



ASHHS Mourns Co-Founder William "Bill" Storjohann



William "Bill" Dean Storjohann, 83, of rural Davenport, Iowa, passed Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. A private funeral service will begin live streaming at approximately 12:45 p.m., Saturday, February 13, 2021, via Bentley Funeral Homes Facebook Page. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., with a Probst at 2:30 p.m., on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at the Walcott American Legion. Memorials may be given to the University of Iowa for Parkinson Research in his name.

Bill was born in Davenport, Iowa on August 19, 1937, the son of William and Erene (Woehlk) Storjohann. Upon his father's early death, Bill was raised by Erene and her second husband, Carl Behrens. Bill graduated from Davenport High School in 1956 and married Marian Fahrenkrog on May 24, 1958 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport. Throughout their 63 years of marriage they remained connected to their faith and instilled their values

within three beautiful daughters and families.

Bill was an entrepreneur as well as a hard worker. Immediately graduating high school he took a floor covering apprenticeship and formed a partnership with Keith Meyer to start their own Meyer & Storjohann Carpentry and Flooring business. But his dream was to farm.

In 1963, Bill and Marian started farming in rural Davenport and over the years created a beautiful farmstead which filled his heart and made him proud. He was forever seeking ways to have the cleanest fields (ask the Walcott kids), highest yields (ask his neighbors), and shiniest equipment (ask his girls). When not farming he devoted time to his German heritage and the community. He was past director of Walcott Mutual Ins., member of the Walcott Community Club, Co-founder of A.S.H.H.S, teacher of the low-German language, dance instructor and friend.

He also loved to work with his hands. From building his home, modifying equipment, or rebuilding old cars to pony harness, concrete molds and the endless "daddy-do" projects - he could make or fix about anything and had the right tool to do so.

Bill was a jokester, a prankster, a great storyteller. Whenever the chance, he would take full advantage of making people laugh. His sparkling blue eyes, big smile and kind ways made everyone feel welcomed - unless you were seeking to court one of his daughters. If he asked you to "have a talk in the shop" or help sort hogs, then you likely experienced his stern authority. Wear bibs or blue and share your favorite memory during his Celebration of Life - all are welcome.

To most, he will be remembered as the Polka Bear. "Ah... One, two, three. One, two, three..." will always resonate in the hearts of any one of this 100's of students when they hear a polka tune.

"Always take the high road and kill them with kindness." Bill was a mentor. Respected. Humble. But most of all he was loved, and his family always knew he was there for them.

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ASHHS Headquarters

The **ASHHS Goal** is preserving and promoting the heritage of Schleswig-Holstein in the USA. We encourage cultural exchange, family research, study of the languages and dialects of Schleswig-Holstein, conferences and other programs pursuant to the above objectives.

The **ASHHS Newsletter** is published bimonthly for its members. Contributions are welcomed. Submitted material remains the property of the submitter until publication. Please cite sources and give others credit where due. Observation of copyright privileges is required. Responsibility for accuracy of printed information lies with the submitter, not with ASHHS, the ASHHS Newsletter, or the Newsletter committee. Corrections will be published if given in writing. The Newsletter committee reserves the right to edit material for space, form, spelling, and grammar.

Deadlines for Submissions

Dec 15 for Jan/Feb Issue
Feb 15 for Mar/Apr Issue
Apr 15 for May/June Issue
Jun 15 for Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 15 for Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 15 for Nov/Dec Issue

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ASHHS Policy on Publicizing Events and Activities of other Societies and Organizations: As a matter of mutual interest and courtesy, this Newsletter may publish articles and notices about German-American events and activities which are not sponsored or organized by ASHHS or its board of directors. The publishing of such material in the Newsletter shall not in any way imply any ASHHS responsibility for the content, results, success or failure of such activities and events.

The ASHHS Genealogical Research Policy: ASHHS provides research assistance for its members only. Members who desire this assistance should contact the genealogy director by regular mail or e-mail. The ASHHS genealogy director maintains and utilizes access to a variety of available genealogical resources to assist in all research activities. The genealogy staff will strive to locate information and assist members in their searches. However, if the desired information cannot be located, the genealogy director may provide the member with a list of alternative research sources. Members are expected to pay for any expenses (such as photocopies, printing and postage) associated with a search. The ASHHS genealogy staff will provide 3 hours free research to members, after which there is a minimal fee if further research is desired. The e-mail address of Karen Puck, the ASHHS genealogy director, is kpuck2015@gmail.com.

