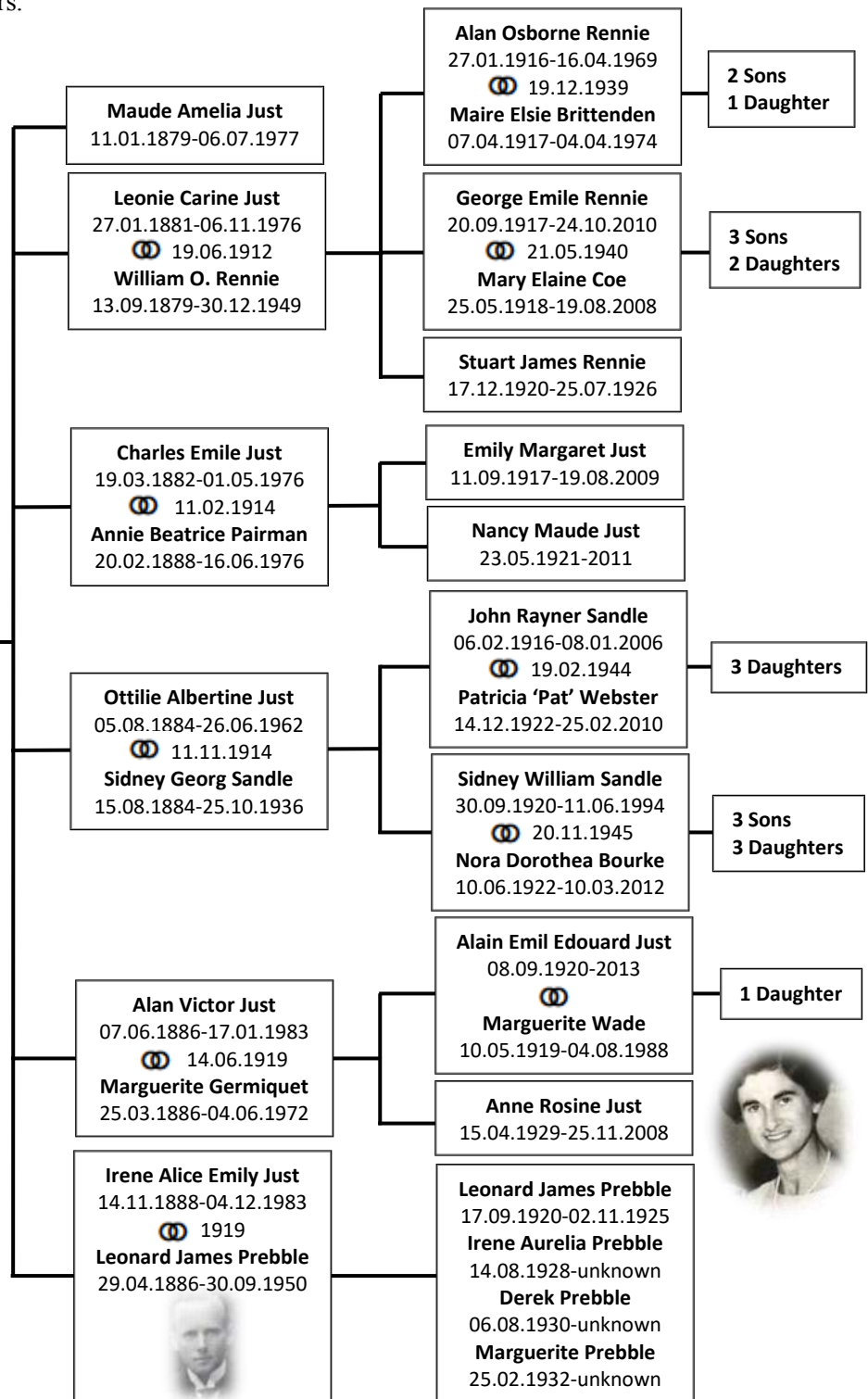
Emile Just began teaching in mid-1866 as a student teacher at the school in Steiglitz. A year and a half later he transferred to the New Chum School and was later appointed Headmaster of the Common School at Beremboke, which he opened on September 5, 1870, at the age of 19. Emile received his certificate of competence on June 21, 1876.

In 1879 Emile and his family moved to Stafford, New Zealand, a short-lived gold mining town on the west coast of the South Island near Greymouth, where Emile taught for two years.

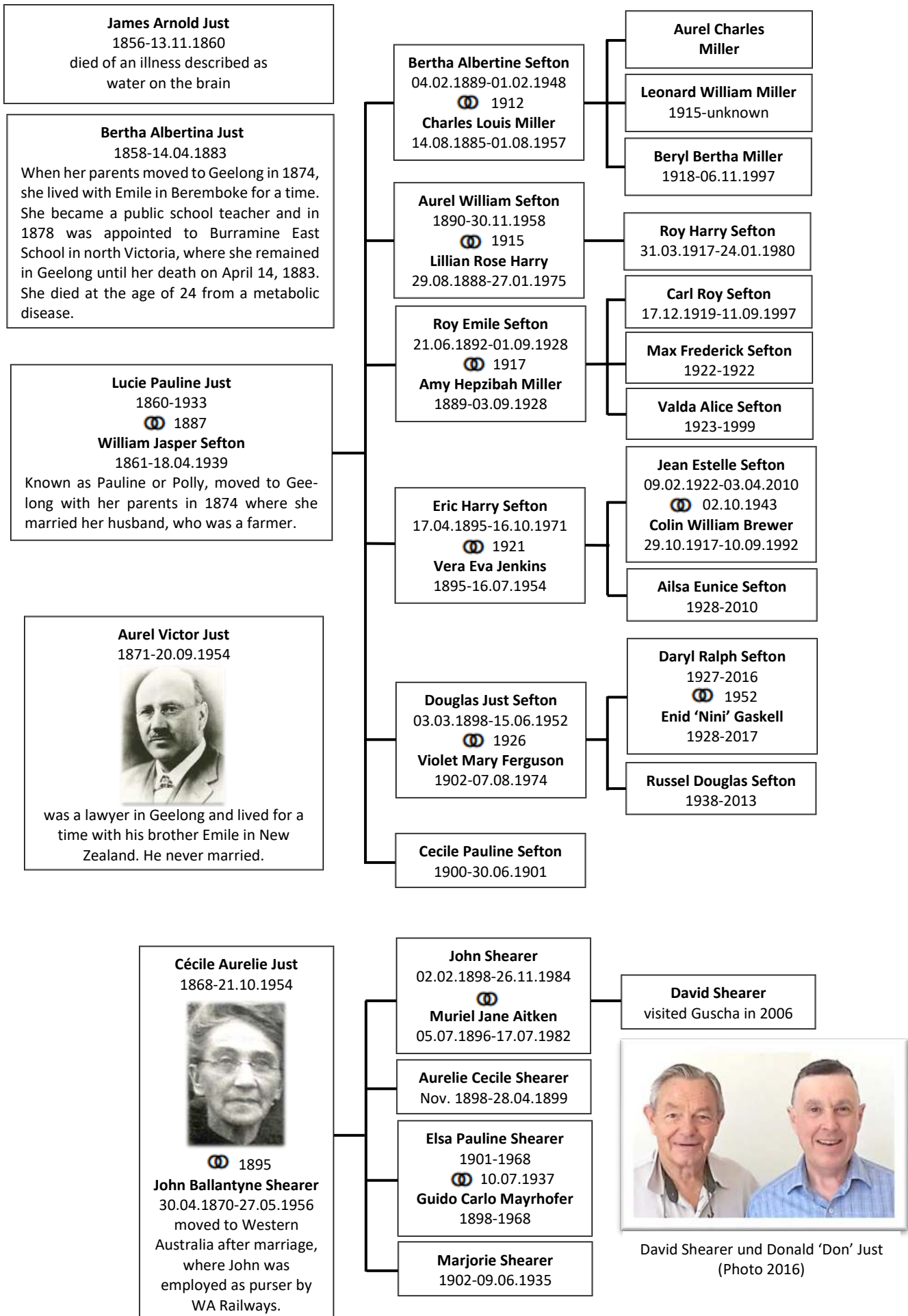
They then moved to Sydenham near Christchurch on the Pacific coast. Emile worked there at East Christchurch School until 1890, before the family moved to nearby Lyttelton, where Emile was appointed Headmaster at Lyttelton Borough School. He loved music, was a musician himself and from 1903 conductor of the Lyttelton Orchestral Society

Emile Ulysse Just
1851-12.10.1937
Ⓞ 1878
Annie Maria Adams
20.08.1849-07.12.1947

The detailed history of Emile Just's family can be read in a chronicle of his granddaughters, Anne Rosine and Nancy Maude Just, starting on page 91.



**In Steiglitz, Australia, Rosina Just-Jung gave birth to six more children between 1856 and 1871;
James Arnold, Albertina Bertha, Lucie Pauline, Herrmann Charles, Cecile Aurelie and Aurel Victor**



Herrmann Just became a civil servant in Victoria at Sunbury in late 1883, where he was a clerk in the insane asylum until 1903. He was then Secretary of the Ballarat Asylum until 1908 and Chief Administrator of the Kew Asylum until his retirement in 1928.

Herrmann Charles Just
1866-08.07.1953



1886

Anne Elizabeth Saunders
1859-26.07.1946



His wife, Anne Elizabeth Saunders, was a state school teacher from 1878 to 1888. The family resided primarily on or near the premises of the facilities where Herrmann worked. In retirement he and Annie resided at the Elwood Hotel and the Esplanade Hotel in Queenscliff, after 1946 Herrmann mainly on Queens Road in Melbourne.



Aurelie Stella Just
20.09.1886-20.09.1972
1911
Henry 'Harry' R. Kofoed
1877-28.11.1932



Ruby Bertha Just
30.11.1887-Feb. 1985
Nurse in France and Melbourne

Gladys Irene Just
1889-01.11.1974
1924

John Warne Eustace
1879-07.12.1946

Dulcie Ethel Just
1891-12.03.1978
1933

Charles Napier
1883-1984

Doris Cécile Just
14.09.1892-05.10.1901



Herrmann Carl Just
30.08.1894-06.04.1971
1919
Olive Ella Oxlade
1895-01.03.1972



Nina Anne Just
18.05.1896-26.08.1983
1925
Reinhold Theodore Nier
07.02.1895-25.04.1970



Francis Pelham Just
1898-03.08.1976
1921
Leila Annie Lawson
1895-19.08.1982

Nina Aurelie Kofoed
1912-2002
1963

Robert Aubrey Dunt
21.03.1906-28.10.1984

Jack 'John' F. Kofoed
30.01.1914-31.10.1988



1948

Lorna Edith Jelbart
09.08.1916-30.10.1997

Dulcie Jean Kofoed
1918-22.06.2006
1935

Evan Charles Rees
1911-1987

Alan Wayne Eustace
1925-2014

Ian Graham Eustace
1928-2019

2 Sons
2 Daughters



Gladys and John Eustace with sons Ian and Alan in 1929

Jack Just
17.09.1920-1999
1943

Edith Catherine Dunstan
1915-1987

Gordon Just
04.08.1924-2011
1948

Betty Holmes Tyas
13.05.1922-2008

Donald 'Don' Just
www.justd.com/just



Oswald Theodore Nier
1926-2018
was never married

Carl David Nier
19.12.1929-23.09.2001
1948

Dora Presser
1935-2021

Carl Andre Nier
geb. 1964

Odile Mary Just
1955-2016

Andrew Dickson

William Francis P. Just
1958-2000

Frank Pelham Just
21.11.1923-05.06.1974
1946

Eileen Mary Willis
1924-29.09.1991

Marie Leila Just
1926-1990
1949

Peter Richard Hocking
1926-1990

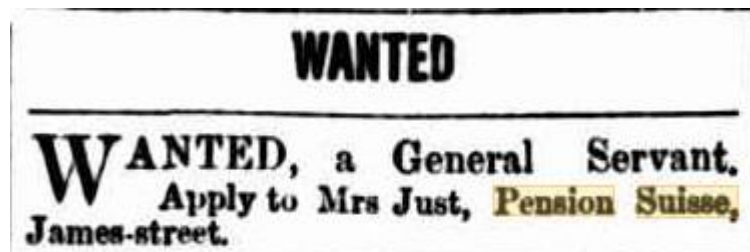
2 children

Rosalind Naseby Just
1931-10.11.2010

Swiss viticulture in Geelong



When Jacob Just moved to Geelong with his wife Rosina and younger children in 1874, he acquired the colonial wine license and business of the 'Pension Suisse' at 11 James Street. He was a wine merchant there until 1882. In 1894 the business passed to others, but in 1898 Jacob Just still owned half the shares in the property. Until then he, Rosina and son Aurel lived at 19 Parkington Street in Geelong West. They named their home 'Bienne' in honor of their old homeland.



The Swiss presence was strong in the Geelong region of Melbourne, where viticulture, established mainly by settlers from the Neuchatel region and Canton of Ticino, flourished between 1850 and 1875, spearheading the Victorian wine industry. Charles Joseph La Trobe (superintendent of the British government and later Vice-Governor of Victoria), who had close personal connections to the Neuchatel region, vigorously promoted the recruitment of settlers from Switzerland. But in 1875 phylloxera attacked these vineyards and caused great damage. In 1881 all vineyards in this area of Victoria were cleared by order of the Australian Government. However, this did not stop the pest completely, but viticulture in Geelong had already been and this branch of the economy lay idle for decades.

It was not until 1966 that Daryl Sefton (1927-2016), great-grandson of Jacob Just and grandson of Pauline Sefton-Just, began reviving the Geelong wine industry with his wife Nini. However, it was to be another 30 long years before the region was considered distinct and worthy of recognition as a 'Geographical Indication'. Above all, 'Pinot Noir', 'Chardonnay' and 'Riesling' now have an international format and are receiving more and more awards.

Although Daryl was actually a veterinarian, the two founded the "Idyll Vineyard" winery with 20 hectares of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Gewürztraminer. They produced and sold wines until their retirement in the 1980's. They then sold the winery, which is now owned by private investment group Costa Asset Management. In contrast to the restaurant on James Street in Geelong, the vineyards planted by the Seftons in the hills around Geelong still exist today and the fine wine is shipped all over the world.



The family of Rosina Albertina Jung - wife of Jacob Just

«The annual 'Geelong Vingrowers Association' dinner is tonight at the Swiss Restaurant on James Street when Madame Just will no doubt be able to show that her cuisine can produce a banquet worthy of such an occasion.»

This was the advertisement in the 'Geelong Advertiser' on June 5, 1874

When Rosina died on February 18, 1909, it was said that she was an old and respected resident of Geelong West. She was buried in the presence of a large gathering of sympathetic friends from all parts of the surrounding districts.



Rosina's father was David Ludwig Jung (1805-1874) a master plumber from Offenbach near Frankfurt in the state of Hesse (D). He came to the canton of Freiburg on a work trip and met Euphrosine Susanne Mesey (1805-1867) from Murten there. She was a daughter of Johan Daniel Mesey and Anna Schori, whose families had been based in Murten since 1547. David Ludwig Jung and Euphrosine Mesey married in 1829 and initially lived in Tramelan before moving to nearby St. Imier, where Rosina Albertina Jung was born on March 15, 1831. Among other things, David Ludwig Jung was a member of the city council and was naturalized as a Swiss citizen by the canton of Bern in 1846 with the citizenship of the village of Kappelen. Rosina Albertina Jung had eight siblings, one of whom stood out politically and whose story should be mentioned here - ***Hermann Françoise Jung!***

Rosina's brother, Hermann Françoise Jung (1836-1901) was a watchmaker and emigrated to London in 1854 after taking part in the 1848/49 revolution in Germany. For a number of years he was a close associate of Karl Marx, with whom he was one of the founders of the 'First Internationale' (International Workingmen's Federation) in 1864. Among other things, Hermann Jung was also the corresponding secretary for Switzerland and presided over the congresses of the IWA in Geneva, Brussels, Basel and London. After 1872 he broke away from Marx, at odds with the new exclusion of anarchist and other non-Marxist elements, and joined the British Federal Council and British trade union leaders to oppose centralisation. He was a member of the British Federal Council and after 1877 he no longer participated in the labor movement. However, he had retained his radicalism and it is said of him that he was an exceptional autodidact who would have given one of the most effective and stirring speeches in defense of socialism.



In 1901 Hermann Jung was murdered in London by a French soldier! During the trial, prosecutors described Hermann as a quiet and peaceful socialist, well respected and a member of the Swiss Aid Society, and classified the act as an 'attempted robbery'. On the other hand, the accused claimed that he had been recruited by four anarchists whom Hermann had commissioned to assassinate the Tsar during his visit to France. Furthermore, Hermann would have tried to recruit him for the assassination of the British Colonial Secretary, Mister Chamberlain. However, when he refused to agree, Hermann attacked him with a piece of iron and he stabbed him in self-defense. However, there was no evidence of this and the act went down in history as a robbery and murder.

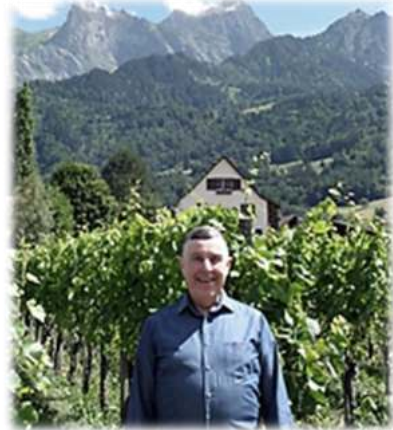
Do they know anything about Guscha?

I asked myself this question on page 84. And do they know anything! Her origins are well known to the descendants of the Just family in Australia and New Zealand. The great-great-grandchildren of Jacob and Rosina Just, David Shearer and Donald (Don) Just visited Guscha in 2006, respectively. 2018.

Don Just has documented the history of the family in detail on the website (www.justd.com/just/).



David Shearer (far left), 2006 on Guscha



Donald (Don) Just, 2018 in Maienfeld

Jacob and Rosina Just's two great-granddaughters, Anne Rosine Just (1929-2008) and Nancy Maude Just (1921-2011), wrote a chronicle in 1980 about their grandfather Emile Just's family in New Zealand, which is translated from English here read is. An extremely impressive and fascinating recording, in which Emile Just's granddaughters describe the living conditions of the family in those hard times on the other side of the world in an excellent and very personal way at first hand!

Emile und Annie Just and their family

by Anne Just und Nancy Maude Reid-Just

The story of Emile Just and his family begins in Maienfeld in eastern Switzerland, in an area that the world knows well from the popular children's book "Heidi". The home of the Just is the high-altitude village of Guscha, attractively situated on the steep slopes above the town of Maienfeld and bordered by fir forests and mountain peaks, where two of Just's families still live today. One of the timeless, solid houses, as is the Swiss way of building, has the date of construction and the names of its first owners scratched into it: Jacob Just - Anna Justin 1748.

During his visit to Switzerland in 1913, Alan Just from New Zealand saw the name Just on many pages in the registers of the Maienfeld archive, dated 300 years ago, and the first names David and Christian appeared frequently. Alan was introduced to a Mr. Just, farmer and guide, who was coming up the mountain from his home to meet his namesake from across the world. Alan was struck by the man's attitude, so like his own father Emile's.

In the 1840's Jacob, born 1818 on Guscha, son of Christian and Anna (née Cammerer) Just, moved west to St Imier where he worked on a church construction. There the German-speaking Jacob met the French-speaking Rosina Jung, who was born in this town in 1831. Their marriage was in Corgémont on February 9th, 1850. Their eldest son, Emile Ulysse, was born on October 24, 1851 in St. Imier. There are still many descendants of Rosina's relatives in the Jura district today, most working in the watchmaking industry for which St. Imier and the surrounding highlands are known. Today's Jung family is very aware of their connection with the New Zealand Just. Alan would later marry his father's cousin, Marguerite Germiquet, and take her to New Zealand.

Jacob and Rosina's marriage did not resonate with the bride's family. This, together with the example of one of Jacob's brothers who is believed to have gone to Canada, must have contributed to the young couple's courageous decision to emigrate to Australia. Emile was about five years old when this momentous step was taken.

The Jung family must have been preoccupied with the impending loss of a daughter to such a far-off country, as it is believed that they offered the young family money to dissuade them. In later life, Emile told his daughter Irene that one of his last memories of Switzerland was of ringing the bells of grazing cattle.

Nothing is known of the long journey by sailing ship, except that Emile's bed was a box that was still used by the family many years later. And that the ship's captain took a liking to his young passenger and wanted to adopt him is also known.

Steiglitz, Australia, 1855 – 1879

Steiglitz is 26 miles by road from Geelong and nestles in the hills west of the 'Anakies'. It owes its name to the von Stieglitz family, who, along with the Sharpe family, were among the pioneers in the district. In October 1855 local gold was on display in Geelong and within ten days 200 people staked their claims at Steiglitz. About this time Jacob and Rosina arrived in Australia and traveled by carriage to Steiglitz. They pitched their tents in the gold fields. "The streets were teeming with teams of horses and oxen, horsemen and footmen of all kinds." Jacob worked as a carpenter and joiner, so it wasn't long before they had a house. But what a difference to the life they had left in Switzerland. A year later, around the time Emile started school, their first child was born in Australia, James Arnold. Unfortunately James died when he was only four and a half, but the family was succeeded by Bertha, Pauline, Herrmann, Cécile and finally Aurel, 20 years after their first son Emile.

