



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

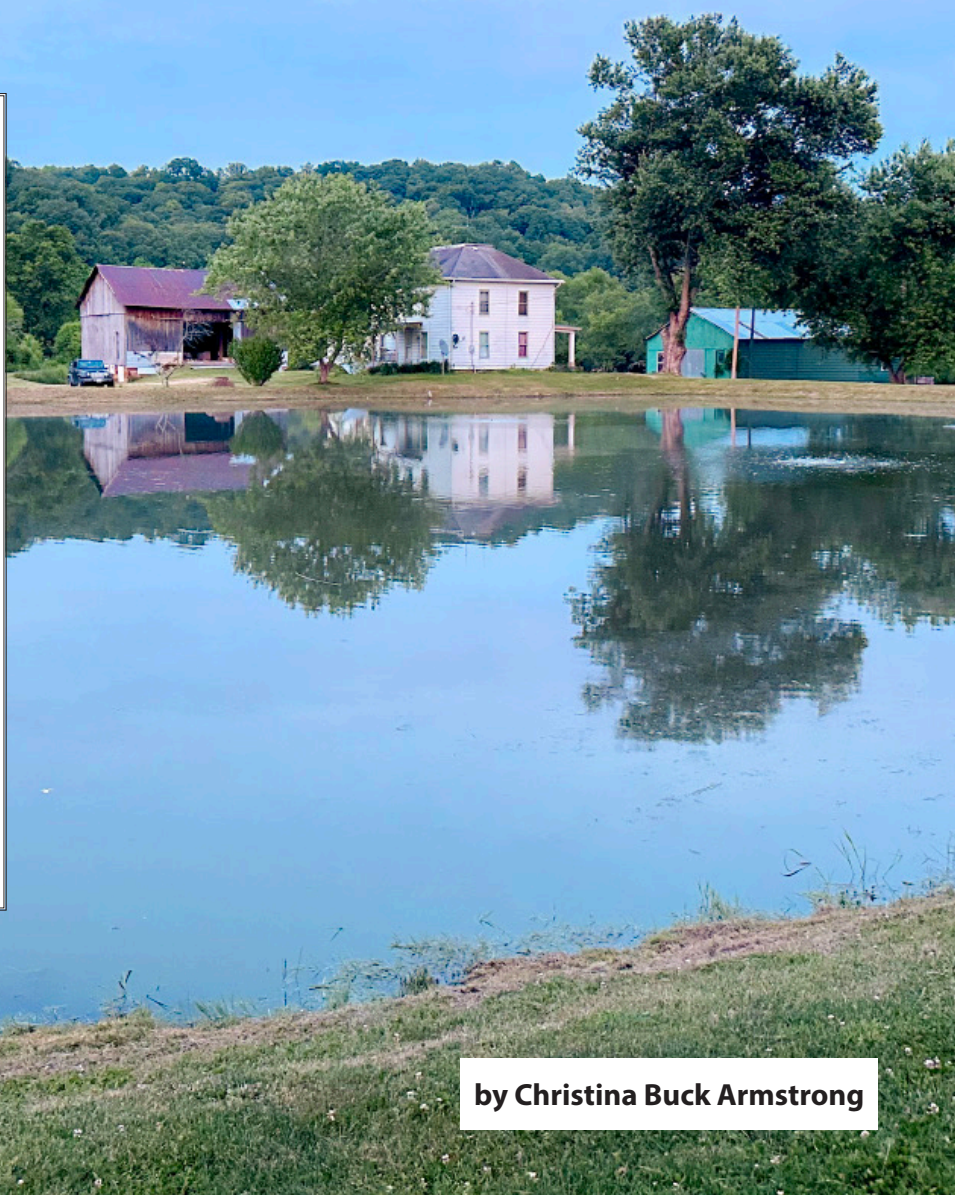
Volume 75, Number 1

September 2025

The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio, Part I

In This Issue

- Who Was the Father of Mildred Swallia, wife of Bert B. Swallia? An Analysis of Conflicting Direct Evidence
- Louise Schede Fieser's Diary: Translated from German into English Part II
- From Gräfenroda to Berleburg: Tracing the Ancestors of Martha Elisabetha Schmol Across Four Generations in Central Germany
- Book Reviews and More!



by Christina Buck Armstrong

The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 S.E. 11th Ave., Suite B018

Portland, Oregon 97202-1093

info@gfo.org ♦ 503-963-1932 ♦ gfo.org

The Forum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts and contributions may be tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID# 93-6026015 • ISSN 2374-2453 (print) • ISSN 2374-2461 (online)

OFFICERS

President	Geoff Smith
Vice President	Open Position
Secretary	Alexa Waddle
Treasurer	Bridget Nickerson
Directors at Large	Laurel Smith Richard Crocket

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual —12 months email publications	\$53
Individual —12 months print Bulletin	\$83
Individual —25 months email publications	\$106
Individual —25 months print Bulletin	\$166
Joint —12 months email publications	\$80
Joint —12 months print Bulletin	\$110
Joint —25 months email publications	\$160
Joint —25 months print Bulletin	\$220
Student —12 months email pubs— ID required	\$24
Libraries & Societies —Bulletin only	\$30
Life-Individual	\$1,060
Life-Joint	\$1,600

gfo.org/membership

THE BULLETIN

Bulletin Editorial Group: Mark Grafe, Kristy Musalo,
April Ober, Loretta Welsh

Managing Editor: Mark Grafe

Layout Editor: Mark Grafe

Copy Editors: Emily Aulicino, Courtney Clements, Anne
Sharpe

Proofreaders: Helen Lyons, Kristy Musalo, April Ober,
Nanci Remington

Printing and Publishing: Loretta Welsh

Contributors: Frances Hart, Keri Logan, Anne Sharpe

Membership: Jane McGarvin

(c) 2025 Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Electronic copies may be shared only within a subscribing library.

This periodical has been submitted to Allen County Public
Library to be indexed in PERSI.

View earlier *Bulletin* issues:

<https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html>

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to *The Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- memoirs and personal essays
- research articles and source guides
- how-to articles
- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
- using technology

We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs and other graphics. Send submissions to bulletin@gfo.org. You may request the current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at <https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html>.

Copyright of all material in *The Bulletin* of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon remains with each individual author. Permission to reprint any article must be obtained from the author. Contact information may be obtained from the editor.

Contents

<i>Letter from an Editor</i>	<i>iv</i>
The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio, Part I <i>Christina Buck Armstrong</i>	1
Who Was the Father of Mildred Swallia, wife of Bert B. Swallia? An Analysis of Conflicting Direct Evidence <i>J. P. Marthia, CG®</i>	11
Louise Schede Fieser's Diary Translated from German into English Part II <i>Christina Buck Armstrong</i>	20
From Gräfenroda to Berleburg: Tracing the Ancestors of Martha Elisabetha Schmol (1733–1791) Across Four Generations in Central Germany <i>Mark Grafe</i>	31
<i>Book Reviews</i> Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI	41
<i>Reviewed by: Mark Grafe</i>	
Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact From Fiction in Family History . .	42
<i>Reviewed by Wendy Negley</i>	
<i>In Memoriam</i> Elizabeth “Betty” (Hansen) Hungerford	43
Jean Marie Whitford	44

Letter from an Editor

“In study after study, the people who get the biggest boost from AI are those with the lowest initial ability—it turns poor performers into good performers. In writing tasks, bad writers become solid.”
—Ethan Mollick

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MY GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Mollick could have been writing about me. Following the initial meeting of the *AI in Genealogy Special Interest Group*, I studied the assigned homework. While some resources remain to be fully reviewed, a few basics became clear. One notable recommendation—Ethan Mollick’s *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI*—served well as an instructional guide. I took notes and utilized AI to draft a book review for *The Bulletin* and used AI to generate topic suggestions and an outline for a genealogical article.

Book Review

Given the nature of the book under review—Mollick’s guide on using AI—it seemed logical to incorporate AI in writing the review. Using the template provided by *The Bulletin* and guidelines from the [September 2022 article](#) “Book Review Process,” I used [ChatGPT](#) to combine online reviews from Amazon and other booksellers. When the AI-generated draft reminded me of a note that I took, used words that I do not, or hallucinated, I edited text.

Bulletin Article

My article, “From Gräfenroda ...” began differently. I asked ChatGPT to suggest 10 topics for a genealogical article using specific data exported from *Family Tree Maker*, focusing on a central German lineage during a defined historical period. I used FTM’s “Publish” tab to generate a chart with footnotes for the data. Then I selected three of ChatGPT’s suggested topics and requested that it create an outline. I rearranged the outline and asked a few questions regarding source locations. After more research and a few drafts of my article, I asked ChatGPT how I could enhance my article. Some suggestions were anticipated, add a map or timeline, some improved clarity, and some were irrelevant. Final revisions were completed with Grammarly.com prior to sending it to a copy editor.

Transcribing and Translating

Die auf den Hütten eingekaufte Ware wurde durch Träger oder, wenn fahrbare Wege vorhanden waren, durch die Fuhrleute nach Kassel geschafft.
(The goods purchased at the huts were transported to Kassel by Träger or, if there were suitable roads, by Fuhrleute.) — Edith Schlieper’s, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel,”

In May, I spent many hours transcribing and translating German church records. The online tools were more than a bit confused. [Transkribus](#) and ChatGPT offered a free version where an image could be uploaded but the results were unsatisfactory. However, if I requested a literal translation and entered what I thought each letter was, ChatGPT would comment on what it thought was correct.

The hardest image to read had five to ten legible words out of about 35 words, due to thick smeared ink, but the names and the date were readable. *Photoshop* was able to clarify and dehaze the image. Adjusting the contrast, shadows, and black also helped. Many of the words were repeated in the same handwriting on other pages, with the hardest to transcribe being the baptismal sponsor’s occupation as his name was not repeated on other pages with his occupation. So, I left his occupation as a question mark.

Footnote Format

I thought the church records were interesting enough to share, so I revised my article’s footnotes to include the original German and the translated text. One notable challenge was the presence of Latin terminology. In one marriage entry, the term *Aurigae* was used for the occupations of the fathers of the bride and groom. Google translates *Aurigae* to “drivers.” Schlieper mentions *Fuhrleute* (drivers or wagoners) and *Fuhrmannsgürtel* (driver’s belt). The terms raised historical questions about transport occupations in rural 17th-century Germany—specifically, what types of vehicles a *Fuhrmann* might have driven.

Image Creation

In Schlieper’s article, written in German, Safari confused me by translating *Fuhrmannsgürtel* to “coarman’s belt” and *Fuhrmann* to “carriageers.” And there is also the term, *Träger*, which translated to “carrier,” which made sense because if there were no roads, someone would carry items out on a trail. Consulting the [German Wikipedia](#) led me to a wonderful drawing with coachmen from the mid-1800s. It showed a cart, wagon, and a carriage in a light comical setting. I liked this image because it showed

a variety of ways to haul goods or people, but I thought it could be better. So, my prompt to ChatGPT was,

Please create an image similar to the drawing attached with the following changes. The time period should be mid-1600s not mid 1800s in Germany, so the attire should reflect that, no top hats. The location should be Suhl, Germany, with a Suhl church replacing the one in the attachment. The cart should be similar, the wagon similar but with one horse, and the carriage should be mid-1600 style and empty. The dog should be a rottweiler. The trees should be evergreens. The little letters in the upper right should be replaced with "ChatGPT" in cursive.

And 24 hours later, I was still waiting. I thought—I could have drawn something by now! And I should have added, double-check your work! Maybe I need to translate ChatGPT's response.

Processing image. Lots of people are creating images right now [sic, ChatGPT is creating images] so this might take a bit. We'll notify you when your image is ready.

A childhood friend used to say "two bits" for 25 cents. Aha, ChatGPT wants money!

A Specific Translation

AI-assisted translation requires careful prompting and verification. My lack of a proper request resulted in odd responses. When evaluating a 17th-century baptismal record, *Google Translate* produced a comically inaccurate version in which the father appeared to give birth. I entered in German,

Hans Zihren Der 1s Aug. eine Tochter gebohren und im rudern[?] tag durch jung Frau Anna, Hans Eschrich Tochter zur heiligen Taufft gebragen machen.

The English translation was, "Hans Zihren gave birth to a daughter on August 1st and on the same day his young wife Anna, Hans Eschrich's daughter, was baptized." Hans did not give birth and Hans Zihren and Anna Escherich were not married.

In contrast, ChatGPT delivered a more plausible rendering, though ambiguity remained around illegible words. Upon uploading a scanned image of the original record, ChatGPT generated a revised and contextually appropriate translation. The response was,

Hans Zihren had a daughter born on August 1st, and the next day she was carried to holy baptism by Miss Anna, daughter of Hans Eschrich.

This underscores the potential for AI augmentation, especially when paired with primary source material.



Fuhrmänner (wagon drivers) by Fritz von Dardel, public domain, [Wikimedia Commons](#). The image from page 36 of this issue was altered with Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

HOMEWORK TAKEAWAYS

The SIG homework reinforced the value of precise, well-structured AI prompts. I am not in the habit of always using artificial intelligence, but the ability to generate preliminary drafts, test for hostile reader response, and get editorial feedback proved beneficial. One online article suggested not citing ChatGPT but acknowledging how you use it. I used AI to draft a book review, suggest topics, outline an article, and suggest revisions.

An article listing five websites that check for text created by AI showed mixed results. *CopyLeak's AI Content Detector* and *PTZero* were the most effective at identifying AI-generated text. Some missed everything! Notably, sections composed without AI were correctly identified as such, suggesting that my unaided writing still retains a distinctly human quality—maybe that translates to, "I'm a solid bad writer."

—Mark Grafe

FROM THE INDIAN WARS TO TAXES

MILITARY AND
OTHER FEDERAL
RECORDS



featuring
**Michael L.
Strauss, AG®**



More info at
gfo.org/seminar

GFO FALL SEMINAR

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9 – 10:15 am PT

Fighting on the Frontier:
Researching the Indian Wars

10:30 – 11:30 am PT

That Splendid Little War: Researching
the Spanish–American War

1 – 2 pm PT

Enemy Aliens: Registering Our
Immigrant Forebears

2 – 3 pm PT

Federal Taxes and the Genealogical
Records They Created

The Buck Family in Athens County, Ohio Part I

Christina Buck Armstrong

My pioneer Buck ancestors came to Athens County during the early decades of Ohio's statehood, cleared and farmed the land, and built a community.

INTRODUCTION

This project first appeared as a powerpoint presentation I made for a family reunion in Athens County on June 3rd and 4th, 2023. Because I could not access some of the material until the day before the reunion, the story I originally told was not as detailed as I had hoped. This document is a revision of the original presentation, incorporating additional information.

Compiling and organizing the material was a long process, but it was rewarding and often fun. The outcome is that I feel closer to the American pioneer experience and to my Ohio roots. I hope I have produced something that other Buck descendants will enjoy reading.



Buck's Lake Farm, Garden, Ohio, photographed June 3, 2023. This is the land Matthew and Magdalene Buck settled in 1816, where they built their gristmill, farmed, and raised a family. The property is now owned by descendants of Matthew and Magdalene's son, John Buck.



The gravestones of Matthew and Magdalene Buck in Carthage Cemetery, Athens County, Ohio, photographed May 28, 2017.

Despite my best efforts, there are undoubtedly errors, for which I apologize. I have not included citations, but I tried to provide enough information about the sources for interested readers to locate them. Much of the information came from the internet and from a visit to the Genealogy Center and Library at the Southeast Ohio History Center in Athens. Many thanks to John Cunningham at the History Center for taking several hours on May 31st and June 2nd, 2023, to go through the probate packets of Benjamin and Sylvester Buck's heirs, describing the contents as I photographed them.

Two invaluable resources were *Isaac Buck of Scituate, Plymouth Colony, and Some of His Descendants, Generations I-VI*, 1998, by Byron Buck and the *Matthew Buck Record*, 1959, by Waldo Buck. I used photographs from the collections of Ralph Edson Hawk (1936–2022) and Rebecca Buck. Most of the photographs that appear without attribution are mine.

Byron¹⁰ (Carl⁹, George⁸, Abram⁷, Matthew⁶) Buck is the family historian responsible for connecting our Athens County Bucks to the Revolutionary War veteran Thomas⁷ Buck and the four generations of Bucks preceding Thomas.¹

This family history is dedicated to my genealogy mentors: Byron Richard Buck (1920–2003), my father, and Rebecca Buck, my distant cousin but close friend.

1. Generation numbers added as recommended in Curran, Crane, and Wray's, *Numbering Your Genealogy* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2008), 6.



Byron Richard Buck with wife Justine (right) and daughters Kathleen (left) and Cecily, visiting the grave of Jesse Buck and his wife Sarah at Mount Cemetery, Chesterfield, Massachusetts, 1973.

In the late 1960s and continuing for about three decades, Byron researched and wrote a genealogy of our original immigrant Isaac¹ Buck and the five generations that followed him. During the 1970s, whenever a family vacation took the Bucks to New England or Ohio, there were stops at town halls, libraries, and cemeteries where Byron spent time researching the Bucks.



Rebecca Buck in the Scituate, Rhode Island, records office during a New England research trip we took together in July 2022.

Rebecca¹¹ (James¹⁰, Isaac Newton⁹, Charles Edgar⁸, Abram⁷, Matthew⁶) Buck is the researcher who identified Magdalene Buck as a Decker, thereby connecting Matthew and Magdalene's descendants to the Dutch community in New York, going all the way back to the first European settlers on Manhattan Island.

I met Rebecca online some 13 or 14 years after my father's death. She had collaborated with my father when he was working on his genealogy of Isaac. During a trip I made to the east coast, she invited me to join her in the Minisink area of New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania where Magdalene Decker Buck was born and her mother's family lived for several generations before her birth. That was my introduction to the fun of exploring places my ancestors lived centuries before I was born. Since then, Rebecca and I have taken five research trips together, including two to Athens County where we organized Buck reunions in addition to spending time on family research.

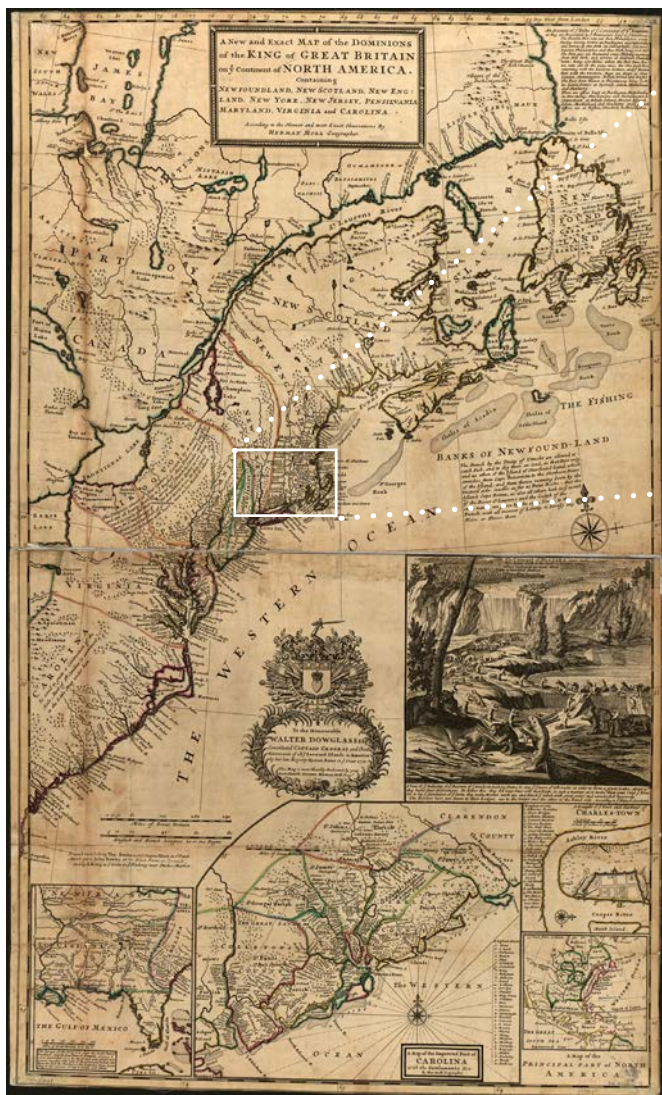


"This is a copy of the first map engraved in New England. Taken from one in Hubbard's Narrative of the Troubles With the Indians in New England, supposed to have been published in 1677." *Library of Congress*.

THE ORIGINS OF OUR BUCK LINE IN NORTH AMERICA

The focus of this family history is the Bucks' experience in Ohio, but I will begin with a brief description of the route they took to get there.

The information on the next two pages was taken from Byron Buck's genealogy, *Isaac Buck of Scituate, Plymouth Colony, and Some of His Descendants, Generations I-VI*.



Left, "A new and exact map of the dominions of the King of Great Britain on ye continent of North America, containing Newfoundland, New Scotland, New England, New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina" Herman Moll, 1715. *Library of Congress*.

John⁴ and Mary Buck lived or owned property in Brockton, Attleboro, Killingly and Scituate, Rhode Island (where our ancestor Thomas⁵ Buck was born) before they moved to Shaftsbury in about 1765. At the time, Shaftsbury was a frontier town in the Hampshire grants, in an area which would eventually become the state of Vermont. Thomas⁵ Buck served in the American Revolution, enlisting at the age of 15. He was married in Shaftsbury around 1779 (wife's name unknown). He and his wife had at least four children in Shaftsbury: Matthew⁶, Mary⁶, Sylvester⁶, and Olive⁶.

The immigrant ancestor of our Buck line was Isaac Buck. The date of his arrival on this continent is unknown, but records indicate that he was in Scituate, Plymouth Colony, by 1643.

In 1677, the year of the map on the previous page, our immigrant ancestor Isaac¹ Buck had been living in Scituate for at least 34 years. His son Benjamin² of our Buck line, born in Scituate, was about 13 years old that year.