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Yearend 2020 ASHHS Endowment Fund Report

The market value of the ASSHS Endowment Fund on the 31st of December 2020 was \$90,318.48, an increase of \$5,034.17 for the year. No gifts were received. The increase from interest, dividends and stock appreciation was partially offset by CFGRB's expenses and a grant in the amount of \$1,057.88 to cover the cost of a new computer for the ASHHS genealogy program (this grant was approved and reported in 2019 but not distributed until 2020). Currently the Endowment Fund has \$2,576.78 available in the savings account for grants and when the Community Foundation issues their withdrawal guidelines for 2021, this amount will likely be in the vicinity of \$4,500.

Crosses of Distinction

Crosses of Distinction is on hiatus this month.

**Do you want to help people learn Low German?
Check out our interview with Kelly Lao!**

Please keep your membership current.

Don't miss out on the stories
and events coming in 2020 and beyond.

We also want to hear and print your stories of travel, heritage, and life history.

Send submissions to danielwholst@gmail.com

From the President

By Michael Kearney



Moin!

It looks like gradually we will be able to get the upper hand with the Coronavirus (Covid). Vaccinations are progressing at a good rate, more people are wearing a mask, etc. As a result, infections and deaths are going down pretty consistently and it looks like we should be able to safely meet in April (fingers crossed - thumbs pressed).

As always, if, in the meantime, anyone has a business matter they would like to present, let me know and we will have a Zoom session to discuss the matter and have a decision to resolve it.

In the meantime, know that you are all special to us, and we miss everyone greatly.

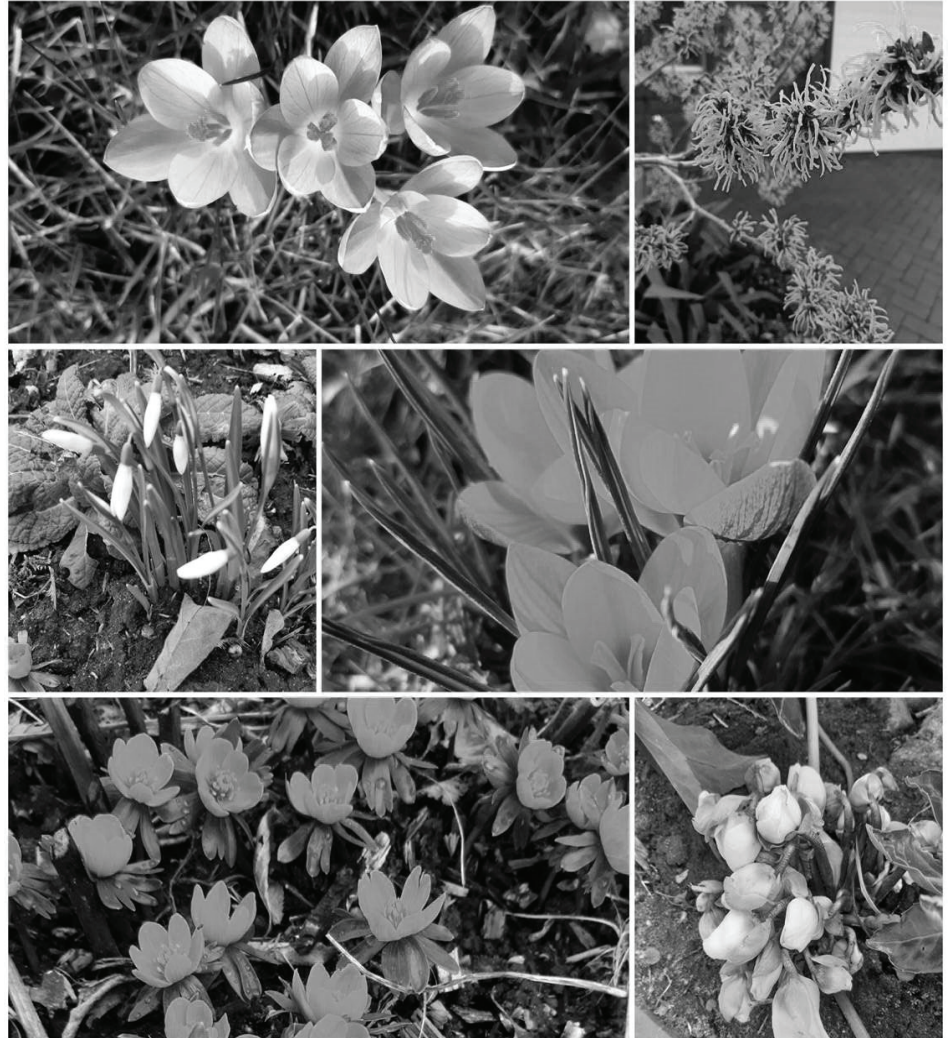
We hope everyone celebrated "Bill's" contribution to ASHHS.