In 1862, with around 1,000 miners in the district, housing was in high demand and Jacob was busy with labor shortages and carpenters in high demand. But luck faltered on the goldfields. Rosina had brought a pair of jeweller's glasses with her from Switzerland and occasionally used her family's watch repair talents to supplement the family income. Rosine, or Rosina as she was often called, also enjoyed playing the piano, which Emile inherited from her and passed on to his family. The schoolroom of the Church of England was the setting for musical performances and the Philharmonic Society undoubtedly appealed to some family members. In the middle of 1866 Emile began teaching as a student teacher at the school in Steiglitz. Eighteen months later he transferred to the New Chum School, where he no doubt passed between the two cypress trees said to have been planted on either side of the gate to the teachers' dormitory. These huge trees now stand at a very popular picnic spot known as The Pines. On June 21, 1876, Emile received his certificate of proficiency, which he had acquired with "great recognition and skill".

For a period in the early 1870's mining declined and in May 1874 the 'Geelong Advertiser' newspaper reported that Madame Sangrouber (later Amiet) sold her Swiss restaurant on James Street, Geelong to Madame Rosina Just and would have transferred the wine license a month later. After being family owned for a few years the restaurant was sold but is still operational and as we know is now one of the most popular in Geelong known as «The Colony». (Note. As of 1980, no longer exists today.) Geelong was once a notable wine region and Rosina was among the early Swiss growers. The Just family stayed in Geelong and descendants are still there 100 years later. In fact, fourteen years ago a great-grandson, Daryl Sefton, and his wife Nini established a vineyard near Geelong that is now quaint and prosperous, and the company earns its visionary name 'Idyll Vineyards'. When the von Steiglitz family moved away, they left Bertha, then aged sixteen, as housekeeper for Emile in Beremboke.



Emile Just



Annie Just-Adams

A letter to Emile from 1877 states:

'Your generosity and goodwill are best demonstrated by the countless times you have lent your services as musicians at the various charity entertainments that have been held in the neighborhood for several years without payment. Your regular work as organist and choir director of the Church of England and your great performance as a musician'.

We know that Emile was in high demand in the district. He has performed for dances, concerts and as an accompanist in Morrions, Ballarat and Beremboke, and it was undoubtedly in Ballarat that he met Annie Adams, whom he was later to marry.

William Adams, Annie's father, was a farmer near Warrnambool. After his death his wife Caroline lived in Ballarat with their four daughters Emily, Alice, Annie and Carrie and it was there in that house on Mair Street that Annie and Emile were married on 1st January 1878. Annie was born and we believe was born in Woodford, Victoria that she was christened Annie Maria, but she didn't like the name Maria at all and changed it to Maude.

Perhaps Emile was disappointed that he was not promoted as promised, for in 1879 Emile and Annie moved to another West Coast mining town, Stafford, with their daughter Maude, who was born in Beremboke on 11th January of the same year of New Zealand.

Nothing is left of the old town of Steiglitz. The last businessman, the blacksmith, left in 1944. But in 1951 a memorial mound was erected, built of quartz from the abandoned mines and stones from the homes of the Sharpe and Stieglitz families who founded the town. "In memory of the pioneers of Steiglitz and the discovery of gold" is written on a commemorative plaque.

*Stafford, New Zealand, 1879–1881 (photo on page 102)
September 19, 1879*

This date marks the birth of our New Zealand family. That was the day Emile arrived in Hokitika from Melbourne and began his first New Zealand job in nearby Stafford. At that time he was 27 years old.

Emile traveled alone. Annie with baby Maude was supposed to sail over later. It must have been a frustrating and scary journey for Emile. The Eliza Firth, on which we believe he must have sailed, was at sea for four weeks due to stormy weather. She, along with three other ships, were supplied with essentials by a ship that bravely ventured from Hokitika. On September 19, the 'Elizah Firth' was towed ashore. We can imagine that after the extraordinary delay, Emile wasted no time in hiring a horse to cover the eight miles to Stafford, for that day, a Friday, he began his lessons.

In 1879 Stafford had already passed its zenith as a gold mining center. Founded in 1866 as one of the two main centers of the Waimea gold fields, the population had exceeded 5,000 by 1870, only to decline steadily as the gold was mined. The town was named after Thomas Stafford, a shopkeeper. In its heyday there were 37 hotels, 17 shops, banks, 4 churches, a literary institute with a public library and six police officers.

It is quite fascinating to visit the ghost town of Stafford today where only one of the original houses remains, once the butcher's house with the shop next to it. The then main street is overgrown with willows. The old town hall is now just a rusting iron exterior and roof, but has a few newer wooden front doors. Walking up the hill to the cemetery, one passes the house of the only resident today, built on the site of the Roman Catholic Church.



Opening the old iron gate to the cemetery, which is surrounded by native scrub, reveals graves of people from Switzerland and also two small Seddon children. Richard Seddon lived in the valley for a time. The remains of an old chimney can be seen where his house once stood. He became a friend of the young Just family, a useful contact in later years when Emile made representations to the government on behalf of the educational institute. Outside the cemetery, again on Scandinavian Hill Road, is another reminder of the pioneers - a warning not to leave the paths as there are many old mining shafts!

ArchDeacon Harper wrote in his journal of January 20, 1881:

'There are no lazy men in the district and no real poverty. In the evening I attended a conversation at Forresters Hall. An excellent tea was followed by a concert much appreciated by an audience that completely filled the room. Mr. Just, the church organist, assembled a very capable choir of about 20 voices, whose program included hymns and chants performed with great precision and spirit.'

January 23, 1881

«The church was quite full with 95 seats. I was very pleased with the choir and their excellent singing and with the reverent and serious demeanor of the congregation. It would be difficult to find a more orderly church anywhere in the colony.»

The family of H.W. Sandle, (back row, first from left) postmaster, shopkeeper and lay reader at the Anglican Church, were also friends of Just. More than 30 years later Mr Sandle's eldest son Sidney married Otilie, Emile and Annie's third daughter.

We know little about Emile and Annie's life in Stafford. However, one story of Annie has survived: One day, Annie got caught in a downpour on the west coast. Upon returning home, she removed her striped, sodden stockings. Years later, she laughed and recalled the sight of her bare legs showing the stripes of her stockings.



The Pioneers of Stafford

Perhaps it was the desire for further teaching experience or a desire to live in a larger city that led Emile to move to Christchurch, where he was appointed Second Master of East Christchurch School in October 1881. When Emile left Stafford, some 200 children gathered with their parents and other friends to present him with a beautiful dark birdseye maple desk inlaid with ebony, ivory, mother-of-pearl and silver. Mr. H.W. Sandle said goodbye to Emile: «It is not their intrinsic worth that you want to see, but the warmth of their young hearts towards you, their beloved teacher. They trusted you, knowing full well that they can fully trust your judgement. Your success in imparting knowledge to the children has been solid and genuine, and now that you are leaving they feel they have lost a good teacher and friend.»

We can imagine the long journey in 'Cobb's' carriage over Arthur's Pass. Annie with her baby Leonie and little Maude sitting on the straight back seat high on the carriage. Emile, who is riding a horse next to the carriage and had to dismount on the steep pass road and continued on foot to the top of the pass.

Today the old mining trail is a popular walk for hikers. New shelter huts have replaced the old huts, and walking the pleasant trail, few remember the hardships and fortunes of those brave pioneers a hundred years ago.

Sydenham, Christchurch 1881-1890

The family home for the next nine years, 'St. Margaret', was on Colombo Street, two or three blocks down from Sydenham Park towards the hills. The house, which no longer exists, was a two-storey wooden building with porches, suitable for a growing family. So the remaining four children were born here:

Charles 03/19/1882, Otilie 08/05/1884, Alan 06/07/1886 and Irene 11/14/1888.



On April 15, 1883, Emile's sister Bertha died in Geelong at the age of 24. Emile had been very fond of this sister who shared his house in Beremboke with him. He always carried her photograph with him in a small gold locket that hung from the chain of his pocket watch, the locket bearing the emblem of the Masonic Lodge on the back.

In 1884, Emile's daughter Maude, aged five, was recommended on a sea voyage after an illness and sent to Australia, accompanied by a family friend. Maude experienced the inconveniences of constant nausea during the trip. She stayed with her mother's sister, who wanted to get Maude fit again. Maude later remembered the platters of piled spinach, a vegetable she didn't like but had to eat.

While in Sydenham, Emile's younger brother Aurel, then a schoolboy, visited family in Christchurch and stayed long enough to attend Christchurch school. His nieces and nephews were only a few years his junior, and they were impressed by Aurel's ability to shoot peas. They shot peas at passers-by through the holes in the front tin fence of the property. The fence offered them protection from the frightened and upset people.

Aurel's future career as a lawyer was perhaps decided at this time, as Emile greatly encouraged his choice. Emile would have been interested himself if the circumstances of his youth had been more favourable.

In 1890 Emile awaited the position of Headmaster at Lyttelton Borough School. The newspaper 'Lyttelton Times' reported the farewell celebrations on March 1st, 1890:

"Mr. Emile Just was presented with a marble watch by fifth and sixth grade boys as he left East Christchurch School. He received a nice album from the fourth graders' teachers and a box of silver teaspoons from the others."

Lyttelton 1890 – 1918

The move to Lyttelton in 1890 heralded the period that Emile and Annie's children remember so vividly and fondly. The family's new home was a house at 20 Saint Davids Street. Halfway up the sunny east slope of the steep hills encompassing the Port, it had a commanding view of the school below, while the town and harbour lay just beyond. (Photo on page 103) From the verandah, Annie could watch the constant movement of the shipping. Behind the house was a vegetable garden and orchard cared for by Emile and his growing sons. The house is still in use and has not changed in appearance. (1980)



Emile, Irene, Maude, Annie, Leonie, Alan, Charlie, Otilie

About the memories of the days of Lyttelton, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews have often entertained and credibly wished that they lived into old age. We can only try to record these anecdotes as they were transmitted to us.

When the family moved to Lyttelton, Maude, the eldest, was eleven and Irene, the youngest, was less than two. The hills were their playground, especially for the youngest ones the scrubland up at the Time Ball. There was cricket on St David Street and walks with her father along the harbor on a Sunday morning. There was swimming for the boys, which they taught themselves in the bay. There were always children's parties and Irene remembered arriving at a party for Beatrice Pairman, the doctor's daughter, and seeing her swinging at the front gate in excited anticipation of the arrival of her guests. Later Beatrice married Irene's brother - Charles.

Annie went to Australia for a holiday after a period of poor health, where she was reunited with her mother and sisters. They were accompanied by their youngest children Otilie, Alan and Irene. A few years later, on March 13, 1902, Annie's mother, Caroline Adams, died at the age of 76 and was buried in 'Boroondara Cemetery', Kew.

When news of Queen Victoria's death rang on January 22, 1901, Annie wept over her Queen's death and the end of an era. In June of that year the 'Ophir' docked at Lyttelton with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall (later King George V and Queen Mary). The royal company were greeted upon landing with the singing of the national anthem by a huge choir conducted by Emile Just. Later, the 7-year-old 'Prince of Wales' tutor called with another member of royal society at 20 St David Street. They hoped to get a few shots. Emile, himself a good marksman, escorted the two men across the harbor to Purau. Besides the rabbits that were shot that day, the men returned with walnuts that grew in abundance in this valley. Emile and Annie were invited to dinner on the 'Ophir' as guests of the hunting companions and the Duchess' lady-in-waiting, who was French.



Annotation:

The 'Ophir' became known as the royal yacht for a world voyage by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1901, for which the passenger ship was converted and specially equipped. In March 1901 the 'Ophir' left Portsmouth, England for the nearly eight month voyage, visiting 17 destinations in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. The 'Ophir' was accompanied by warships of the 'Royal Navy'. It was the first ship of the written shipping company 'Orient Steam Navigation Company' to dock in New Zealand.

In 1898 Emile, as head of the school, had twelve employees, one of whom was his daughter Leonie. By 1912 there were 484 primary and 20 secondary students and these numbers remained fairly constant until after Emile's retirement. Emile's interest in sports was reflected in the school's sports teams, which played on open fields near the water. There, swimming lessons took place at West Lyttelton's bathing beach, girls and boys separated, because mixed bathing was still forbidden at that time. The beach disappeared with harbor redevelopment, which began on the level back to St David Street and was surrounded by massive concrete retaining walls. Emile played on the Lyttelton Hockey Team and the Senior Cricket Team. He often enjoyed a Saturday game of golf at Charteris Bay with his friend Archie Brown, the second harbor commander, and with Dr. Upham.

Two Antarctic expeditions by Captain Robert Scott and one by Ernest Shackleton were of particular importance to Lyttelton as the ships spent weeks making their final preparations in port. In addition to the training of the ponies and the dogs, which took place on Quail Island, there was also a lot to see about the overhaul of the ships and loading. The Lyttelton families give the men a warm welcome.

The Just family prayed at Holy Trinity Church, the first Anglican church to be built in Canterbury. Emile was its choir director for many years. His sons were choirboys and took turns playing the bellows for the pipe organ. One remembers some looting of the rectory's orchard after choir rehearsals. Emile's children all completed their formal education at their father's school. Maude and Leonie immediately joined the teaching staff as student teachers before taking over their own classes. Health problems caused Maude to give up her career as a teacher and, as was so often the case for the eldest daughter, to help her mother with the household chores. This role, with increasing responsibility as her parents grew older, was to be her dedicated task in life.

Leonie remained a teacher at Lyttelton School. In later years, recalling the discipline in her only school class of 60 children, she was critical of modern teaching methods. Her younger brothers and sisters remembered the joys of payday when she always brought home crème cones from Norton's store. Leonie later took a job at Doyleston School, 25 miles southeast of Christchurch. There she befriended the family of John Rennie, who owned the 'Maryfield' farm, and was later to marry his son, Osborne Rennie.

The two boys who left school as teenagers found employment in Lyttelton; Charles at the Loan & Mercantile Co. and Alan as an office boy at the gas works. Otilie and Irene learned typing and shorthand from Miss Morrow in Lyttelton and then went to Christchurch every day to work. The life of the Just family took its course without major disruptions.

Charles and Alan joined the Artillery Volunteers. The volunteers slept under the palm trees at the camp around Sumner Road. In charge of the permanent artillery was Captain Sidney Sandle, son of Emile's friend in Stafford. During a firing practice, firing the 6-inch muzzle gun caused hearing damage to Charles as he had not kept his mouth open to counter the blast. Later the force moved to Ripa Island.

Alan remembers the horrific crossing on a whaling boat to the island when a northerly gale blew in and the rowers could barely make headway. They stayed off Diamond Harbor for several hours, unable to proceed, unable to see and soaked to the skin as the boat was half full of water. There was great relief when they finally reached the island early in the morning, some six hours after leaving Lyttelton.

Each daughter received a beautiful ring from her parents when she reached the age of 21. On June 19, 1912, Leonie was born in the 'St. Saviour's Church' in West Lyttelton to Osborne Rennie and their home for their whole married life was to be 'Rushbrook Farm' in Doyleston. Alan was born on 01/27/1916 and George on 09/20/1917.

On February 11, 1914, Charles Beatrice Paiman married in the small stone church of 'St. Cuthbert' in Governor's Bay. His father Emile played the organ. The guests had arrived from Lyttelton for lunch and only made their return journey in the moonlight.

Charles' work for the Loan Company had taken him to Napier in 1912 and now, after his marriage, to Timaru where he and Beatrice settled in a house they had built in Sealy Street. Charles owned a car, a 'De Larg'. He and Beatrice were invited to 'Rushbrook' with the Rennies for a weekend. There were almost no street signs at that time, the road surfaces were rough and the car lights were very weak. After repairing a flat tire and then getting lost, Charles got out angrily to see if there were directions. Not wanting to be left alone in the dark, Beatrice followed him when they saw a figure approaching them. Charles lifted his hat and very politely asked for directions. Beatrice burst out laughing, but Charles was less than amused. When they finally reached Rushbrook in the night, Leonie and Osborne, no longer expecting their arrival, had gone to bed worried.

The third family wedding also took place in 1914. On November 11, Otilie got married in the 'St. Saviour's Church', where her sister, Sidney Sandle, had been married two years earlier. Guests were received in the schoolroom and the 'Lyttelton Territorials' formed an honor guard. However, the two young households of Beatrice and Otilia were soon forced to move to Christchurch. Otilie with her son John, born 02/06/1916 and Beatrice with their daughter Margaret, born 09/11/1917 shared a house in Opawa while their husbands Sidney and Charles were away on military service.

In 1911, after completing a five-year apprenticeship as an electrical engineer with 'Turnball & Jones' in Christchurch, Alan worked his way to England via Cape Horn in the engine room of a cargo ship and was employed in Manchester by the large British firm 'Westinghouse'. At the request of his father Emile, he contacted his relatives in Switzerland and in August 1912 he was the guest of Charles Jung, whose sons Theodore and David accompanied him on his journey through Switzerland. A second holiday to Switzerland took place the following year when he and Marguerite Germiquet, his father's cousin, were engaged. In late 1913 Alan returned to Wellington before enlisting in the army in 1918. His return to Europe as a soldier in the New Zealand Field Artillery was memorable because of the 'Spanish Flu' that afflicted the ship. Six months after the armistice, Marguerite was finally able to leave Switzerland. Their marriage took place on June 14, 1919 in Tamworth, England.

During the Lyttelton years, Emile's professional interests extended beyond his school to the general educational issues of his country. In 1893 he was vice-president of the North Canterbury Educational Institute and from 1910-1914 treasurer of the same. This body fought for the improvement of employment conditions for teachers, as well as for all other aspects of educational reform. Emile was involved in government representations on his behalf.

Emile's retirement at the age of 66, postponed to 1918 because of the war years, marked the end of the Lyttelton era. The 'Lyttelton Times' of March 23, 1918 reported under the headline:

«Popular Teacher - Mr. Just Retired» '...had done his job with remarkable success. The residents were very lucky to have had Mr. Just under them for so long.... He fought for the teachers outstandingly not only as a teacher but also as a man and citizen. He always fought for the profession, never for himself, and never played a lonely hand. It should not be forgotten that Ms. Just had also greatly benefited education by helping her husband. Mr Just was asked to accept a gold watch from the teachers.'

Puriri Street, Christchurch 1918-1947

74 Puriri Street – These are magical words that evoke for Emile and Annie's grandchildren memories of their beloved grandparents, their welcoming comfortable home, a garden to explore and hide away, the excitement of holidays and family gatherings.



At first, Annie must have missed the hustle and bustle and neighborhood of Lyttelton, as the Riccarton retirement home was surrounded by few neighbors and empty paddocks. It was a single family home with a passageway leading from the front door fitted with stained glass windows to the rear. Bedrooms with tiles, fireplaces, a living room with piano and harmonium, leading to a conservatory with Emile's rolling desk and Annie's desk, a shelf with cacti, a dining room with a coal stove and a large family dining table with a green tablecloth, a scullery and a back bedroom. Added was an enclosed back porch and a small kitchen with a gas stove. To the left stretched the laundry room and toilet, which, together with the back wall of the house, formed a sheltered playground for small grandchildren. The garage, rarely occupied by cars, was a storeroom for old books, which lay on shelves at the back, alongside Emile's Australian wines, each bottle in its straw shelf that lined the side walls. Next to the garage stood the windmill that pumped the water and required adjustment to the changes in the wind at any time of the day or night.

The front yard was neatly landscaped with roses on either side of the curving path leading to the front door. The back lawn, protected by hedge, windmill and garage, led to the vegetable and orchard which occupied part of Totora Road to the chicken coop. There were trees to climb, apples, plums and cherries to pick, currants and gooseberries that gave us grandchildren good hiding places. The whole property was bordered with trees and bushes. The house still stands today, but now has a new number.

Irene, who had moved to Riccarton with her parents and Maude, became organist at 'St. Ninian's Church' on Puriri Street. On November 19, 1919, she married Leonard 'Len' Prebble, choirmaster and neighbor, in this church. Their home would be Cravendale, a sheep station newly purchased by Len in the Surrey Hills near Mt Somers.

In 1919 Alan also returned to New Zealand with Marguerite and they lived with his parents, where their son Edouard was born on September 8th, 1920. Later Alan's house was built on the section next to the orchard in Totora Road where Anne (note: author of this chronicle) was born on 04/15/1929.

In 1921 Emile was appointed secretary and organizer of the North Canterbury provincial council, the 'Licensed Victuallers' Association'. He held this position for 15 years. Work had always been his main interest. This fact, together with his remarkable organizational skills, particularly active mind and keen business acumen, enabled him to live to a ripe old age. The Association's office was in the square next to the post office, which required a long walk down Puriri Street to Riccarton Road then to the square. Miss Bailey as a typist and Mr. Honeywell worked with him. He was a member of the Midland Club and the respect shown to him by many alumni, friends and business acquaintances left a lasting impression on his grandchildren.

In 1923 an Australian relative, Jack Packer, the grandson of one of Annie's cousins, joined the family. Jack had been appointed Lecturer in Chemistry at Canterbury University College after outstanding performance as an undergraduate at Melbourne University. In 1927 he married Jackie (Kathleen) Buss, whose family had been close neighbors since 1921. Jack, Jackie and their family stayed in close touch with the Just family and Jack was sorely missed by all of us after he died suddenly in 1971. Jack's mother, Rose Packer, made several trips to New Zealand and was sometimes accompanied by her daughter, Dorothy Robinson. Maude later returned to Australia with Rose Packer for a few weeks. Always proud of her Australian birth (she was Emile and Annie's only child born in Australia), she rejoiced in the close bond she had with her Australian relatives.

Emile visited his family in Australia more than once, often returning with a wooden box full of grapes. But the visit in May 1930 stands out, when he made a pilgrimage to Steiglitz with his brothers Herrmann and Aurel. A photograph of the three exists against a background of trees marking the location of the 'Old Town'.