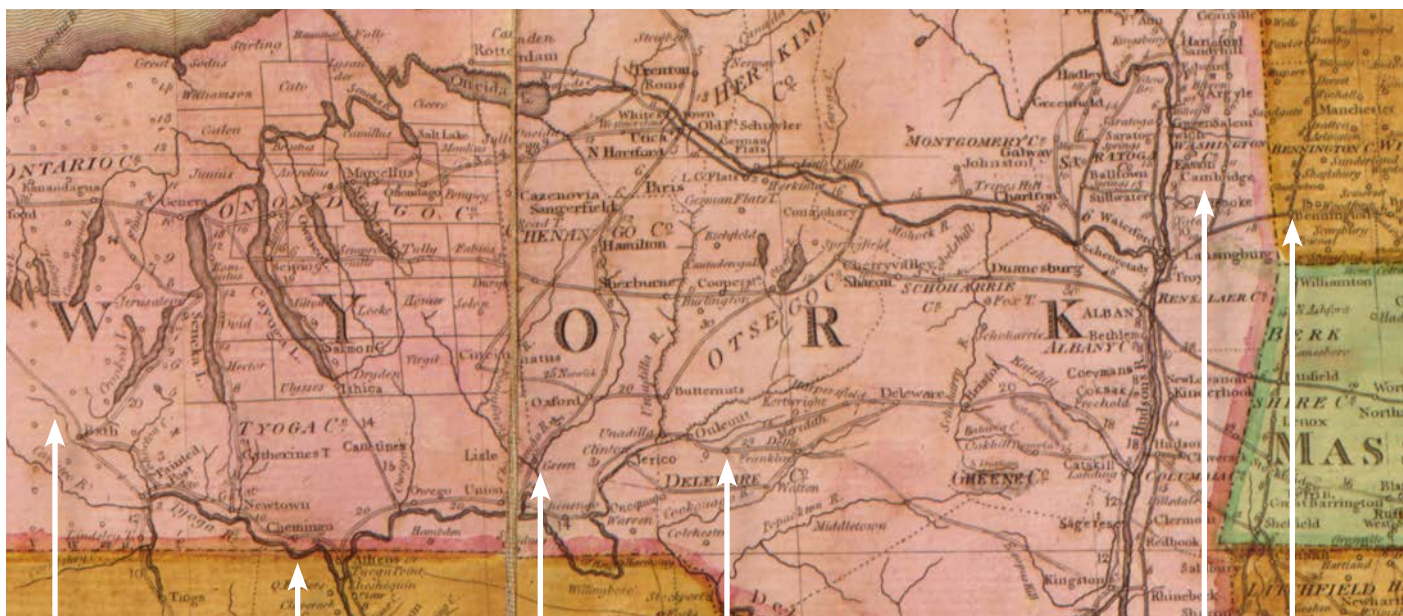
Benjamin's son, our ancestor Thomas³ Buck, was born in Scituate about 1685.

The map above shows the Plymouth Colony settlements of Scituate, where Benjamin² and Thomas³ Buck were born, and Bridgewater. Thomas³ moved to Bridgewater, Plymouth Colony, where he married Elizabeth Haward (a descendant of Mayflower passenger Francis Cooke) on December 18, 1712. Thomas³ and Elizabeth's son, John⁴ of our Buck line, was born in Bridgewater on April 29, 1721.

John⁴ Buck married Mary Ames in Bridgewater, Plymouth Colony on December 25, 1739.



New England, approximate locations of Attleboro (1), Bridgewater (2), Brockton (3), Killingly (4), Shaftsbury (5), and Scituate (6), 1755. *Library of Congress*.



Map of United States, 1804 cropped. Library of Congress.

1820 census

Thomas⁵ Buck's
family in Howard,
Steuben County

1810 census

Matthew⁶ Buck's
family in Chemung,
Tioga County

1810 census

Thomas⁵ Buck's
family in Green,
Chenango County

1800 census

Thomas⁵ Buck's
family in Franklin,
Delaware County.

1797

John⁶ Buck
was born in
Washington County

Shaftsbury,
Vermont

Howard was not formed as a town until 1812, so it does not appear on this 1804 map. Steuben County was split off from Ontario County in 1796, but the map-maker failed to indicate that on his map. William⁶ Buck was born in Franklin.

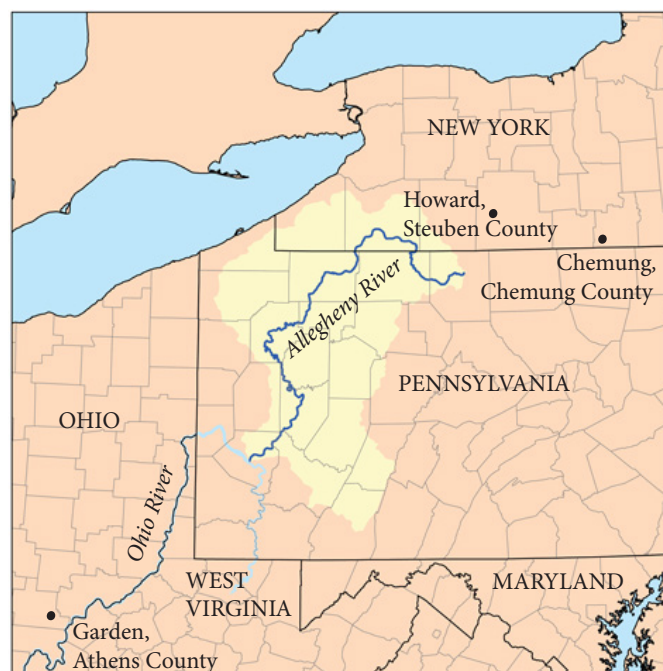
Sometime after 1792 and before 1797, Thomas⁵ Buck and his family left Vermont and moved to New York State. By 1800 they had arrived in Franklin, Delaware County, and two more sons had been born: John⁶ and William⁶.

As indicated on the map above, in 1810 Thomas's son Matthew lived in Chemung, New York, with his family: wife Magdalene Decker Buck and son Abram Thomas⁷. Their second son, James⁷, was born June 20, 1812. Two days later, Matthew "kissed Dalene his wife goodbye and went to the War of 1812. He came all through and without a scratch." (As described in a 1955 letter from Ernest⁹ Buck to Lowell¹⁰ Buck, in which Ernest tells of family history he learned from his father Martin Van Buren⁸ Buck and his uncle Matthew⁸ Buck.)

Two more children were born to Matthew and Magdalene before they left New York: Benjamin⁷ and Elizabeth⁷. We do not know why they left New York or why they chose Athens County as their destination, but we know from Waldo Buck's *Matthew Buck Record* that they made the trip in 1816.

It was common in the early 19th century for several pioneer families to travel together to unsettled or newly-settled lands so that they could assist each other with the arduous tasks of clearing land and building homes, and it's likely the Bucks made this trip in tandem with other

families. According to an entry concerning the Secoy family in an Athens County history published in 1987, the Bucks traveled to Ohio with the Secoy, Carleton,



Allegheny River watershed. Selected locations have been added to the original image. Kmusser, [Wikimedia Commons](#), CC BY-SA 2.5.

Creasy, Dinsmoor, and Tubbs families. An examination of the census records suggests that members of Magdalene Decker Buck's family may have gone from New York to Athens County near or at the same time as well.

How they made the journey to Ohio is a matter for speculation, but it is likely that much of the journey was made on the Allegheny, Ohio, and Hocking Rivers. There was no road system during the early decades of our country's existence and not much of the land had been cleared. Whenever possible, pioneers would make the trip by water. They built large rafts or barges and covered them with as many of their possessions as possible, sometimes including animals, and then traveled by river to their new homes. The lumber used for the raft would become material for building their new homes.



Map of the Ohio Company's Purchase, ca. 1806. Courtesy Marietta College Legacy Library.

Matthew and Magdalene arrived in Athens County less than 20 years after the Ohio Company platted the township that would become Lodi and put the sections up for sale. The location of their land is marked with a star on the map above. The original deed to their property has not been found, so we do not know whether Matthew purchased the land from the original proprietor or from another early pioneer. As I understand it, the "original proprietors" were

investors who had purchased shares in the development of the Ohio Valley and were assigned sections of the land.

Because Matthew and his sister Mary were in Athens County before 1830, their descendants qualify as members of First Families of Athens County. The distinctions are piling up! Thomas³ Buck's marriage to the second great-granddaughter of Francis Cooke makes us potential members of The Mayflower Society. Thomas⁵ Buck's service during the Revolutionary War allows us to claim we are Sons/Daughters of the American Revolution. And now, descendants of Matthew Buck and Mary Buck Saunders have still another honor. But even though many of us are confident of our rightful connection to all three of these organizations, to date we only have the required records to become members of one: First Families of Athens County.

Waldo's *Matthew Buck Record* provides a charming story about how Matthew and Magdalene, who went by Dalene, built their mill on Shade Creek.

Matthew and Magdalene came to Ohio from New York in 1816, and settled at Garden, Ohio, Lodi Twp., Athens Co., Ohio, where they built a grist mill on Shade Creek. Some of the dam is still there. When they were ready to raise the frame for the mill, they discovered that the timbers were not framed correctly. They framed it over and raised it that night, and because of this, they composed the following verse;

"Matthew's mill, Dalene's delight,
Framed in the daytime, and raised in the night."

Bearing trees at the corners in Township 5 S Range 12 Described

Section 1				Section 2			
N. corner	Tree	Distance	Remarks	N. corner	Tree	Distance	Remarks
1	S. E. white oak	12 S 73° E 13		12	S. W. hickory	10 S 10° E 32	
	d.	10 S 38° E 15			white oak	20 S 70° E 53	
	black oak	12 S 32° E 19		11	S. W. no bearings taken		
	d.	24 S 10° E 27		15	S. W. white oak	11 S 20° E 24	
	white oak	11 S 32° E 12			d.	12 S 50° E 28	
	d.	28 S 63° E 18		16	S. W. hickory	11 S 23° E 46	
	yellow oak	16 S 19° E 21			hickory	12 S 11° E 18	
	S. E. sycamore	30 S 3° E 14		17	S. W. white oak	12 S 10° E 20	
	butternut	15 S 13° E 23			black oak	20 S 63° E 27	
	S. W. white oak	24 S 1° E 45		18	S. W. white oak	18 S 29° E 32	
	hickory	9 S 1° E 10			d.	15 S 12° E 12	
	d.	20 S 20° E 33		19	S. W. d.	20 S 15° E 21	

A section of a page from the original land survey shows that the corners of the properties were identified by their proximities to "bearing trees" when the land was first platted. Matthew's land was section 2 of township 5, range 12. The southern corners of his property were the same as the northern corners of section 1. If I understand the chart correctly, the northeast corner was identified by its distances from a sycamore tree and a butternut tree and the northwest corner by its distances from a white oak and a hickory.



"Buck Home in Guysville," undated. From the collection of Rebecca Buck.

Waldo also provides a description of the properties in New York, Ohio, and Missouri that were settled by our line of Bucks. He quotes Matthew⁸ (James⁷, Matthew⁶) Buck in the passage below:

The Buck settlement, near Bath, New York, their holdings in Athens Co., Ohio, and the place in Missouri are very similar. Rolling farm land originally covered in all three places with oaks, elms, maples, black walnut, etc.; forests which had to be cleared before planting the principal crop (usually corn and timothy hay).

Matthew's sister, Mary Buck Saunders, came to Athens County from New York with her husband and children in 1818. Matthew's and Mary's families are listed among the 52 families living in Carthage in the 1820 census. Although Matthew's property is now part of Lodi township, when he first arrived in Athens County the land was part of Troy, then in 1819 designated part of Carthage, and in 1826 Lodi.

When they arrived, their land was deeply forested. The woods were full of deer, raccoons, possums, and squirrels, animals that formed an important part of the pioneers' diet. There were also bears, panthers, and wolves. The settlers had to watch out for these animals and protect themselves and their livestock. Early in the county's history there were \$3 bounties for wolf scalps to reward the settlers who protected the community.

Our ancestors used handmade tools to clear the forests for space to plant crops and lumber to build log cabins to live in. The image above provides a vivid contrast to how the land must have looked when they first arrived; one can imagine that it took years of hard work for a family to transform a dense forest into the open space shown above.

The photographs on this page were taken many decades after Matthew and Magdalene arrived in Ohio. It is unlikely either of the buildings shown were built by

Matthew, but they give us an idea of how primitive the original structures must have been. They were truly log cabins, and apparently some of them were used into the first two decades of the 20th century.

Other than Waldo's story about the grist mill, we do not have much information about the first Bucks in Ohio. However, their lives were very likely similar to those of their neighbors. A summary of pioneer life in the Ohio Valley follows.

* * *

In 1820, life for a pioneer farming family in the Ohio Valley was a rugged and challenging existence, yet filled with the promise of new opportunities. These families were among the early settlers who ventured westward in search of fertile land and a chance to build a better future for themselves and their descendants.

The family likely lived in a modest log cabin, which they had constructed themselves from materials sourced from the surrounding wilderness. The cabin served as their home, sheltering them from the harsh elements of the Ohio Valley's climate. Inside, the furnishings would have been simple—a rough-hewn table and chairs, perhaps a bed made of straw or animal hides, and a fireplace for cooking and warmth.

From dawn till dusk, the family toiled tirelessly to carve out a livelihood from the land. The father would have been the primary farmer, clearing the dense forest to make way for fields of crops such as corn, wheat, and potatoes. He would have relied on primitive tools like the axe, hoe, and plow, often fashioned by hand from iron or wood.



"Dow Buck & family at home." Left to right: Grace Buck Hawk, Leona Buck Hawk, Mary Eliza McNamee Buck, and Lorenzo Dow Buck. Judging by the appearance of Leona Buck, who was born in 1899, this photograph was probably taken around 1906-08. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Meanwhile, the mother played a vital role in supporting the family's agricultural endeavors. She tended to a kitchen garden near the cabin, growing vegetables and herbs to supplement their diet. Additionally, she would have been responsible for cooking meals over an open fire, preserving food for the winter months, and caring for the family's livestock, which might have included chickens, pigs, and perhaps a cow or two.

Life on the frontier was not without its hardships. Disease, crop failures, and attacks by wild animals were constant threats. The nearest settlement or trading post could be days or even weeks away, making self-sufficiency a necessity. Yet, despite these challenges, pioneer families like this one possessed a spirit of resilience and determination.

Despite the hardships, there were moments of joy and celebration in the pioneer family's life. Neighbors would come together for barn raisings, corn huskings, and other

communal activities, providing a sense of camaraderie and support. Sundays were reserved for worship and rest, with families attending church services held in makeshift chapels or even outdoors.

As the years passed, the Ohio Valley attracted more settlers, and the once-wild frontier began to transform into a thriving agricultural region. Yet, for the pioneering families who had staked their claim in this untamed wilderness, their legacy endured, shaping the landscape and the culture of the region for generations to come.²

* * *










Over the course of two decades, five of Thomas⁵ Buck's six children left New York and moved to Athens County. They all married and all but one of them had children, so our Bucks made a significant contribution to the population of the early settlements of Lodi and Carthage townships in the young state of Ohio. Their names appear below, each with a list of their known children.









Matthew⁶ Buck married *Magdalene Decker* in New York and came to Ohio in 1816 with four children. At least five more children were born to them in Athens County.




Mary⁶ Buck married *Jonathan Saunders* in New York. They came to Athens County in 1818. Five of their eight children were born in New York, three in Athens County.

Sylvester⁶ Buck may not have married until he moved to Ohio from New York, possibly around 1836. He married a widow, *Mary Barton Ginn*, in 1843 and together they had at least three children.









William⁶ Buck married *Jerusha Rose* in New York. They came to Ohio around 1836 with at least five children and went on to have at least three more in Ohio.

 Abram Thomas Buck 1810–1891
 James Buck 1812–1887
 Benjamin Buck 1814–1853
 Elizabeth Buck 1816–1905
 Sylvester Buck 1819–1889
 John Buck 1825–1874
 Simeon Buck 1827–1907
 William Buck Rev. 1828–1909
 Phoebe Jane Buck 1832–1913

 Elizabeth Saunders 1806–1891
 Amasa Saunders 1809–1887
 Esther Saunders 1811–1887
 Julius Saunders 1813–1882
 Olive M. Saunders 1816–1898
 Louisa L. Saunders 1820–1875
 William A. Saunders 1822–1870
 Clarinda Saunders 1824–1849

 Nathan Sylvester Buck 1844–1918
 William B. Buck 1847–1859
 Olivia "Olive" Buck 1848–

Olive⁶ Buck may have come to Ohio with her twin brother *Sylvester* or she may have come with her husband, *Mr. Cummins* (sometimes the name appears as *Cummings*; first name and date of death unknown.) It is likely that *Olive* did not have children; if she did, they probably predeceased her.

 Thomas Henry Buck 1824–1877
 Elmira Buck 1826–1900
 George Nelson Buck 1830–1908
 Adelia Ann Buck 1832–1861
 Mary "Polly" Buck 1834–1904
 Hiram Richard Buck 1836–1931
 Abigail Buck 1839–1907
 Eliza Jerusha Buck 1848–1876

2. Author's note: The description of pioneer life in the Ohio Valley was generated using AI on ChatGPT.

By the middle of the 19th century, life in Athens County was quite different from what it had been during the first two or three decades of the century. The farmers still produced most of their own food, but there were businesses where they could buy cloth, shoes, hats, and foods such as sugar, tea, and coffee. Bartering of goods and services was not uncommon, but people often used cash for their purchases.

Men, women, and children still worked long hours to provide for their material needs. Eventually, four of Matthew's sons had other lines of work in addition to their farming. Abram⁷ was a cooper. Sylvester⁷ was a blacksmith and gunsmith. Simeon⁷ was a blacksmith and also a postmaster. And William⁷ was a minister. It would be interesting to know how they learned these trades.

Waldo's description of the farms of Matthew's son Abram⁷ Buck and Abram's sons provides some information about how one branch of the family established themselves on farms during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Abram was a cooper (barrel-maker). He owned a good farm of 160 acres in Carthage Twp., Athens Co., Ohio. He divided this farm with four of his sons. George got the part Abram's home was on, and it is now owned by Chas. Wingett. Wesley, Dow, and James got other parts of the farm and each built a log house. Abram's other children were given other property. There were seven log cabins within a mile of each other occupied by Buck families. In 1915 and 1916 Wesley and his son, Waldo, built a new frame seven-room house where his log house stood. This farm is now owned by Forrest Metcalf. Dow's son, Clarence, built a frame house to replace the log house Dow built, and it later burned down. The one James (Jim) built was the last one to be torn down. It was torn down by Don Erwin in 1958, after he bought the farm June 13, 1953.

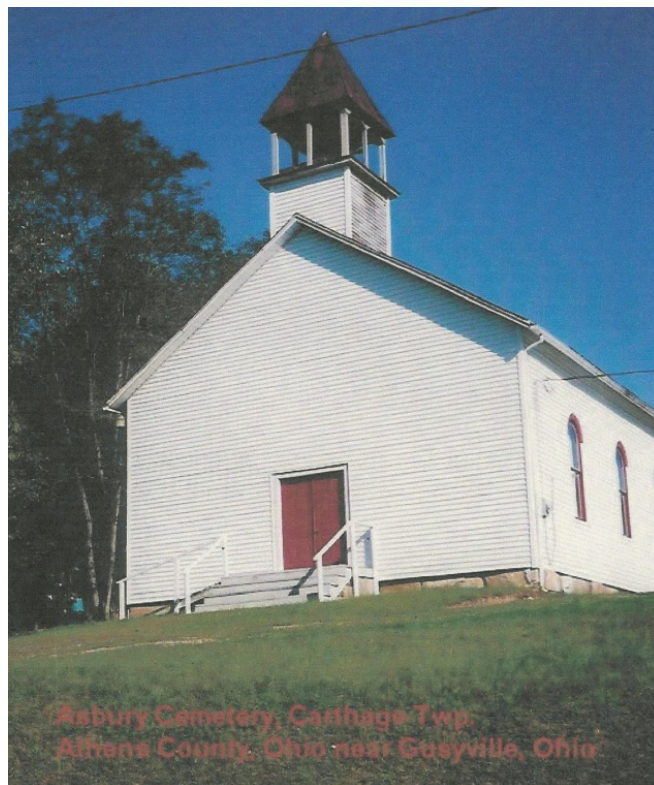


The original church, built ca. 1854, photographed in 1910 just before it was torn down. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Religion played an important role in the lives of nineteenth century farmers and their families across our country. According to the *History of Hocking Valley, Ohio*, published in 1883, "The first religious society formed at Lodi was by the Methodists, in 1820, under the supervision of Rev. Goddard Curtis. They worshiped for many years in a small school-house on Shade River" (page 792). We can speculate that our ancestors Matthew Buck and Mary Buck Saunders and their families participated in those earliest meetings.

Later generations of Bucks were deeply religious Methodists, and we have plenty of evidence in support of that. Waldo wrote in some detail of many of our ancestors' devout faith in God and active participation in the work of the Methodist church. We also see evidence of this in many obituaries of the Bucks and on the memorial cards printed after their deaths.

In 1853, when Abram Thomas Buck was 43 years old, he donated the land for Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery. On the next page is Waldo Buck's description of Abram's donation of land and his involvement in building the church, along with photographs of the church taken at two different times over its long history.



Asbury M. E. Church, Athens County, Ohio, photographed in 2004. This was the replacement for the 1854 church shown on the left. Courtesy Ralph Edson Hawk.



The rebuilt church, with the date of its dedication, June 11, 1911. From the collection of Ralph Edson Hawk.

Concerning Abram Buck, Waldo wrote:

He gave the land for the Asbury M. E. Church and Cemetery. This lot was a part of the farm later given to his son, Wesley. He furnished much of the lumber for the church which was built about 1854. This church was torn down in 1910 because of its bad condition and rebuilt in 1910 and 1911. It was dedicated June 11, 1911, and the indebtedness was all paid in full on day of dedication. This church was repaired in 1953.



By 2017, the building was no longer being used as a church and the bell tower had been removed.

The probate records of three members of our Buck family, Matthew's son Benjamin⁷ and Matthew's siblings Sylvester⁶ and Olive⁶, provide interesting details about the lives of the Bucks during the decade before the Civil War. These will be examined in some detail in "The Buck Family of Athens County, Ohio, Part II."



Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**Every Tuesday Evening
6:00 – 7:30 pm on Zoom**

- Get Free Help for your Macintosh, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Apple Watch
- For info on how to attend, contact us at:

info@pmug.org



Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy presents

Research in the U.S. Northwest

Facilitators:

Geri Auerbach
Michelle R. Goodrum
Steven W. Morrison

Faculty:

- Carol Jenner
- Keri Logan
- Janice Lovelace
- Jill Morelli
- Trish Hackett Nicola
- Lisa Oberg
- Linda Harms Okazaki
- Gena Philibert-Ortega
- Janice M. Sellers

Wednesdays, 18 Feb.-22 April
9:00 am-1:00 pm PT on Zoom

Register at
UGA-SLIC

PIONEERING LIFE IN IRONSIDE AND THE MALHEUR BASIN

The Annotated Journals of Cyrus T. Locey
from 1858-1884

Mark Goddard



Pioneering Life in Ironside and the Malheur Basin – The Annotated Diaries of Cyrus T. Locey from 1858–1884

\$36.00

Most of us have heard stories about the Oregon Trail and the hardships those pioneers endured to start a new life in the Oregon Territory. Staking a claim to a chunk of this new land, where does one begin and how is this new life in the wilderness built? The diaries of Cyrus T. Locey describe nearly 30 years of building this life, creating family and community, changing landscapes to yield crops and forage. Their life merges with the creation of the first towns, with mining, politics, education, and the remarkable relationships with other early settlers of this new Territory.