Yours truly
President



Schleswig-Holstein Springtime

~ Pictures courtesy of Hans-Werner Hamann



ASHHS Calendar

All events have been cancelled for the immediate future.

Please stay tuned as we hope to reestablish our normal scheduled events and annual conference in 2021.

Have a blessed Spring and Easter!

We want to see everyone safe and sound later this year.

New Email Address

The ASHHS office now has a new email address. please make note of it.
It is: ashhswalcott@gmail.com

Immigrant Stories from Schleswig-Holstein to America

~ By Hans-Werner Hamann

Heinrich Riebling was born on June 18, 1797 in the village of Willingrade. Today it is part of the community of Gross Kummerfeld near Neumuenster in almost the middle of Schleswig-Holstein. His parents were Johann Hinrich Riebling and Maria, maiden name Holtorf. He had five siblings, one sister and four brothers. In 1819, he arrived in Bredenkamp as a teacher and was married in the Bovenau Lutheran parish church (Maria-Magdalenen-Kirche) on May 14, 1819 to Christina Margaretha Krull, a daughter of his predecessor as teacher, Hinrich Detlev Krull. From this marriage, two sons were born, Heinrich Ludwig and Friedrich August Riebling. Both sons stayed in Schleswig-Holstein when he left 1852 for America. His wife died on October 22, 1832 in Bredenkamp.

On December 15, 1833, he married a second time with Anna Dorothea Krull in the Bovenau par-

ish church. She brought a daughter, Caroline Friederike Osbahr, into the marriage. She also stayed in Schleswig-Holstein when the family left for America. From his second marriage nine children were born, four boys and five girls. One daughter died in Bredenkamp in 1839 at only three years old.

On May 15, 1852, he emigrated from Hamburg with his second wife and eight children to the United States. They traveled together with the Tank family (next newsletter) from Bredenkamp. His eldest two sons from the first marriage and the daughter his second wife brought into the second marriage remained behind in Schleswig-Holstein. The voyage aboard the sailing vessel *SS Johanna Elise* from Hamburg to New York took more than 40 days according to the 1947 memoirs of his granddaughter, Ida Riebling.

On June 23, 1852, they reached Castle Garden at New York from



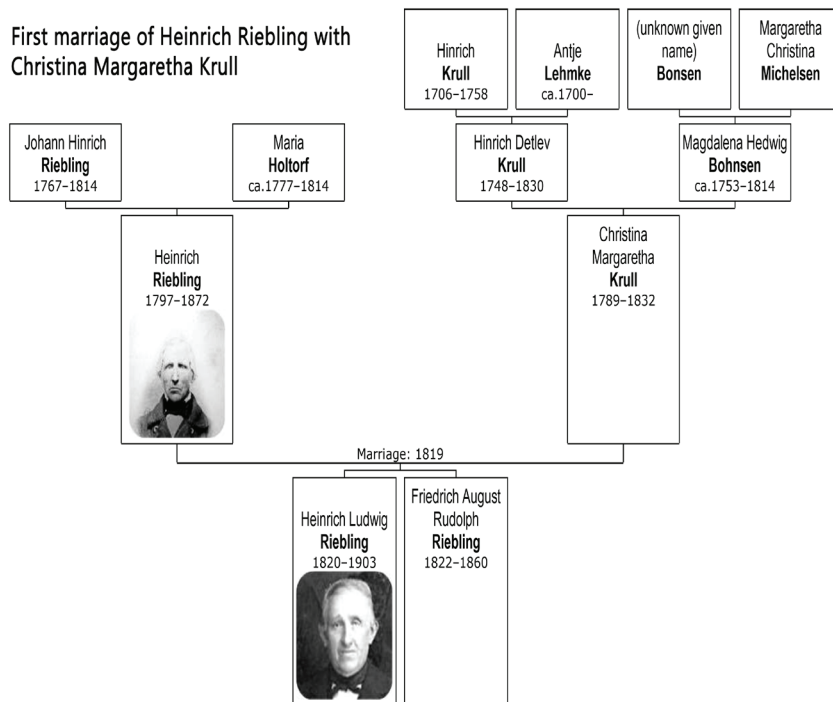
Heinrich Riebling

where they continued by boat via the Saint Lawrence Seaway to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From his arrival until 1856, he worked as a teacher in Milwaukee's German Lutheran schools. On August 6, 1853, his second wife died in Milwaukee. Following his wife's death, the younger children were put into an orphanage, from where at least Alwine and Christian were subsequently adopted by families from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.