From left to right: Herrmann Just, Emile Just and Aurel Just
(photo from 1930 in Steiglitz)

Emile and Annie's grandson, John Sandle, created the pet names of 'FaFa' and 'NanNan' for Emile and Annie and they have been adopted by most of his generation, marking a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. In her long, black dress and the white collar, later the black velvet collar, 'NanNan' is reminiscent of a dignified and gracious old age. 'FaFa' is remembered in his dark suit and shiny black boots, a gold watch and locket on the gold chain that spanned his waistcoat and a cigar in his hand. With his size, straight back and well-groomed goatee, he was an imposing and handsome figure.

For their grandchildren, Emile and Annie's home was associated with the joy of holidays and family celebrations - Otilie and family traveled by train and ferry from Auckland and later from Palmerston North, luggage followed from the station by horse and cart. Charles and family arrived after a 12 hour train journey from Invercargill. The entertainment took place either in Puriri Street at Emile and Annie's or next door at Alan and Marguerite's. Her grandchildren will remember Annie sitting at the dining table or afternoon tea on the front lawn or in her chair by the window with her reading and crocheting. Even in her old age she was interested in world and local news, which she read in the daily newspaper. During World War II, Annie abandoned her Victorian upbringing, which forbade unnecessary Sunday work, to continue knitting balaclavas for soldiers.

Emile and Annie's golden wedding anniversary in 1928 was joyfully celebrated by the entire presence of their descendants. The lunchtime feast was at Alan and Marguerite's home. The anniversary couple were wheeled in style around the corner to enter through the front gate.

When Emile retired from his work for the Licensed Victuallers in April 1936 at the age of 84, he was presented with a club chair and a check for his long and faithful service. In his thanks, Emile said he had no concrete plans for the future but humorously suggested devoting more time to his wife. His second retirement was not to last long as he suffered a stroke in October of the following year and after a short stay in hospital returned to his home where he died a few days later on October 12, 1937. He was buried in the 'Waimairi Cemetery' in Christchurch. The pallbearers in the house were officers from Conyers Lodge and those at the grave were officers from District Gran Lodge. Annie and her daughter Maude stayed in the house on Puriri Street for 10 years.

In 1947, at the age of 98, Annie fell in her room and broke her leg. Three days later, on December 7, 1947, she died in hospital. She was buried next to Emile. The house on Puriri Street was sold and Maude moved into a small flat on Durham Street before living at Windsor House, where she died on 07/06/1977. She had never married, cared for her parents all her life and lived to be 98 like her mother.

Leonie's son, Stuart, was born in 1920 but died very suddenly when he was only five years old. Alan married Maire Brittenden and ran the farm 'Maryfield' in Doyleston, then Lagmhor and Methven. He died in 1969 and Maire in 1974. They have two sons and a daughter. George married Elaine Coe and had the farm 'Rotopapa' beside the Selwyn River in Irwell. They had two daughters and three sons. Leonie remained at Rushbrook for a number of years after her husband William Osborne Rennie died in the war in 1949. She later lived with her son George and his wife Elaine. She died on November 6th, 1976 at the age of 95.

After World War I Charles joined the 'National Mortgage and Agency Company' in Christchurch, a nationwide stock and station agency business which invested directly in New Zealand pastoral activities and made loans to other participants in the industry. In 1927 he was posted to Invercargill and in 1940 to Dunedin, where he retired until his death on 1 March 1976. His wife Beatrice followed him three months later. Her daughter Margaret continues to live in Dunedin after retiring as head of the 'Helen Deem Centre' for pre-school education (Note: as of 1980 when this chronicle was written. Margaret died in 2009).

Their second daughter Nancy Maude Just (co-author of this chronicle) was born on May 23, 1921. She was an architectural draftsman before marrying Archie Reid. They run the farm 'Waihi' in Woodbury and have one daughter, Suzanne. (Nancy died in 2011)

Sidney George Sandle chose the Army as his career, serving at the age of 16 in the Fifth African Campaign and 1914-18 in World War I. Shortly after the outbreak of the war he married Otilie Just and after the end of the war he moved to Auckland, where their son Bill (Sidney William) was born on September 30th, 1920. Sidney George Sandle was promoted to the Reserve Officers with the rank of Lieut-Colonel in 1930 and was Sergeant-at-Arms in the New Zealand Parliament at the time of his death in 1936. Otilie stayed in Wellington until she came to Christchurch, where she assisted her sister Maude in caring for their mother Annie on Puriri Street. Otilie died in Christchurch on June 26, 1962. Their son John married Patricia 'Pat' Webster and retired from his position as district engineer at 'P&T Christchurch' in 1975. The two live in Sumner and have three daughters. (John Sandle died in 2006.) His brother Bill (Sidney William Sandle) married Nora Bourke and lives in Stratford, having retired in 1980 as Newton King's store manager. He has three sons and three daughters. (Bill died in 1994)

Alan joined the Fire Underwriters Association as an Electrical Inspector on his return from England with his Swiss wife Marguerite Germiquet and have lived in Christchurch apart from three years in Dunedin. Her son Edouard is Quality Control Officer for 'T.V.L.' and lives in Upper Hill. He married Marguerite (Marge) Wade and has one daughter, Christine.

Anne (daughter of Alan and co-author of this chronicle) is a qualified librarian and works at the Medical Library in Christchurch. She lives with her father, Alan, who is now 94 years old (as of 1980). His wife Marguerite died in 1972.

(Note: Alan Just died three years after this family chronicle was written. His daughter and author of this contemporary document, Anne Rosine Just, died on November 25, 2008.)

Irene and Leonard Prebble's eldest son Len (Leonard) was born on September 17, 1920 but died tragically on November 25, 1925 in Cravendale.

Aurelie was born on August 14, 1928 and married Stanley Jones, has two sons and a daughter and lives in Taumarunui.

Derek was born on 08/06/1939 and farms 'Dalbury' in Coldstream. He married Jeanette Murray and has two sons and two daughters.

Marguerite (Sue) was born on February 25th, 1932, married Ken Rule and lives in Ashburton.

After the death of her husband Leonard Prebble on 09/30/1950, Irene left the farm 'Cravendale' and moved to Ashburton where she lives today (1980) at the age of 92, not in good health but in the best of spirits. (Irene Alice Emily Prebble-Just, youngest daughter of Emile and Annie Just, died as the last child on 12/04/1983)

As this was primarily Emile's story, we include a final tribute to him published in his honor by a business acquaintance in the Star-Sun newspaper:

"He is the most charming old man I have ever met and I have traveled extensively around the world. You can't ask for a better type of man for he was a gentleman by nature!"

Contributions and support from many family members in New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland were of great help to Anne Just and Nancy Reid-Just in compiling this Sue Rule typed chronicle.

"Waihi", in 1980

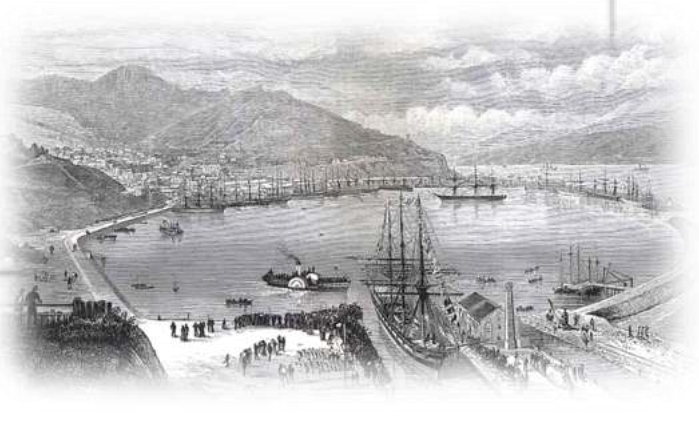
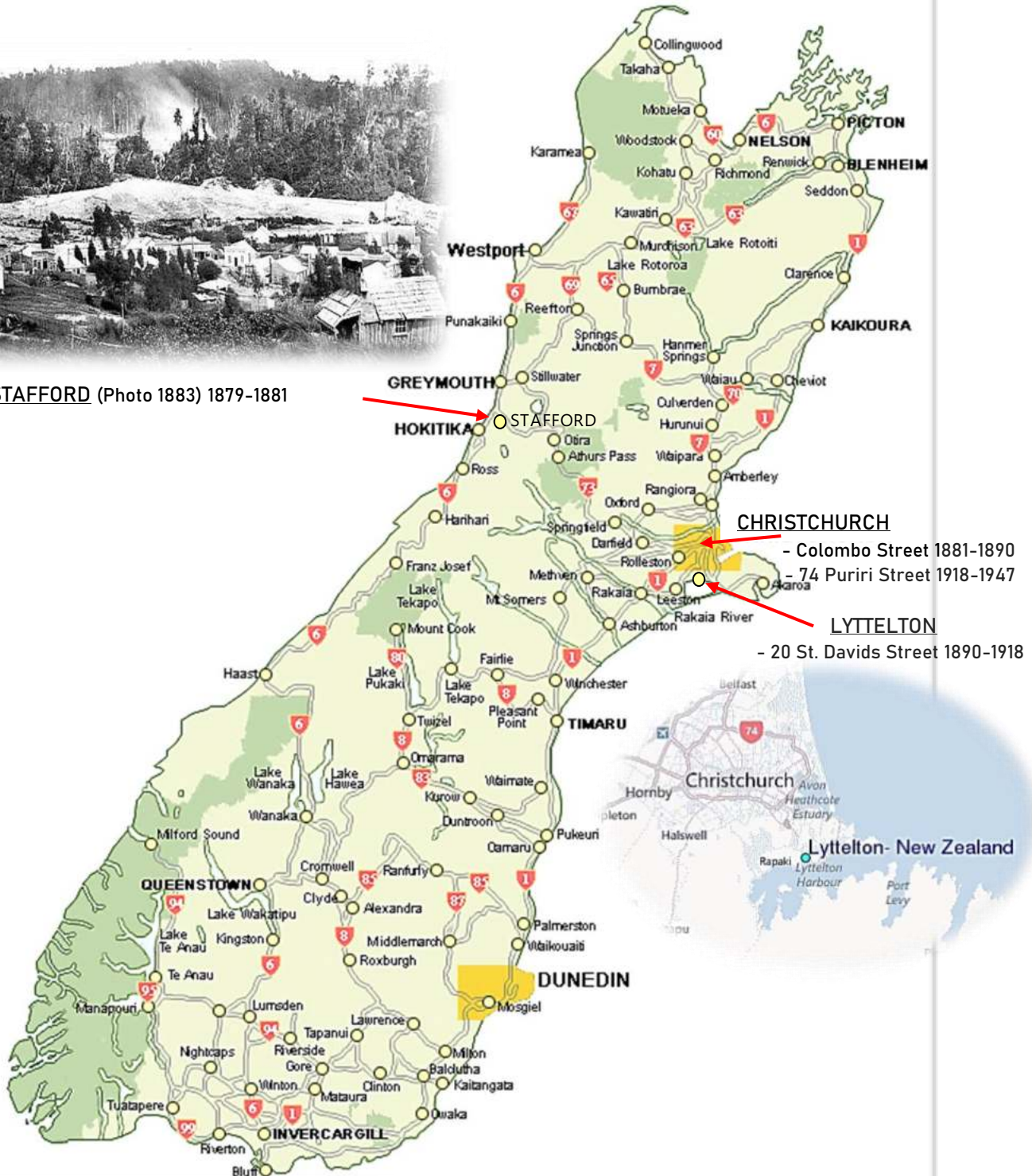


Back row: Charles, Leonie, Ottilia, Alan
Front row: Emile, Irene, Annie, Maude

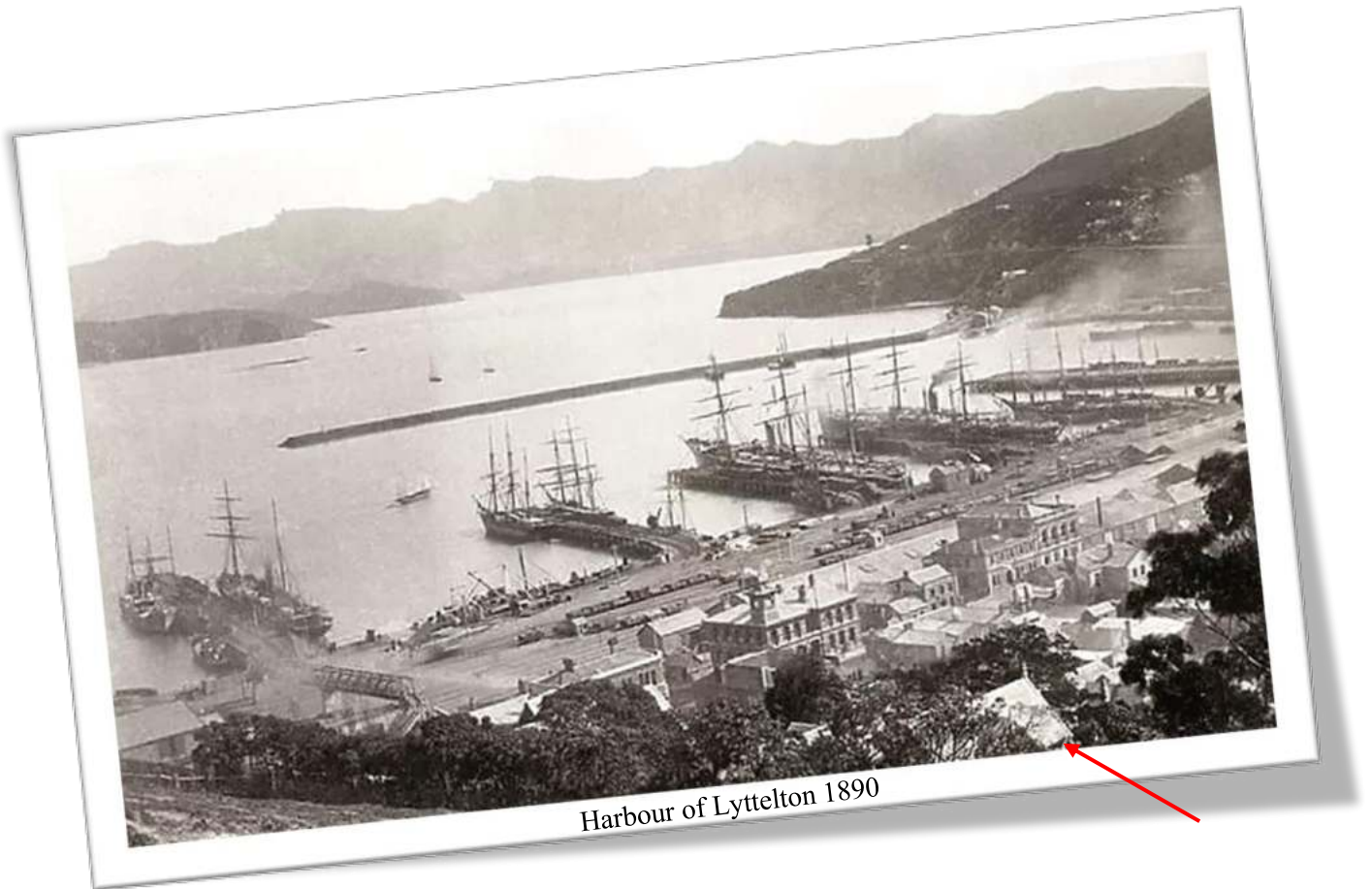
The places of residence of Emile Just and his family



STAFFORD (Photo 1883) 1879-1881



Lyttelton and the harbour around 1883



This is the view enjoyed by the Just family from their home on St Davids Street where this photograph was taken.
The school building where Emile Just taught can be seen at the bottom right. (page 95)

With a photo of Lyttelton from today, we leave the Just family on the other side of the world and return from New Zealand to the emigrant families in America, where more interesting stories await us.



Entry into the United States

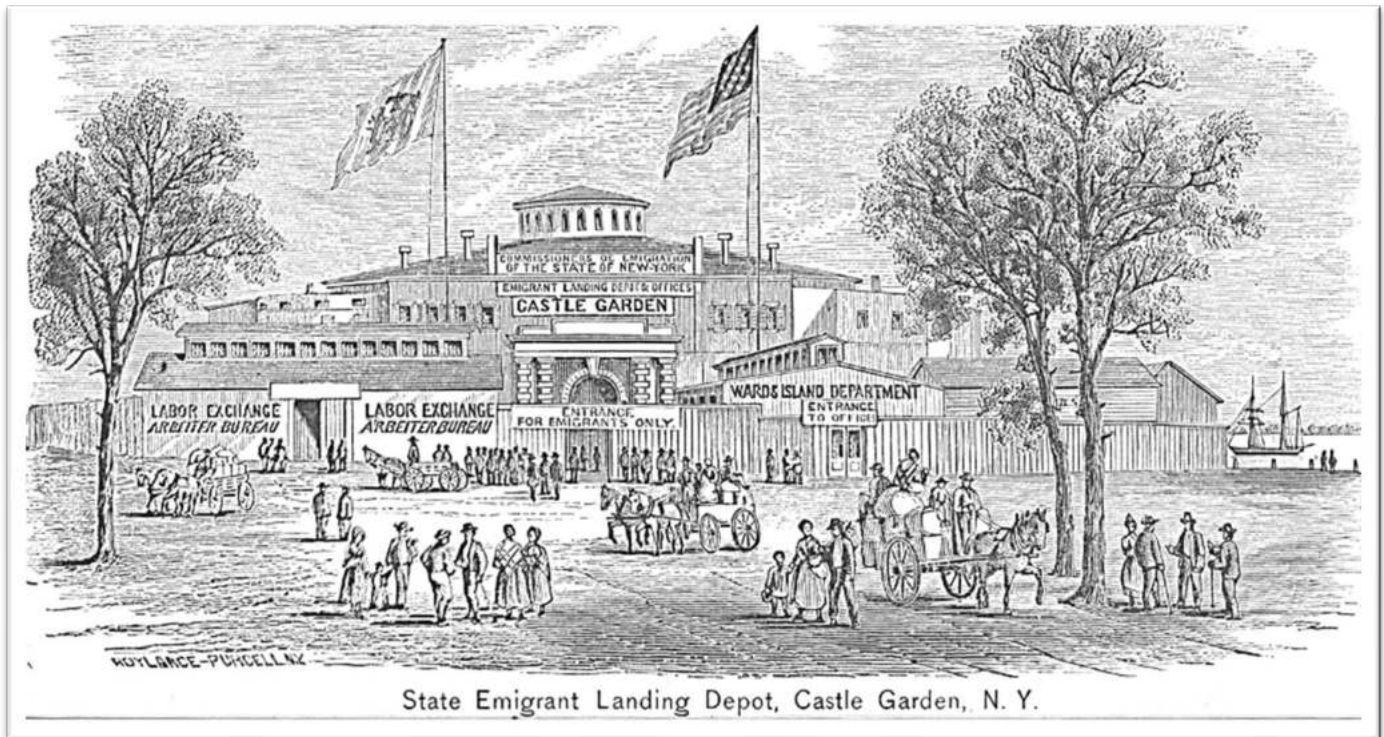
Castle Garden, New York

Castle Clinton, also *Castle Garden*, is a monument at the top of Manhattan, now known as *Castle Clinton National Monument*.

Built in 1811 ninety meters off the shoreline of Manhattan Island, the 4,000 m² Castle Clinton was once a forward artillery position in New York City connected to Battery Park by a causeway. It served the military protection of the strategically important waterways around New York City and the city itself. Due to silting up and landfill, Castle Clinton is now located in Battery Park on the mainland.

In 1824 Castle Clinton was converted into the Castle Garden Theater and in 1840 the former courtyard was roofed over and the house was used for theatrical performances and exhibitions.

In 1855 the former fort was leased to the state of New York, which used it as a receiving station for seven million immigrants to the United States until 1890, before new facilities opened on nearby Ellis Island in 1892. They maintain a database of immigrants, which also includes 10 million records from the period 1835-1892 with Castle Garden dates.



The second half of the 19th century was a time of great upheaval. The world emerged from a great economic depression. Political and social tensions arose in Europe, caused by the second industrial revolution and a population explosion. The population of Switzerland grew from 2.65 to almost 4 million between 1870 and 1914 and America became a popular destination for emigrants.

The first Guschner (Just, Riederer) and Maienfelder (Mutzner) emigrants settled mainly in the American Midwest.

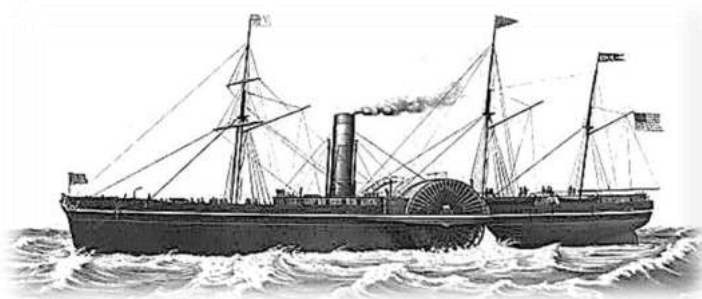


- ★ **Andreas Riederer family** (emigrated to Polk/Wisconsin in 1845, to Holton/Kansas in the 1850s)
- ★ **Just-Just family** (emigrated to Lansing/Iowa in 1846 and later moved to Owatonna/Minnesota)
- ★ **The Just-Ruffner family** (emigrated to St. Louis/Missouri in 1846)
- ★ **Family Andreas Just-Zimmermann** (emigrated to St. Louis/Missouri in 1846, later they moved to Illinois)
- M** **Caspar Mutzner-Bantli family** (emigrated to Wisconsin in 1846, moved to Greenville/Ohio in 1850)
- M** **Christian Mutzner-Ambühl family** (emigrated to Highland/Illinois in 1846)
- ★ **Just-Flütsch family** (emigrated to Grant County/Wisconsin in 1847)
- ★ **Boesch-Just family** (emigrated to Swiss in Casconade County/Missouri in 1847)
- ★ **Luchsinger-Just family** (emigrated to New York in 1851, moved to DePue in Bureau County, Illinois in 1857)
- ★ **Ortlieb-Just family** (emigrated to Wisconsin in 1854, later moved to Franklin County, Ohio)
- ★ **Steiger-Just family** (emigrated to Roark Township/Missouri in 1855)
- ☆ **Family Florian Just-Näf** (emigrated to Holton/Kansas in 1859)
- M** **Johannes Mutzner** (emigrated to Dayton/Ohio in 1866)
- M** **Jakob Mutzner** (emigrated to Dayton/Ohio in 1883)

After 1850, sailing ships were increasingly replaced by steamships. With the new ships, the travel time to North America could be reduced to up to eight days, one was less dependent on the weather, and the number of passengers could be increased to up to eight hundred. However, sailing trips remained attractive until the 1870s because they only cost half as much. The hitherto main European port of emigration, Le Havre, was surpassed by Bremerhaven and Hamburg in the second half of the 19th century.