Available From

**Oregon
Trail
Genealogy**

oregontrailgenealogy.com

Preserving the Stories and Legacy of the Oregon Trail

Who Was the Father of Mildred Swallia, wife of Bert B. Swallia?

An Analysis of Conflicting Direct Evidence

J. P. Marthia, CG®



Henry Bruckman

Image from a book published for the anniversary of Holy Family Church. Newspapers.com image altered with Photoshop.

Mildred F. Bruckman Smith married Bert B. Swallia in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, 18 September 1917. According to her marriage certificate, Mildred’s parents were Geo. H. Smith and Annie Rooth, both born in New York.¹ Mildred died 2 February 1946, and her death certificate identifies her parents as Henry Bruckman (born in Germany) and Anna Marie Roth (born in Buffalo, New York).²

Who was the father of Mildred Swallia, wife of Bert B. Swallia? This case study resolves the conflict between these two pieces of direct evidence, using available public records and looking at the relationship between family members.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Conflicting Evidence

Table 1 summarizes the information found in Mildred’s marriage and death certificates. Apart from the name of her father, and the addition of Bruckman as a second middle name in her marriage certificate, the information is generally consistent between the two documents.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM MILDRED’S MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

Information	Marriage Certificate ^a	Death Certificate ^b
Name	Mildred F. Bruckman Smith	Mildred Frances Swallia
Spouse	Bert B. Swallia	Bert B. Swallia
Residence	Portland, Oregon	Portland, Oregon
Birth, Age, Location	Abt. 1901 (age 16), New York	2 July 1901 (age 44), Buffalo, NY
Father, Born	Geo. H. Smith , New York	Henry Bruckman , New York
Mother, Born	Annie Rooth, New York	Annie Marie Roth, New York
<p>a. Washington, U.S., Marriage Records, 1854–2013,” database with images, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 10 February 2024) > Clark > Marriage Applications and Certificates 1917 Sep-Dec > image 486 of 847; certificate 10990, Bert B Swallia and Mildred F Bruckman Smith, 18 September 1917; citing “Washington Marriage Records, 1854–2013, Washington State Archive, Olympia, Washington.</p> <p>b. “Oregon, U.S. State Deaths, 1864–1917,” database with images, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 10 February 2024) > Marion-Multnomah > 1946 > image 747 of 2529; state certificate 447, Mildred Frances Swallia, 2 February 1936 [sic], citing “Oregon Death Records, 1864–1971,” Oregon State Archive, Salem, Oregon.</p>		

1. Washington, U.S., Marriage Records, 1854–2013,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 February 2024) > Clark > Marriage Applications and Certificates 1917 Sep-Dec > image 486 of 847; certificate 10990, Bert B Swallia and Mildred F Bruckman Smith, 18 September 1917; citing “Washington Marriage Records, 1854–2013, Washington State Archive, Olympia, Washington.

2. “Oregon, U.S. State Deaths, 1864–1917,” database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 February 2024) > Marion-Multnomah > 1946 > image 747 of 2529; state certificate 447, Mildred Frances Swallia, 2 February 1936 [sic]; citing “Oregon Death Records, 1864–1971,” Oregon State Archive, Salem, Oregon.

Mildred F. Bruckman Smith married Bert B. Swallia when she was 16 years old. According to the marriage certificate, she was born in New York to Geo. H. Smith and Annie Rooth, both born in New York. Her place of residence was listed as 741 Milwaukee [sic] Street, Portland, Oregon.³ Bert was 32 years old at the time of his marriage and resided at 741 Milwaukee Street, Portland, Oregon. The witnesses to the marriage were Louise E. Smith also of 741 Milwaukee Street, Portland, Oregon, and Mrs. R. Dunn of Vancouver, Washington.⁴ Mildred died 2 February 1946 at her residence, 5315 S.E. 19th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The death certificate notes that she was the wife of Bert B. Swallia (age 60) who was also identified as the informant. Mildred's birth was listed as 2 July 1901, Buffalo, New York, and Henry Bruckman (born in Germany) and Anna Marie Roth (born in Buffalo, New York) were identified as her parents.⁵

Potential Fathers

Using middle initials and correlating evidence in historical records led to George H. Smith. He was born 28 April 1853 to Benjamin Smith and Mary LaMadeau.⁶ He married Louisa "Louise" Tripp 19 January 1877 in Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa.⁷ Louise divorced George in 1912 in Clark County, Washington.⁸ However, it is likely that the couple reconciled prior to his death which occurred 27 March 1915 in Chicago, Illinois.⁹

Henry Bruckman was born 12 October 1862 in Freinsheim, Germany, to Ludwig Bruckman and Catharine Vogt.¹⁰ He married Anna Rooth 10 February 1889 in Buffalo, New York.¹¹ After Anna died in December 1902, Henry married Ellen "Nellie" Corbett 13 May 1903.¹²

3. "Washington, U.S., Marriage Records, 1854-2013," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 February 2024) > Clark > Marriage Applications and Certificates 1917 Sep-Dec > image 486 of 847; certificate 10990, Bert B Swallia and Mildred F Bruckman Smith, 18 September 1917; citing "Washington Marriage Records, 1854-2013, Washington State Archive, Olympia, Washington.

4. Clark Co., Washington, marriage certificate 10990, Swallia-Smith, 1917.

5. "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1917," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 February 2024) > Marion-Multnomah > 1946 > image 747 of 2529; state certificate 447, Mildred Frances Swallia, 2 February 1936 [sic]; citing "Oregon Death Records, 1864-1971," Oregon State Archive, Salem, Oregon. The year typed into block 20 is '1936'; all other notations of year refer to 1946, including the 1946 volume it was recorded in.

6. City of Chicago, Illinois, Department of Health, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 9081 (1915), George H. Smith, died 27 March 1915; Cook County Clerk, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2024).

7. "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 12 February 2024) > Marriage records, 1841-1935; indexes, 1840-1955 > Marriage Records v. F-H 1874-1893 > image 101 of 724; George H. Smith and Louisa Tripp, 19 January 1877; citing "Marriage Record, Cedar County, Iowa, 1874-1882," vol. F, p. 186, Cedar County Archives, Tipton, Iowa.

8. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith, Findings of Facts (22 July 1912); Clark County, Vancouver, Washington; copied and emailed to JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY, 2023, by Katie Bush, Historian, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, WA.

9. City of Chicago, Illinois, Department of Health, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 9081 (1915), George H. Smith, died 27 March 1915; Cook County Clerk, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2024).

10. Vereinigte Protestantisch-Evangelische, Freinsheim, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, vol. 4 (1839-1869), p. 426, record N-35, Heinrich Bruckmann, baptized 19 October 1862; digital image and index, "Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPRF-8Y9S> : accessed 20 January 2024), FSL film #102121429, Family Search Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, image 234 of 488.

11. St Pierre Catholic Church, Buffalo, New York, Marriages (1883-1897), p. 20, record M-5, Bruckmann and Ruth, married 10 February 1889; digital image and index, "Church Records," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G928-9FS7?i=973> : accessed 20 January 2024), FSL film #004023115, Family Search Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, image 974 of 1370. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification – Marriage," Henry Bruckman and Anna Rooth, no record found from 1 January 1888 through 31 December 1890; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 19 July 2023 received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023). For Anna's parents, City of Buffalo, Bureau of Vital Statistics, certificate and record of death number 439 (26 December 1902), Anna Mary Rooth Bruckman, City of Buffalo Vital Records, Erie County, NY.

12. For Anna's death, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 439 (1902), Anna Mary Rooth Bruckman, died 26 December 1902; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023). For Bruckman/Corbett marriage, "South Side Church Observes Jubilee," *The Buffalo News*, 15 October 1927, p. 21, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/836835533> : accessed 15 October 2023). City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification – Marriage," Henry Bruckman and Ellen "Nellie" Corbett, no record found from 1 January 1902 through 31 December 1904; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 19 July 2023 received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023).

He died 14 January 1933 in Buffalo, New York.¹³ Anna Rooth and Henry Bruckman had four children born prior to 1900:

- Henry Bruckman¹⁴
- Clara Young¹⁵
- George Bruckman¹⁶
- Fred Bruckman¹⁷

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Birth Records for Mildred

No birth certificate or baptismal record has been found for Mildred Bruckman or Mildred Smith in Buffalo, New York, for July 1901.¹⁸ However, there was a reference in the local newspaper to the birth of a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bruckman on 2 July 1901.¹⁹ The date of birth in the newspaper matches that from Mildred's death certificate and is consistent with the year of birth based on her age in her marriage record.



Approximate location of Freinsheim, Germany, birth place of Henry Bruckman.

13. New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, no. 304 (1933), Henry Bruckman, died 13 January 1933; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY. While the date of death is listed as 13 January 1933, the certificate notes that his physician attended him from 14 January 1933.

14. St. Pierre (Buffalo, New York), "General Register of Religious Acts," p. 592 (stamped), Henricum Petrum Brückmann, born 17 November 1889, baptized 5 January 1890; digital images, "New York, Church and Civil Births and Baptisms, 1704-1962," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G928-9XY4> : accessed 20 May 2024), image 424 of 1370.

15. New York State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, no. 6863 (1972), Clara B. Young, died 24 November 1972; photocopy of original (2022) maintained in family archives of PJ Boggan, Cheektowaga, NY.

16. St. Pierre (Buffalo, New York), "General Register of Religious Acts," p. 675 (stamped), George Joseph Bekman, born 30 May 1893, baptized 18 June 1893; digital images, "New York, Church and Civil Births and Baptisms, 1704-1962," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G928-9F3H> : accessed 20 May 2024), image 468 of 1370.

17. Fred Carl Bruckman, SS no. 070-10-0046 (handwritten), 1936, Application for Social Security Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

18. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification – Birth," Mildred Bruckman, no record found for three-year search around July 1901; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY; genealogy copy dated 18 July 2023, received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023). No record found in NY State Birth Index for Mildred Bruckman or Mildred Smith in NY born 2 Jul 1901, "New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 October 2023). No response to multiple email requests to attempt to locate potential records to Our Lady of Charity and SS Columba & Brigid, most likely locations of sacramental archives from potential churches, "Sacramental Records," *The Diocese of Buffalo* (<https://www.buffalodiocese.org/sacramental-records/>). No record found in search from 1901-1902 for Mildred Bruckman or Mildred Smith searching churches in Buffalo, NY. Searched online at Family History Library in Williamsville, NY, for St. Brigid, St. Columba, St. Joseph, Holy Angels, St. Pierre, St. Stephen, St. Agnes, and St. Ann. Searched index (as not in target geographic area) and if not available searched July – December 1901, from Family Search, New York, Erie, Buffalo, Church Records, including St. Louis, St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception, Holy Name of Jesus, St. Frances Xavier, St. Patrick, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary of Sorrows, St. Nicolas, Annunciation, Blessed Sacrament.

19. "Births," *The Buffalo Times* (Buffalo, NY), 7 July 1901, p. 17, col. 8; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/442795251> : accessed 10 February 2024).

Relationships of Anna Rooth

Mildred's mother, Anna Rooth (1866–1902), was the daughter of Peter Rooth and Anna Katherine Tripp.²⁰ Anna Katherine Tripp was born in 1847 to Anthony and Catherine Tripp.²¹ Louise E. Tripp was the wife of George H. Smith; she later married Patrick Donovan.²² Louise's father was Anthony Tripp, who died about January 1859 in Erie County, New York.²³ Her mother was Catherine

Shaffer.²⁴ The 1855 New York census shows Anthony Trip with daughters Anna and Louisa, and they are enumerated together in 1860 in the household of Catherine Tripp, a widow.²⁵ (See Table 2.) While they are both identified as children of Anthony in 1855, relationships from the 1860 census can only be inferred.

TABLE 2: TRIPP HOUSEHOLDS, BUFFALO, N.Y., 1855 AND 1860

1855 New York Census ^a	1860 U.S. Census ^b
Anthony Trip, age 43	—
Catherine Trip, wife, age 30	Catherine Tripp, age 34
Anna M Trip, daughter, age 10	Annie Tripp, age 15
Theodore Trip, son, age 8	Tervero Tripp, age 10
Mary Trip, daughter, age 6	—
August Trip, son, age 5	August Tripp, age 8
Louisa Trip, daughter, age 3	Louisa Tripp, age 6
Martin Trip, son, age 6 months	Martin Tripp, age 4
—	Christina Trip, age 2
<p>a. 1855 New York State census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 1, unpaginated, dwelling 282, family 520, Anthony Trip household; digital image, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 December 2023), image 20 of 90; citing microfilm records from county clerk offices, New York.</p> <p>b. 1860 U.S. census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 1, p. 146, dwelling 1175, family number 1260, house Catherine Tripp; digital image, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 30 December 2023; citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 745.</p>	

20. City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 439 (1902), Anna Mary Rooth Bruckman, died 26 December 1902; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023).

21. "New York Births and Christenings, 1640-1962," database, "New York Births and Christenings, 1640-1962," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FDY2-KFP> : accessed 20 January 2024), Anna Maria Trieb, born 18 September 1847. City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 86 (1900), Annie K. Ruth, died 25 March 1900; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2024).

22. For marriage to George Smith, Marriage Record, Cedar County, Iowa, 1874-1882, p. 187, certificate of marriage (19 January 1877), George H. Smith and Louisa Tripp; digital image, "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 15 January 2024), image 101 of 724. For marriage to Patrick Donovan, "Clark County Marriages," vol. 12, p. 44, marriage record of Patrick Donovan and Louise Tripp or Smith, 17 August 1922; emailed by Tanaka Axberg, Vancouver, WA, to JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY, 26 March 2024. "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 12 February 2024) > Marriage records, 1841-1935; indexes, 1840-1955 > Marriage Records v. F-H 1874-1893 > image 101 of 724; George H. Smith and Louisa Tripp, 19 January 1877; citing "Marriage Record, Cedar County, Iowa, 1874-1882," vol. F, p. 186, Cedar County Archives, Tipton, Iowa.

23. For Louise's death, Washington State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, certificate of death number 103 (29 May 1932), Louise E. Donovan, Clark County, Washington; digital image, "Washington, U.S., Death Records, 1907-2017," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2024), image 2321 of 2909. For Anthony's death, *Find a Grave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194197528/anthony-tripp> : accessed 15 January 2024), memorial 194197528, Anthony Tripp (1813-1859), Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, Erie County, New York; memorial maintained by D.H. Larkin. Information for memorial provided by D.H. Larkin as Burial Records of Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, Erie, NY, FHL DGS 7900328, p. 429, Image 304/318; sent via email to JP Marthia 31 December 2023.

24. "Clark County Marriages," vol. 12, p. 44, marriage record of Patrick Donovan and Louise Tripp or Smith, 17 August 1922; emailed by Tanaka Axberg, Vancouver, WA, to JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY, 26 March 2024.

25. 1855 New York State census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 1, unpaginated, dwelling 282, family 520, Anthony Trip household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); image 20 of 90; citing microfilm records from county clerk offices, New York. 1860 U.S. census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 1, p. 146, dwelling 1175, family number 1260, household Catherine Tripp; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 745.

Martin Tripp is identified in census records as the son of Anthony Tripp. In 1865, he was enumerated in the home of Henry Scheffer and was identified as his grandson.²⁶ Catherine was the daughter of Henry Schaffer/Scheffer.²⁷ Martin's probate records note that at the time of his death in 1879 he left two brothers (Theodore and Augustus) and three sisters (Anna, Louisa, and Christina). He had no living father, and his mother was Catherine Fierke.²⁸ Martin's death notice said that he left behind a mother and stepfather, explaining why Catherine's name from the probate records is different from the census records.²⁹

With Louise and Anna Tripp as likely sisters, that would make Louise Tripp Smith the aunt of Anna Rooth Bruckman. (See Figure 1.)

Divorce Record for Louise and George Smith

In 1912, Louise was granted a divorce from George Smith in Clark County, Washington. In the complaint, Louise noted that, "... about eleven years ago these parties took a little baby, then only two years old, from its mother promising her that they would take good care of the same, and have reared the child as their own; which said child is now in the custody of these parties, is named Mildred Smith and aged Thirteen [sic] years."³⁰ Further, no children were born to Louise and George and "ever since the marriage of these parties, the defendant [George Smith] has been and is still entirely impotent."³¹ The 22 July 1912

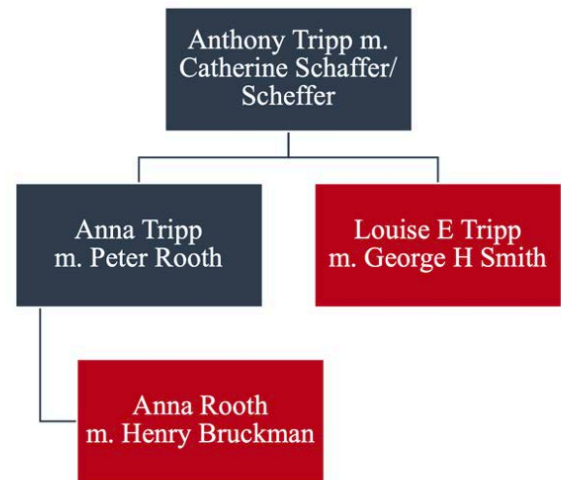


Figure 1: Partial family tree of Anna Rooth Bruckman, showing her relationship to Louise E. Tripp Smith, based on information cited in the discussion above.

Judgement Roll reaffirmed the information provided in the complaint.³²

Based on the divorce records for Louise and George, they raised Mildred from the time she was an infant (2 years of age).³³ With her birth in 1901, it is likely that Louise and George took custody of Mildred between 1902 and 1904.³⁴ Anna Rooth Bruckman died in December 1902, when Mildred was almost 18 months old.³⁵

26. 1865 New York State census, West Seneca, Erie County, New York, population schedule, p. 13, family visited 94, Martin Tripp in the household of Henry Scheffer; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); "New York, State census, 1865," image 7 of 74; citing microfilm records from New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

27. "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," (listed in English as "Germany Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898"), Christening record of Anna Catharina Schieffer, 10 January 1822; database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 30 November 2023), images 585-591 of 1430.

28. Surrogate's Court, Erie County, New York, Surrogate's records, Case Nos. 22805-22850, probate file number 22836, Petition for Administration, Martin Tripp (1879); digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 May 2024), New York Probate Records, 1629-1971 > Erie > Estate papers 1800-1929 case 22805-22850 > image 797 of 1165.

29. "Notes," *The Buffalo Courier* (Buffalo, NY), 19 October 1879, p. 3, col. 6; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/313084051> : accessed 15 January 2024).

30. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith, Complaint; Clark County, Vancouver, Washington; copied and emailed to JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY, 2023, by Katie Bush, Historian, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, WA.

31. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith, Findings of Facts (22 July 1912); Clark County, Vancouver, Washington.

32. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith, Judgement Roll (22 July 1912); Clark County, Vancouver, Washington.

33. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith, Findings of Facts (22 July 1912); Clark County, Vancouver, Washington.

34. For birth, "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1917," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 February 2024) > Marion-Multnomah > 1946 > image 747 of 2529; state certificate 447, Mildred Frances Swallia, 2 February 1936 [sic]; citing "Oregon Death Records, 1864-1971," Oregon State Archive, Salem, Oregon.

35. City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 439 (1902), Anna Mary Rooth Bruckman, died 26 December 1902; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023).

In 1910, the columns identifying the number of children born to Louise and the number still living were both left blank, leaving one to infer that she did not have any children at that time.³⁶ Eight-year-old Mildred Smith was enumerated in the census with the couple as George's "niece" and her place of birth as New York. The place of birth listed for her father was Germany, while George H. Smith's place of birth is New York.³⁷ The relationship of "niece" is supported by the relationship between her mother and Louise.

Family of Henry Bruckman

Henry Bruckman died intestate 14 January 1933.³⁸ At the time of his death, he had three living sons and five living daughters.³⁹ Henry's children – George Bruckman, Henry Bruckman, Clara Young, Fred Bruckman, Mildred Swallia, Margaret Bruckman, Catherine Bruckman, Ellen Bruckman – each received a settlement of \$54.11.⁴⁰

The names of children in the household of Henry Bruckman from the 1910 census record match the name of the heirs listed in the 1933 probate record with two exceptions: (1) Mildred is not enumerated with the family and (2) John is not in the list of living heirs having died in 1921.⁴¹

- Bruchman, Henry, head, age 45, second marriage
- Bruchman, Ellen, wife, age 35, 5 children born/4 living

- Bruchman, Henry P, son, age 20
- Bruchman, Clara, daughter, age 18
- Bruchman, George J, son, age 17
- Bruchman, Fred C, son, age 11
- Bruchman, John, son, age 6
- Bruchman, Margaret, daughter, age 4
- Bruchman, Catherine, daughter, age 2
- Bruchman, Ellen B, daughter, age 10/12

In November 1933, Mildred Swallia sent a letter to the Buffalo Clerk's office asking about the status of the settlement of Henry Bruckman's estate, stating, "I am a daughter of his by his first wife ...".⁴² A copy of the 27 November 1933 postmarked envelope that the letter was sent in is included in the file.⁴³ The return address on the envelope for Mildred's letter matches that for the 1934 Portland City Directory for Bert B and Mildred Swallia.⁴⁴

With the exception of Ellen, death notices for the children listed in the 1910 census for Henry Bruckman include a reference to their sister, Mildred. (See Table 3.). Mildred's death notice identifies her as the sister of Henry, Fred, and George Bruckman and Clara Young of Buffalo, New York.⁴⁵ All have been identified as the children of Henry Bruckman and Anna Rooth.

36. 1910 U.S. census, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, population schedule, Ward 2, ED 108, p. 4A, dwelling 65, family number 68, household of George H. Smith; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1655, and FHL microfilm 1375668.

37. 1910 U.S. census, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, population schedule, Ward 2, ED 108, p. 4A, dwelling 65, family number 68, household of George H. Smith; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023).

38. Erie County Surrogate's Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), Decree Awarding Letters of Administration; Erie County, New York, Surrogate's Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023.

39. Erie County Surrogate's Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), Decree Awarding Letters of Administration; Erie County, New York, Surrogate's Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023.

40. Erie County Surrogate's Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), Decree; Erie County, New York, Surrogate's Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023.