On May 16, 1856, Heinrich Riebling married a third time at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee with the widow Johanne Wilhelmine née Grube. Following that marriage, he was a teacher at the Concordia Lutheran Academy, later Concordia University, an early seminary run by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church to educate pastors for Lutheran churches in the US. He remained there until about 1870.

Heinrich Riebling returned to Milwaukee around 1870, where he died on May 29, 1872, age 74 years. His funeral was held at St. Stephen's on May 31, 1872.

First marriage of Heinrich Riebling with Christina Margaretha Krull



~ Continued next page

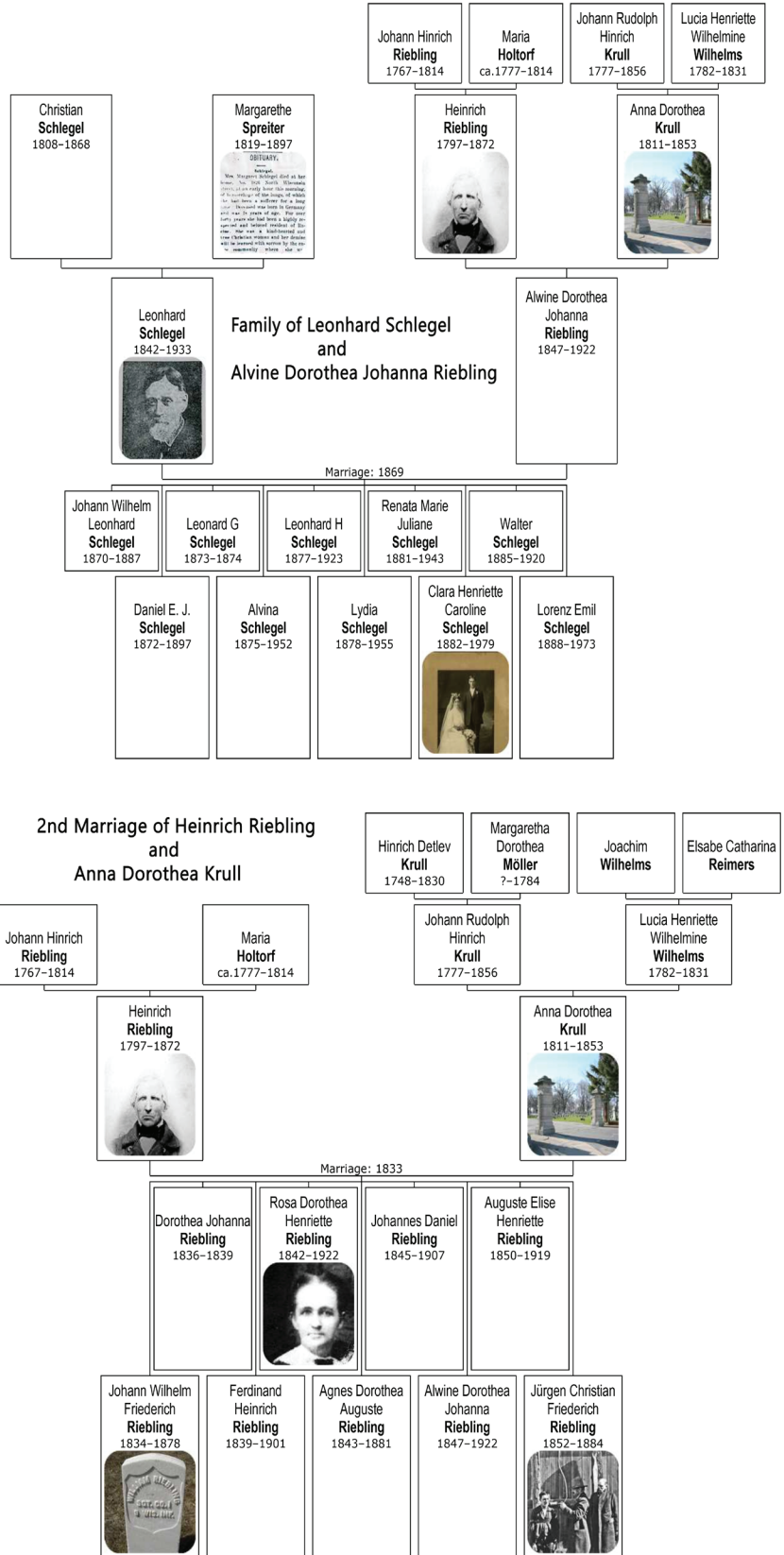
Immigrant Stories from Schleswig-Holstein to America