The Steamship

When side paddle steamers were first able to cross the Atlantic in less than thirty days in the mid-19th century, passenger transport became cheaper and thus became popular with broad sections of the population. With the introduction of regular scheduled services with steamships, emigration prevented further speed. While a sailing ship needed an average of forty-four days for the crossing, it was only fourteen days for the steamship. The number of steam ships used quadrupled from the 1870s and the transport of migrants by sailing ships collapsed accordingly, so that by the mid-1880s the two ship types were on par. From 1900 onwards, with a few exceptions, only steamships drove the emigrant lines to North and South America. The conditions on the ships were initially very bad. The space required for the boiler, engine and coal stores was partly at the expense of the passing places. Only slowly were ordinances and laws issued for the construction and furnishing of the ships, which stipulated the space requirements per passenger, sleeping places, sanitary facilities, catering and medical care, etc.

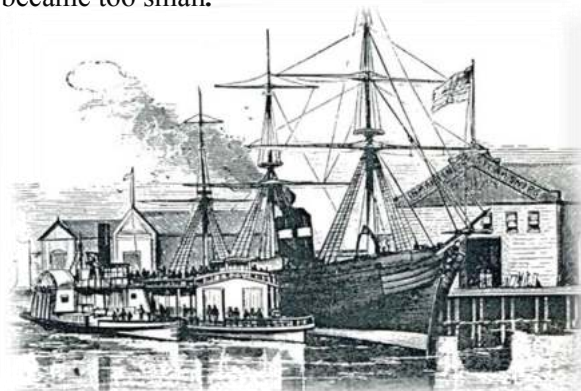


Side paddle steamer 'Pacific' around 1850

Anyone who has ever researched American emigrants in family and genealogical research will surely know that 'Ellis Island' was the first station in the port of New York where the emigrants were registered. Along with the nearby Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island is a National Monument and Museum of the country's immigration history. But the name 'Castle Garden' also appears in the reports.

Arrive at Castle Garden

From 1820 onwards, immigration, which had been unregulated up to that point, was put on an orderly track by the introduction of passenger lists, which ship captains had to hand over to the border authorities. In addition, the newcomers should be protected from unscrupulous recruiters and scammers who allegedly promised them jobs and apartments in exchange for money. For this purpose, the US immigration authorities set up their registration station in 1855 in the fortress roundel of the former 'Castle Clinton' on the southern tip of Manhattan. Until 1890, immigrants were received in the former theater building 'Castle Garden' until this station also became too small.



Here the travel documents were checked, the state of health checked and the luggage searched. Whereby the latter was not done so precisely. Even with the entry papers, the officials were not so precise, as we can see from the example of the Glarner emigrant Rudolf Heer and his family;

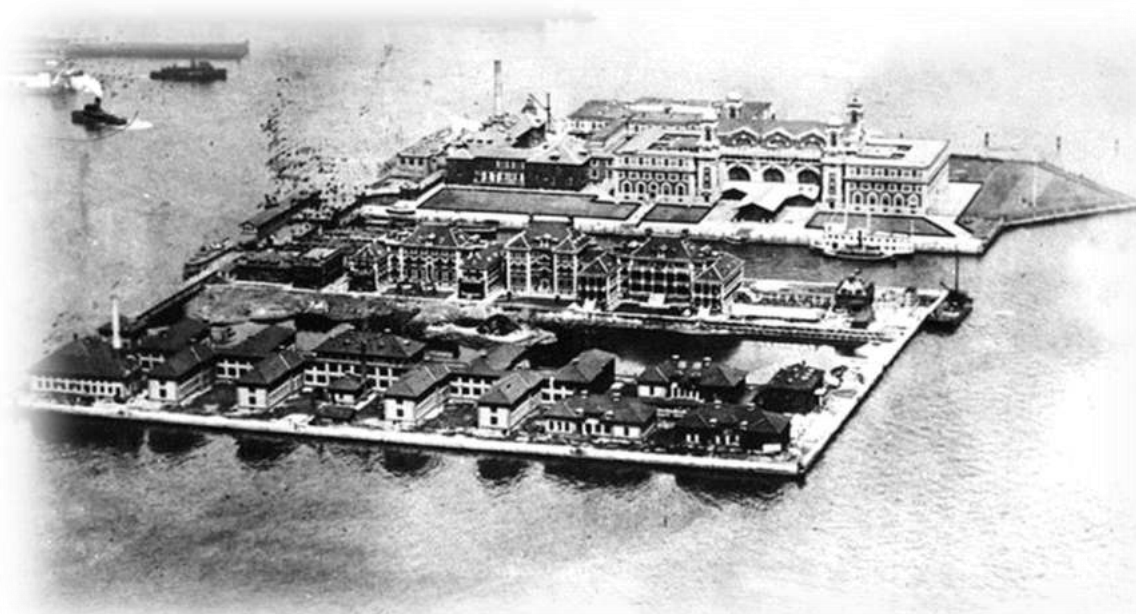
While Rudolf Heer was still called Hear on the passenger list of the "Atalanta" in 1868, he was again recorded in the immigration register with his real surname, Heer. For this, his wife Rosine turned into a man. Daughter Barbara was already a boy on the ship and remained so when she entered the country. The family Heer had indicated 'Buffalo' as the destination. However, they should never travel there. The suspicion is that the immigrants, who often didn't speak a word of English, had copied each other because a destination had to be entered on the form. This example illustrates in an impressive way, and it is by no means an isolated case, how difficult it is for researchers to be able to keep track of the emigrants.

Isle of Hope - Isle of Tears

Incidentally, Rudolf Heer was able to smuggle a few cigars into the country, as he wrote to his mother later in a letter to his old homeland, frankly and not entirely without pride.

From 1892 onwards, Ellis Island, located in the Hudson River estuary off Manhattan, has been a central gathering point for immigrants. 'Ellis Island' was not only larger than 'Castle Garden', but also better suited due to its island location. However, a fire in 1897 destroyed the entire station and with it some of the passenger lists. Until the reconstruction, an old warehouse in the Manhattan harbor was used for customs formalities.

By the time it closed in November 1954, around 12 million people had immigrated to the United States via Ellis Island. About five hundred people were employed at the immigrant contact point. The time for the arrival formalities was between four and seven hours for one person. In the heyday, four to five hundred people were processed in this way every day. The record day is April 17, 1907 with almost twelve thousand immigrants!



This small island off Manhattan in the USA was a place of great emotions, of hope for a better life, but also a place of fear and disappointment. Because of the many tears that flowed here, the place was also called 'Isle of Tears'. In the arrivals hall, most of the emigrants met officials for the first time in their lives, who treated them with respect.

The first to be so recorded via 'Ellis Island' in the United States was fifteen-year-old immigrant Annie Moore, who arrived on New Year's Eve 1891 on the steamer 'Nevada' from Liverpool, UK, along with 126 other Europeans from Russia, England, Germany and Ireland arrived at the port of New York. Several million more were to follow! Among them Hollywood legends such as Gary Grant, Edward G. Robinson, Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller, legendary Lucky Luciano, cosmetics legend Max Factor, comedian Bob Hope and heartthrob Rudolph Valentino are just a few of the famous about 'Ellis Island' in personalities who have entered the USA.

For several hundred thousand people, however, the journey ended with a medical check or with questioning by officials. A total of 3,500 desperate people then killed themselves rather than return to their countries of origin. Those who passed the exam were allowed to walk through the door marked "Push to New York" and start their new life in the USA. So did the thirty-five babies born during the days of waiting at Ellis Island.

According to a 2000 census, nearly one in three Americans can trace their roots to Ellis Island. According to the census, every sixth person has German ancestors.

Father:
Christian Just
1770-1850

Florian Just
1814 - 1859

Mother:
Amalia Just
1786-1848

Emigrated to the USA in 1859

We remember the poacher story on page 72 - Florian Just was one of those involved back then. Nineteen years after the incident he emigrated to North America with his wife Menga Amanda Näf and their four children Christian, Andreas, Anna Margreth and Amalia. On March 31, 1859, the family boarded the ship 'Progress' at Le Havre and reached New York six weeks later on May 14.

Florian Just, who got off lightly from the poaching affair in 1840, married Menga Amanda Näf from Urnäsch in Appenzellerland on February 1, 1852. Their parents were Christian Näf (1805-1888) and Anna Davatz from Fanas im Prättigau, who was only 25 years old (08/28/1811-12/13/1836). Menga's sister named Anna Barbara emigrated to Kansas/USA with her husband Georg Ladner from Seewis/GR in 1853. Presumably, the father Christian Näf also traveled to America at that time, in any case he died in 1888 in Holton/Kansas.



Gravestone of Christian Just
(1852-1871)



Menga Amanda Näf
05.07.1832 - 29.01.1906

Florian Just was a farmer and lived with Menga Amanda Näf on Guscha until 1859, where all their children were born. They were:

- **Christian Just**, 08/16/1852-02/07/1871
(died at the age of 19 in Holton/Kansas, tombstone photo above)
- **Andreas Just**, 1854-1933 (pages 110/111)
- **Anna Margreth Just**, 1855-1928 (page 112)
- **Amalia Just**, 1858-1931 (page 113)

In 1859 the family embarked on the long, arduous journey, none of the children was older than seven at the time, the youngest was just one year old, and anyone who is the parent of four small children knows what that means – a suicide mission!

Mrs. Monaci Hill.
Monaci Neef was born July 5, 1832, in Maienfeld, Switzerland, and died Jan. 29, 1906, at the age of 73 years, 6 months and 24 days. In 1851 she was married to Florina Just, with whom she lived happily 7 years when he died leaving her a widow with four children. In 1861 she was united in wedlock to Andrew Hill. To this union 8 children were born. Mr. Hill died about four years ago. She was unassuming, a loving affectionate mother, and will be greatly missed by her 3 sons and 5 daughters who survive her.

Like Andreas Riederer's family, who said "Goodbye" to Guscha in 1845, the former "poacher" was drawn to Holton in the state of Kansas. It shouldn't be a coincidence that the Just family chose the same area, even the same city, for their new life. So they met again after fourteen years in the 'New World'. And Florian Just's wife's sister has also lived with her family in Kansas for six years. But happiness didn't last long! Florian Just died in the year of his arrival on September 25, 1859 at the age of forty-five. A year later his wife married the German immigrant Andreas (Andrew) Hill, with whom she had eight more children. The woman who was born on September 5, 1832 in Urnäsch with the name Menga Amanda Näf died on January 29, 1906 at the age of seventy-three in Holton under the name Monaci Hill, as we can see from the obituary on page 11 of the Recorder Tribune Holton, March 8, 1906.

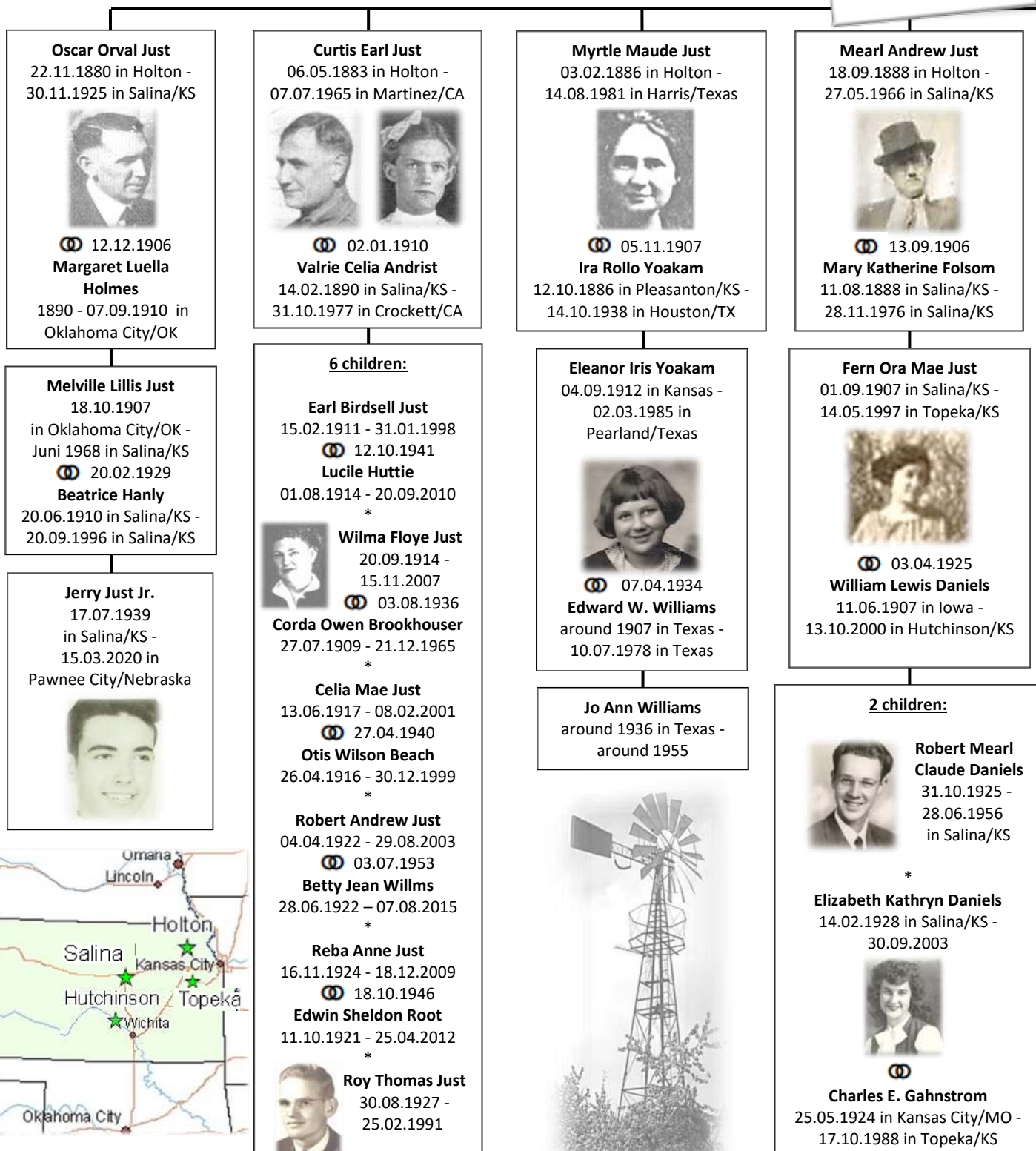
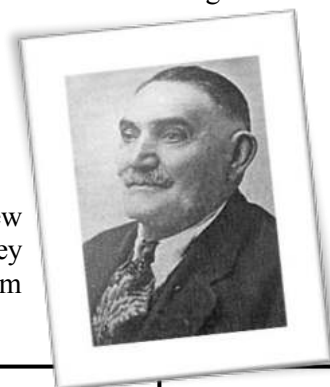
The family trees of the children of Florian Just and Menga Amanda Näf

Christian Just (1852-1871)

was just seven years old when crossing the Atlantic, making him the oldest of the four siblings. However, he died very early, at the age of nineteen, leaving no descendants. In complete contrast to his brother:

Andreas 'Andrew' Just (1854-1933)

born May 18, 1854 in Guscha and died August 9, 1933 in Salina, Kansas. Andrew Just was a farmer and married Jessie Anna Cobler on February 18, 1880. They stayed true to northeastern Kansas, only changing counties and moving from Holton to Salina. (See map below left)

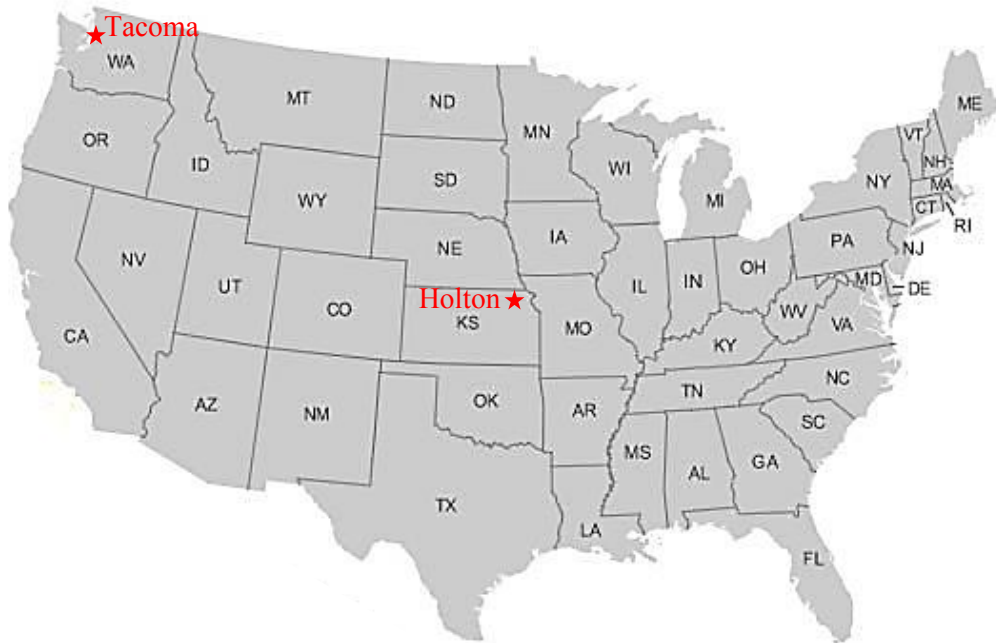


Anna Margreth Just (1855-1928)

She was born in Guscha on May 18, 1855 and was four years old when she traveled to America with her parents and siblings, where she married Clarence Myers around 1876. The two had a daughter:

- **Margaret Myers**, born October 14, 1877 in Kansas, died March 25, 1958 in Tacoma/WA, married with Henry Absolom Deason, born May 28, 1875 in Alabama, died July 21, 1932 in Tacoma/WA - 3 children

But just a year after the birth of his daughter, Clarence Myers died in Kansas in 1878.



A year later, Anna Margreth Just married John L. Himmelberger from Pennsylvania (PA), whose name is of German descent, although his grandfather John Himmelberger was born in 1804 in the USA. Anna and John settled in Kansas until 1910, where their seven children were born. The family then moved to the Pacific Coast city of Tacoma in Washington State, in the far Northwest of the United States. John Himmelberger died there on May 1, 1939, succeeding his wife Anna Margreth, who had died eleven years earlier on May 24, 1928 at the age of 73.

The descendants

3 sons:

- George Himmelberger, born April 22, 1881 in Kansas, died June 25, 1935 in Tacoma/WA, married with Ida Sprinkle, born 1878 in Missouri, died January 23, 1938 in Tacoma/WA - no children known
- David Himmelberger, born August 15, 1882 in Kansas, died January 2, 1974 in Rainier/WA
 - I. Married 1910 to Rosie Acker, b./d. unknown - 1 son; Irvin Leroy Himmelberger (1913-2002)
 - II. Married 1919 to Bertha Hull, born Dec. 1884 in Wisconsin, died Oct. 1963 - no children
- Cecil Charles Himmelberger, born September 3, 1894 in Kansas, died June 14, 1964 in Tacoma/WA was never married

4 daughters:

- Margaret H. Himmelberger, born 1878 in Kansas, died unknown
- Anna Gertrude Himmelberger, born September 20, 1886 in Leavenworth/KS, died August 17, 1967 in Tacoma/WA, married on October 22, 1911 to Phillip Alonzo Easter, born September 7, 1877 in Michigan, died March 27, 1946 in Tacoma/WA - 1 daughter; Louise-Marie Easter (1912-1969)
- Edie Himmelberger, born unknown, died in infancy
- Ida Himmelberger, born unknown, died 1885 as a child

Amalia Just (1858-1931)

She was the youngest child of Florian Just, the former poacher from Guscha, who died shortly after arriving in America in autumn 1859. Amalia was just learning to walk when her parents decided to leave their home in Graubünden forever. According to the July 22, 1870, resident census of Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Kansas:

Amalia Just grew up with her mother Menga Amanda, the two brothers Christian (died 1871) and Andrew, sister Anna Margreth, who is registered with the name Martha, stepfather Andrew Hill and the three half-siblings born by then Augusta, Amanda and Georg, who went by the Hill name, on a farm that was valued at \$2,000, which is average compared to other farms. No riches, but always more than you had in your old homeland.