41. 1910 U.S. census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 4, ED 38, p. 1B-2A, dwelling 20, family number 24, household of Henry Bruchman; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 941, and FHL microfilm 1374954. Death notice for John Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 20 July 1921, p. 1, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com/image/441620102> : accessed 15 January 2024).

42. Erie County Surrogate's Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), Letter from Mildred Swallia dated 27 November 1933; Erie County, New York, Surrogate's Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023.

43. Erie County Surrogate's Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), photocopy of envelope from Mildred Swallia postmarked 27 November 1933; Erie County, New York, Surrogate's Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023.

44. *Polk's Portland (Oregon) City Directory 1934* (Portland, OR.: P.L. Polk & Co., 1934), p. 1281, Bert B (Mildred) Swallia; digital image, "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995" *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 November 2023).

45. *Funeral Notice for Mildred Swallia, Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, OR), 4 February 1946, p. 12, col. 2; digital image, *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/> : accessed 15 January 2024).

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CHILDREN FROM 1910 U.S. CENSUS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD OF HENRY BRUCKMAN THAT REFERENCE EACH OTHER AS WELL AS MILDRED SWALLIA IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DEATH NOTICES.

	Children in 1910 Census for Henry Bruckman's Household ⁱ								
NEWSPAPER DEATH NOTICE FOR	Henry	Clara	George	Fred	John	Margaret	Catherine	Ellen	Mildred
Henry Bruckman ^a		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Clara Young ^b	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
George Bruckman ^c	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Fred Bruckman ^d	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
John Bruckman ^e	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Sister Mary Gervase Bruckman ^f	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Kathryn Bruckman ^g	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Ellen Koehler ^h	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Mildred Swallia ⁱ	x	x	x	x					

a. Death notice for Henry P. Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 18 January 1961, p. 10, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/868660271> : accessed 15 January 2024).

b. Death notice for Clara B. Young, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 24 November 1972, p. 54, col. 6; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/871905325> : accessed 15 January 2024).

c. Death notice for George J. Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 20 November 1961, p. 36, col. 1; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/868652743> : accessed 15 January 2024).

d. Death notice for Fred Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 24 November 1972, p. 6, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/873298872> : accessed 15 January 2024).

e. Death notice for John Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 20 July 1921, p. 1, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/441620102> : accessed 15 January 2024).

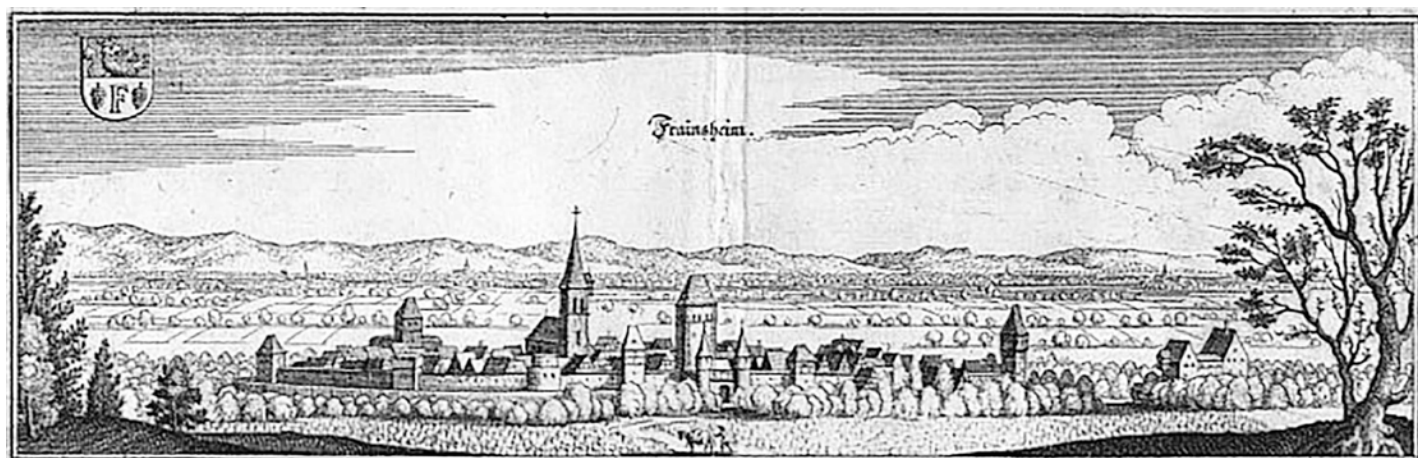
f. Death notice for Sister Mary Gervase Bruckman, RSM, *The Buffalo News* (Buffalo, NY), 16 August 2004, p. B4, col. 6; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/878546816> : accessed 15 January 2024).

g. Death notice for Kathryn Bruckman, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 20 March 1972, p. 6, col. 2; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/871331862> : accessed 15 January 2024).

h. Death notice for Ellen V (Bruckman) Koehler, *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 14 December 1995, p. A-14, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/876019229> : accessed 15 January 2024).

i. Death notice for Mildred Frances Swallia, *The Oregonian* (Portland, OR), 5 February 1946, p. 14, col. 6; digital image, *Genealogy Bank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/> : accessed 15 January 2024).

j. 1910 U.S. census, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, population schedule, Ward 4, ED 38, p. 1B-2A, dwelling 20, family number 24, household of Henry Bruckman; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 December 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 941, and FHL microfilm 1374954.



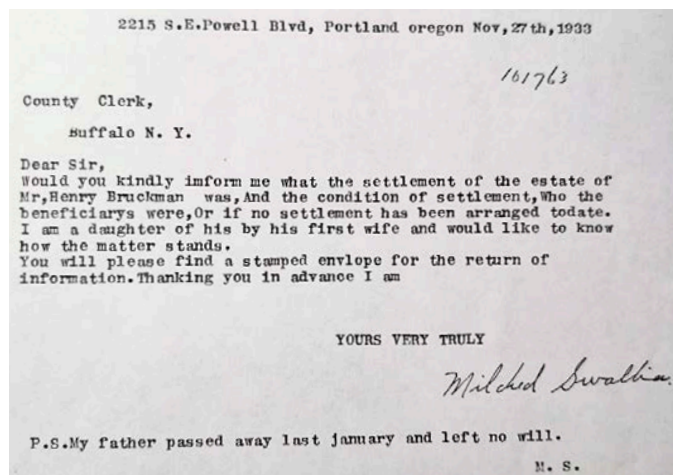
Freinsheim, by Matthäus Merian, circa 1640. Public domain, via [Wikimedia Commons](#).

RECONCILING CONFLICTING OR POTENTIALLY INCOMPLETE INFORMATION

There are three potential areas where additional discussion is needed—Louise’s death notice and number of siblings; George’s death certificate noted he was married at time of death; and a lack of official records for Henry’s family. Each one is addressed below.

In 1922, Louise married Patrick Donovan.⁴⁶ She died in 1932, and her obituary references two living sisters in New York.⁴⁷ There are two inconsistencies with this evidence. According to Martin’s probate record from 1879, there were three living sisters at that time (Anna, Louise, and Cristina). Anna died in 1902, meaning that at the time of her death, Louise should only have had one living sister. This was likely an error caused either because the informant was mistaken or because it was incorrectly reported in the paper. With the physical distance between the family (New York State to Oregon), it is also likely that Patrick was not in regular contact with Louise’s relatives in Buffalo.

The second inconsistency is that George and Louise were granted a divorce in 1912. This is further challenged by George’s death certificate that notes that he was married. The informant for this information was Louise E. Smith. Both George and Louise were living at the same address, and he had been living in Chicago for six months.⁴⁸ While Louise was granted a divorce from George, it appears that they may have reconciled at some point prior to his



Erie County Surrogate’s Court, Probate file number 101763, Henry Bruckman (1933), Letter from Mildred Swallia dated 27 November 1933; Erie County, New York, Surrogate’s Court. Photocopy of file received by JP Marthia (East Aurora, NY), October 2023. Courtesy of the author.

death. George’s death certificate identifies him as a car repairman, which also matches his profession from the 1912 Vancouver City Directory.⁴⁹ In addition, Mildred’s marriage announcement in the newspaper notes that she was from Chicago, placing her in the same city as George’s death.⁵⁰ It appears likely that the couple reunited sometime prior to George’s death.

While both the marriage and death certificate are consistent in naming Anna Rooth as Mildred’s mother, the marriage license is signed by Louise with a note that says, “I hereby give consent to the marriage of my minor daughter ...”^a In Washington State, a female under the age of 18 was

required to obtain parental consent for the marriage.^b As Louise raised Mildred from the age of two and referred to herself as her adoptive mother,^c she was able to provide parental consent to the marriage; hence the reference to her minor daughter even though Louise was actually her mother’s aunt.^d

a. Clark Co., Washington, marriage certificate 10990, Swallia-Smith, 1917.

b. *Washington Law Review* (<https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2384&context=wlr>), p. 117.

c. Clark County, Washington, Superior Court, divorce file case number 4716 (1912), Louise E Smith v George H. Smith.

d. 1910 U.S. census, Vancouver, Clark County, Washington, population schedule, Ward 2, ED 108, p. 4A, dwelling 65, family number 68, household of George H. Smith.

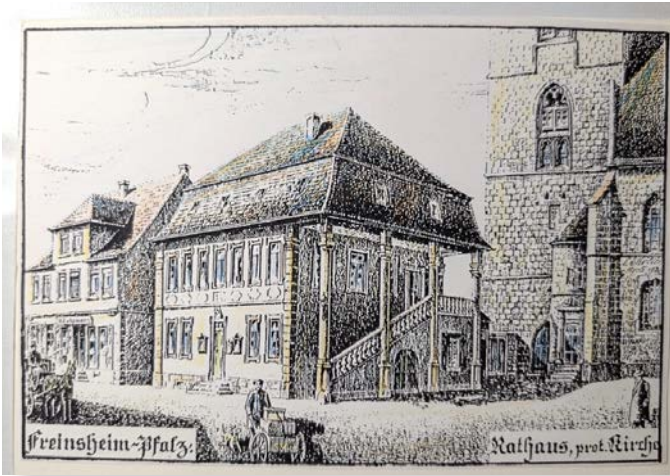
46. State of Washington, certificate of marriage number 9341 [stamped] (17 August 1922), Patrick Donovan and Louise Smith; digital image, Clark County Auditor, “Marriage Records, 1843–Present,” *Washington State Archives, Digital Archives* (<http://digitalarchives.wa.gov> : accessed 15 January 2024), document number swclkmc28373. “Clark County Marriages,” vol. 12, p. 44, marriage record of Patrick Donovan and Louise Tripp or Smith, 17 August 1922; emailed by Tanaka Axberg, Vancouver, WA, to JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY, 26 March 2024.

47. Obituary for Mrs. Louise Donovan, *The Columbian* (Vancouver, WA), 31 May 1932, p. 7, col. 4; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/809583556> : accessed 15 January 2024).

48. City of Chicago, Illinois, Department of Health, Certificate and Record of Death, no. 9081 (1915), George H. Smith, died 27 March 1915; Cook County Clerk, genealogy copy received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2024).

49. *Vancouver City Directory, 1912* (Vancouver, Washington), p. 134 (Geo H Smith); digital images, “U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 11 May 2024); image 62 of 220.

50. “The City News,” *The Vancouver Daily Columbian* (Vancouver, WA), 18 September 1917, p. 3, col. 3; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/809581299/> : accessed 20 January 2024).



Freinsheim-Platz. Rathaus, prot. Kirche [City Hall, Protestant Church]. Courtesy of the author.

No marriage records were found in archives of the City of Buffalo for either Henry and Anna or Henry and Ellen.⁵¹ In addition, no birth records were found for Henry's older children.⁵² It is likely that the family did not submit information to the city during this time. There are several potential reasons, including a lack of understanding, as Henry was not a natural born citizen, potential costs, or other reason. The lack of birth and marriage certificates at this time was mitigated by using baptismal records, Social Security records, probate records, and vital records.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information and analysis provided above, it is clear that Mildred F. Swallia was the daughter of Anna Rooth and Henry Bruckman but was raised by her grand aunt and uncle, Louise E. and George H. Smith. See Figure 2 for a partial family tree showing the relationship between Mildred, Anna Rooth and Henry Bruckman, and Louise Tripp and George Smith.

The following information as cited in the discussion above and bolstered by correlating evidence supports this claim:

- A birth notice in a Buffalo, New York, newspaper notes that a daughter was born to Henry Bruckman on the same day identified as Mildred's birthdate.

- Mildred's mother was Anna Rooth who was the niece of Louise E. Smith.
- Divorce records for Louise and George Smith note that he was impotent, that no children were born to them, and that they took custody of a baby who was two years of age. Census records support this claim, with Mildred identified as George's niece in 1910.
- Probate records for Henry Bruckman identify Mildred Swallia as his daughter. Mildred also wrote a letter to the court claiming she was his daughter by his first wife.
- Death notices for Henry's children mention their sister, Mildred, and her death notice identifies her siblings as the four children of Anna Rooth and Henry Bruckman.

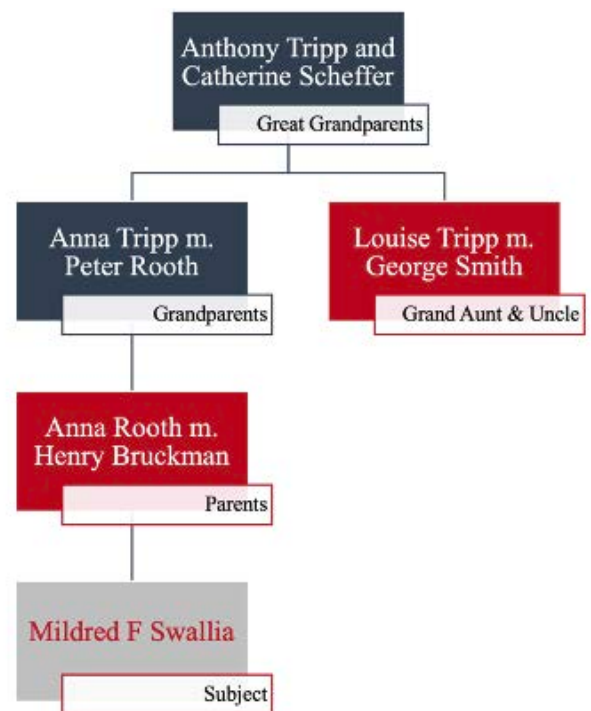


Figure 2: Partial family tree of Mildred Swallia, showing her relationship to Henry Bruckman and George Smith based on information cited in the discussion above.

51. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification – Marriage," Henry Bruckman and Anna Rooth, no record found from 1 January 1888 through 31 December 1890; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 19 July 2023 received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023). City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification – Marriage," Henry Bruckman and Ellen "Nellie" Corbett, no record found from 1 January 1902 through 31 December 1904; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 19 July 2023 received by JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2023).

52. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification," birth of Henry Bruckman, no record found for three years search from 1888 through 1890; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 30 October 2023. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification," birth of George Bruckman, no record found for three years search from 1898 through 1900; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 30 October 2023. City of Buffalo, District 1401, "No Record Certification," birth of Clara Bruckman, no record found for three years search around September 1891; Records Management Office, Buffalo, NY, genealogy copy dated 10 June 2020. All copies maintained in the records of JP Marthia, East Aurora, NY (2024).

Louise Schede Fieser's Diary

Translated from German into English

Part II

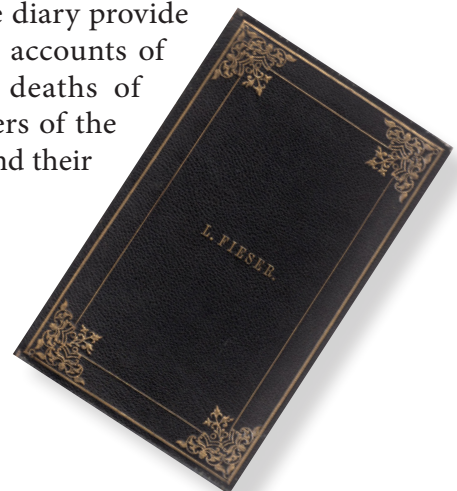
Christina Buck Armstrong

Part 1 of Louise Schede Fieser's Diary introduced Louise Philippine Schede and Friedrich Fieser. Louise was born in Neuwied, Rheinland-Pfalz, on August 24, 1816, and immigrated to the United States with her father, Heinrich Ludwig Schede, in 1834. Her mother, Philippine Wilhilmine Steinman, likely died when Louise was young. Louise had an older sister, Mathilde, who later joined her in Columbus, Ohio. Louise and her father lived in Dayton, Ohio, where he died in 1842. Louise married Friedrich Fieser, a German immigrant and newspaper editor, on June 21, 1845. Louise and Friedrich had seven children, but only two, Berthe Mathilde and Louis Friedrich, survived to adulthood. The Fiesers were active in the Columbus, Ohio, German community, and German was spoken at home. Louise never learned English. In their later years, Louise and Friedrich lived with their daughter Berthe Krauss's family. Louise's diary includes entries by both her and Friedrich and documents family events, losses, and their strong religious faith. The diary was passed down through the family and eventually translated into English. Louise died on January 10, 1900, having outlived her husband and three of her nine grandchildren.

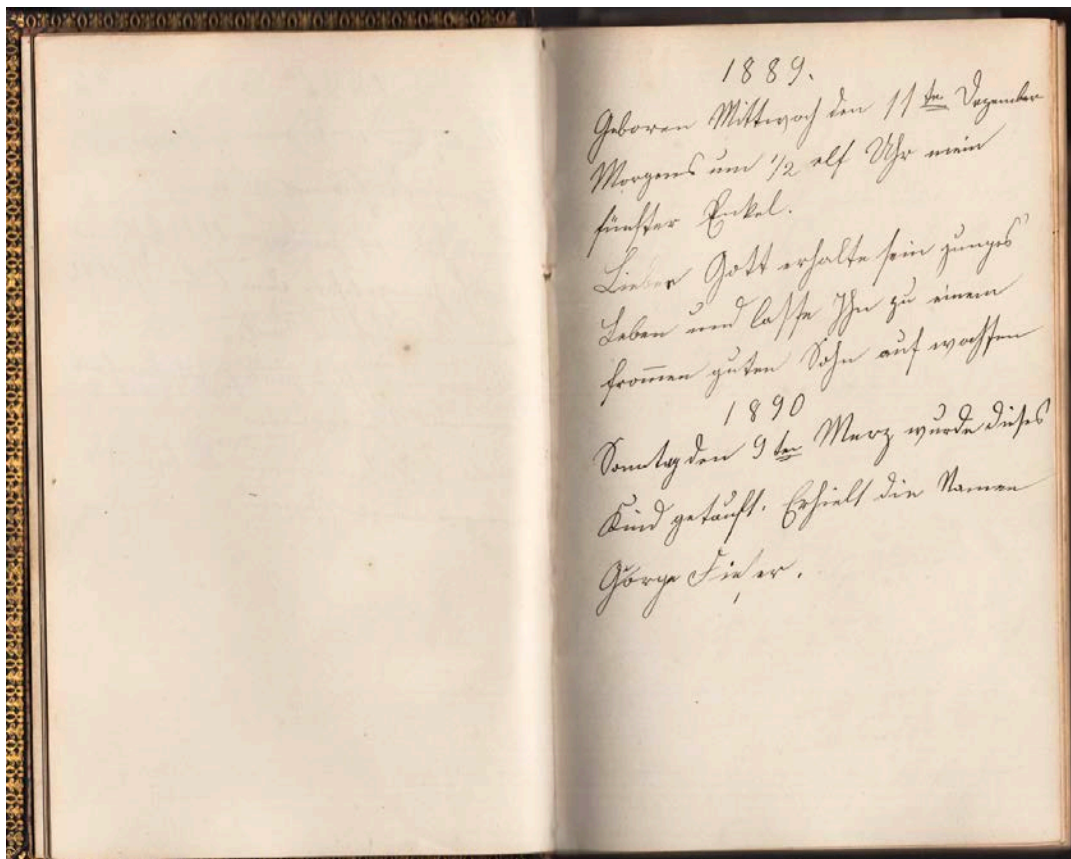


Louise Schede Fieser in an undated photograph. She may have been wearing "widow's weeds" as her beautifully detailed dress appears to be black. She outlived her husband by nearly nine years.

Part II of Louise Schede Fieser's diary reflects on her grief and mourning following the deaths of her grandchildren, along with references to familial connections and religious beliefs. Newspaper articles pasted into the diary provide obituaries and accounts of the lives and deaths of several members of the Fieser family and their relatives.



Louise Philippine Schede Fieser photographed on Christmas Day 1898 with three of her nine grandchildren: from left, Dorothy Fieser, Georgie Krauss, and Martha Fieser.



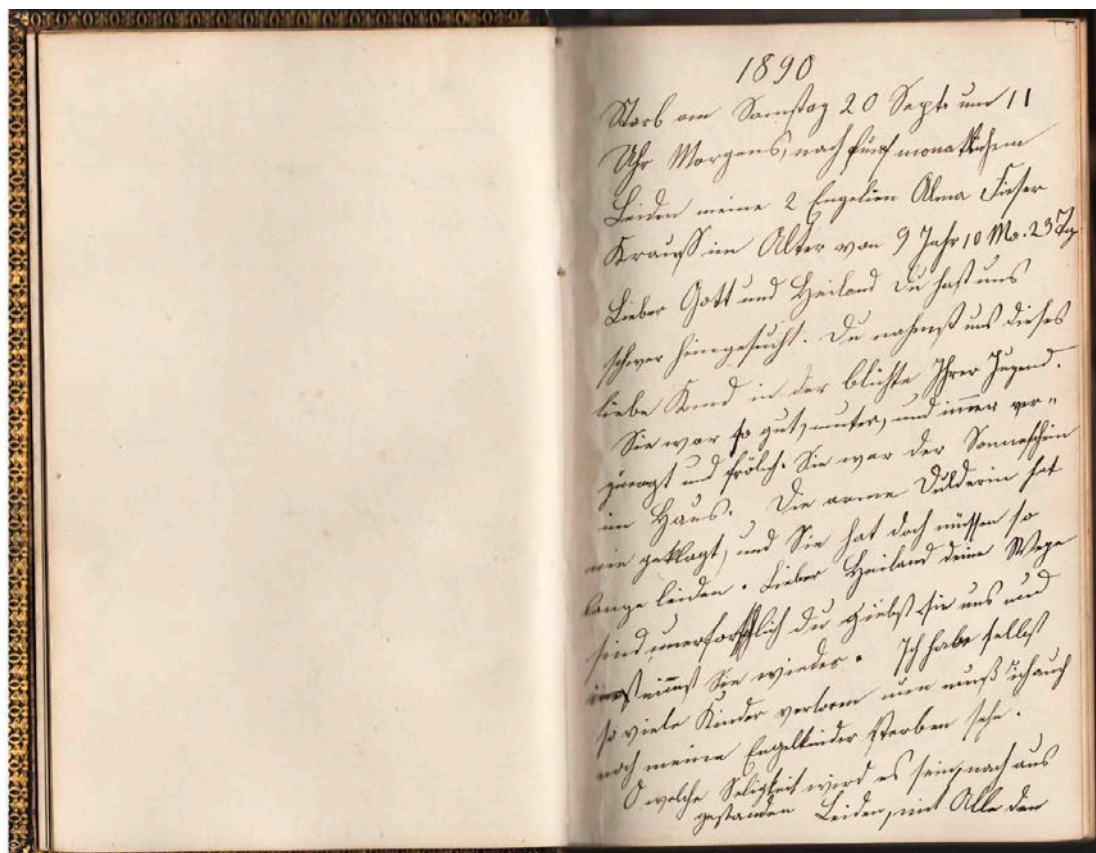
1889.