By Hans-Werner Hamann

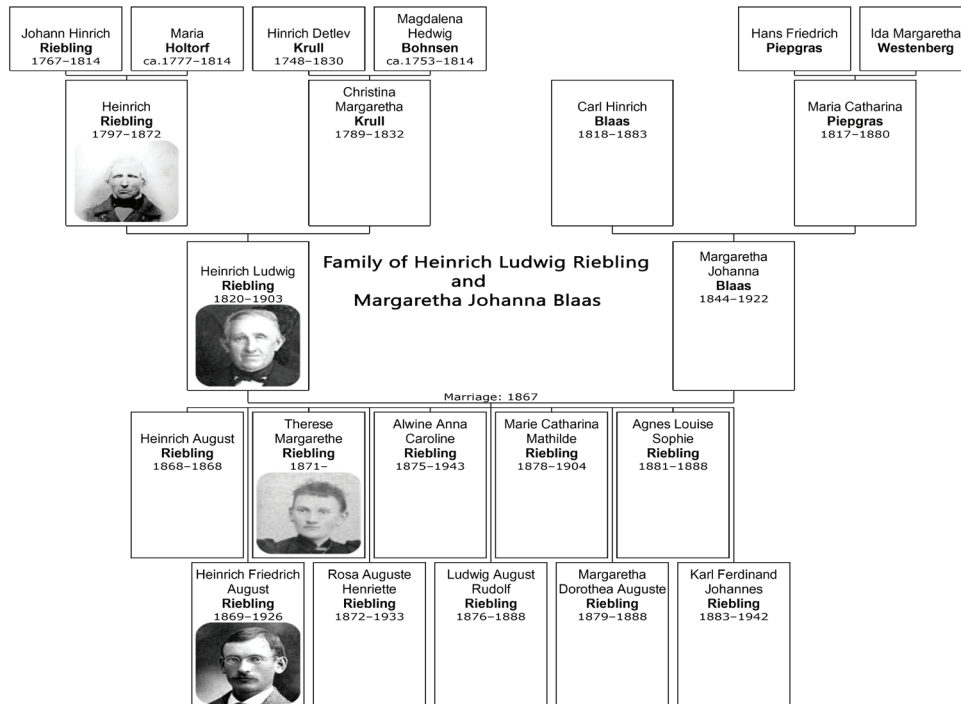
The youngest son Jürgen Christian Friederich Riebling was only a month old when the family emigrated to America in May 1852. A good year later, his mother died in Milwaukee in August 1853 and he was placed in a foster family. In contrast to his sister Alwine, he probably didn't have it that well as he didn't get along with life even as a teenager.

He was hanged on May 16, 1884 in Morrison, Whiteside, Illinois. He shot a man while robbing a store. When his siblings, who lived in different parts of America, found out about this, they were deeply affected. They had not heard from their youngest brother for many years. His family, who remained in Schleswig-Holstein had not heard or read about it at all. Here the news was spread that he had died of an illness.

The two sons from the first marriage of Heinrich Riebling also both became teachers in Schleswig-Holstein, but only the eldest, Heinrich Ludwig, married. His wife was Margaretha Johanna Blaas. They had ten children, four of whom died early. Heinrich Friedrich August Riebling and his sister Therese Margarethe Riebling followed in their grandfather's footsteps to America. Already at the age of 16 or 14 (Theresa), they traveled to America on March 25, 1885, and first visited their uncle Hans Röh/Roeh near Clinton, Iowa who had given them a boat trip. Hans Röh/Roeh had married a sister Maria Dorothea Blaas of her mother and had also emigrated.



Immigrant Stories from Schleswig-Holstein to America



Both had a great time in America. While Therese spent most of her time with relatives in Clinton and Pittsburg and worked as a house maid, Heinrich August traveled a lot, earning money in Arizona and Colorado. In 1894, they received mail from their parents that their father was seriously ill, so they traveled back to Schleswig-Holstein. Therese stayed at home and founded a family in the city of Schleswig with a shoemaker, Heinrich Tams. They had five kids. Heinrich August traveled back to America and married Anna Bertha Brasch from Rendsburg in Denver in 1903. They had two children Marguerita (1902) and Harry Ludwig (1904). He died on September 22, 1926 in Riverside, California.