3 The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	4 DESCRIPTION.			7 Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	8 VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED.		10 Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	11 PARENTAGE.		13 If born within the year, state
	4 Age at last birth-day. If under 1 year, give month in fractions, thus, 1/2	5 Sex.—Males (M.), Females (F.)	6 Color.—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)		8 Value of Real Estate.	9 Value of Personal Estate.		11 Father of foreign birth.	12 Mother of foreign birth.	
Hill, Dorca	6	F	W	At home			Germany	1	1	
— Amanda	1	F	W	"			"	1	1	
— George	1	M	W	"			"	1	1	
— Andrew	16	M	W	"	✓	✓	Switzerland	1	1	
— Amelia	12	F	W	"		✓	"	1	1	
— Martha	14	F	W	"		✓	"	1	1	
Hill, Jacob	37	M	W	Farmer	✓	3000	Wittenberg	1	1	

In 1879, at the age of twenty-one, Amalia married Adam Grogger in Kansas. Adam Grogger was born on December 16, 1850 in Austria. Together with his parents, he arrived in New York on August 6, 1852 on the ship 'Mount Vernon', which left Hamburg. At that time he was not much older than his future wife Amalia Just. The couple settled in the small town of Solomon (population 2020: 993 people) in Dickinson County, Kansas. Their first daughter, Grace Gertrude, who was born on April 23, 1880, died three months later on July 11. Her son **Paul Frank Grogger** followed on June 25, 1881.



Paul Frank Grogger
25.06.1881 in Solomon/KS -
18.03.1936 in Ogden/Utah

⊙

Fairmane Elma Noss
13.08.1887 in Wellsville/KS -
04.03.1956 in Ogden/Utah

Paul Eugene Grogger
29.05.1918 in Colorado -
22.09.1987 in Honolulu/Hawaii

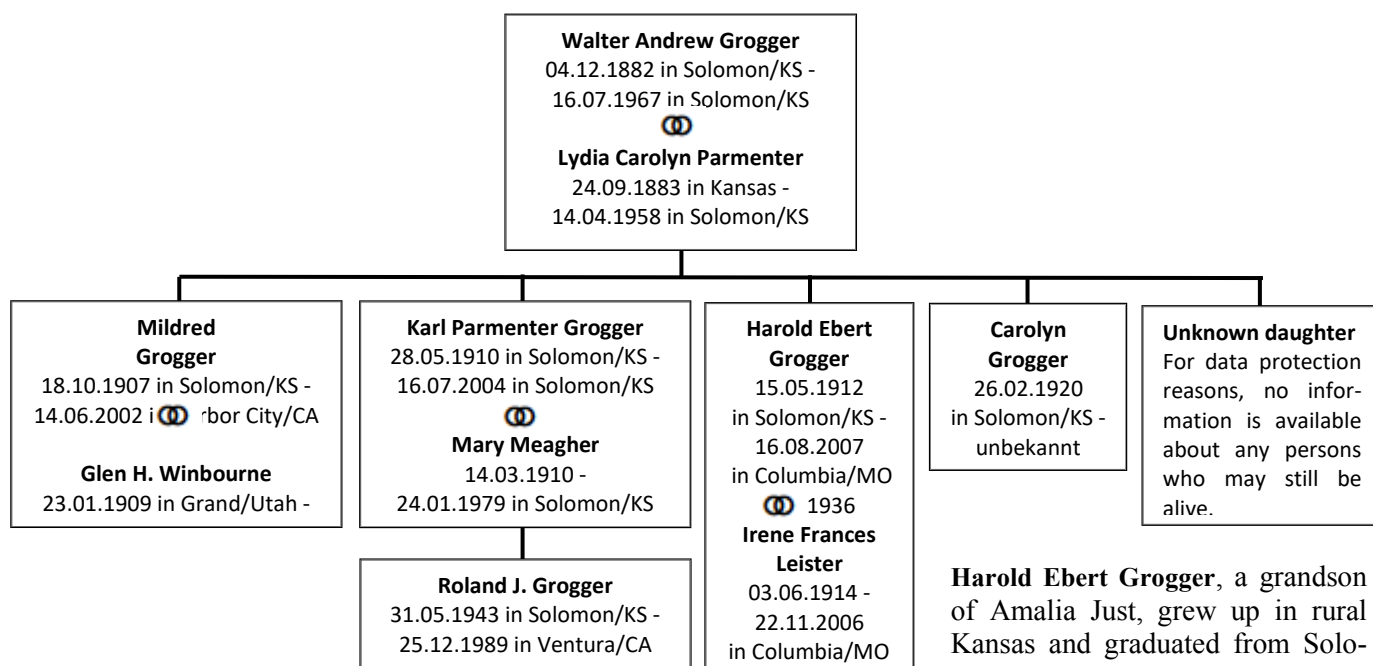
⊙

Helen Jane Main
21.05.1919 - April 2006



Amalia Just and Adam Grogger's other children:

Walter Andrew Grogger



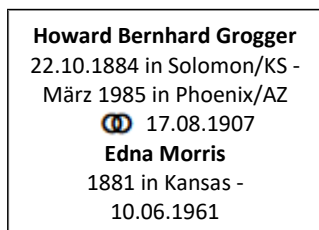
Harold Ebert Grogger, a grandson of Amalia Just, grew up in rural Kansas and graduated from Solomon High School in 1930. He received a Union Pacific scholarship to attend Kansas State University, where he earned a degree in economics in 1935. A year later, Harold began his career as a soil scientist, working eight years for the US Department of Agriculture in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri, where he served for the University of Missouri-Columbia, Army Corps of Engineers, for twenty-five years until his retirement in 1984 and the Missouri Conservation Commission was busy. Harold married Irene Frances Leister on July 4, 1936, they had two children and remained together for more than 60 years until Irene's death separated them in 2006.



Gravestone of Adam Grogger and Amalia (Amelia) Just in Solomon/ Kansas.

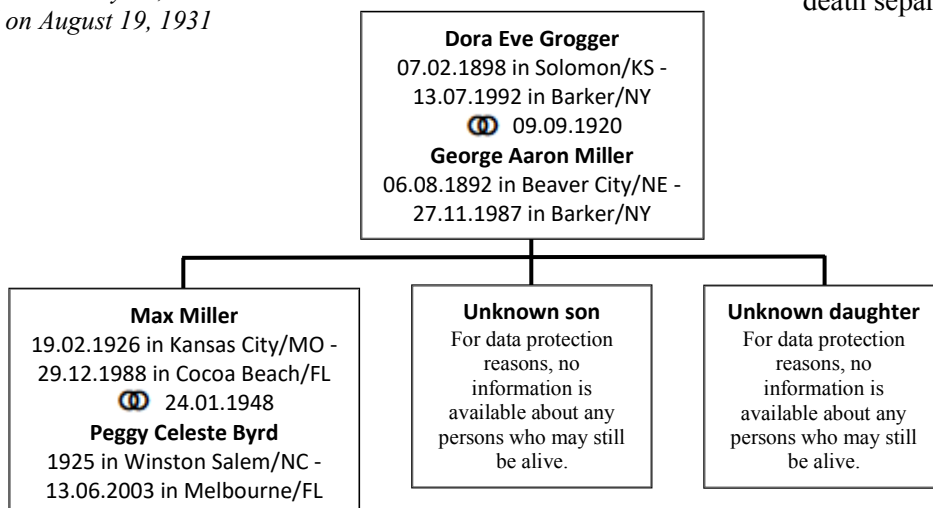
Adam died on February 22, 1909
Amalia died on August 19, 1931

Howard Bernhard Grogger



Howard Bernhard Grogger lived to be over a hundred years old. Apart from his marriage to Edna Morris, nothing is known about his long life, during which time he moved to the desert state

Dora Eve Grogger



Father:
Mathias Just
unknown

Katharina Just
1824 - 1883

Mother:
Anna Barbara
Just

Emigrated to the USA in 1855

Katharina Just was born on March 14, 1824 - I do not know whether on Guscha or in Maienfeld. In 1846 she married Anton Steiger in Maienfeld, who was born in the town on April 19, 1819.

Shortly before Christmas 1847, on December 23rd, their first son was born in Maienfeld - Anton Steiger, who would leave a great legacy in the USA. (Page 117)

The second son, Florian Steiger, followed in 1854, but he died a year later.

In the late summer of 1855, Katharina and her husband Anton, together with their eight-year-old son Anton Jr., also left Graubünden and set out along the same route in the direction of Le Havre.

On October 15, 1855, they arrived in New Orleans on the ship 'Globe'.

DISTRICT OF NEW-Orleans — PORT OF NEW-Orleans

I, George Baker Master of the Ship Globe do solemnly, sincerely and truly Orlean
 swear that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New-Orleans, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said Ship Globe at Havre from which port said Ship Globe has now arrived, and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said Passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

Sworn to this 15th of October 1855, George Baker So help me God
 Before me George Baker Master of the Ship Globe George Baker
 List of Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the Ship Globe whereof George Baker is Master, from Havre by 797 7/8 tons.

N ^o	NAMES	AGE Years - Months	SEX	OCCUPATION	THE COUNTRY TO WHICH THEY SEVERALLY BELONG	THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY INTEND TO BECOME INHABITANTS	USED ON THE VOYAGE	Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage.
	Rosa Barth	44	female	farmer	Switzerland	New Orleans		Stowage
	Anna Cath	43	female					
	Josua	17	male					
	Anna Cath	15	female					
	Helenia	13						
	Wasthalen	11	male					
	Michel	11						
	Margareta	7	female					
	Martin	4	male					
	Steig	38						3
	Cath	31	female					
	Antoine	8	male					
	Anna, Paul	8	female					
	Anna Andree	10	female					
	Maria	37	female					
	Anna Marie	15						
	Andreas	13	male	X				
	Florian	9						

The ghost town

Roark Township, a small town in Gasconade County in eastern Missouri, became the new home of Katharina and Anton Steiger-Just. The settlement on the Gasconade River was founded in 1834 and named after the local Roark family. Today the place is deserted and the community is non-existent.



One of the first settlers in Gascony County was Isaac Best, who owned a horse mill somewhere in the northwestern part. He built a log cabin to protect himself from the Indians and had about two dozen dogs that he had trained to sound the alarm if the natives approached. However, one day in 1811 he was attacked by the Indians. He was forced to retire to his log cabin and the 'Shawnees' captured the horses that powered the mill. Mr. Best saved his life by jumping into the Missouri River and swam eight miles down the freezing river to a US Army fort, where he found help.

It is believed that the first permanent settlers came to the county in 1812. Among them was a James Roark, the founder of the settlement of the same name three miles southeast of Hermann. Almost every early settler settled near a small stream or good spring, and no attempt was made to settle on the open prairie until 1838. The settlers earned their livelihood mainly by hunting and trading with the Indians. Wolves and bears were quite numerous back then. A small amount of cattle ranching was also practiced in the lowlands along the Missouri River and the Gasconade. This area along the two rivers was covered with rushes and nutritious grasses. After the Native Americans were driven west, many farmers and settlers made a profitable business hauling pine lumber from the Upper Gasconade River to St. Louis, while others found profit hauling iron from the Massey Iron Works to Hermann.



The word 'Gasconade' probably comes from the French word 'gascon' which means show-off. As the story goes, the people living along the river tended to brag about their exploits when they returned to St. Louis. Early French explorers, hunters and trappers gave French names to the area's rivers and streams - Bourbeuse, Gasconade, Frene, Berger, Boeuf and Loutre.

Katharina Just, her husband Anton Steiger and their eight-year-old son Anton made it to St. Louis on a Mississippi paddle steamer from New Orleans on the longest river in the USA. From there it continued on the Missouri to the confluence of the Gasconade River, where the family settled in the place founded by Irish immigrant James Roark - Roark! They weren't the only Swiss in the community. In the lists of residents of the following decades, the following surnames can be found, among others:

Boesch, Gruber, Philipp, Stöcklin, Gadiant, Krättli, Alleman, Graf, Schindler, Müller, Duffner, Steinmetz, Zengin, Schwartz, Riek etc. In addition, many emigrants from Germany and France were to be found around Hermann in Gasconade County. Ten miles south of Hermann, Swiss immigrants created the village of 'Swiss', which has survived to this day and has been home to the "Swiss Meat & Sausage Co." since 1969. produces, among other things, cervelats and bratwurst.



The children and grandchildren of Katharina Just and Anton Steiger



Anton Steiger Jr.
23.12.1847 in Maienfeld/GR -
06.10.1931 in Rago/Kansas



Newspaper clipping from the 'New Haven Leader' Missouri of Thursday October 15, 1931

Anton Steiger

Anton Steiger was born in Switzerland, December 23, 1847 and died on October 6, 1931, at the home of his oldest daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Wils Hundley of Rago, Kansas, where he was buried on Thursday, October 8th.

He came to America with his parents in the year 1855, and located in Gasconade county, near Hermann, where he lived until his marriage. He was united in marriage to Sarah Alder in November 1873. To this union were born nine children, two having died in infancy, and Mrs. Maud Spears, who died in 1926. For the past several years he had made his home with his children in Kansas and Missouri.

He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Clara Hundley of Rago, Kan., Mrs. Katie Welter of Augusta, Kan., Mrs. Francis Guese of Villa Ridge, Mrs. Mary Schumacher of New Haven, Lee Steiger of New Haven and Chas. Steiger of Revere, Mass. He also leaves 20 grand children, 27 great grandchildren, 1 sister, Mrs. Jacob Sutter of St. Louis, 2 brothers, Mathew Steiger of Eureka Springs, Ark., and Florian Steiger of New Haven, and a host of friends.

His wife Virginia Sarah Alder, whom he had married on Nov. 20, 1873 in Franklin/MO, died on Feb. 3, 1893 in Augusta/KS, four days after the birth of their last child, Charles Oscar, from complications related to childbirth. They had nine children, two of whom died in infancy:

Clara Lee Steiger



*November 26, 1874 in New Haven/MO - May 1, 1953 in Kansas, marriage on May 22, 1891 with **Wilson Scott Hundley**, born February 15, 1871 in Tennessee, died October 20, 1951 in Kansas - 10 children*

*

Katherine Caroline Steiger

*12/09/1877 in Lawrence/KS - 11/08/1962 in Odessa/TX, married on December 24, 1896 with **Gustav Carl Welter**, born June 1869 in Pinckney/MO, died April 25, 1937 in Augusta/KS - 4 children*

*

James Steiger

March 1880 in Missouri - unknown

*

Frances Steiger

*January 5, 1882 - July 6, 1964 in New Haven/MO, marriage on February 12, 1917 to **Edwin Ludwig Guese**, born April 15, 1880 in Holstein/MO, died December 14, 1975 in St. Louis/MO - no children known*

*

Mary Rosetta Steiger

*January 12, 1884 in New Haven/MO - unknown, married on December 24, 1907 to **Charles Edward Schumacher**, born August 3, 1881 - November 15, 1941 in New Haven/MO only 1 daughter is known - Hadlyn Schumacher*

*

Edward Leander Steiger

July 9, 1890 in Augusta/KS - June 1986 in New Haven

*

Charles Oscar Steiger

*January 30, 1893 in Augusta/KS - January 19, 1953 in Massachusetts, married to **Julia Josephine Donovan**, born 1883 in Ireland, died unknown - no children known*

**The following children of Katharina Just and Anton Steiger
came born in the USA:**

Matthew Steiger

06/06/1856 in Hermann/MO - 09/19/1934 in Eureka Springs/Arkansas

*

Horie Florian Steiger

09/05/1858 in Gasconade/MO - 04/22/1936 in St. Louis/MO

*

Anna Barbara Steiger

*08/19/1865 in Swiss/MO - 05/03/1934 in St. Louis/MO,
married on December 10, 1885 with **Jacob Sutter**, born October 14, 1860 in Switzerland -
September 5, 1938 in St. Louis/Missouri*

4 children;

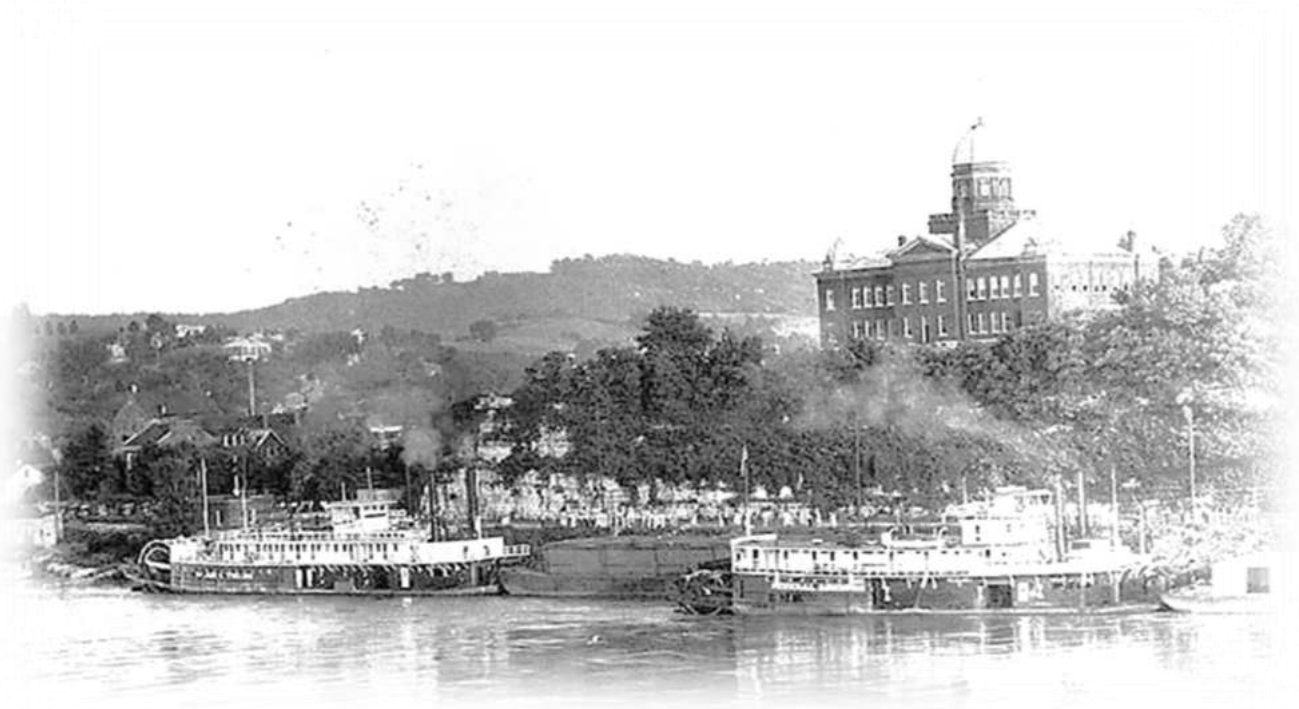
Katherine Rosina, born 1886; Laura Bertha, born 1889; William, born 1891; Jacob Edward, born 1901

*

Gebhardt Steiger

July 17, 1867 in Roark Township/MO - unknown

***Katharina Steiger - Just died in 1883 at the age of 59 in Roark/Missouri.
Her husband Anton Steiger followed her in 1897 at the age of 78.***



The port of Hermann on the Missouri River.

The city was founded in 1837 by German immigrants and today has just over 2,000 inhabitants. Every year in March, the city hosts a sausage festival, in May a May Festival and in autumn the Oktoberfest - all based on the model of 'Good Old Germany'.

Father:
Florian Just
1742-unknown

Anna Margareth Just
1796 - 1870

Mother:
Anna Marie
Lampert
1766-1826

Emigrated to the USA in 1847

Anna Margareth Just emigrated to the USA in 1847, specifically to Gasconade County in Missouri, which we now know very well. She was one of the first Just to settle there, but under the name of her late husband, Boesch. But let's go in order and start from the beginning - in Maienfeld!

Anna Margareth was born in 1796 as the daughter of probably Florian Just and Anna Marie Lampert on the Guscha. In 1818 she married Andreas Boesch in Maienfeld, born on July 6th, 1788. Seven of their eight children were born in Maienfeld. They were:

Andreas, Jacob, Catharina Anna, Joseph, Anna Margareth, Maria and Ursula. Only the youngest - Christian Frederick saw the light of day in 1838 in Westphalia in today's Germany. Apparently the family did not emigrate directly from Maienfeld to the USA, but first moved to the Kingdom of Prussia around 1837.

In the summer of 1847, the family made their way to Le Havre, from where they moved to America - but without their husband and father Andreas Boesch. This was not to be found on the passenger list, but a Conrad Boesch, born 1794, was entered. Was it possibly a brother of Andreas? Who was this Conrad? Another question left unanswered in the darkness of history. The fact is that Andreas Boesch, Anna Margareth Just's husband, died on June 29, 1852 in Maienfeld.

And another question arose: In the passenger list of the ship 'Probus', on which the Boesch-Just family arrived in New York on Sept. 11, 1847, the mother's first name was given as Elizabeth and not as Anna or Margareth, although it was most likely the same person. Was Elizabeth her third name, or was it another slutty registration clerk? Well possible, because the daughter Anna became a male Arne and the destination was given as 'Buffalo'. The Boesch never intended to go to Buffalo! But somehow that sounds familiar to me (see page 107, Heer case). As already mentioned, the Boesch family settled in Casconade County. Their names can be found in the lists of residents of Hermann, Roark, Boeuf and in the town of Swiss, which they co-founded. It is no coincidence that over the years other members with the surnames Just and Boesch emigrated to the same places in Missouri. Apparently, word got around and those who were already over there apparently only had good things to report from the 'New Home' to Maienfeld.