Born on Wednesday the 11th of December
in the morning at half past ten o'clock my
fifth grandchild.

Dear God preserve his young
life and let him grow into a
faithful good son.

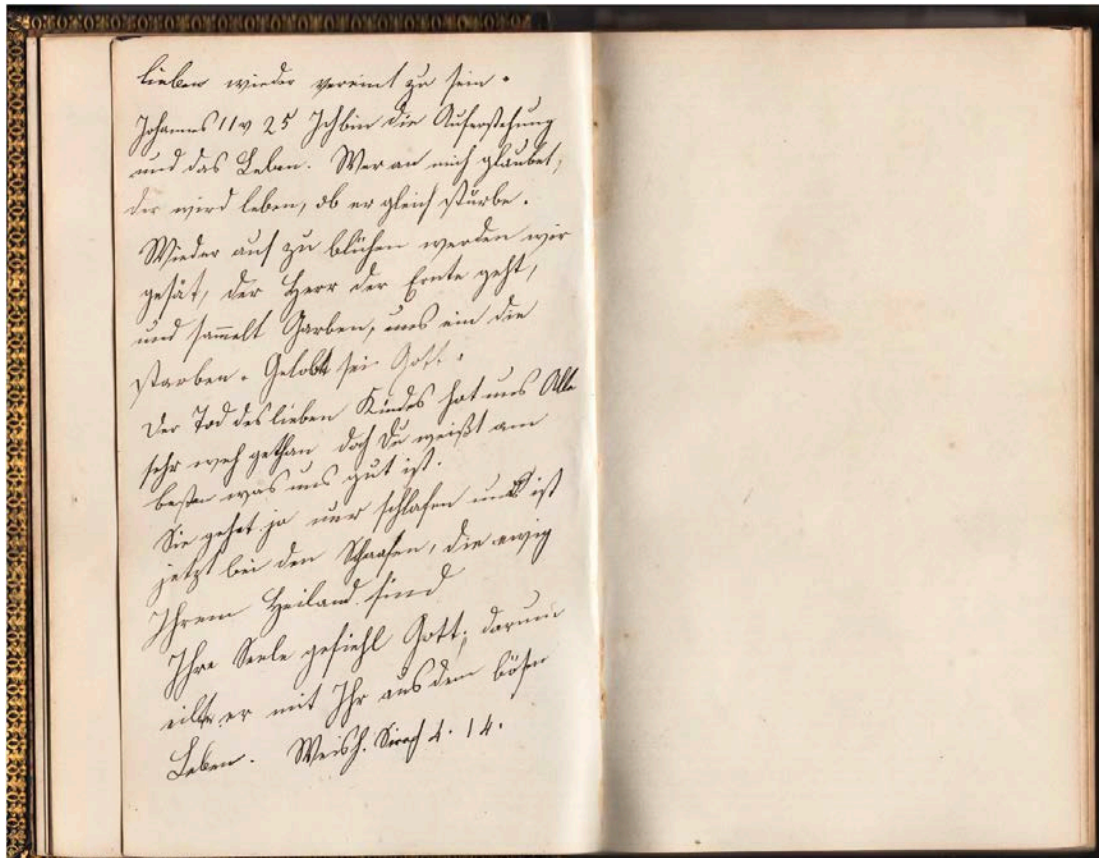
1890.

On Sunday the 9th of March this child
was baptized. He was given the names
Georg Fieser.



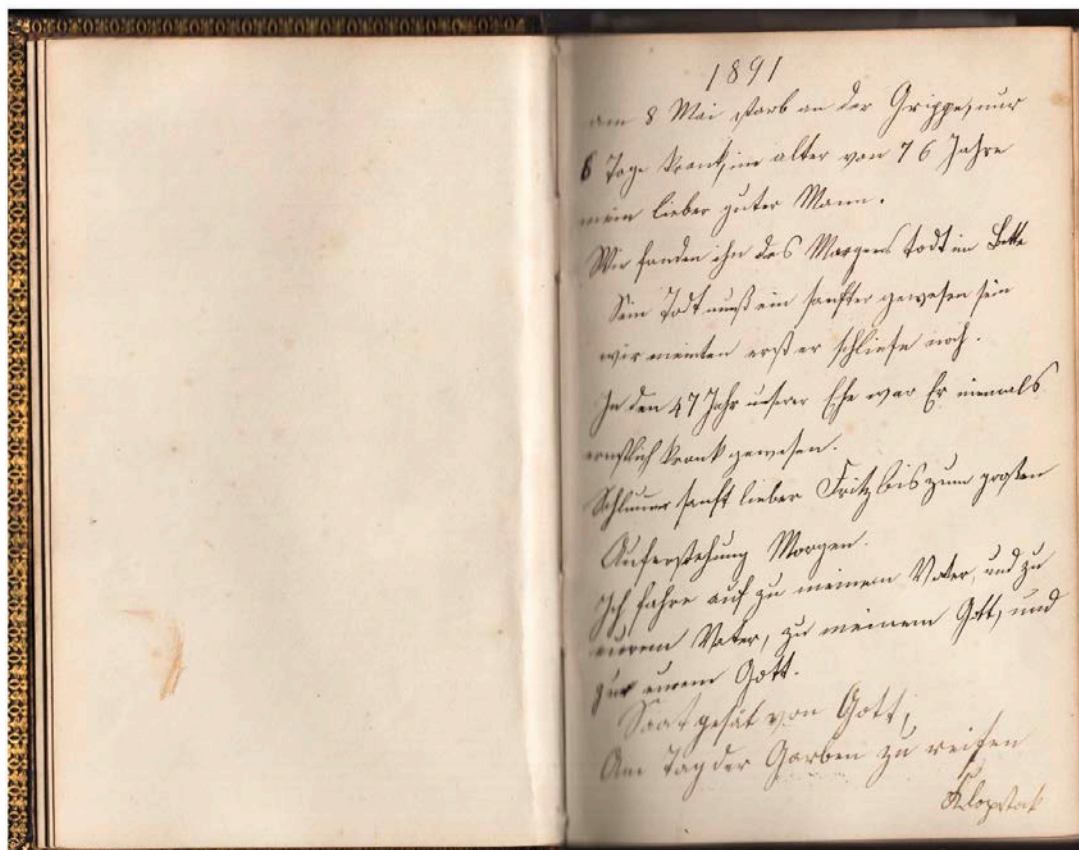
1890

After suffering for 5 months, my
 second grandchild Alma Fieser
 Krauss died at the age of 9 years,
 10 months and 23 days, on
 Saturday September 20,
 at 11 o'clock in the morning.
 Dear God and Savior you have
 punished us severely. You took
 from us this dear child during the
 best years of her youth. She was
 so good, so lively and always
 cheerful and merry. She was the
 sunshine in our house. She endured
 so much but never complained
 and had to suffer for a long time.
 Dear Savior, your paths are uncharted,
 you give them to us and you take them
 away! I myself have lost so many children



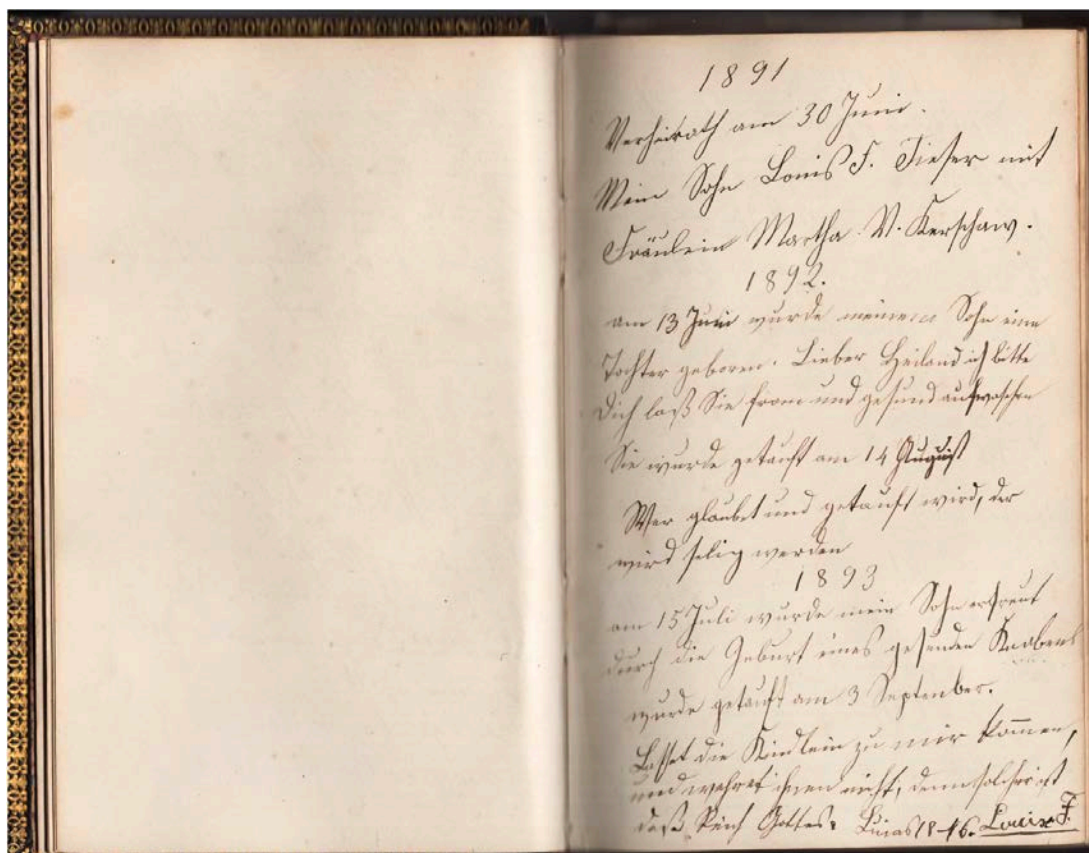
and now I must watch my grand-children die. Oh, what salvation it will be, to be reunited after all the suffering with all our loved ones. (Johannis 11-25) I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even if they die. To be reborn and be led to the Kingdom of Heaven. Praise be to God.

The death of our dear child has hurt us all very deeply. However, you know best what is good for us. She only went to sleep, and now she is among the sheep and will find her Savior. God was pleased with her soul, so he hurried to take her away from this hard life. Wisdom Sirach 4.14.



	<p>1891 On the 8th of May, my dear, kind husband died at the age of 76. He died from the flu, after being sick for only 6 days. We found him dead in his bed in the morning. His death must have been a peaceful one, he seemed to be still asleep. During our 47 years of marriage, he has never been really ill. Sleep in peace my dear Fritz, until tomorrow's great resurrection. I will rise to my Father, and to our Father, to my Lord, and to our Lord. Seed sown by God To ripen for the day of harvest. (Klopstock)</p>
--	---

The last two lines of this diary entry are from Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock's work. "Der Messias." They appear on Klopstock's tombstone. (The source of this information is Valeska Nygren, who translated the name Klopstock as well as the lines just before it. The translation by the Berlitz translators was clearly inadequate.) Fieser was thought to be a descendant of Klopstock. Fieser's mother was born in the same town as Klopstock, but there is no information to support a familial relationship.



1891

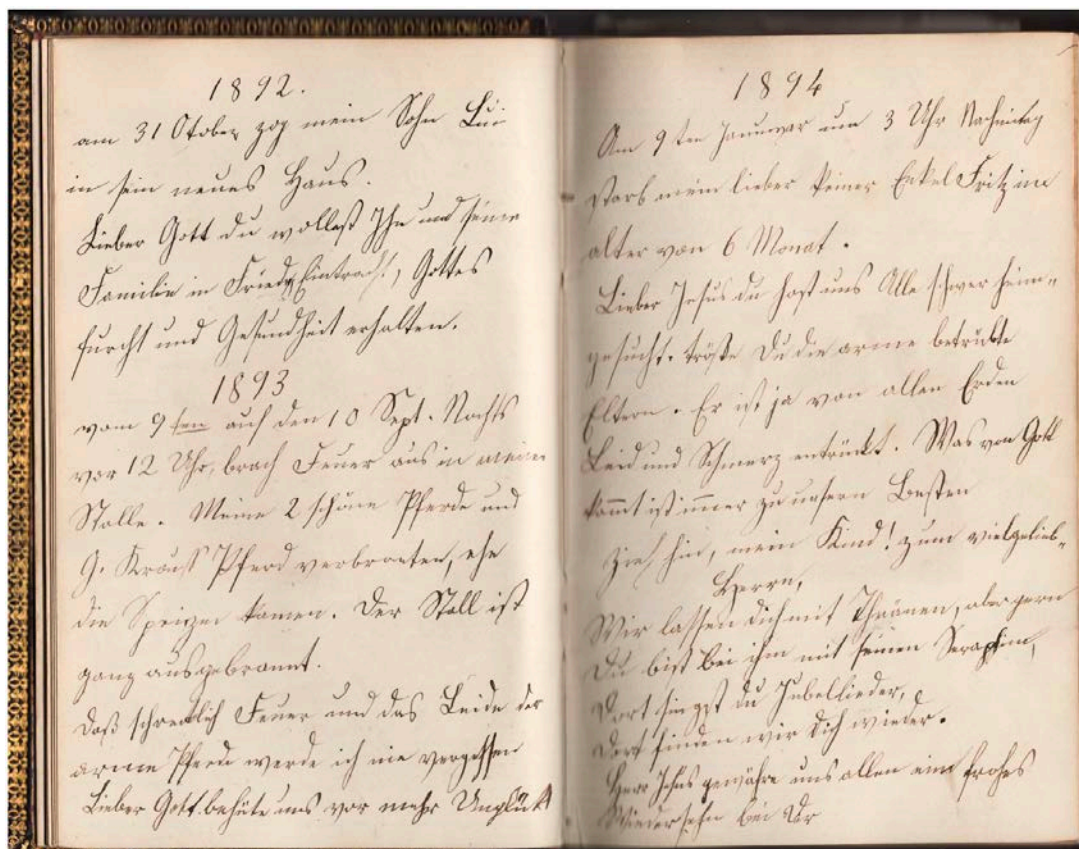
On the 30th of June my son
Louis F. Fieser married Miss
Martha V. Kershaw.

1892.

On the 13th of June, a daughter was
born to my son. Dear Lord, I ask you,
let her grow up merciful and healthy.
She was baptized on the 14th of August.
He, who believes in God, and is
baptized, will be blessed.

1893

On the 15th of July, my son was
delighted by the birth of his healthy
boy. The child was baptized on
September 3rd. Let the children
come to me, and they will be
rewarded. (Lucas 18 16) Louise F.



1892

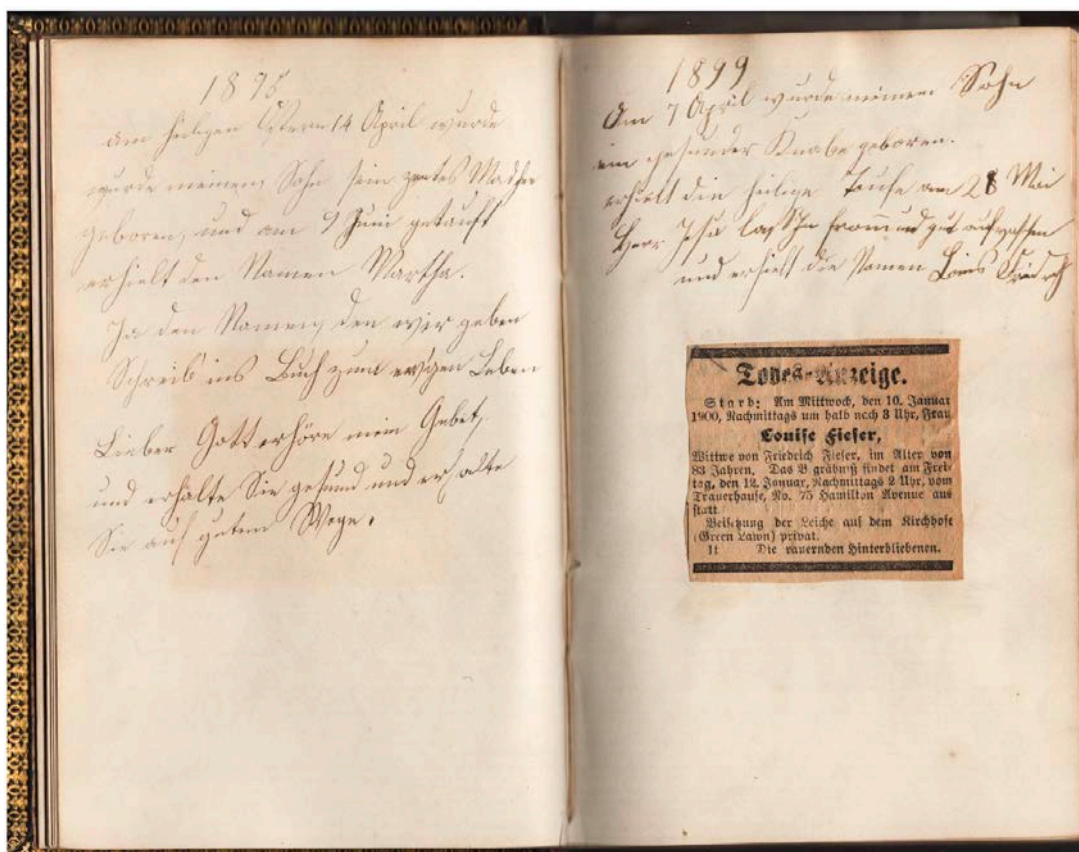
On the 31st of October my son
Louis moved into his new house.
Dear God, you wanted to keep
him and his family in peace,
God's fear and health.

1893

During the night on the 9th to the 10th of
September before midnight, a fire broke
out and burned down my barn. My two
beautiful horses as well as G. Krön's
horse burned to death. The horses came
too late. The barn is completely destroyed.
The destructive fire as well as the suffering of
the horses I will never forget.
Dear God save us from further misfortune.

1894

On the 9th of January, at 3 o'clock in
the afternoon, my dear little grand-
child Fritz died at the age of 6 months.
Dear Jesus, you have called so
many of us back to you. Console
the poor, grief-stricken parents.
He is redeemed from all earthly
suffering and pain.
What God gives us is for our
good, go to him, my child, to our
beloved Master. We let you with
tears, but you will be received
with joy. There you will find songs
of rejoice, and there we will see you
again.



1895

On April 14th, during Holy Easter,
a second girl was born to my son.
She was baptized on the 9th of
June and named Martha.
Yes, the name we receive will
be written into eternal life.
Dear God, listen to my prayer,
keep her healthy and on the
right path.

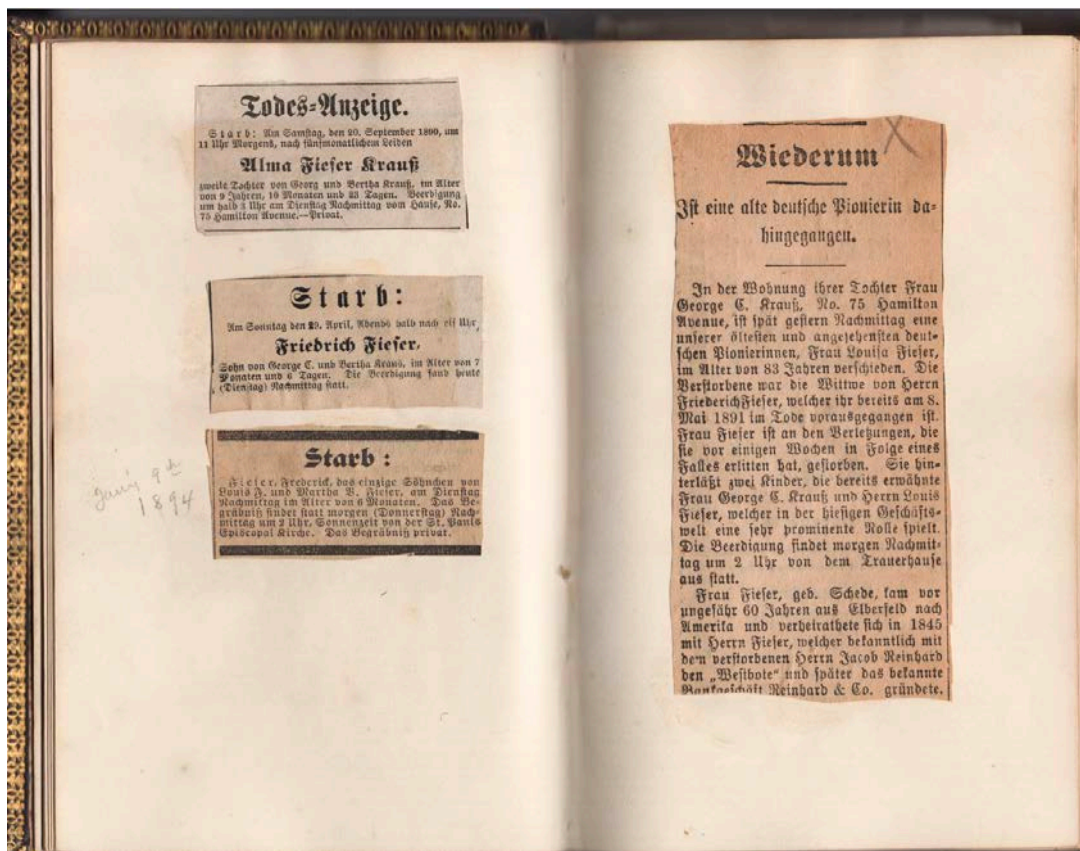
1899

On April 7th, a healthy boy was born
to my son. He was given the holy
baptism on the 28th of May.
Dear Jesus, let him grow up merciful and
good. He received the name Louis Friedrich

Obituary.