For questions and/or additions to the Riebling family: E-mail: ha-wehamann@t-online.de

~ Help Wanted ~

Do you enjoy genealogy, ancestry and research?

ASHHS is looking for a volunteer to assist Karen Puck with genealogy.

The volunteer must be computer and internet savvy and have experience with genealogy and ancestry.

Volunteer must be local to Eastern Iowa.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at danielwholst@gmail.com.

***An ASHHS Membership
Makes a Great Gift!***

You will find the application on the back cover.

A Conversation with Kelly Lao

Executive Director, German American Heritage Museum, Davenport, Iowa

~ The following conversation is edited for clarity and concision (editor).

ASHHS Editor: Hello everyone. Kelly Lao, the executive director of the German American Heritage Center (gahc.org), and I sat down for a conversation. We talked about a lot of subjects, and we would like to share that conversation with you.

AE: Hi Kelly, I'd like to ask you several questions about yourself and the German American Heritage Center. I believe that this would be of great interest to our readers.

Kelly Lao: Thanks Dan.

AE: Can you tell us about your own heritage? Are you from this area?

KL: I'm from Orion, Illinois, so, yes, the greater Quad City area. I did the ancestry DNA thing, so my ancestry map is pretty interesting. On my mom's side I am German, Swedish, French, Irish, English, and a little Norwegian, but a lot of English.

On my dad's side, I'm Puerto-Rican Cuban. But my dad was raised by a Chinese man whom he believed was his biological father. But it wasn't until my dad was 45 that he learned that his actual biological father was a Cuban man. This didn't happen until my presumed Chinese grand-father had passed and my grandmother revealed the truth while they lived in Lower East Side Manhattan around the 1950s. That is why my last name is Lao.

AE: Wow, that is very interesting. According to your bio on GAHC.org, you have a degree in Anthropology from the University of Iowa and a Master's in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University. Can you please tell us about your educational journey?

KL: I actually wanted to be a fashion designer from when I was five years old. I had a little notebook called Kelly's designs, and I drew all these designs for clothes and fashion stuff.

I enrolled at Iowa State University for fashion design, and for an elective I took an anthropology course. While working in an honors program, I worked with a professor who specialized in African textiles. That professor pulled me into anthropology and convinced me to switch my major. I then started learning about Southeast Asian social and pop culture,



and that was really interesting to me.

I had my son by that time, and I decided to leave Iowa State and returned home for my family. After about a year, I enrolled at University of Iowa. And for two and half years I commuted to Iowa City until I attained my Anthropology degree.

AE: How did that lead you into Museum Studies?

KL: In undergrad anthropology, you take all the different branches: Biological, Linguistic, Cultural, etc. So, I began thinking about my career path. Since I had already had my son and daughter by then, I knew I wasn't going to be out in the field, nor was I going to get a PhD and become a teacher or anything.

I liked anthropology in museums, and I often went to the Chicago Field Museum. I thought about becoming a museum curator. On a trip to the Figge [Davenport, Iowa Art Museum], I was introduced to a gentleman who asked if I was a student at Western Illinois University. I said, no, I just graduated from Iowa.

~ Continued on Page 10

Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ (A Little German Girl's Dream Story) By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

~ Continued from previous issue

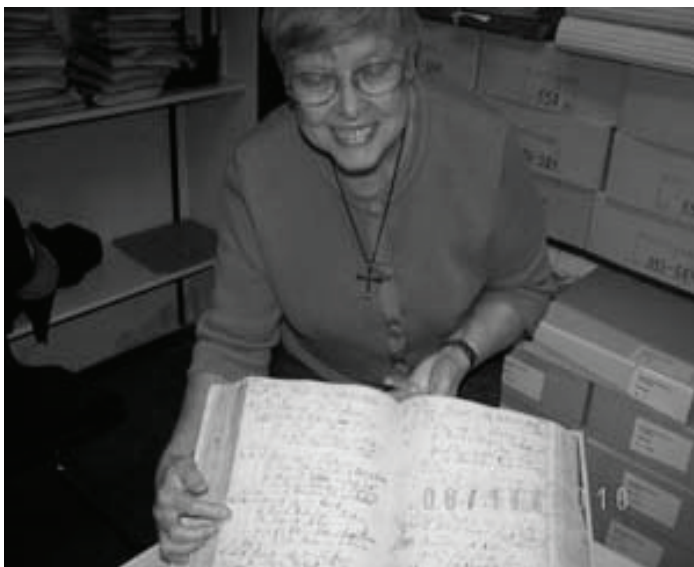
Sunday morning our Probstei guide, his wife, and Tia (their devoted canine companion) picked us up for a trip to Preetz. The monastery at Preetz was founded in the 1200s, and it owned the land that is Probstei. The residents of Probstei were granted many rights and freedoms that were not enjoyed by other areas of Germany. Among these freedoms was the right to own and pass properties to their heirs and to marry the person of their choice. Bill Gottsch's website has an excellent write-up on these freedoms. In addition to touring the monastery we experienced a genuine German "flea market" in Preetz. During the drive up we visited another of the surviving private estates. Again, we had enjoyed a very full day of new and exciting experiences.