Made by McQueen & Baker, Stationers, 29 East Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

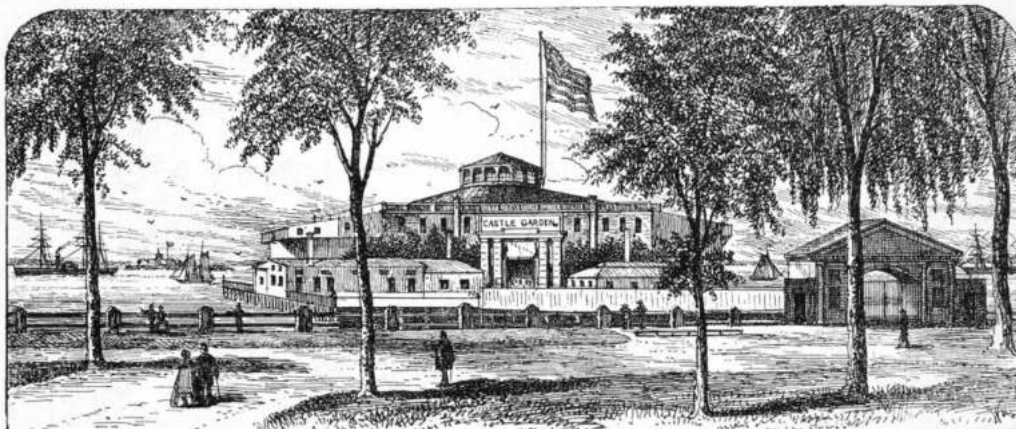
DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *J. C. de Vries* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Probus* whereof I am Master, from *Havre*

Steer to this *11 Sep* 1847
Before me *J. C. de Vries*

J. C. de Vries is Master, from *Havre* burthen *647 1/2* tons.

NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.
	Years.	Months.				



THE BATTERY AND CASTLE GARDEN IN 1850.

The descendants of Anna Margareth Just and Andreas Boesch:

Andreas Boesch (was 29 years old when crossing)

* 24.07.1818 in Maienfeld

† 1881 in Swiss/MO

⊙ in Maienfeld to Christina Flütsch, born 1824, died. 02.01.1893 in Swiss/MO

2 sons:

- **Jacob Boesch**, born December 2nd, 1846 in Maienfeld/GR, died March 9th, 1931 in Swiss/MO, I. marriage on 03/14/1871 with *Mary Dorathea Drewel*, born 1848 in Prussia, died 03/29/1896 in Swiss/MO - have 4 sons and 1 daughter together
- II. Married to *Martha E. Steffen*, born Jan. 08, 1857 in Missouri, died April 18, 1941 in Swiss/MO - have 3 sons together

- **Christian Boesch**, born 1854 in Swiss/MO, died unknown

3 daughters:

- **Anna Margaret Boesch**, born 1849 in Swiss/MO, died unknown
- **Mary Louisa Boesch**, born 1852 in Swiss/MO, died unknown, married 1892 to *Friedrich Emil Meyer*, born September 2nd, 1853 in Prussia, died April 9th, 1931 in Berlin/Germany - 2 children
- **Barbara Boesch**, born 1853 in Swiss/MO, died May 20, 1912 in Missouri, married in 1883 to *Michael Boesch*, born June 3, 1856 in Boeuf/MO, died October 30, 1943 - 7 children



Michael and Barbara Boesch in 1891 with their children: Tony, Mike, George, Talitha and Minnie

Jacob Boesch (was 20 years old when crossing)

* 05.02.1827 in Maienfeld

† 02.03.1884 in Swiss/MO

⊙ Elizabeth Krättli, born 11.09.1832 in Untervaz/GR, died 27.02.1899 in Swiss/MO



4 sons:

- **Jacob Boesch Jr.**, born May 26, 1854 in Swiss/MO, died December 9, 1940 in Hermann/MO, marriage on September 11, 1879 with *Louisa Proett*, born May 4, 1858, died March 10, 1938 in Swiss/MO - 6 children
- **Michael Boesch**, born June 3rd, 1856 in Boeuf/MO, died Oct. 30th, 1943 in Gasconade/MO, married in 1883 to *Barbara Boesch* (cousin), born around 1853 in Swiss/MO, died May 20, 1912 in Missouri - 7 children (see photo above)
- **Andreas Boesch**, born November 6th, 1861 in Swiss/MO, died October 14th, 1947 in Gasconade/MO, married to *Annie Rehmert*, b. 08/23/1868, d.10/04/1899 - 3 children
- **Adolph Boesch**, born 09.10.1870 in Swiss/MO, died 05.03.1953 in Hermann/MO, married in 1895 to *Margareth Michel*, born January 11, 1868 in Swiss/MO, died January 17, 1952 in Hermann/MO - 4 children

4 daughters:

- **Anna Margaret Boesch**, born 03/18/1852 in Swiss/MO, died 02/16/1937 in Alexandria/NE, married on 03/19/1874 to *Edward Henry Proett*, born 04/30/1851 in Hermann/MO, died July 9th, 1925 in Alexandria/NE - 9 children
- **Maria Boesch**, born November 7th, 1859 in Swiss/MO, died July 2nd, 1949, married in 1887 to *Friedrich Wilhelm Rehmert*, born 08/06/1859, died 07/15/1936 - 2 children
- **Lydia Boesch**, born October 16, 1863 in Swiss/MO, died Sept. 14, 1946 in Swiss/MO, marriage on September 10, 1885 to *Ferdinand Henry Schoening*, born September 30, 1855 in Swiss/MO, died July 19, 1947 in Swiss/MO - 7 children
- **Catharina Boesch**, born Oct. 10, 1867 in Swiss/MO, died April 4, 1952 in Swiss/MO, married on March 29, 1894 to *Albert Conrad Michel*, born Jan. 25, 1866 in Swiss/MO, died January 21, 1940 in Swiss/MO - 6 children



Lydia 'Lizzie'
Boesch

Catharina Anna Boesch (was 18 years old when crossing)

- * 25.07.1829 in Untervaz/GR
- † 11.05.1914 in Roark/MO
- ⊗ 11.05.1849 to Jacob Georg Philipp, born 16.04.1823 in Untervaz/GR, died 21.05.1898 in Swiss/MO



4 sons:

- **Andrew Philipp**, born 1856, died unknown
- **Michael Philipp**, born 1857, died unknown
- **Andreas Georg Philipp**, born 14.03.1867 in Swiss/MO, died. 01.03.1957 in Rudd/Iowa
- **Jacob Philipp**, born 1869 in Roark/MO, died 07.06.1955

8 daughters:

- **Margareth Philipp**, b. 21.07.1850, d. 04.04.1932 in Swiss/MO
- **Marie Philipp**, b. 22.02.1852 in Swiss/MO, d. 22.11.1885 in Hermann/MO
- **Catherine Philipp**, b. 11.12.1853 in Swiss/MO, d. 21.02.1940 in Nora Springs/IA
- **Dorothy Philipp**, b. 1855, died unknown
- **Dorothea Philipp**, b. 12.08.1859, d. 30.01.1940 in Missouri
- **Ursula Philipp**, b. 12.04.1863 in Swiss/MO, d. 15.06.1927
- **Anna Philipp**, b. 12.01.1865, d. 09.07.1897 in Hermann/MO
- **Rose Philipp**, b. 13.03.1873 in Missouri, d. 27.06.1952

Anna Margaretha Boesch (was 15 years old when crossing)

- * 25.07.1832 in Maienfeld/GR
- † 12.09.1909 in Ray County/MO
- ⊗ 27.12.1852 to Jacob Schindler, born 02.11.1826 im Kanton Glarus, died 01.02.1899 in Ray County/MO



5 sons:

- **Jacob Schindler**, b. 1853 in Boeuf/MO, d. around 1930 in California
- **Ferdinand Schindler**, b. 1864 in Swiss/MO, d. 31.03.1909 in Missouri, married 25.10.1892 to **Catherina Plattner**, b. 26.04.1869 in Swiss/MO, d. 08.01.1946 in Excelsior Springs/MO – 5 children
- **Robert Schindler**, b. 23.01.1867 in Boeuf/MO, d. 31.05.1951 in Hermann/MO, married 16.03.1893 to **Dorothea Plattner**, b. 1867, d. 1961 – 1 daughter
- **Andreas Schindler**, b. 08.04.1878 in MO, d. 18.10.1958 in Orrick/MO, married 1898 to **Anna Catherine Battagler**, b. 27.03.1875 in MO, d. 14.11.1945 in Orrick/MO – 5 children
- **Jacob Schindler**, born 1876 in Missouri, died unknown

4 daughters:

- **Margareth Schindler**, born 1856 in Boeuf/MO, died unknown
- **Rosalie Schindler**, b. 14.02.1860 in MO, d. 01.04.1912 in Fishing River/MO, married to **Jacob Werle**, b. 1854 in Hermann/MO, d. 05.04.1925 in Richmond/MO – 4 children
- **Bertha Schindler**, b. 18.07.1862 in Hermann/MO, d. 21.10.1935 in Missouri, married 20.10.1883 to **Albert Werle**, b. 06.11.1860 in Stony Hill/MO, d. 19.02.1943 in Orrick/MO – 13 children
- **Catharina Schindler**, born 1872, died unknown

Maria Boesch (was 11 years old when crossing)

* 12.05.1836 in Maienfeld/GR

† 15.08.1873 in Swiss/MO

⊗ 1855 in Swiss/MO to Jacob Dörflinger, born 29.10.1819 in Fulenbach/Solothurn, died. 07.08.1893 in Swiss/MO

6 sons:

- **Adolph Dörflinger**, born August 10, 1856 in Swiss/MO, died February 1, 1945 in Appleton City/MO, married *Christina Michel* in 1887, born July 25, 1866 in Swiss/MO, died April 11, 1955 in Appleton City/MO – 3 sons, 1 daughter

- **Albert Dörflinger**, born July 10, 1858 in Swiss/MO, died Nov. 22, 1921 in St. Louis/MO, married on November 6th, 1881 to *Mary Schaffner*, born September 23rd, 1861 in Berger/MO, died October 7th, 1950 in St. Louis/MO – 3 sons, 3 daughters

- **Edward Dörflinger**, born Nov. 1862 in Swiss/MO, died July 5th, 1900 in St. Louis/MO, married 1891 to *Louisa Schaffner*, born October 26, 1867 in Berger/MO, died May 18, 1957 in St. Louis/MO

- **Louis Dörflinger**, born April 18, 1865 in Swiss/MO, died March 22, 1944 in Higginsville/MO, married on May 9, 1889 to *Ursula Philipp*, b. on April 12, 1863 in Hermann/MO, died June 15, 1927 in Higginsville/MO – 3 sons, 2 daughters

- **Otto Dörflinger**, born January 31, 1867 in Swiss/MO, died 1940 in Appleton City/MO, married on April 30, 1896 to *Christina Schindler*, b. on March 16, 1870 in Hermann/MO, d. Feb. 24, 1964 in Kansas City – 2 sons, 1 daughter

- **Jacob Dörflinger**, b. 1873 in Swiss/MO, d. 1947 in Appleton City/MO (was adopted by John Michel and his wife Mary Ganser after his mother's death in the same year)

I. Marriage 1913 with *Ella Parks*, born 1875, died unknown,

II. Marriage 1916 to *Lula E. Denton*, b. 1878 in Millerton/Iowa, died 1965

3 daughters:

- **Margaret Amalia Dörflinger**, born June 1859 in Swiss/MO, died May 11, 1927 in Toledo/Ohio, married on September 9th, 1870 to *Ferdinand Werle*, born December 1850 in Missouri, died unknown – 1 son, 3 daughters

- **Anna Elizabeth Dörflinger**, born March 28, 1869 in Swiss/MO, died November 24, 1948 in Higginsville/MO, married to *Henry Proett* in 1895 – 3 sons, 2 daughters

- **Catherine Dörflinger**, born Oct. 1871 in Swiss/MO, died February 07 in Fulton/MO



Adolph Dörflinger
(1856-1945)



Albert Dörflinger (1858-1921)
and his wife Mary Schaffner



Edward Dörflinger
(1862-1900)



Louis Dörflinger
(1865-1944)



Otto Dörflinger
(1867-1940)



Anna Elizabeth Dörflinger
(1869-1948)



Catherine Dörflinger
(1871-1953)



Jacob Dörflinger (Photo 1888)

Maria Boesch's husband, Jacob Dörflinger, was born in 1819 in Fülenbach in the canton of Solothurn. He left his birthplace and arrived in Gasconade County, Missouri, about 1854. The crossing took 72 days. In later years he told his daughter Elizabeth that when he left Switzerland he was a Catholic. However, when he came to the United States he was a committed Presbyterian and remained so for the rest of his life. In the same year of his arrival, Jacob applied for US citizenship and was eventually admitted as a US citizen in 1860.

In 1855 he married Maria Boesch, who was born in Maienfeld in 1836. Her parents were Andreas Boesch and Anna Margareth (in the USA Maria) Just. In September 1856 Jacob bought a 120 Morgan (30 ha) farm near Swiss/MO from the 'General Land Office' in St. Louis. There he and Maria raised nine children. Maria died in 1873 shortly after giving birth to her son Jacob. John and Maria Michel, who lived on an adjacent farm, took Jacob Jr. as their son and he took the surname Michel.

On Dec. 18, 1879, Jacob Sr. married Anna Maria 'Mary' Zesinger, née Schneider of Täuffelen in the canton of Bern, who had six children (three of whom died in infancy) by her first husband, Frederick (Fritz) Zesinger, of three had died years earlier, brought into the marriage. Jacob Dörflinger died in 1893 and is buried in the 'Old Presbyterian Cemetery' in Swiss.

Letters Jacob wrote to his daughter Elizabeth provide a glimpse into his life, much of which was typical of the people of Swiss in the mid and late 19th century. He spoke of how he and his son Otto had to be ready when the harvest hands and their machines came and what a hard and hot work the harvest was. The weather was a constant issue, either too little or too much rain. In a letter dated January 6, 1888, he notes:

"We've been praying in our new church for a little over a month, it's warm and cozy and I hope to spend the rest of my life praying there." Jacob's will was detailed, listing 'my bed frame, bedding, down pillow and blankets'.

The Presbyterians

The Presbyterian churches stand in the tradition of Reformed and Calvinian theology. They emphasize the authority of the Bible, the sovereignty of God as testified to in the New Testament, and justification within the Trinitarian doctrine of grace through the God-man Jesus Christ. The Presbyterian community in the United States today is approximately two million members.

Christian Frederick Boesch (was 9 years old when crossing)

- * 11.03.1838 in Westfalen/Preussen
- † 13.04.1918 in Blackwell/Oklahoma(OK)
- ⊙ 20.04.1873 to Wilhelmina Stradtman, born 02.05.1948 in Westfalen/Preussen, died. 27.01.1933 in Blackwell/OK

3 sons:

- **Edward Hermann Boesch**, born January 20, 1874 in St. Louis/MO, died April 16, 1951 in Blackwell/OK, married on October 12, 1899 to Charlotte *Ilgheim Meyer*, born December 7, 1879 in Prussia, died July 4, 1961 in Blackwell, OK - 12 children
- **Henry Boesch**, born 1879 in St. Louis/MO, died unknown
- **William Herman Boesch**, born Dec. 9th, 1892 in St. Louis/MO, died April 13th, 1948

5 daughters:

- **Wilhemina K. Boesch**, born May 2, 1875 in St. Louis, died June 24, 1901 in Daykin/NE, marriage 1896 to *William Frederick Hahn*, born February 15, 1868 in Huron City/Michigan, died October 19, 1945 in Tuscola/MI – 8 children
- **Louise Henrieta Boesch**, b. 28.08.1877 in St. Louis/MO, d. 11.11.1944 in Swanton/NE
- **Sophia L. Boesch**, b. 09.09.1885 in Nebraska, d. 11.06.1953
- **Anna Boesch**, b. 05.03.1886 in Nebraska, d. 05.08.1952
- **Ida Boesch**, b. August 1889 in Nebraska, d. 05.08.1952



Christian Frederick Boesch und his wife Wilhelmina Stradtman

Joseph and Ursula Boesch are missing from this list of the children of Margareth Just and Andreas Boesch. Only the year of birth of the two is known. They probably died in childhood before 1847 and were therefore not on the trip to America:

- Joseph Boesch, born 1832 in Switzerland
- Ursula Boesch, born 1838 in Switzerland

**Anna Margareth Just-Boesch died in Georgia between 1860 and 1870.
The exact date is not known.**



Father:
Peter Johannes Just
1833-unknown

Margaret Just
1854 - 1922

Mother:
Margaretha Bühler
unknown

Emigrated to the USA in 1882

Margaret Just was born on April 18, 1854 on Guscha as the daughter of Peter and Margaretha Just-Bühler. She married Maximilian 'Max' Ortlieb and they had a daughter together – Anna Margaret, born April 1st, 1876 in Maienfeld/GR. In 1882 the small family emigrated to the USA in the state of Wisconsin. After the death of her husband 'Max', Margaret Just married the German immigrant Ernst Ludwig Haase on February 5, 1898. She died on September 6, 1922 at the age of 68 in Franklin County, Ohio.



Margareth Just

18.04.1854 in Guscha/GR -
06.09.1922 in Ohio

I. Ⓞ 1876

Maximilian Ortlieb

229.05.1856 in Frickingen/D -
1897 in Columbus/Ohio

II. Ⓞ 05.02.1898 in Milwaukee/OH
Ernst Ludwig Haase
28.11.1865 in Prussia -
26.02.1915 in Ohio



Anna Margaret Ortlieb

01.04.1876 in Maienfeld/GR -
07.09.1929 in Ohio

Ⓞ 1895

Franz Ernst Huber

22.08.1861 in Dresden/D -
26.11.1937 in Columbus/Ohio

Anna Margaret Ortlieb divorced Franz Ernst Huber in 1912, but remarried him on June 30, 1917 in Franklin/Ohio.

Frank Ernest Huber

07.06.1903 in Sawyer/WI -
05.07.1948 in Los Angeles/CA

I. Ⓞ 03.07.1925

Irene Iva Hoffmann

16.04.1910 - 11.07.1989

II. Ⓞ 27.06.1931

Ruth E. Connor

29.05.1903 - 10.02.1988

Ernest F. Huber

24.12.1905 in Sturgeon Bay/WI -
nach 1948 in Zanesville/OH

I. Ⓞ 05.10.1925

Mary Elizabeth Boggs

um 1910 - 22.02.1957 in Ohio

II. Ⓞ 1936

Margaret Cole

1905 - unknown

William Clarence Huber

12.11.1907 in Wisconsin -
20.01.1970 in California

I. Ⓞ 1933

Rachel Reihl

13.11.1911 in Zanesville/OH -

11.01.1981 in Zanesville/OH

II. Ⓞ 01.07.1961

Edna May Reihl

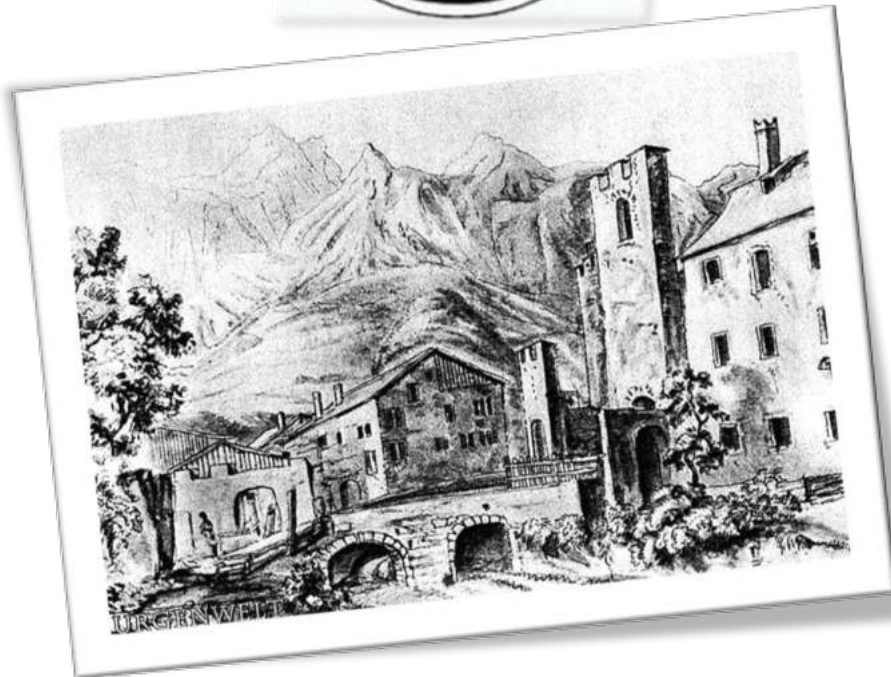
13.10.1906 in Zanesville/OH -
10.06.1994 in Santa Clara/CA

Frank Huber, 44, of Los Angeles, brother of two local residents, died Monday at home of a heart attack.
He leaves his widow, Ruth, and two brothers, William C. of 819 Western avenue, and Ernest of 1521 Putnam avenue. The brothers have left by plane for California.
Mr. Huber moved to Los Angeles from Ohio 10 years ago.

The descendants of Margreth Just still live under the name Huber in the USA.

VI. Chapter

The Mutzner family



Bibliography:

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VI. Chapter

The 1880s and advances in technology

The third and last major emigration wave of the 19th century began in the 1880s. In that decade, more than 80,000 Swiss had packed their belongings and made their way to the port cities on the Atlantic to board a steamer bound for America. In the 1880s, about the same number of Swiss emigrated to the USA as in the previous seventy years. They were part of a wave of almost five million Europeans emigrating, twice as many as in the previous decade. According to American statistics, over a quarter of a million Swiss people immigrated to the USA within a century (1821-1920).