Died: On Wednesday, January 10, 1900,
in the afternoon at half past three, Mrs.
Louise Fieser,
widow of Friedrich Fieser, at the age of
83. The burial will take place on
Friday, January 12th, 2 p.m., from the
house of mourning, No. 75 Hamilton
Avenue.
Burial at the church yard (Green Lawn)
private.

My limited familiarity with the German language and lack of knowledge about Victorian era funeral customs made the translation of this obituary challenging. Google Translate's "house of mourning" seemed strange, but my research indicated that "house of mourning" was a term that was used in American obituaries at the time. Funerals would take place from (rather than at) either the home of the deceased or the church, to the graveyard.



Obituary:

Died: On Saturday, the 20th of September 1890, at 11 o'clock in the morning, after five months of suffering

Alma Fieser Krauss

second daughter of Georg and Bertha Krauss, at the age of 9 years, 10 months and 23 days. funeral at half past 2 on Tuesday afternoon from the home, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue. — Private.

Died:

On Sunday evening the 20th of April at half past ten

Friedrich Fieser,

son of George C. and Bertha Kraus, at the age of 7 months and 6 days. The funeral took place today (Tuesday) in the afternoon.

Died:

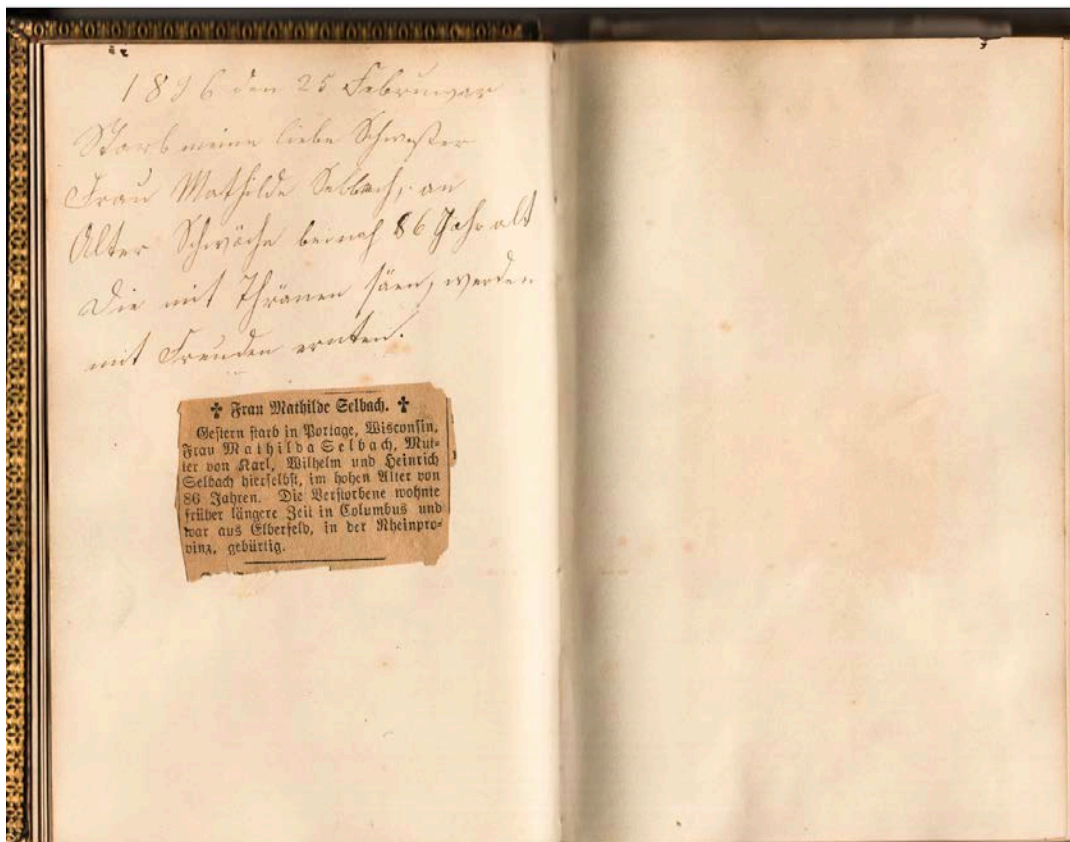
Fieser, Friedrich, the first son of Louis J. and Martha D. Fieser, Thursday afternoon, at the age of 6 months. The funeral takes place tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon at 2 o'clock, solar time from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Private funeral.

In Turn

An old German pioneer has passed away.

Late yesterday afternoon Mrs. Louisa Fieser, one of our oldest and most respected German pioneers, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George C. Krauss, No. 75 Hamilton Avenue, at the age of about 83 years. The deceased was the widow of Mr. Friedrich Fieser, who preceded her in death on May 8, 1891. Frau Fieser died from injuries suffered as a result of a fall a few weeks ago. She left behind two children, the already mentioned Mrs. George C. Krauss and Mr. Louis Fieser, who plays a very prominent role in local business. The funeral takes place tomorrow afternoon at the house of mourning.

Mrs. Fieser, born Schede, came from Elberfeld to America about 60 years ago and in 1845 married Mr. Fieser, who with the deceased Mr. Jacob Reinhard founded the "Westbote" and later the well known banking business Reinhard & Co.



1896 On the 25th of February
my dear sister Mrs. Mathilde
Selbach died of old age. She
was almost 86 years old.
Those with tears will be
received with happiness.

+ Mrs. Mathilde Selbach. +
Mrs. Mathilde Selbach, mother of
Karl, Wilhelm, and Heinrich Selbach
of this city, died yesterday in
Portage, Wisconsin at the age of 86.
The deceased previously lived for
many years in Columbus and was
born in Elberfeld in the Rhine
Province.

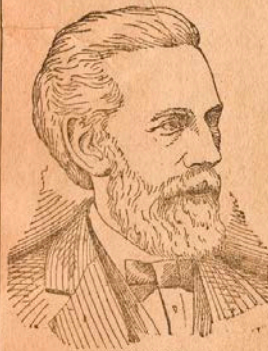
Der Westbote obituary for Louise Schede Fieser's sister, Mathilde Schede Selbach.

RETIRED BY DEATH.

Sudden Demise of Frederick Fieser,
Veteran Journalist, Banker
and Honored Citizen.

Stricken Down After Making Arrange-
ments to Give Up Active Busi-
ness Life.

His Great Interest in Education and
the Public Libraries.



FREDERICK FIESER.
The veteran journalist, banker and good
citizen, Frederick Fieser, is dead. He was
found cold and lifeless in his bed yesterday
morning by his daughter. The announce-
ment was startling to the many friends of
the honored man, but few of whom know of
his recent indisposition.

*From
Ohio State Journal
Sat. May 9
1891*

Mr. Fieser's illness assumed a serious na-
ture on Sunday last. He had been suffering
from la grippe and from Sunday
on the ailment took on the nature
of congestion of the lungs. He complained
of not feeling as well as usual upon retiring
Thursday night, but at 2 a. m. yesterday,
when his daughter gave him his medicine,
his condition was not such as to cause any
apprehension. At 4 o'clock he conversed
with his wife, and, feeling restless, got up
and walked around the room several times,
then lay down and was soon asleep. Mrs.
Fieser was awake all the time, and when
her daughter came into the room at 5 a. m.
she told her not to disturb her father, as he
was sleeping, remarking about his having
been up and around, and regarding it as a
favorable sign. On touching her father she
made the horrifying discovery that he was
dead. He lay in his natural position, as if
asleep, and his end must have been quick
and painless.

Frederick Fieser was born in Wolfen-
buetel, Brunswick, Germany, October 14,
1817. He came to America in 1836, settling
in Baltimore. He was for some time en-
gaged in selling pianos of the Knabe make
through Virginia. He came to Ohio in 1839,
being a resident of Lancaster and the editor
of the Ohio Volksfreund. In 1841 the paper
removed to Columbus and changed to the
Adler. Mr. Fieser did not come to Colum-
bus with the paper, but intended going to
St. Louis; instead of doing so, however, he
went to Louisville in 1841, remaining until
1842, when he went to Cincinnati as the
editor of the Volksblatt under Stephen
Mottor. Mr. Fieser came to Columbus in
1843 and with Mr. Jacob Reinhard
bought a complete new outfit and
started the Westbote, the Eagle in the
meantime having suspended and there
being no German paper at the time. Mr.
Fieser assumed the editorship, which posi-
tion he retained for forty-one years, selling
out his interest in 1884 to the present West-
bote company. In the summer of 1884 he
revisited the scenes of his boyhood, and pro-
longing his stay for over a year, visited the
points of interest on the continent. Mr.
Fieser was a lineal descendant of Klopstock,
the noted German author. In 1868 the
present banking firm of Reinhard & Co. was
organized, consisting of Messrs. Jacob Rein-
hard, Frederick Fieser, Joseph Falkenbach
and S. S. Cox. Mr. Fieser retained his con-
nection with the banking firm up to the
time of his death. Through this business
association a strong friendship was formed
between Mr. Fieser and Mr. Cox, which
never varied.

Ohio State Journal - May 9, 1891

Mr. Fieser was married in 1845 to Miss
Schade, then a resident of Dayton, O., and
their union was blessed with several chil-
dren, but two of whom are now living, the
others having died in infancy. Those left to
mourn the loss of a kind and indulgent
father are Mrs. Bertha Fieser Krauss, wife
of Mr. George C. Krauss, the well-known
business man, and Mr. Frederick Louis
Fieser, at present stationed at Hartford,
Conn. in the civil engineer department of
the New York, New Haven and Hartford
railway.

The business associations of the deceased
with Mr. Jacob Reinhard dating over forty-
seven years is one of such rare occurrence
as to be almost remarkable. The two men
were of different religious creed but this or
no other cause ever resulted in a misunder-
standing or a jar in nearly half a century.
Each one had his own duties which were
discharged satisfactory to the other. Mr.
Fieser was beloved by all who ever came in
social or business contact with him and par-
ticularly so by his employees. He was con-
genial in his friendship. He was well edu-
cated, being an excellent French scholar,
and his tastes were inclined to
literature. Very modest in his disposition,
he never obtruded himself and only his in-
timate friends were aware of his rare at-
tainments. He was one of the most influ-
ential writers in the country, and was the
friend of the workingman and farmer to
whom most of his editorial writings were
addressed. His arguments were not couched
in abstruse phraseology but in simple
and plain terms easily understood by every
one, and to this is due much of the populari-
ty of the Westbote. Mr. Fieser's life has
been a busy one and he had just completed
arrangements to retire from active business
and to turn his affairs over to his son who
was expected home next week.

Mr. Fieser took a great interest in the
city's libraries and a resume of his connec-
tion with the Public Library would be al-
most its history from inception. As presi-
dent of the board of education Mr. Fieser
was present as an ex-officio member of the
board of library trustees at the first meeting
ever held in the interest of the Public
Library, February 10, 1872. At that time an
organization was effected under an ordi-
nance of the city council. Mr. Fieser was
appointed as committeeman to see to it that
the library was properly maintained and
was also made chairman of the commit-
tee to furnish the library-rooms. This
committee on books secured the transfer of
all the books belonging to the "Columbus

Association" to the trustees to form a nucleus
to the present library. July 18, 1872, Mr.
Fieser was unanimously chosen presi-
dent of the board of trustees and held
this office until June, 1873, when his term ex-
pired, he being succeeded by Dr. Starling
Loving as president of the board of educa-
tion. Mr. Fieser had no further connection
with the library board until June, 1877,
when he was elected regular trustee
by the city council for two
years, since which time he has
been continuously re-elected by the various
councils without regard to party politics.
control, testimonial alike to his recognition
interest in public affairs and his high stand-
ing as a citizen. He was elected secre-
tary of the library board June 7, 1877, and
was continued as such up to the time of his
death. He was a great reader himself and
was an almost daily visitor at the
library rooms, being constantly on
the alert to secure the best
interests of the institution. He secured
many large donations of books for the li-
brary during his connection with the board.
Under his care and supervision the German
department was organized and has been
nurtured until today it is one of the strong-
est and most frequently used of the various
departments of the library. Mr. Fieser has
often said he had been solicited many times
to become a candidate for office, but he
never would consent to run except for
school board, for he considered it a duty im-
posed on every citizen to do all he could for
the schools and institutions of public bene-
fit. Mr. Fieser was a member of the board
of education for nine years, six years of the
time as its president. The site of the pres-
ent Fieser school building on the West Side
was secured at his suggestion. At the time
the board of education had not the neces-
sary funds to make the pur-
chase, although the price was very
low, and at the same time they
did not want to lose the site, which was
particularly well located for a school-house.
Mr. Fieser bought the lots himself and held
them in trust for the board until they were
able to buy, transferring them to the board
at the original price, although property
values had risen considerably. A splendid
school building was erected on the site, and
named in his honor, the Fieser school. The
last meeting of the library board at which
Mr. Fieser was present was April 8, 1891, at
which time the annual report of the libra-
rian was presented and approved by the
board. Mr. Fieser complained of being ill
at this meeting. He was a strong friend of
the library and was hopeful of living to see
it in a prosperous and independent state.

Definite arrangements will not be per-
fected for the funeral until the arrival of
Mr. Fieser's son today. Mrs. Fieser is quite
seriously ill with the grip and her strength
is sorely taxed under this additional shock.

*Ohio State Journal
Sat. May 9, 1891*

From Ohio State Journal, Sat., May 9, 1891.

From Gräfenroda to Berleburg: Tracing the Ancestors of Martha Elisabetha Schmol (1733–1791) Across Four Generations in Central Germany

Mark Grafe

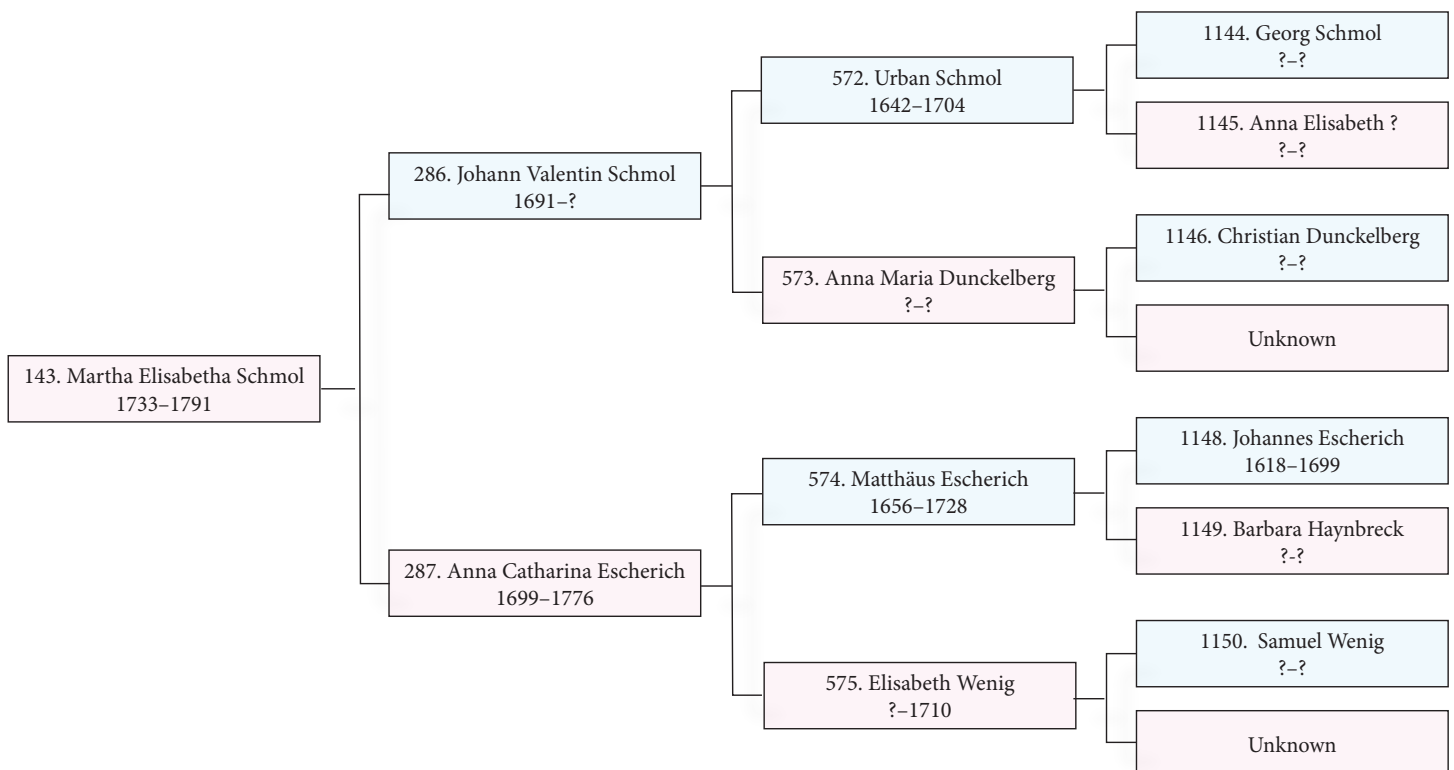
This article aims to reexamine four generations of Martha Elisabeth Schmol's family through Central German church records, providing a picture of the family's occupations and a migration path from Gräfenroda leading to Kassel and Berleburg. By exploring this lineage and its historical setting, I hope to encourage interest among relatives—perhaps even a visit to Germany.

Gräfenroda, located in the Ilm-Kreis district of Thuringia, Germany, is one of those ancestral villages my wife and I have not visited. Based on available records, only my eighth great-grandfather (and Maria's great-grandfather), Johannes "Hanß" Escherich (1618–1699), established and raised his family in this locale.



17th century Waldglas (Forest Glass). Photo by Ulrich Mayring, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0.

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF MARIA ELISABETHA SCHMOL



AHNENTAFEL (PEDIGREE)

Generation One

1. Martha Elisabetha Schmöl was baptized 22 September 1733 in Kassel, Hesse, Germany.¹ Her baptismal sponsor was Martha Elisabeth Gläßner. The Gläßner and Escherich families were intimate in Kassel.² Martha Elisabetha Schmöl married in 1759 at Kassel, Johan Jonas Jeckel, son of Andreas Jeckel and Susanna Catharina Schwanzenbächer. He was baptized 20 November 1729 in Berleburg, Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Martha Elisabetha (Schmöl) Jeckel was buried 31 January 1791 in Berleburg.³

Johann Jonas Jeckel was a *Schuhmacher* (shoemaker). He and Martha Elisabetha Schmöl raised a family during and after the Seven Years' War (1756–1763) in Kassel and Berleburg.

Children of Martha Elisabetha Schmöl and Johann Jonas Jeckel were:

- i. Carl Joseph Jeckel, born in 1760 in Kassel.
- ii. Johann Leonhard Jeckel, born in 1762 in Kassel.
- iii. Amelia Jeckel, born in 1766 in Kassel.
- iv. Johann Georg Jeckel, born in 1769 in Kassel.
- v. Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel, born 3 September 1772 in Berleburg, died 29 December 1826 in Berleburg. She married Friedrich Wilhelm Kemper.



A castle in the Thuringian mountains called the Wartburg, upper left, circa 1895. *Library of Congress*. This was close to where Martha Elisabetha Schmöl's maternal grandparents lived.



Kassel, 16th century. Public domain, *Wikipedia*.

Church books or *Kirchenbücher* (KB) were accessed through *Archion* (<https://www.archion.de>) in 2024 and 2025.

1. KB Kassel, *Freiheit Gemeinde* (freedom community), baptism, 22 September 1733. “22 / Martha Elisabet/ Mstr Valentin Schmöl Metzger. Martha Elis. Der Mstr. Gläßner und Bürger frau,” (22 / Martha Elisabet / Master Valentin Schmöl, butcher / Martha Elis. the Master Gläßner und citizen's wife.)

2. Edith Schlieper, “Dreihundert Jahre Glas Handel in Kassel: Dargestellt am Beispiel der Familie Escherich (300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel),” *Journal of Company History and Entrepreneurial Biography*, vol. 11, no. 6, 1966, pp. 283–96; (<https://www.escherich.com> : accessed 16 May 2025).

3. Source citations for Generation One of this article appeared in the March 2025 *Bulletin* (https://gfo.org/file_download/inline/6ffcd8b-eccc-44ff-8673-50c23898c37b), p. 28–32.

Generation Two

2. Johann Valentin Schmol, baptized 29 May 1691 in Kassel,⁴ has an unknown date of death. He married at Kassel on 5 November 1716,⁵

3. Anna Catharina Escherich, baptized 21 November 1699 in Kassel, Hessen, Germany,⁶ died in 1776.⁷

Johann Valentin Schmol was a *Metzger* (butcher). It seemed odd that his father was a butcher and a *Hofgläßner* (Court glass dealer), until seeing that his father-in-law was also a *Hofgläßner*. Delivering glass to the court was not enough to “secure a livelihood.”⁸

The children of Johann Valentin Schmol and Anna Catharina Escherich were:

- i. Johann Mathew Schmol, born at Kassel in 1717,⁹ died in Kassel in 1770.¹⁰
- ii. Leonard Schmol, born in 1720 at Kassel.¹¹
- iii. Elias Schmol, born in 1723 at Kassel.¹²
- iv. Anna Elisabeth Schmol, born in 1726 at Kassel,¹³ died in 1728 at Kassel.¹⁴
- v. Johann Heinrich Schmol, born at Kassel in 1728.¹⁵



Butchery products on a painting by Pieter Aertsen, 1551. Public domain, Wikipedia.

4. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 29 May 1691. “MDCLXXXI [top of page], Eod M / Johan Valentin / Urban Schmol, Metzger / Valentin Otto.” (1691, Same day [29] May / [Given names] Johan Valentin/ [Father] Urban Schmol, butcher/ [Sponsor] Valentin Otto.)

5. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, marriage, 5 November 1716. “Novembr D 5 / Meister Joh. Valentin Schmol, Bürger und Metzger allhier, Mstr Urban Schmol, Bürger und Metzger und Hofgläßner ehch [ehelich], Sohn. / Jungfrau Anna Catharina Eschrichin H Mathias Eschrich, Bürger und Hofgläßner alhier ehch [ehelich] Tochter.” (November the fifth / Master Johann Valentin Schmol, citizen and butcher here, Master Urban Schmol’s (citizen, butcher, and Court glass dealer) legitimate son. / Young lady Anna Catharina Escherichin, Herr Matthias Eschrich’s (citizen and Court glass dealer here) legitimate daughter.)

6. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 21 November 1699. “Der 21 / Matthiaß Escherichß, Handelsman Tochterlein so gebohren der 15 / hujus [Latin] das Morgen zwischen 8 um 9 Uhr wahr d [während] nun Mr. Wilhelm Gieslingß Küebler Zeughausstückenmacher Hausfrau genannt Anna Cattarina.” (The 21 / Matthias Escherich’s, tradesman, little daughter this way was born the 15 / of this place, this morning between five and nine o’clock, while now Master Wilhelm Giesling’s, [cooper, armory piece maker] wife [sponsor], [child] called Anna Cattarina.)

7. Helmut Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel*, Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731–1839 (Kassel, Society for Family Studies in Kurhessen and Waldeck, 1986), v. 13, deaths Sch, p. 57; *Universitat Kassel*, database, (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_013/60/), image 67 of 456, 1777 “8, 7-13 Feb, F, Schmul, Anna Catharine, Val. Sch. Alt. 82.

8. Edith Schlieper, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel.”

9. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 5 November 1717. “5 / Matthew / Mstr Joh. Valentin Schmol B. und Metzger alhier. / Mstr Matthew Escherich, Gläßner.” (5 / Matthew / [father] Master Johann Valentin Schmol, Bürger and butcher here. / [sponsor] Master Matthew Escherich, glass dealer.)

10. Helmut Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel*, Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731–1839, p. 50; *Universitat Kassel*, database, (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_013/60/), image 60 of 456, 1770 “46, 31 Oct-6 Nov, Schmul, Mstr. Joh. Matthias Sch. Metzger, Alt 53 J.”

11. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 30 December 1720. “Der 30 / Leonhard / Mstr Valentin Schmol, Metzger / Mstr Leonhard Glocker, Hufschmidt.” (The 30 / Leonhard / [father] Master Valentin Schmol, butcher / [sponsor] Master Leonhard Glocker, blacksmith.)

12. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 5 November 1723. “November der 5 / Elias / Mstr Joh. Valentin Schmol, Metzger / Mstr Elias Escherich, Bürger.” (November the fifth / Elias / [father] Master Johann Valentin Schmol, butcher / [sponsor] Master Elias Escherich, citizen.)

13. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 21 January 1726. “D 21/ Anna Elisab. / Johan Valentin Schmol/ [sponsor] Anna Elis. Gläßnerin.” (The 21 / Anna Elisabeth / [father] Johan Valentin Schmol / [sponsor] Anna Elisabeth Gläßner.)

14. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 20 June 1728. “Eod / Anna Elis. der Valent. Schmuls, Metzger T. [Tochter].” (The same date / Anna Elisabeth, the Valentin Schmul’s, butcher, daughter.)

15. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 11 April 1728. “D. 11 / Joh. Henrich / Valentin Schmul, Metzger / H Joh. Henrich Escherig, Lohgerber. Henrich Onkel.” (The 11 / Johann Henrich / [father] Valentin Schmul, butcher / [sponsor] Herr Johann Henrich Escherich, tanner, Henrich’s uncle.)

- vi. Johanna Elisabeth Schmol, born at Kassel in 1730,¹⁶ married at Kassel in 1762, Helwig Lorenz.¹⁷
- 1. vii. Martha Elisabeth Schmol, born at Kassel in 1733, died at Berleburg in 1791. She married Johan Jonas Jeckel.
- viii. Cyriacus Schmol, born at Kassel in 1735,¹⁸ died at Kassel in 1740.¹⁹

Generation Three

6. Matthäus Escherich, born at Gräfenroda, Ilm-Kreis, Thüringen, Germany, in 1656,²⁰ died in Kassel, in December 1728.²¹ He married (1) Elisabeth, daughter of Elias Diemal, *ein Lohgerber* (a tanner), and Anna Martha Glaßner, at Kassel on 28 May 1688.²² Elisabeth Diemal died in October 1693.²³ Matthäus married (2) at Kassel on 6 September 1694,²⁴

7. Elisabeth Wenig, daughter of Samuel Wenig, has no known date of birth, a record for her death in October 1710 was not found.



Ein Lohgerber (a tanner), from a book published in the 17th century. Public domain, [Wikipedia](#).

16. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 20 July 1730 baptism. “D. 20 / Anna Elisabeth nat. d. 14 / Mstr Johann Valentin Schmoll, Metzger / Anna Elisabeth Gläßnerin.” (The 20 / Anna Elisabeth born the 14 / [father] Master Johann Valentin Schmoll, butcher / [sponsor] Anna Elisabeth Gläßner.)

17. Helmut Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel*. Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731-1839. page 245; *Universität Kassel*, database (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_004/254/#topDocAnchor : accessed 20 November 2024), image 255 of 424, Bearbeiter (editor)- Wagner; 1759, Nr1 Zrg. 48; Woche (week) 30.7-6.8 ; Gm. F; Familienname (family name)- Schmullin; Eintrag (entry)- “Igfr Joh. Elisabetha Sch., m. Helwig Lorenz.”

18. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, baptism, 18 September 1735 baptism. “Eod. / Cyriacus n. d. 14. / Mstr Valentin Schmull, Metzger / Cyriacus Drechsler, Schuhe-macher.” (Same date. / Cyriacus born on the 14. / Master Valentin Schmull, butcher / Cyriacus Drechsler, shoemaker.)

19. KB Kassel, *Freiheimer Gemeinde*, burial, 5 November 1740. “D. 5 / Cyriacus der Metzger Joh Valentin Schmol Sohn / 5 / - / 6.” (The 5 / Cyriacus, the butcher Johann Valentin Schmol’s Sohn / 5 years / - / 6 days [old].)

20. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 8 December 1656. “21 / Der 8th Dec. Nachmittage im 2. Uhr ist Hanß Eshrichen ein junger Sohn gebohren und der 10h Ejusdem [Latin] von Mattheu Franken Möllern und der heiligen Tauff gebragen und nah ehñ Mattheu genannt worden.” (The 8 December, in the afternoon at 2:00, to Hans Escherich, a son was born, and on the 10th, same month, by Mattheu Franken, miller, the blessed baptism was conveyed, and after him Mattheu was named.)

21. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde* (old town community), funeral, 23 December 1728. “Der 23 / Herr Mattheu Esherich, Glaßhändler alhier, alt 72 Jahr 17 tage.” (The 23 / Herr Mattheu Escherich, glass dealer here, at 72 year 17 days.)

22. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, marriage, 28 May 1688. “Der 28 / Mattheuß Esherich, Bürger &: Glaßhändler alhier von Gräfenroda Göttlichen, Gebistß im Fürstenthum Anhalt, Johanniß Esherichß, Einwohner daselbst eheleiblicher, Sohn; und Gt. [getauft] Elisabeth Deimel, M. Elia Deimelß, Bürgerß & Lohgärber alhier Eheleiblich Tochter.” (The 28 / Mattheuß Escherich, citizen, & glass handler here, from divine Gräfenroda, born in the ruling house [of] Anhalt, Johanniß Escherich’s (resident, this place, legally) son; and baptized Elisabeth Deimel, Master Elia Deimel’s (citizen and tanner here) legitimate daughter.)

23. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, funeral, 20 October 1693. “Der 20 / Elisabeth, Matthiaß Esherichß, Glaßhändlerß Frau alt 23 Jahr, 1 Monat, 2 Woche.” (The 20 / Elisabeth, Matthiaß Escherichß, glass dealer, wife, at 23 years, 1 month, 2 weeks.)

24. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, marriage, 6 September 1694. “Der 6 / . Matthiaß Esherich, Bürger & Glaßhändler alhier, Wittwer, & F. Elisabeth Wenig, Weiland M. Samuel Wenigß, Bürgerß & Metzger hier /altst naif gebohren Eheleiblich Tochter.” (On the 6th, Matthias Escherich, citizen, glass dealer, and widower here, married Elisabeth Wenig, deceased Master Samuel Wenig’s (citizen and meat cutter here) eldest naive born legitimate daughter.)

Mathäus Escherich possibly “*erlernte das Gürtler Handwerk* (learned the belt-making trade),” but by 1688 he was a *Bürger und Glashändler* (citizen and glass trader) in Kassel.²⁵ Through his first marriage, Matthäus acquired the Diemal house on *der Kleine Herrengasse* (the little gentleman’s alley) in Kassel. The building was a home through 1884 and the Escherich glass business until 1943. By law, he was allowed to sell food and other goods from his shop.²⁶

Children of Matthäus Escherich and Elisabeth Diemal were:

- i. Johann Heinrich Escherich, born 7 July 1689.²⁷
- ii. Elias Escherich, born in May 1691.²⁸ He married at Kassel on 26 October 1719, Anna Dorothea Gläßner.²⁹

Children of Mathäus Escherich and Elisabeth Wenig were:

- i. Apollonia Escherich, born at Kassel, Hessen, Germany, 17 February 1696.³⁰
- ii. Leonhard Escherich, born 4 April 1697 at Kassel.³¹
3. iii. Anna Catharina Escherich, born at Kassel in 1699, died at Kassel in 1776. She married Johann Valentin Schmol.
- iv. Elisabeth Escherich, born 25 September 1701 at Kassel.³²



Glasträger (glass carrier) in a parade at Freiburg, 2010. [Wikimedia Commons](#). [Andreas Schwarzkopf](#), CC BY-SA 3.0.

25. Matthäus was a Glashändler when married in 1688. Edith Schlieper, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel.” Beltmaker.

26. Edith Schlieper, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel.”

27. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, baptism, 10 July 1689. “Der 10 / Mstr Mattheuß Eshrichß Glashändler Söhnlein So gebohren der 7 hujus [Latin] daß Morgen zwischen 5 u: 6 Uhr wahrd [während] nun H Henrich Sohn Johann Balthasar Wanther, Johann Heinrich.” (The 10 / Master Mattheuß Escherich’s (glass dealer) young son was born the 7th this place in the morning between five and six, o’clock, while now Herr Henrich, son of Johan Balthasar [?], Johann Henrich.)

28. Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, baptism, 29 May 1691. “Der 29 / Matthiaß Eshrichß, Glashändlerß Söhnlein so gebore der 23 / huius [Latin] daß Abendß zwischen 7 u: 5 Uhr wahrd non M. Eliaß Deimel, Ladenbesitzer genannt Eliaß.” (The 29 / Matthiaß Escherich’s (glass dealer) little son was born. [On] the 23 / of this, the evening between seven and five o’clock, while now Master Eliaß Deimel, shopkeeper, named Eliaß.)

29. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, marriage, 26 October 1719. “Der 26 / Meister Elias Escherich, Bürger und Backer alhier [son of] Matthias Escherich, Bürger und Gläßner alhier, ele [ehelich] Sohn und Jungfrau Anna Dorothea Gläßnerin Meister Hans Jost Gläßner, Sen. gewesen Backer alhier ele [ehelich] tochter.” (The 26 / Master Elias Escherich, citizen and baker here, son of Matthias Escherich, citizen and glass dealer here, legitimate son; and young lady Anna Dorothea Gläßner, Master Hans Jost Gläßner Sen.’s (former baker here) legitimate daughter.)

30. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, baptism, 19 February 1696. “Der 19 / Matthiaß Eshrich, Handelßmanß Tochterlein So gebohren Der 17 / hujus [Latin] Der Mittag zwischen 11 u: 12 Uhr wahrd non Samuel Wenig, Matzgar [sic] naif gebohren Mutterk genannt Apollonia.” (The 19 / Matthiaß Escherich’s (shop keeper) little daughter was born the 17 / this place midday between 11 and 12 o’clock, while now Samuel Wenig, butcher, [sponsors the] innocent born child called Apollonia. Also, KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, confirmation, 1709. “6. Apollonia Eshrichin – 14.” (Sixth entry, Apollonia Escherich was 14 years old.) Legible given name.)

31. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, baptism, 9 April 1697. “Der 9 / Matthiaß Eshrichß, Glashandler Söhnlein, So geboren Der 4 / hujur [Latin] daß Nacht zwischen 10 u: 11 Uhr wahrd non seinen Bruder Leonhard Eshrich Handelsman genannt Leonhard.” (The ninth / Matthiaß Eshrich’s (glass dealer) little son, was born the 4th / this place at night between 10 and 11 o’clock, while now his brother Leonhard Eshrich, tradesman, [sponsors the child] called Leonhard.)

32. KB Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, baptism, 30 September 1701. “Der 30 / Matthiaß Eshrichß, Handelmannß Tochterlein So gebohren der 25 / hujus [Latin] wahrd non H Johann Heinrich Herß:manß ho Metzger Hausfrau, genannt Elisabeth.” (The 30 / Matthiaß Escherich’s (tradesman) little daughter was born the 25 at this place, while now Herr Johann Heinrich Herman’s (butcher) wife [sponsors the child] called Elisabeth.)

Generation Four

12. Johannis “Hanß” Escherich, son of Anders Eschrich, *Auriga* [cart or wagon driver] at Geschwenda,³³ born in January 1618, died at Gräfenroda on 19 February 1699.³⁴ He married 14 November 1638 at Suhl, Thüringen, Germany,³⁵

13. Barbara “Malla” Haynbreck, daughter of Stephen Haynbreck, *Auriga* [cart or wagoner driver] at Suhl, born in 1619, died 17 April 1700 at Gräfenroda.³⁶

Hanß was an *Einwohner* (resident) of Gräfenroda,³⁷ “*der ein kleiner Ackerbürger war und Haus, Scheuer und Schweinestall am Ortsausgang in Richtung Liebenstein besaß*” (who was a small farmer and owned a house, barn, and pigsty at the edge of town toward Liebenstein).³⁸ Hanß lived in Geschwenda, the village two miles east of Gräfenroda, before his marriage in Suhl. Suhl is about 15 miles southwest through the Thüringen Forest.

The children of Hanß and Malla Escherich were:

- i. Anna Escherich, said to have been born in 1643, appeared at a 1660 baptism.³⁹
- ii. Martha Escherich, possibly born in 1645, died 24 March 1713.⁴⁰ She married 21 November 1670, Simon Seeber.⁴¹



Fuhrmänner (carriage, cart, wagon drivers) circa 1860 by Fritz von Dardel, Public domain, [Wikimedia Commons](#).

33. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, the 4th Sunday after Easter, 1630. “(7) & 8) Wolff Geringen, Zwillinge als einen Sohn und Tochter getauft, der 4. Sonntag nach Ostern, den Sohn Hanß Eshrich, des langen Anders Eshrichen zu Geschwenda Sohn, und die Tochter Elsa, Hanßen Möllers zu Gräfenroda Tochter gehoben.” (Wolff Geringen, [father of] twins, a son and daughter were baptized the fourth Sunday after Easter, [sponsors were] the son Hanß Eschrich, of the tall Anders Eschrichen at Geschwenda, and the daughter Elsa, [that] Hanßen Möllers at Gräfenroda raised.)

34. KB Gräfenroda, funeral, 19 February 1699. “Anno 1699. Sind gestorben und begraben machen. 1. / Der 19h Februar. Fünf noch 4. Uhren ist Hanß Eschrich Sen. im Herrn erstorben, und folgen der Tage Christlich zur Erden bestattet machen, seines Alters 81. Jahr und 7 Wocken.” (Year 1699. Have Died and are Buried. 1. The 19th [of] February, five past four o’clock, Hanß Eshrich Sen., in the Lord died, and following the day, Christian to earth was buried, his age—81 years and 7 weeks.)

35. Andre Gressler, “Hanß Escherich,” person sheet, Family List of Andre Gressler (https://www.goldlauter.com/Gressler-Ahnen/ps28/ps28_014.html : accessed 25 May 2025); citing Suhl (Hauptkirche), 14 November 1638, “Johannes Andreae Eschrichs, Aurigae [Latin] zum Geschwendt f. [Latin filius] & Barbara, Stephani Haynbecks, Aurigae Sulani filia [Latin].” (Johannes, Andreas Eschrich, (driver at Geschwenda) son, & Barbara, Stephan Haynbeck’s (driver at Suhl) daughter.

36. KB Gräfenroda, funeral, 17 April 1700. “5. / Der 17h April Abend 9. Uhr ist Malla Escherichin vidna im Herrn aubpflaffen, und der 19h dieße Christlich zur Erden bestattet machen, ihre alter 81 Jahr.” (On the 17th of April, in the evening at 9, Malla Escherichin, rejoice in the Lord, died, and [on] the 19th, this Christian to earth was buried, her age—81 years.)

37. Kassel, *Altstädter Gemeinde*, marriage, Mattheuß, son of Johannes Escherich, Einwohner, married Elisabeth Deimel, 28 May 1688.

38. Edith Schlieper, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel.”

39. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 1 August 1660. “10. / Hans Zihren den 1s Aug. eine Tochter gebohren und den andern Tag durch Jgfr [Jungfrau] Anna Hans Eschrich Tochter zur heiligen Tauff getragen worden.” (10. Hans Zihren [on] the 1st [of] August, a daughter was born, and the next day, through the young lady Anna, Hans Eschrich’s daughter, to holy baptism was brought.)

40. KB Gräfenroda, funeral, 24 March 1713, “7 / den 24. Mart. ist Martha Seeberin Wittwer gestorben, und folgenden Tage begraben worden.” (On March 24th, is [when] Martha Seeber, widow, died, and the following day was buried.)

41. KB Gräfenroda, marriage, 21 November 1670. “7. / der 21h Nov. Montag nach dem 25h Sonntag Trinitatis ist Simon Seeber, vid. mit Martha, Eshrichin virg. [Latin, virgin] Hanß Escherichen Tochter Christlich copuliert worden.” (7. / the 21st Nov., the 25th Monday after Trinity Sunday, is Simon Seeber, seen with Martha Eschrich, virgin, Hans Escherich’s daughter, [their] Christian marriage occurred.)

- iii. Leonhard Escherich, born 3 November 1647,⁴² married 3 February 1679, Apollonia Kollmer.⁴³
- iv. Catharina Escherich, born 3 June 1650.⁴⁴ She married Gunther Kießer.⁴⁵
- v. Margareta Escherich, born in November 1652.⁴⁶ She married 24 January 1681, Heinrich Hierling.⁴⁷
- 6. vi. Matthäus Escherich, born 8 December 1656 in Gräfenroda, died 23 December 1728 in Kassel. He married (1) Elisabeth Diemal, and (2), Elisabeth Wenig.
- vii. Susanna Escherich, born 5 April 1659 in Gräfenroda,⁴⁸ died 14 May 1665 in Gräfenroda.⁴⁹

KASSEL

Matthäus Escherich traveled 80 miles north to Kassel, Hesse, Germany, by 1687. He would have lived there, and paid a fee to become a *Bürger*, prior to his marriage. Kassel was known for attracting business. He married Elisabeth Diemal in 1688, when he was 32 years old, and she was 18. The Nine Years' War (1688–1697) would not have driven displacement from Gräfenroda, but inheritance division from an *Einwohner* (his father was a resident) was possibly a factor, as Matthäus had an older brother. Religious tensions could have affected his move, but it was more likely the better economic opportunity.

Matthäus and second wife Elisabeth Wenig's daughter, Anna Elisabeth Escherich, married Johann Valentin Schmol, raised a family, and died in Kassel. Their daughter, Martha Elisabeth Schmol, married Johann Jonas Jeckel in Kassel, but died 60 miles west in Berleburg, Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.



The current north edge of Gräfenroda towards Liebenstein, Germany, 2025. Google Maps.

42. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 3 November 1647. "5. / Der 3d Nov. fünf um 6. Uhr ist Hanß Eshricher ein Sohn gebohren und der 4h tag durch Hanß Schmidten freuen Sohn Leonhard zur heilig kauft gebragen und naif [naiv] ihn genannt worden." (5. / The 3rd November, five before six o'clock, to Hanß Eschricher, a son was born, and [on] the 4th, was by Hanß Schmidt's delighted son Leonhard, to holy baptism brought, and [that the] innocent [child] was named.)

43. KB Gräfenroda, marriage, 3 February 1679. "1 / Der 3h Febr. Der Tag naif Der Fest Purific-Maria ist Leonhard Eshrich Juv. [Latin, juvenus] mit Ampolonia Köllmerin virg. copulirt worden." (1 / The third February, the day after The Feast [of the] Purification of Mary, is [when] Leonhard Eshrich, youth, with Ampolonia Köllmer, maiden, was married.)

44. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 4 June 1650 baptism. "6. / Der 3h Jun. ist Hanß Eshrichen eine Tochter gebohren und der 4h durch Henrich Eshrichen sein Weib Catharina zur heil. [heiligen] Tauff zu tragen und Catharina genannt worden." (6. / The third [of] June is [when] Hanß Eschrich's daughter was born, and the fourth through Henrich Eschrich's wife Catharina to holy baptism [the baby] was carried, and Catharina [she] was named.

45. KB Gräfenroda, marriage, 5 February 1672. "2 / Der 5h Febr ist Gunther Kießer, Juv. [Latin, juvenus] mit Catharina Eshrichin, Hanß Eshrichen Tochter eheblich [eheleiblich] copulirt worden." (2 / The fifth [of] February is [when] Gunther Kießer, youth, with Catharina Eschrich, Hanß Eschrich's daughter, honorably were married.)

46. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 15 November 1652. "15. / ist Hanß Eshrichen und seinen Weibe eine junge Tochter gebracht und von Igfr. Margarita Grünigen und der heil. [heiligen] Tauff gehaben worden." (15. To Hanß Eschrich and his wife a young daughter has brought, and by the young lady Margarita Gruninger, and the holy baptism have been [completed].)

47. KB Gräfenroda, marriage, 24 January 1681. "2 / Der 24h deiffen ist Henrich Heirling, Juv. Georg Heirling Sohn mit Igfr. Margaretha Eshrichen Hanß Eshrich Tochter eheblich [eheleiblich] copulirt worden." (2 / The 24th of this [month] Henrich Heirling, youth, Georg Heirling's son, with young lady Margaretha Escherich, Hanß Escherich's daughter, honorably were married.)

48. KB Gräfenroda, baptism, 5 April 1659. "3. / Der 5 Apr. Abend, Nachmittag ... ist Hanß Eshrichen eine junge Tochter gebohren und von Peter Kehler Weibe und der heiligen Tauff gebragen und Susanna genannt worden." (3. / The fifth [of] April, evening, afternoon ... to Hanß Escherich a young daughter was born, and with Peter Kehler's wife, and the holy baptism delivered, and Susanna has been named.)

49. KB Gräfenroda, funeral, 14 May 1665. "7. / Der 14h May ist Hanß Eshrichen Tochterlein Susanna heue gegen 4. Uhren gestorben, und der 16h diese zur erden erstattet worden." (7. / The 14th of May, Hanß Eschrich's daughter around 4 a.m. died, and [on] the 16th this [month] to earth was returned.)

GRÄFENRODA

Nestled just northeast on the edge of Thuringian Forest, the small village of Gräfenroda was first mentioned in German records in 1290. Early occupations centered on agriculture, forestry, glass production, mill work, and the mining of copper, lead, and silver. The church was a central landmark.