Monday morning, our Probstei guide met us and gave us a private tour of the Schönberg Church. I will always remember this as the most sentimental and touching day of this entire "traum geschichte." Our Probstei guide has done considerable volunteer work in both the Schönberg and Probsteierhagen churches. He has made film copies of each of the church's old records for archiving at an off-site location. In addition, he has done volunteer family record searches in the old records for Bill Gottsch, and many others. He has researched my Wellendorf family in these records identifying five generations of my Wellendorf ancestors. He located records for my great-grandfather Hinrich (Henry) Wellendorf born in 1830 who im-

migrated to the United States in 1852 and four more generations through my fifth great-grandfather, Hinrich Wellendorf who was born in 1692, all from the village of Wisch. This is a picture of me (disregard the tears in my eyes) pointing at the record in the old church book of the baptism of my great-grandfather, Hinrich Wellendorf (Picture 1).

In the next picture, I am holding the lid of the baptismal font where four to five generations of my Wellendorf ancestors and other relatives were baptized (Picture 2). One interesting feature of the Schönberg Church is there is a fish on the steeple. On other churches in the area, there is a cock. Our Probstei guide related that a flood (sea surge) destroyed the village of Barsbek, including the church. The Barsbek church was identified by a fish on the steeple. When the church officials decided not to rebuild the church, the church members were instructed to join with the Schönberg church. The Barsbek people were asked to bring their fish with them. Even today, residents of Barsbek are responsible for the maintenance of the fish on the Schönberg church steeple. That afternoon we returned to the hotel, and met my "cousins" Kurt and Annita Arp. They had driven down from Odense, Denmark. We spent the rest of the afternoon getting acquainted with Kurt and Annita.

~ Continued on page 12



Picture 1



Picture 2

A Conversation with Kelly Lao

He invited me to the launch of Western Illinois University's Museum Studies program. I began taking his Museum Administration class even before I was a formal WIU student. Sometime afterwards did I formally apply and was accepted as a WIU student.

Another class I took was German Art History, and I was the only student at the old QC Western Campus. The class had an IT facilitator to ensure that I was connected by video teleconferencing to the Macomb class. But the IT facilitator stopped coming, so I had to figure out the teleconferencing technology on my own. I did figure it out, and I was able to connect to Macomb Class [Macomb, Illinois is the home campus of WIU]. Thankfully the remainder of our classes were at the Figge in their boardroom. I graduated from WIU in December of 2010.

AE: How did you start at the German American Heritage Center?

KL: In 2011, my former professor told me that the German American Heritage Center wanted to hire someone to do an exhibit, so I came down here and met with then director Egon Gerdes and board member, Janet Brown-Lowe. They awarded me a contract to make an exhibit about Germans in the Civil War.

I researched the topic and talked about abolitionist women who were writing newspaper articles like the German immigrant Mathilde Anneke.

During my college studies, I waited tables in LeClaire, Iowa and had become friends with the Pelo's. They have incredible collections, so David and Greg Pelo loaned me tons of Civil War artifacts that I was able to put on display here.

Around that time, the GAHC's volunteer coordinator left, and they asked if I could coordinate volunteers. I agreed and then I became an actual employee. That was still 2011. I finally became a full-time employee at the GAHC in 2012, and they hired me to become their assistant director.

But I really wanted the title of curator, but they convinced me that being assistant director is better.

They were like no, assistant director is better.

I said, OK, I finally became executive director in 2016.

AE: Describe a day in the life as Executive Director of the German American Heritage Center?

KL: Oh, wow. OK. Well I don't know that I've

had two days that are very similar in that long of time. We finally have Erika now, so we now have our staff of three. Before that it was where we all did a little bit of everything.

Obviously checking and answering emails occurs every day. I usually have a grant that I'm working on at all times. I always have something in the works. Additionally, we are usually getting ready for some type of program. But now they are virtual.