The economic situation had changed around 1880 in both Europe and the USA. Since the introduction of the railway, agriculture in Switzerland could no longer compete with the cheap imported grain, and agriculture accordingly turned to animal husbandry and dairy farming even more than before. In the textile industry, homework fell sharply after the introduction of weaving machines. What followed was an actual economic crisis, in which not only Swiss agriculture was hit hard by the depression, but also the railway companies, the watchmaking, and the cotton and silk industries. Political and social tensions arose in Europe, caused by the second industrial revolution and a population explosion, which triggered a further wave of emigration to North America.

In the USA, the economic situation developed in the opposite direction after the end of the civil war and thanks to faster and cheaper transport options such as trains and steamboats, emigration had become easier. Industrialization spread over a large area. America desperately needed labor and the states of the Midwest became more accessible to agriculture.

Welcome Swiss

Data from US immigration officials shows that while many of the Swiss arrivals could only afford third-class travel, they had more cash to start their new lives. Many had also come with their families, another sign that they tended to be a bit more financially secure than the typical immigrant from southern Europe, who traveled alone and usually had only a handful of practically worthless lire or drachmas in his pocket.

Before the center opened on Ellis Island, the new arrivals were registered in an arrivals hall in Battery Park, Manhattan, then known as Castle Garden.

Arriving from Switzerland, whether they spoke German, French or Italian, had been assisted through the immigration procedure by an employee who spoke their language. Their names and other details were recorded and checked against the ship's passenger list before they could continue their journey.

Free farmland

Most of the Swiss moved further west to take advantage of the opportunity to get farmland or to travel to places where settlers from Switzerland had already settled - for example in California, or had founded their own communities, as in the Example New Glarus in Wisconsin. With the Homestead Act of 1862, the US government offered land in the new territories to all settlers, provided they committed to tilling it for at least five years. In the absence of a welfare state, following the liberal spirit, there was no provision for the needs of migrants to be taken care of by a central state agency. So the already resident Swiss helped the new immigrants to get farmland, set up shops or other businesses and most people joined the local Swiss associations. It is fair to say that these years were the best times for emigrants!

Not all immigrants stayed in the US forever. Between 1815 and 1914, about one in three European immigrants returned to their home country, although this varied greatly over time and between countries of origin. The rate of return migration increased over time, and immigrants from Eastern and Southern European countries returned more frequently than Central and Northern Europeans.

The Mutzner family

Numerous members of the Mutzner family also left their home in Graubünden in the course of the 19th century and emigrated to North America. The name Mutzner no longer appeared in Guscha in the 1850s, because the Mutzner clan had migrated to Rofels and Maienfeld centuries before. Caspar Mutzner was one of the first Mutznern to dare to jump across the 'big pond'. He was the youngest son of Johannes and Margreth Mutzner-Senti.

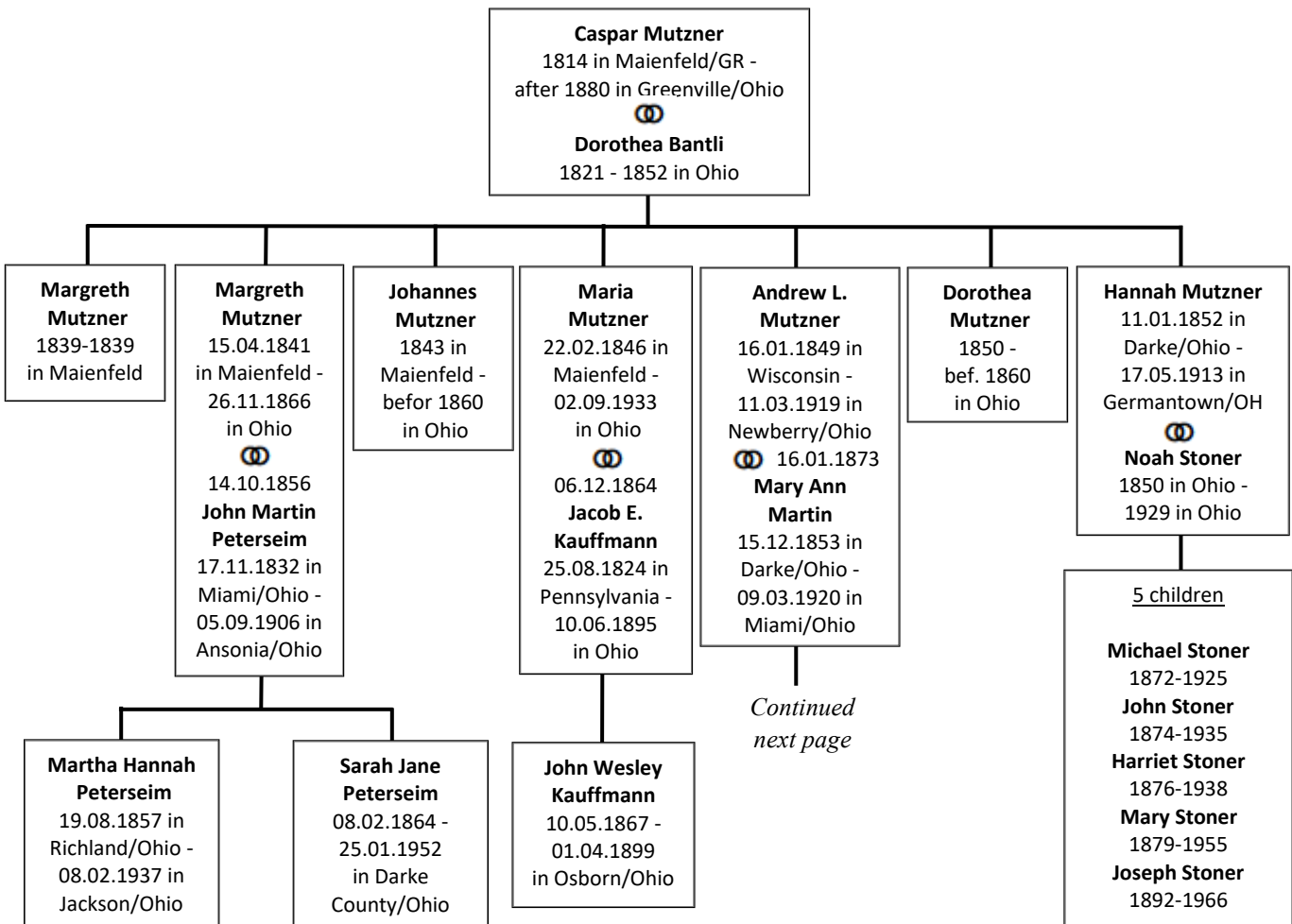


Emigrated to the USA in 1846

Caspar Mutzner, his wife Dorothea Mutzner-Bantli and their children Margreth, Johannes and Maria arrived in New York on June 15, 1846. Their first daughter, who was also called Margreth and was born in Maienfeld in 1839, died in the year she was born. The Mutznern probably traveled through Germany to Hamburg, from where they embarked for the crossing.

The Mutzner family first moved from New York to Wisconsin, where their son Andrew was born in 1849. A year later the daughter Dorothea followed and the youngest daughter Hannah was born in 1852 in Darke County in Ohio, the new home of Caspar Mutzner's family until then. But the mother Dorothea Mutzner-Bantli died as a result of the birth of her daughter Hannah, and from then on her surviving husband Caspar had to look after his children alone. In the 1860 population register, Caspar Mutzner lived on a farm in Richland, Ohio, with his eldest daughter Margreth and her husband John Peterseim. However, the two names of his children Johannes (John) and Dorothea Mutzner do not appear on that list, so it can be assumed that they both died before 1860.

The exact date of Caspar Mutzner's death is not known, but it is between 1880 and 1890, since he can still be found in the 1880 list of residents of Greenville/Ohio.



The Andrew Mutzner family



Standing: Charles (1884-1912), John Earl (1873-1937), William Henry (1887-1948)
 David Andrew (1875-1950), Lydia Mae (1879-1948)
 Sitting: Father Andrew (1849-1919), Grace Katherine (1890-1928),
 Mother Mary Ann (1853-1920)

- **John Earl Mutzner**, born June 7th, 1873 in Darke County/Ohio, died January 27th, 1937 in Piqua/Ohio,
 - I. Marriage to *Daisy Bertha Cook*, born June 6th, 1871 in Jackson Township/Ohio, died Sept. 27th, 1911 in Arcanum/Ohio – 3 sons, 1 daughter
 - II. Marriage on February 25, 1928 to *Frances B. Ullrey*, born Oct. 28, 1880 in Newberry/Ohio, died unknown – no children
- **David Andrew Mutzner**, born August 25, 1875 in Ohio, died March 15, 1950 in Piqua/Ohio, married on May 21, 1895 to *Jeanette Mattie Wade*, b. April 15, 1873 in Parkersburg/WV, d. July 6, 1966 in Covington/Ohio – 3 sons, 1 daughter
- **Lydia Mae Mutzner**, born October 26, 1879 in Darke County/Ohio, died December 1, 1948 in Covington/Ohio, marriage on December 25, 1897 with *Charles H. Palser*, born May 25, 1875 in Orange/Ohio, died April 9, 1947 – 2 sons, 1 daughter
- **Charles Mutzner**, born September 8th, 1884 in Adams/Ohio, died February 9th, 1912 in Hamilton/Ohio, was never married
- **William Henry Mutzner**, born March 28, 1887 in Darke County/Ohio, died December 21, 1948 in Covington/Ohio, married on January 12, 1910 to *Ida Eldora Meztger*, born August 25, 1888 in Newberry/Ohio, died March 19, 1977 in Greenville/Ohio – 1 son, 3 daughters
- **Grace Katherine Mutzner**, born August 27, 1890 in Covington/Ohio, died January 23, 1928 in Covington/Ohio, married on August 29, 1908 to *William F. Smith*, born November 16, 1887 in Covington/Ohio, died October 3, 1952 in Piqua/Ohio – 3 sons, 6 daughters



Father:
**Jakob
Mutzner**
1801-1852

Johannes Mutzner
1845 - 1907

Mother:
**Elsbeth
Riederer**
1803-1855

Emigrated to the USA in 1866

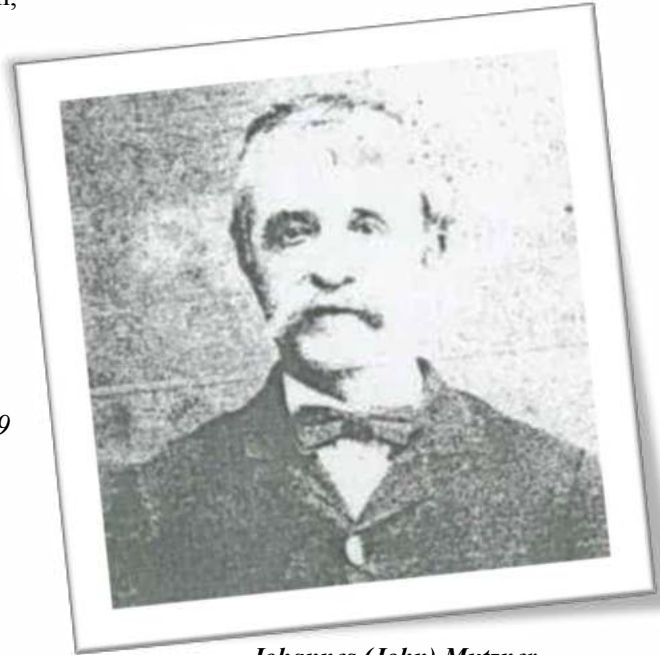
Johannes Mutzner was born on April 16, 1845 in Maienfeld. He is a great-great-uncle of mine. His brother Paulus (1832-1901) was married to Anna Mutzner (1846-1909). They were my paternal great-great grandparents. (See family tree page 5)

Johannes' father, Jakob (1801-1852), was a son of the town clerk Christian Mutzner (1761-1824) and Katharina Mutzner (1775-1843). Together with Elsbeth Riederer (1803-1855), whom he had married in 1827, they were parents of twelve children;

- Katharina, 1827-1840
- Maria, 1829-1836
- Paulus, 1832-1901
- Verena, 1833-1833
- Christian, 1835-1837
- Andreas, 1836-1918 married on 1865 to Katharina Barbara Stäger
- Christian, 1838-1839
- Christian, 1840-1903 was a locksmith and married twice. (Anna Rehli, Christina Haag)
- Caspar, 06.06.1846-27.08.1846
- Maria, 21.11.1847-13.08.1931 was since 1869 married to Michael Riederer

Her two brothers Johannes and Jakob emigrated to North America.

- **Johannes**, 16.04.1845-28.04.1907
- **Jakob**, 14.08.1841-1890 (Page 135)



Johannes (John) Mutzner

My great-great-uncle Johannes Mutzner was twenty-one years old and the only Mutzner on board the steamship "Borussia", which left the port of Hamburg on April 21, 1866. However, there were many Swiss on the passenger list, originating from Zizers, Haldenstein, Mels, Lunden, Pany and nine of them from Jenaz. We do not know when the "Borussia" reached New York. It must have been early May, since the steamships of the time were able to cross the Atlantic within two weeks.

Johannes Mutzner gave his occupation to the immigration authorities at Castle Garden as 'countryman'. He moved from New York to Dayton, Ohio and became a tailor. On February 4th, 1869 he married Clara Paul from Baden/Prussia. They had two sons together. On May 20, 1881 - John Mutzner, as he called himself since his arrival in the USA, was apparently divorced in the meantime - he married Mary Anna Schoen. She was the daughter of German immigrants from Württemberg. Four children came from this marriage. (Page 134)

Until his death on April 28, 1907, John Mutzner lived in Dayton, Ohio, where he ran his tailoring business.



Passenger list of the «Borussia»

Departure date: April 21, 1866

Captain: Schwensen

Place of departure: Hamburg

Place of arrival: New York

Type of ship: Steamer Ship's

Flag: Germany

Accommodation: steerage

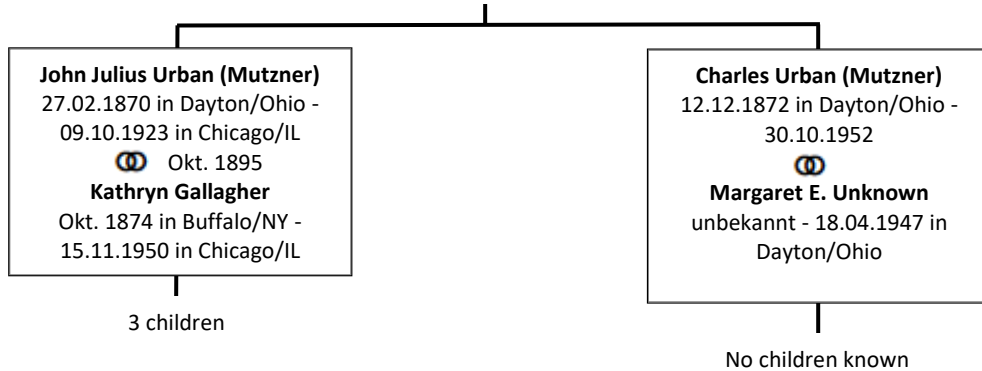
Ship owner: Hamburg-American Paketfahrt-Aktien-Gesellschaft

do Martha		1. Jan 24				
do Georg		12	1	1	1	1
do Joh		7	1	1	1	1
do Christa	London	7	1	1	1	1
do Margareth		1. Kinder 6	1	1	1	1
do Diätagen		3½	1	1	1	1
do Chr		2	1	1	1	1
do Andreas			1	1	1	1
Kartmann Joh. Georg	Famj	Landm 22	1	1	1	1
Walden Thomas		48	1	1	1	1
do Elisabeth		1. Jan 33	1	1	1	1
do Joh. Kaldenstein		13	1	1	1	1
do Maria		7½	1	1	1	1
do Peter		1. Kinder 5	1	1	1	1
do Ursula		3	1	1	1	1
do Julie			1	1	1	1
Wischer Georg	Famj	Landm 25	1	1	1	1
Mutzner Joh. Meinfeld		22	1	1	1	1
Bartsch Mid. Jigms		22	1	1	1	1
Goos Alois		35	1	1	1	1
do Caroline		1. Jan 31	1	1	1	1
do Blaudine		18	1	1	1	1
do Johann	Mets.	1. Kinder 13	1	1	1	1
do Paul		6	1	1	1	1
Aggeler Anton	Meistamen	Landm 22	1	1	1	1
Häberer Mart. Pieter		16	1	1	1	1
Schermann Franz	Weissenberg	19	1	1	1	1
Aggeler Martin	Meistamen	23	1	1	1	1
Seeger Ulrich	Ermsingen	23	1	1	1	1
Müller Peter	Olmen	20	1	1	1	1
Stabitzd Eric	Trüllikon	Landm 24	1	1	1	1
do		21	1	1	1	1

The first marriage with Clara Paul

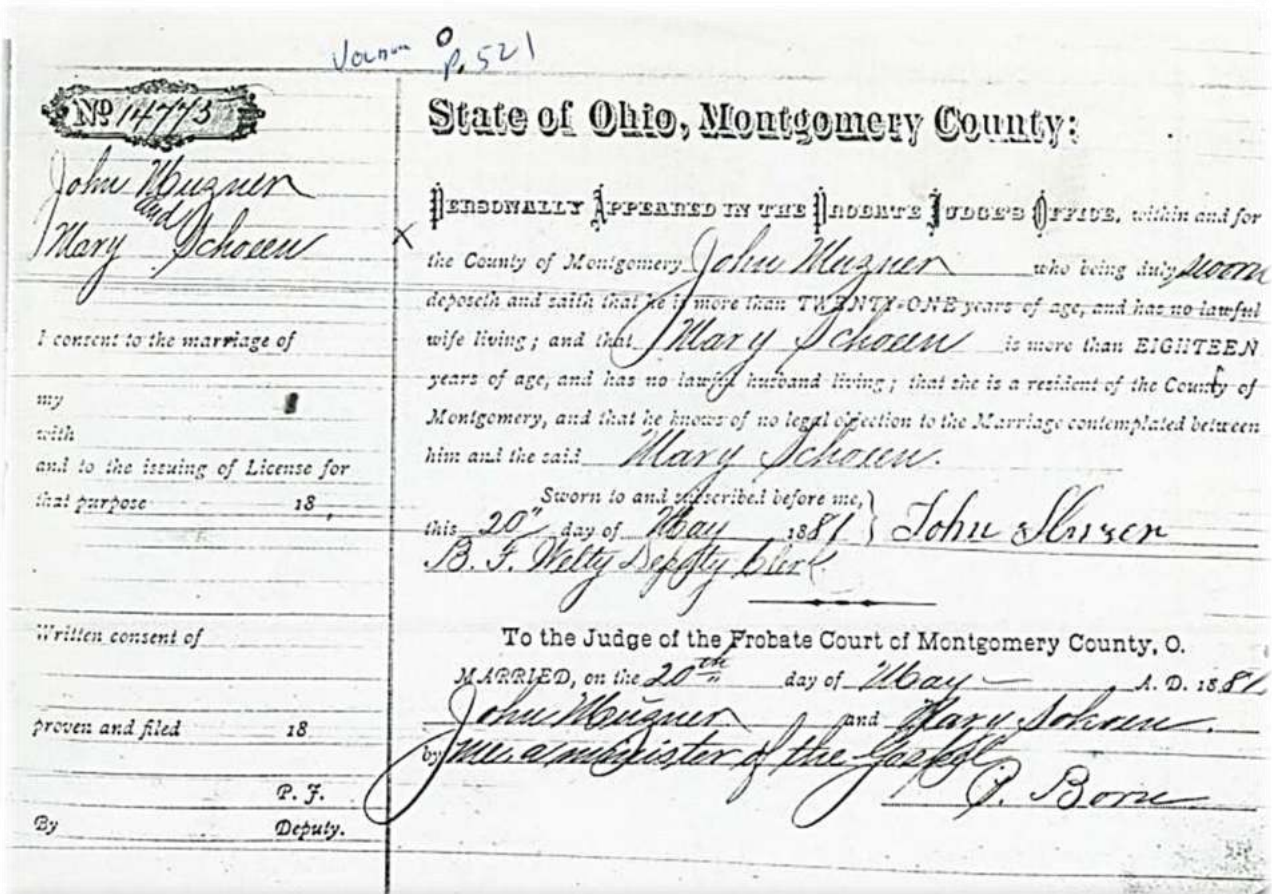
John Mutzner
 16.04.1845 in Maienfeld/GR -
 28.04.1907 in Dayton/Ohio
 Ⓞ 04.02.1869
Clara Caroline Paul
 um 1831 in Baden/D -
 30.10.1909 in Dayton/Ohio

John and Clara divorced after Charles was born. Clara married Phillip Urban and the two sons must have been adopted by him as they took the surname Urban.



The second marriage with Mary Schoen

Marriage certificate of John Mutzner and Mary Schoen



Mrs. Kerber Dies Tuesday In Indianapolis

Mrs. Catherine R. Kerber, 73, of 772 Foraker avenue, died suddenly at 3:45 p. m. Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Arthur McKay of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Death, resulting from a coronary attack, occurred while she was on a visit with her daughter.

A native of Dayton, O., Mrs. Kerber was born May 24, 1882, a daughter of John and Mary Sullivan Mutzner.

She moved to Sidney in 1902 and on April 21, 1903 was united in marriage with William F. Kerber. He died May 13, 1953.

Eight children survive, including Mrs. Frank Marie Sextro, Mrs. Oswald (Margaret) Schaaf, George Kerber and James Kerber, all of Sidney; Mr. Arthur (Katherine) McKay, Indianapolis; Mrs. Lawrence (Loretta) Gerderman, Lima; Lawrence Kerber, Piqua, and Paul Kerber, Minster.