“St. Laurentius pulpit altar and the carved altar from around 1500.” Erwin Meier, CC BY-SA 3.0, [Wikimedia](#).

St. Lawrence Church in Gräfenroda was constructed between 1731 and 1733. The organ was renovated to its original form in 2005, and the three-part carved altar was constructed around 1500. The large hall church with a west bell tower has long been considered a beautiful building due to the symmetry and use of old-growth wood panels.

Economics

The forest was the economic backbone of Gräfenroda. There were undoubtedly wood cutters, wagoners, and a lot of seasonal work. Villagers probably had *Waldgerechtsame* (forest rights) to gather firewood and graze animals, but this may have been limited by aristocratic law.

Large trees were floated downstream and for a while through tunnels. Spruce, fir, and beech were used for building barns, carts, fences, and houses. Wood was also used for barrels, household goods, and tools. Oak and spruce bark was used for tanning leather or dyeing wool and linen. Pine resin was harvested for pitch, glue, and basic medical procedures. The bast (inner fiber) from

linden trees could be used to make cord, mats, or ropes. Wood or charcoal was the primary energy source. It fueled glass furnaces, lime kilns, and the blacksmith’s *Schmiede* (forge). And it is possible the surname Escherich relates to the wood ash needed to create some products.⁵⁰

Villagers collected mushrooms, berries, and wild herbs to supplement local diets in poor years. They also hunted deer, rabbits, and wild pigs but only with permission of local nobility.

History

At this time, much of Germany was fractured into small kingdoms controlled by *Landgrafs* (Counts). The area around Gräfenroda was under the rule of the House of Schwarzburg when the Thirty Years’ War began in 1618. By 1640, the Ernestine Dukes of Saxony-Gotha had control. It expanded to the Duchy of Saxony-Gotha-Altenburg in 1672 but was divided in 1680 by inheritance.

Resource shortages, population displacement, and slow economic recovery likely affected Gräfenroda after the war. However, Gräfenroda’s population grew from approximately 759 inhabitants in 1600 to around 823 by 1700. This increase may reflect Gräfenroda’s strength during a time troubled with regional conflicts. Many other rural communities took decades to recover.⁵¹

Charles I, *Landgraf* of Hesse-Kassel (1654–1730), was responsible for economic growth around the city of Kassel. He encouraged refugees to immigrate by allowing religious freedom. As owner of all the forests, he received taxes from various industries, including glassmaking.

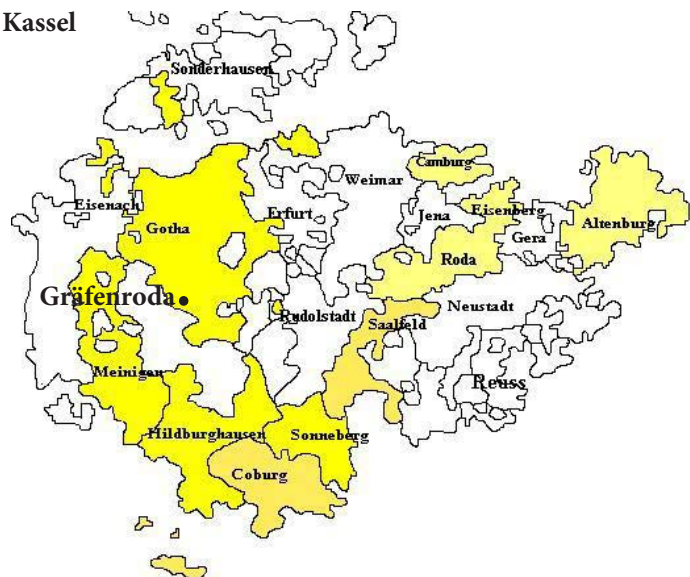


Thüringer Wald im Winter, by Christoph Radtke, [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain.

50. Edith Schlieper, “300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel.”

51. “Gräfenroda,” *Wikipedia* (<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gräfenroda> : accessed 14 May 2025), also see linked articles.

Kassel



Duchy of Saxony-Gotha in 1680 Before Division into Seven Duchies, with approximate location of Grafenroda & Kassel.
By Luigi Malatesta, [Wikimedia Commons](#), public domain.

GLASSMAKING

My seventh great-grandfather, Matthäus Escherich, was involved in the glassware industry. Glassmaking was important to this area beginning in the late 1500s and by 1690 was well-established near Gräfenroda. There were seasonal or semi-permanent smelting huts near raw materials that made household glassware and windows. Glassware was sold from the huts. When Hessian traders came to buy products, the prerequisite was that there were no local craft guilds where they would resell. *In Kassel gab es 1688 keine solche Zunft* (In Kassel there was in 1688 no such guild).⁵²

The ashes from burnt beech and oak were leached with water and then evaporated in large pans to create white potash crystals. Potash was an important ingredient in *Waldglas* (forest glass) as it lowered the melting point of silica (quartz sand). Potash may have also been locally mined. The silica, potash, and lime were mixed into clay containers and melted in a clay and stone furnace at temperatures of over 1000 degrees Celsius for several hours, sometimes overnight. Craftsmen shaped the greenish or brown tinted glass with simple tools and wooden molds. They made functional drinking

vessels, jars, windowpanes, and ornamental items such as *Hochzeitsschüssein* (wedding bowls). Gräfenroda forest glass exists in the regional museum in Thuringia.

A skilled *Glasmacher* (glassmaker) or a Master Glassmaker had help in addition to the woodcutters or potash burners. The role of Matthäus Escherich in the glass industry was defined as *Glaßhändler* (glass dealer). He supplied window makers and the residents of Kassel through retail sales from his house. Matthäus would pack his glassware carefully in straw to avoid breakage, which would be at his expense. He also sold soap, paper, and other items. Tax records show he did not belong to a guild, but in comparison to other citizens paid a sizable tax.⁵³ He probably communicated well with those in his hometown of Gräfenroda and gained business connections through his first wife's family in Kassel. Although Matthäus' first father-in-law was a tanner, his mother-in-law's family name was Glaßner (Glassner).

In 1711, the *Landgraf* gave Dr. Joseph Anton Faber a monopoly on the glass trade in Kassel. However, a complaint from a tenant against the forester shows that Matthäus Escherich, "*auffn Brinck*" (*Freiheiter Gemeinde*),⁵⁴ was the agent of Dr. Faber in Kassel.⁵⁵ Besides delivering glassware to the Court for Dr. Faber, Matthäus Escherich delivered optical glassware to the laboratory of Rudolf Dick in 1716.⁵⁶



Waldglasshütte (forest glass hut) remains, in the Taunus, a low mountain range in Germany, by G. Delhey, [Wikimedia Commons](#). CC BY-SA 3.0

52. Edith Schlieper, "300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel."

53. Ibid., citing *Laternenbuch* (latern book) 15.

54. Matthäus was described here as living in the new part (freedom community) of Kassel, church records were from the *Altstädter Gemeinde* (old town community).

55. Edith Schlieper, "300 Years of Glass Trading in Kassel."

56. Ibid. Although the marriage, children's baptisms, and funeral for Matthäus Escherich were recorded at Kassel (*Altstädter Gemeinde*), there may have been another residence besides the Diemal house in Kassel (*Freiheiter Gemeinde*).

PRESENT-DAY GRÄFENRODA

In 2025, Gräfenroda is part of the municipality of Geratal. At five kilometers, it is the longest village in the district. The population in 2015 was 3,232. Trails through Thuringian Forest might be today's best attraction near Gräfenroda. Wikipedia advertises the 1,607-foot tall mountain, Läusebühl, north of Gräfenroda. To the south lies 1,667-foot high Gräfenrodaer *Berg* (mountain). For comparison, here in Portland, Oregon, Council Crest is 1,073 feet. West of Gräfenroda is the Lutschetalsperre Dam with a campsite and a restaurant.

North of Gräfenroda lie two memorials for concentration camps: Jonas Valley Memorial and Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. There are several local museums besides the regional museum in Thuringia: a glass museum in Suhl, an army museum in Ilmenau, and a garden gnome museum in Gräfenroda.

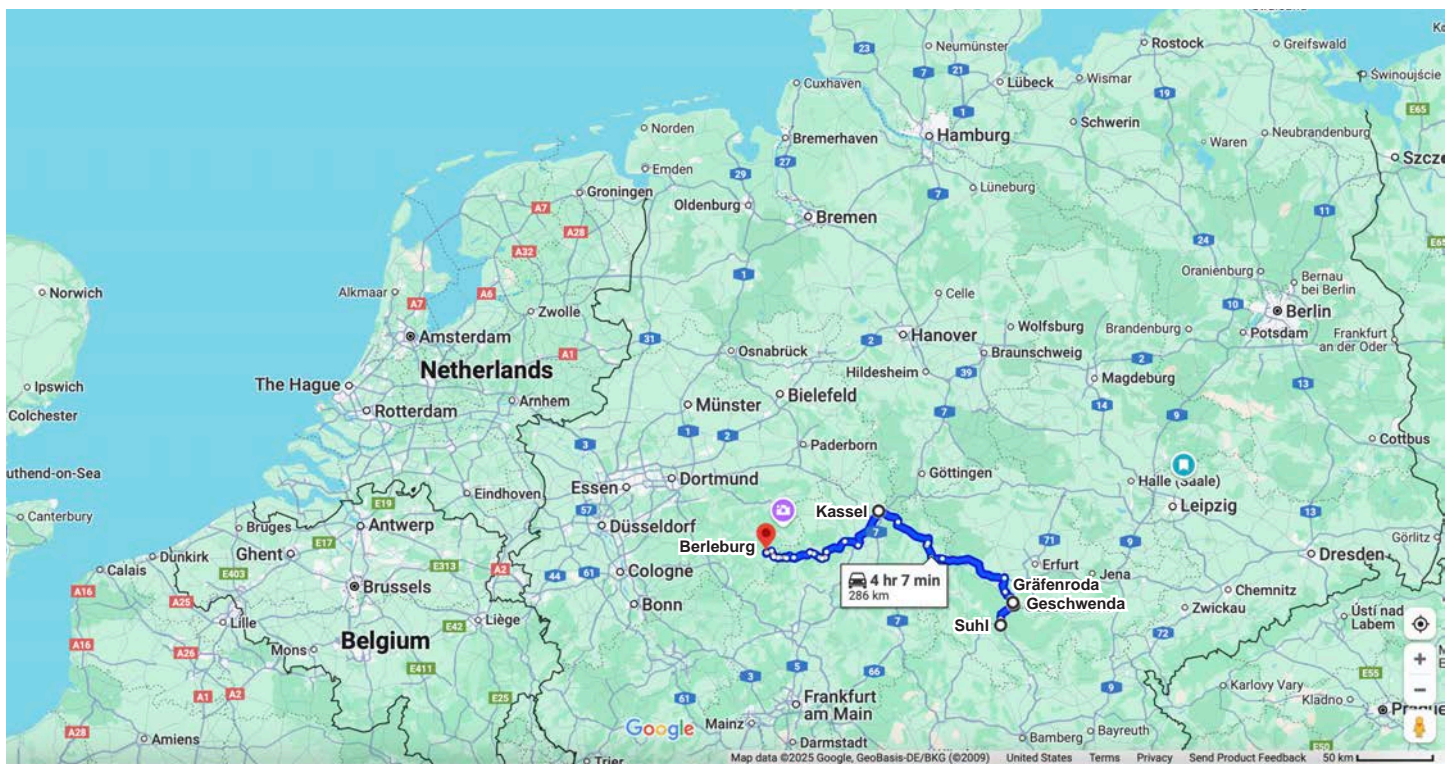
CONCLUSION

Transcribing and translating German church records was challenging. The records helped me link to articles on ancestor's occupations and follow this family line from



South of Gräfenroda, a photo of the impressive Wilde Gera Valley Bridge shows the surrounding terrain. [Wikipedia](#).

Berleburg to Kassel to Gräfenroda to Geschwenda and to Suhl. Although they began at Suhl, I was drawn to Matthäus Escherich and the connection to the Gräfenroda glass trade because of an early interest in that art.⁵⁷



Map showing Suhl → Geschwenda → Gräfenroda → Kassel → Berleburg migration route.

57. Mark Grafe, "Reflections and Research: An Old House in Hillsdale, Oregon, from 1852," *The Bulletin: Genealogical Publication of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, vol 71, num. 4, June 2022; (https://gfo.org/file_download/inline/582b9186-4a8b-48e5-b846-db8399ffd254).

Book Review

Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI

Reviewed by: Mark Grafe

Author: Ethan Mollick
 Publisher: Portfolio/Penguin
 Publication date: 2024
 Pages: 256
 Price: \$30.00
 Order from: Penguin Random House
 GFO Call No.:



“In study after study, the people who get the biggest boost from AI are those with the lowest initial ability—it turns poor performers into good performers. In writing tasks, bad writers become solid (p. 156–7).”

Ethan Mollick’s *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI* was written for a broad audience to include anyone interested in understanding and integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into their life. While accessible to beginners, it assumes an interest in technology and is especially suitable for readers open to exploring ideas about the future of learning.

Mollick’s primary purpose is to demystify generative AI and equip readers with a practical framework for collaborating with these tools in meaningful ways. He argues persuasively that the most productive future involves not resisting AI, but co-intelligence—a partnership where humans and machines think together. He meets this goal through practical examples, original research, and a tone that balances optimism with realism.

Ethan Mollick is a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, specializing in innovation and entrepreneurship. He is widely recognized for his work on the real-world applications of emerging technologies. His *Substack* newsletter, “One Useful Thing,” has become a respected source of insights into how AI changes work, education, and society. This background lends credibility to his arguments and deepens the book’s relevance.

Co-Intelligence sits at the intersection of technology, education, and organizational behavior. The book explores generative AI tools like *ChatGPT* and *Midjourney*, breaking down how they affect everyday tasks and decision-making. Mollick draws from original case studies involving workers and teams actively adopting AI tools, offering a realistic foundation for his insights.

While the book does not include an index or traditional bibliography, it references academic and workplace studies. Endnotes support the subject matter and suggest further reading and source material.

Mollick’s *Co-Intelligence* succeeds in being both visionary and grounded. He presents a compelling, balanced view of AI. One of the most refreshing aspects is his insistence that the humanities—often overlooked in tech conversations—are central to thriving in the age of AI.

Mollick’s prose is clear, direct, and often witty. He avoids jargon and uses relatable analogies, making complex topics feel intuitive. The book flows from foundational knowledge of AI and gradually explores its implications through thematic chapters on learning, writing, decision-making, and human-machine interaction. The content is grounded in academic research and practical case studies. One of Mollick’s recurring insights is that AI tools work best when used as co-editors rather than as tools to “cheat.”

In Chapter 3, he discusses four rules for co-intelligence:

1. “Always invite AI to the table” (p. 47).
2. “Be the human in the loop” (p. 52).
3. “Treat AI like a person (but tell it what kind of person it is)” (p. 55).
4. “Assume this is the worst AI you will ever use” (p. 60).

I highly recommend this book. While not specific to genealogy, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Special Interest Group, *AI in Genealogy*, introduced this book to me. Its emphasis on intelligent research tools, learning adaptation, and creative co-working will inspire genealogists to explore new methodologies for data analysis, historical research, and writing.

Book Review

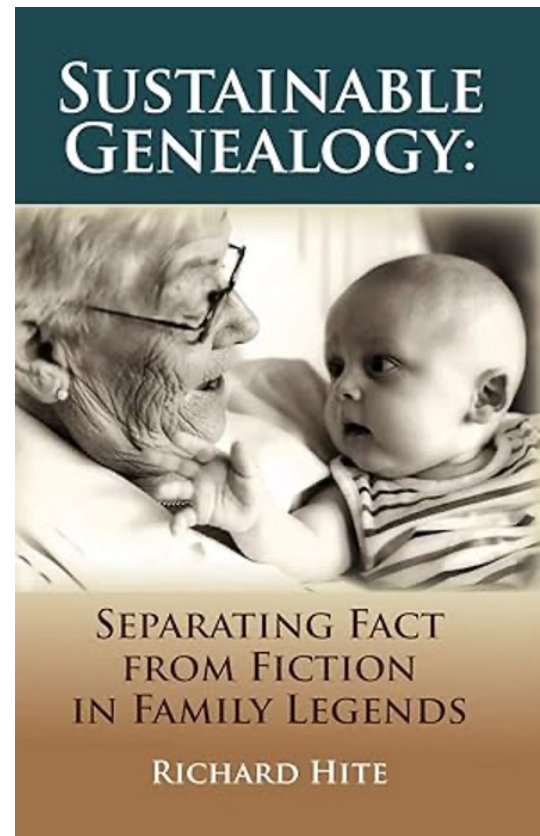
Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends

Reviewed by Wendy Negley

Author: Richard Hite
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
PublicationDate: 2013
Pages: 126 pp.
Price: \$13.50 ebook
\$23.75 plus shipping for paperback
\$33.50 plus shipping for hardback
Order from: genealogical.com
GFO call number: 001.3Hite2013

In his book, *Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends*, Richard Hite discusses many misleading situations that genealogists often fall prey to. These include assuming someone is your ancestor just because the name is the same, looking for ancestry from a famous person, looking for a royal connection, believing everything that is printed in a book, assuming that a middle name is a family surname (especially a mother's maiden name), and ignoring the place of geography in establishing ancestral ties. This book is especially helpful for the beginning genealogist so that they hopefully won't make these mistakes. But it is also very useful to the experienced family historian to help them verify their research. I found it especially useful to me as someone writing my family history, as he gives good advice on how to handle a family story when it can't be proven or disproven, as well as when it can.

Richard Hite is the State Records Coordinator of the Rhode Island State Archives and Public Records Administration and previously was Assistant Archivist at the Ohio Historical Society. He has an MA in History from Kent State University. He is also the author of



An Ordinary Soldier, Christopher Hite of Bedford, Pennsylvania, and The Continental Army, and In the Shadow of Salem: The Andover Witch Hunt of 1692. He has spent years researching his own family and, in this book, gives many examples from his own research. So his advice is from hard-won experience.

I recommend this book because he does a very good job of explaining what to look for and how to handle these instances. Additionally, he instructs you on how to explain them to family and other researchers so as to inform them without antagonizing them. And if you do want to find connections to famous people or royalty, he even explains how to do that.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth “Betty” (Hansen) Hungerford

(1925–2023)

Betty Hungerford was 98 years old when she died on 19 December 2023 at the home she helped build in Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Oregon. She was a long-time member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, joining in 1974 and converting to life-member in 1997.

Betty's life began on 29 July 1925 in Hampton, Hamilton County, Nebraska. She grew up at nearby Pleasant Hill Farm in Aurora with her Scandinavian parents, Chris and Edith (Nelson) Hansen. The land was harsh and dry, with no electricity or running water, and from these and other hardships, she learned to conserve resources and work hard. She often recalled the tragedy of her family eventually losing this farm. Her parents were devout members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she was confirmed in 1939; she maintained this faith throughout her life. She graduated from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, where she was a top student and immediately became an elementary school teacher.

On 22 July 1948, Betty married Robert “Bob” Hungerford. In 1949 they built their lifelong 10-acre home out west in Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Oregon, where Bob had inherited his father's Hungerford Wholesale Florist business. Betty took architectural classes to help her with their home's design. Though she continued to teach elementary school for a time, Betty gave birth to 10 children (9 surviving) within 13 years and devoted herself increasingly to them. She taught them large-scale gardening and the care of chickens and cows for food and milk, and they had a pony for riding. She also became a leader for her children's various scout troops, 4-H clubs, sewing classes, dancing and piano lessons, and beyond. Over time, they added more animals to the property, including pigs, sheep, goats, and a peacock.



Throughout her years at this home, she loved to entertain, often having 100 guests at a time. Over a long time, she and Bob also took in exchange students from over 11 different countries.

In her later years, she developed a passion for genealogy. Her extensive research and related colorful stories made her offspring proud of their heritage.

Spouse Bob predeceased her in 1997. The remaining survivors include her nine living children: Marian, Christie, Rob, Eric, John, Nancy, Paul, Ben, and Andy, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



In Memoriam

Jean Marie Whitford

(1950-2025)

Jean Whitford died peacefully at age 74 on 18 January 2025. Initially, she joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1987 and then became a life member in 1989.

Jean was born on 6 May 1950 to Donald Ray Whitford and Theatta “Teddy” (Thoreen) Whitford in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. She was the second of four children raised in the family’s Southeast Portland home. Her parents were both from the Midwest and had met while picking berries in the fields below Mt. Hood.

After attending Centennial High School, Jean obtained her BA at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She then held several office jobs and did census work. Her favorite pastimes included walking on the beach, solving puzzles, attending the Oregon State Fair, and traveling around the United States. She was an avid reader and loved movies.

Jean carried on her family’s lifelong faith and membership at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, where she served as a volunteer office manager and council member for 20 years.

Jean was a proud Genealogical Forum of Oregon member. She was known for her friendly, wise, and thoughtful nature. She was always there to listen, help, and share her knowledge. Her church, community, family, and friends will cherish her and remember her sense of humor and kind heart.

Survivors include siblings Alan, Elaine, Ray, and several nieces and aunts.





GenTALK

DIGGING UP NEW DIRT

Join us for a special, 2-part GenTalk on how a New England family's immigrant ancestor was doggedly pursued for years - and found!

11:00 a.m. Part 1: Unearthing the **real** New England Immigrant

1:00 p.m. Part 2: Finding, Proving, and Publishing



Date: September 27, 2025

Presenter: Steven Waltz Morrison

[Register at gfo.org/gentalk](https://gfo.org/gentalk)



GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON INC
Offices & Library
2505 S.E. 11th Ave. Suite B018
Portland OR 97202-1093

GFO SEPTEMBER 2025 EVENTS

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: gfo.org/calendar.

Wednesday, September 3

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn and Chat
-----------------------	----------------

Saturday, September 6

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Virginia Roots & Vines
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	German Group

Sunday, September 7

5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Pacific NW Genealogy
---------------------	-------------------------

Monday, September 8

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Roots Magic
-----------------------	-------------

Tuesday, September 9

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
---------------------	---------------

Thursday, September 11

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Q Review
---------------------	----------

Saturday, September 13

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Access GFO Resources
-----------------------	----------------------

Wednesday, September 17

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	DNA Q&A
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	New Home Committee

Saturday, September 20

9:30–11:30 p.m.	Genealogy Problem Solvers
12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	African American Ancestry

Sunday, September 21

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	The Writers' Room
---------------------	-------------------

Saturday, September 27

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	GENTALK Part 1 Digging Up New Dirt
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	GENTALK Part 2 Digging Up New Dirt

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	GFO Work Party
---------------------	----------------