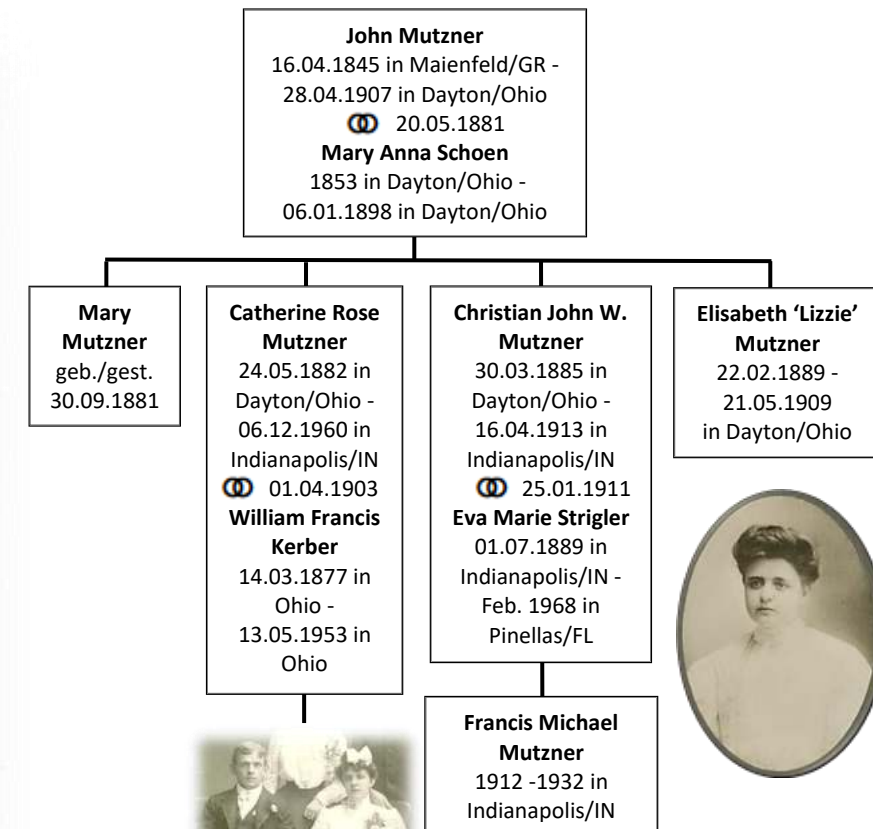
A son, William Jr., died in 1953, and a daughter, Mrs. John DeVelvis in 1959.

Mrs. Kerber is also survived by 34 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. She was the last of her family.

She was a member of the Holy Angels Church, and the Sacred Heart Altar Sodality of the church.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a. m. Friday from the Holy Angels Church with Msgr. Edward C. Lehman officiating. Burial will be made in Graceland Cemetery.

Friends will be received at the Salm and Sharp Funeral Home on Thursday at any time after 2 p. m.



Wedding photo of William Kerber and Catherine Mutzner



William Kerber and Catherine Mutzner with their five daughters: (photo 1910)

- Marie (1904-1976)
- Catherine (1905-1995)
- Margaret (1906-2001)
- Loretta (1908-1967)
- Elizabeth (1909-1959)

Her five sons were:

- Lawrence Alfred (1910-1971)
- William (1912-1953)
- George (1914-1981)
- James (1915-1979)
- Paul (1918-1977)



Catherine Rose Mutzner and William Francis Kerber in front of their home in Ohio around 1950.

Father:
**Jakob
 Mutzner**
 1801-1852

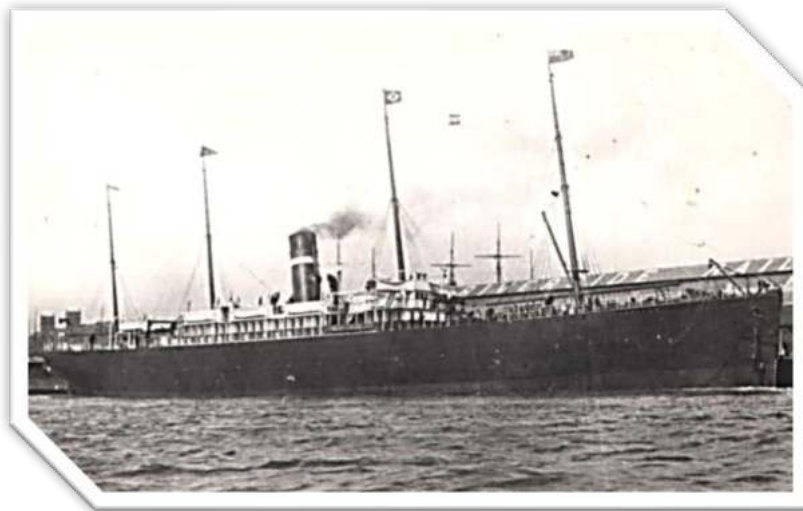
Jakob Mutzner
 1841 - 1890

Mother:
**Elsbeth
 Riederer**
 1803-1855

Emigrated to the USA in 1883

Like Johannes Mutzner, Jakob Mutzner was my great-great-uncle. He arrived in New York on a cold winter's day on February 12, 1883, and after seventeen years he was reunited with his brother, the tailor Johannes. Jakob also settled in Dayton/Ohio and is said to have opened a hotel.

Jakob Mutzner was born on August 14, 1841 in Maienfeld and was married there to Margreth Just, who was born in Guscha in 1854. The two had two daughters; Margreth, born 1877 and Elisabeth, born 1879, who later married Johann Juon in Maienfeld. It is not known what fate the family had to endure. Because Jakob Mutzner traveled to America in 1883 without his family. Only his name was on the passenger list of the steamboat "Labrador", which had left the French port of Le Havre a week before arriving in New York.



Handmann	20	• the upper		
Adler	20	• Michael Germany		
Joseph Wachel	17	• August Switzerland	Cincinnati	
George Schmidt	27	• Jakob Germany	Philadelphia	
Anna Cath. Widmann	34	• Jakob (Switzerland)	do	
Jakob Mutzner	41	• Jakob	Ohio	
Johann Gubler	31	• Louis	Wisconsin	
Jean Wainbinger	11	• Rome	N York	
Gottlieb Handt	26	• farmer	Washo	
Emma Schuster	19	•	N York	
Emma Schuster	21	• Jakob		
Joseph Salzman	21	• Jakob		
Jacob Althaus	27	•	Indiana	
Samuel Brachtel	16	• Jakob	Columbus	
Anna	38	• Jakob		
Anna Mari	12	•		
Jean Jacob	10	•		
Frederic	9	•		
Anna	7	•		
Anna	3	•		

On July 17, 1883, Jakob Mutzner married Rosina Ernst, born in 1865, in Dayton/Ohio, who was of German descent. Their daughter Elisabeth 'Lizzie' was born in December 1883. However, she died eighteen months later on June 22, 1885. Jakob Mutzner was not able to enjoy his new home for long either. He died on August 20, 1890 at the age of 49, seven years after his arrival in the United States.

Father:
Stephan
Mutzner
1747-1798

Christian Mutzner 1780 - um 1848

Mother:
Margreth
Nigg
1744-1817

Emigrated to the USA in 1846

Christian Mutzner
(Miller)
1691 - 1754
Ⓞ
Barbara Büsch
1705 - 1756

Stephan Mutzner
1747 - 1798
Ⓞ 1771
Margreth Nigg
1744 - 1817

Christian Mutzner
1780 - um 1848
Ⓞ 1841
Rosa Wüstner
1811 - 1890


Christian Mutzner and Rosa Wüstner from Fideris (03/15/1811 - 10/12/1890) had married in 1841 in Maienfeld. Five years later they left their homeland and moved to Germany with their three-year-old son Christian. They embarked on the 'Brarens' in Hamburg and arrived in New York Harbor on August 28, 1846. The trace of father Christian had already disappeared at that time. There is no information about his whereabouts in the USA databases, which suggests that he died on the journey or shortly after his arrival in the USA. This assumption is supported by the fact that Rosa Wüstner married her second husband Hans Johann Ambühl in St. Louis/Missouri in 1848.

Johann Christian Mutzner (photo right) died in August 1902 at the age of 34. He was run over by a 'runaway' horse. His wife Anna was then three months pregnant with Mary Ann. Anna married Edwin Franklin Frey in 1904 and gave birth to six more children over the next eight years.



Johann Christian Mutzner
30.11.1868 in Marine/IL -
12.08.1902 in Highland/IL
Ⓞ 11.01.1898
Anna Ammann
04.05.1878 in
Millersburg/IL -
23.04.1970 in Pierron/IL

Continued on page 137


Magdalena Mutzner
02.11.1898 in Madison/IL -
25.12.1962 in Highland/IL
Ⓞ Aug. 1919
Clarence Heinrich Moss
02.10.1898 in Madison/IL -
16.06.1980 in Highland/IL



Estella Katharine Mutzner
05.02.1901 in Marine/IL -
12.07.1968 in Illinois
Ⓞ 1919
**Wilbur Reginald
Schwehr**
30.03.1898 - 24.09.1967

Leroy C. Moss
26.09.1919 in Highland/IL -
21.04.1960 in Highland/IL
Ⓞ 14.06.1941
La Verne Frank
29.04.1919 in Marine/IL -
18.06.2001 in Highland/IL


3 sons
1 daughter

Opal Irene Moss
28.06.1921 in Highland/IL -
20.10.1988 in Highland/IL
Ⓞ 08.06.1940
Richard Riffel
10.05.1915 in Highland/IL -
13.06.1976 in Highland/IL


Donna Riffel
13.11.1942 -
10.01.1995

Dennis Riffel
24.03.1945 -
19.03.2007


Leola Laurene Moss
01.09.1923 in Alhambra/IL -
01.05.2018 in Maryville/IL
Ⓞ 16.11.1949
Charles Emil Kauh
07.05.1917 in Marine/IL -
14.07.1987 in Highland/IL


1 son

**Bernice
Schwehr**
09.02.1920 -
30.11.2001
Ⓞ
**James
Laughlin**
30.01.1917 -
10.11.1996

1 son
2 daughters

**Doris
Schwehr**
31.08.1921 -
24.10.1998
Ⓞ
**Charles
Corrigan**
01.02.1921 -
24.08.2005

3 daughters

**Wilburta
Schwehr**
1923 -
1995
Ⓞ
**James
Clarence
Render**
1921 -
1994

4 sons
2 daughters



There is a certain discrepancy in the US databases regarding the origins of Christian Mutzner and Rosa Wüstner.

Based on the available data in the community archive of Maienfeld and the family trees created by Jürg Mutzner-Gloor, the data listed here is confirmed and verified.

Christian Mutzner
1780 in Maienfeld - 1848
Ⓞ 1841
Rosa Wüstner
15.03.1811 in Fideris -
12.10.1890 in Highland/Illinois

Christian Mutzner
04.04.1843 in Maienfeld/GR -
16.09.1903 in Highland/Illinois
Ⓞ 14.04.1867
Magdalena Ambühl
30.11.1837 in Davos/GR -
08.04.1917 in Highland/IL

Christian Mutzner and Rosa Wüstner had a child together – Christian, born 1843 in Maienfeld. This Christian married Magdalena Ambühl in 1867, who had emigrated from Davos to America with her parents. The two had two sons;


Johann Christian and Christian Adolph. You can tell that Christian was the family's favorite first name.


Their family trees can be found on these two pages.



Johann Christian and Christian Adolph Mutzner around 1875

Christian Adolph Mutzner
12.08.1872 in Marine/IL -
24.04.1901 in Marine/IL
Ⓞ 04.04.1899
Josephine Molly Klein
11.09.1876 in Illinois -
19.01.1969 in Highland/IL


Mary Ann Mutzner
11.02.1903 in Highland/IL -
20.05.1984 in Highland/IL
Ⓞ 22.06.1920
Millard Fredreck Schwend
04.12.1898 in Highland/IL -
17.01.1970 in Highland/IL


Christian Philipp Mutzner
03.04.1901 in Marine/IL -
28.02.1969 in East Alton/IL
Ⓞ 21.02.1925
Irene Lulu Zimmermann
19.06.1905 in Highland/IL -
19.10.1932 in Highland/IL

Dale Douglas Schwend
12.04.1925 in Highland/IL -
10.10.1959 in Highland/IL

Dean Dallas Schwend
23.11.1928 in Highland/IL -
12.01.1978 in Highland/IL

Loretta Eunice Mutzner
07.05.1925 in Highland/IL -
20.05.1964 in Danforth/IL
Ⓞ 23.09.1945
James Louis Saylor
13.03.1924 in Lafayette/IN -
20.06.1995 in Waddy/KY



2 sons
2 daughters

Hazel Lucille Mutzner
21.10.1927 in Marine/IL -
10.01.1990 in Alton/IL
Ⓞ 11.11.1942
Lonzie Crawford
30.12.1920 in Blackshear/GA -
03.09.1991 in Alton/IL




2 sons
4 daughters

Lylah Irene Mutzner
11.03.1929 in Marine/IL -
März 2014 in Marion/IL
Ⓞ 24.09.1949
Wilmar Franklin Hock
19.12.1928 in Alton/IL -
15.04.1994 in Cottage Hills/IL



1 son
1 daughter

Helen Faye Mutzner
07.04.1931 in Highland/IL -
13.05.2014 in Edwardsville/IL


Ⓞ 30.09.1950
Elven William Bufford
23.06.1928 in Wood River/IL -
21.03.2000 in Maryville/IL



1 son
2 daughters

Illinois





Rosa Wüstner Rosa, born March 15, 1811 in Fideris/GR, died October 12, 1890 in Highland/IL, was the mother of Christian Mutzner. Seen here with her second husband Hans Johann Ambühl (October 5th, 1809 in Davos - November 22nd, 1899 in Marine/IL), whom she married in 1848 in St. Louis/MO. Together they had two daughters.

- Maria Magdalena Ambühl (1849-1930)
- Anna Ambühl (1854-1929)

It was also the second marriage for Hans Johann Ambühl, and he brought three sons and three daughters into this marriage after his first wife Magdalena Jenny died in 1842.

He arrived in New Orleans in 1839 together with his brother Hans Luzi Ambühl on an old sailing ship after a 63-day crossing (April-June) and arrived in St. Louis on a river steamer on the Mississippi, where he initially stayed in a 'Corn Crip' before coming to Highland, Illinois in September 1839. Corn Crip was the name given to the granaries used to dry and store corn.



Christian Mutzner (1843-1903) with his wife Magdalena Ambühl (1837-1917) and son Johann (John, 1868-1902) photo around 1870



Gravestone of Christian Mutzner (1843-1903) and Magdalena Mutzner-Ambühl (1837-1917) in the Highland Cemetery in Madison County in Illinois/USA

It is probably more than a coincidence that the family of Christian Mutzner and Rosa Wüstner settled in southwest Illinois in the Highland area in 1846. Heinrich Huber (see page 33) described exactly this area in his emigration report from 1845 and praised the soil and the country to the skies.

I am sure that the Mutzner family was aware of this report and influenced their decision to leave Guscha and seek a new home in the 'promised land'.

Der Ackerbau und die Prärien im Illinois.

Die Umgegend von Highland bildete ursprünglich Hochprärie. Prärien werden im Staate Illinois die natürlichen Wiesen genannt. Diese zeigen sich im Allgemeinen als große Ebenen; in der Umgegend von Highland sind dieselben von Hügeln und Flußthälern unterbrochen. Die Prärie ist eine eigenthümliche Bodenart, selten sieht man darauf Bäume oder Gesträuche, sondern nur ein kräftiger Graswuchs überdeckt denselben. Der Boden ist gut ausgeebnet, so daß das Gras so gut zu mähen ist, als auf künstlichen Wiesen. Das Gras enthält viel kräftige und gute Kräuter, gemischt mit vielem Unkraut, und manche Unkrautstengel werden 4 bis 6 Fuß hoch. Man findet auf diesen wilden Wiesen die herrlichsten Blumen, die beinahe monatlich wechseln. Zuweilen sieht die Prärie ganz blau, dann wieder gelb, zuweilen roth aus. Die Blumen haben die schönsten Farben, aber wenige haben angenehmen Geruch. Man findet wenig Grasarten oder Blumen, die man in der Schweiz auch sieht.

Diese Prärien sind leicht zu kultiviren; man nimmt einen Pflug und einen kräftigen Zug von 4 bis 6 Ochsen, und bricht so den Acker herum und legt ihn brach; wenn ein Stück Land herumgepflügt und eingezäunt ist, so hat man das schönste Feld, welches später mit einem Paar Ochsen oder ein Paar Pferde leicht gepflügt wird.

Den Boden bedeckt meistens eine schwarze Dammerde von zwei und mehreren Fuß Tiefe; unter dem schwarzen Grunde ist eine Unterlage von rothem oder gelbem, sehr hartem Lehm. Der Boden im Allgemeinen erhielt durch den tausendjährigen Pflanzenmoder eine solche Fruchtbarkeit, daß man in diesem Theile von Illinois bisher noch nirgends an das Düngen eines Feldes gedacht hat. Man hat mir Felder gezeigt, die seit 20 Jahren im Anbau sind, und jedes Jahr Ernten von Mais oder Türkenkorn, Hafer, Weizen, Gersten, Roggen und Buchweizen (Heidekorn) gebracht haben, ohne daß man je gedüngt hätte.

Epilogue

*Man cannot advance to new shores
unless he has the courage
to leave the old ones.*

Final word

Until the beginning of the First World War in 1914, the flow of emigrants from Europe to overseas, be it North or South America or Australia and New Zealand, continued. Not everyone found the happiness they had hoped for and some, more than one would expect, returned to their homeland. Countless dramas have taken place on the emigrant ships and not all reached their destination port. The most well-known shipwreck in history should be mentioned here as an example - the sinking of the "Titanic", which on April 14, 1912 shortly before midnight on the way to New York in the North Atlantic was hit by an iceberg and sank. 1,500 people died in the icy waters - many of them were emigrants from England or Ireland. But emigrants from other countries were also on board, such as Leo Zimmermann from Todtmoos/Germany in the Black Forest. However, the names of Swiss emigrants were not found on the passenger list.

The 19th century became a real emigration century for Switzerland. Over 400,000 Swiss left their homeland, most of them forever. While the mercenaries, master builders and confectioners had been exclusively men, it was now mostly entire families who emigrated. Between 1820 and 1920 at least 260,000 Swiss men and women settled in the USA.

I followed fifteen emigrant families from Guscha and Maienfeld. I looked for their traces and life stories, representing everyone, so that they would not be forgotten - just as little as their *'village of six houses and more stables nearby, and on the mountain to the Ahonen, which is called Dörfli Guscha,* into oblivion sank.



Guscha today

Not far from the little St. Luzisteig church, the narrow, mobile path branches off to the village of Guscha and leads over the climbing meadows, past the Guscha tower, up the increasingly steep forest path to the 1,115-metre-high Walser settlement of Guscha. The six white houses lean against the steep heap of the foothills of the Falknis massif and look pensively and dreamily down into the valley.

At the end of 1969 the last residents, the Mathis Just family, left their sunny residence on Guscha and moved to the valley. The federal government (VBS) acquired the settlement of 16 hectares as a security zone for the St. Luzisteig military base. Fortunately, however, the planned project, which would have resulted in the complete demolition of Guscha, could never be implemented thanks to objections from the neighboring Principality of Liechtenstein. So Guscha was left to his fate and decay. But thanks to a few individualists, the Dörfli did not fall into oblivion!

An association was founded in 1974 under the name "Pro Guscha" and an agreement was reached with the owner, the federal government. The purpose is the preservation, improvement and use of the buildings and the conversion of the old Walser settlement of Guscha. I have been a member of this association since 2022.

Through the voluntary commitment and countless hours of forced labor by the members of the association, many of the buildings of the old Walser settlement could be rebuilt, renovated and repaired and thus saved from decay.

Today you can live on Guscha again, take a break on the hike, strengthen yourself in the Stübli by the tiled stove with a warm soup, homemade sausage and mountain cheese or even spend the night in one of the houses, almost like in the times of the Walsers.

In June 2018, the contract with the federal government extended into the 1930s. so that the association can continue to look after the Guscha settlement. Thus, the spirit of the former inhabitants of Guscha lives on in the 21st century - and with them their stories!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My very special thanks go to Fortunat Ruffner, President of the association 'Pro Guscha' and Hans Mutzner, municipal archivist of the city of Maienfeld/GR, who actively supported me in my work with their knowledge.





Once upon a time, the descendants of the emigrants from Valais, who were called Walser in Graubünden, migrated down from the high valleys of the Rätikon and founded the settlement of Mutzen in the first half of the 14th century, which today bears the name of Guscha. For countless generations, the families, above all the Just, the Riederer and the Mutzner, remained true to their village and lived high above the Luzisteig near Maienfeld, close to the border to the Principality of Liechtenstein, an existence full of hard work, deprivation and toil. Their houses and stables were burned down twice over the centuries as a result of armed conflicts with the Habsburg Empire. But the Walser on Guscha stayed and rebuilt their houses – for the time being.

It was not until the middle of the 19th century that the first families gave up their existence as mountain farmers and left their homeland for good. More and more families followed the call from afar and, like their ancestors centuries before, some Walsers set out again. Except that the circumstances, the motivation and the goal were different. This time they were not recruited by feudal lords who gave them a piece of land to farm and farm and granted them liberty rights. Poverty, famine, disease, war and death, lack of prospects and desperation drove them on their last (emigration) migration. Many sought their fortune overseas and most of them found it. Nobody ever returned to Guscha.

I followed the footsteps of fifteen emigrant families from Guscha and Maienfeld. The last way of these Walser led to North America and via Australia to New Zealand. Their stories with family trees are told in this book, illustrated with old photos, original documents and passenger lists.

A contemporary document of the past for present and future generations!