We still schedule some tours. We are constantly checking on program preparation. Does the speaker need to do a practice run? Does anybody need us to send them a check? How many registrants are there? Just managing all the unexpected everyday occurrences that any job faces, and making sure everyone has got the program rolling.

We keep marketing and social media in mind as well. We have recurring social media campaigns like Olivia has German word of the week. And she makes a cool illustration that is usually a compound word.

AE: Where can people find that?

KL: We actually have it on our Facebook and Instagram (See next page), but we've also been emailing it out as part of our weekly email.

AE: Given that ASHHS is focused on Schleswig-Holstein, there is a lot of interest in Low German or Platt Deutsche. Does your German word of the week ever incorporate Low German?

KL: We haven't yet. It's a good idea, and my two staff members both speak German, so I think that they would need a volunteer because none of us speak Platt.

AE: Would it be OK if I were to put a request in the ASHHS newsletter for a Platt speaker to help with your German word of the week?

KL: Oh yes. We have people suggest words to us all the time.

Erika also has pop culture Mondays and is focusing on things of contemporary German culture, and then we have a history Thursday that looks back in time.

We work on different German American events. We work with our many volunteers and make sure they know what's on par for the day.

For example, yesterday we were stuffing *Schatzi* bags or treat bags and making little gift baskets.

A Conversation with Kelly Lao

~ Continued from previous page

And we meet and plan different events. Like how are we going to do the Best of the Wurst sausage festival? How can we make it so people could maybe do it in person or do it from home. Perhaps we get the vendors to make a bratwurst sampler and visitors could just drive up, and then we'll have people take it out to your car.

So, kind of just trying to be innovative and be creative is definitely part of brainstorming with staff, and that happens like every day. We need to be creative and innovative.

AE: What do you consider is your greatest accomplishment here at the Heritage Center?

KL: I think that we've had a lot of good progress in creating new partnerships. And managing board governance. We've been making great strides in setting board term limits. And having a rotation on the board and getting new board members as well. But also keeping up relationships with our friends and former board members.

You know, I can't really take credit for a lot of things because the program committee has always done a wonderful job, and even looking back on the 25th anniversary, it's like they've been doing these great programs for twenty-five years. So I definitely can't credit myself with that at all. And, you know, they were writing hundreds and thousands of dollars worth of grants to renovate the building.

Since the building is complete, we've been able to focus on programming. Our next project is creating virtual field trips and trying to reach out to students and really get into the classroom. So now we're trying to get into the classroom virtually. Because it's hard to compete with the Putnam Museum or the Quad City Symphony. We are not necessarily the biggest destination, but I think it's super important for us to be part of the curriculum, especially when students learn about immigration and local history.

AE: Does the Heritage Center have any secrets?

KL: We've had paranormal groups come and see if there's people [ghosts] still around. They said that there was a little girl in here and I said, OK, well she must be from a long time ago because that was the last time that children stayed at this former hotel [originally built in 1871 as a hotel for immigrants]. A

staff member once remarked that she would say good night to the little girl when she closed up the museum.

But I have never had or seen anything creepy. I've worked here till one in the morning by myself. I have never felt or seen anything. I'm too sceptical I guess. But the paranormal group said that they had some different readings, and of course, this place has such a long history.

Schar Blevins told me that her dad was a fireman, and he said he threw more burning mattress out the front of this building than any other building, and that he had some crazy stories from that time period.

We have many interesting stories yet to tell. We have old VHS recordings of different events, oral histories, and lots of great articles from past *Infoblatt* newsletters. I would like to eventually digitize these and make them publicly available. They are a great resource for research and genealogy.

During the pandemic, we have seen people join our virtual programs from all over the place. It is nice that we are reaching more people so we can share the immigrant experience with them and collect their stories as well.

~ Editor's Note: Erika Holshoe is Assistant Director, and Olivia Covert is Education and Development Coordinator at the GAHC.

~ To be continued next issue where we talk about German Heritage, its importance and its future.



Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ (A Little German Girl's Dream Story) By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

Kurt had arranged with Erika Fredricks, a full day of activities for Tuesday. That morning we drove to the Probsteierhagen church with Kurt and Annita where we were met by Erika, our Probstei guide, and Horst Perry. Erika had arranged the tour with Horst. Horst, a retired teacher, is a volunteer at the Probsteierhagen church and a close friend of our Probstei guide. Oh, what a tour Horst treated us to, he gave us a lengthy lecture (excellent English) on contents, paintings, the altar, and the crypt of the church, and in his talk revealed many obscure details. Unbeknown to me, Horst and our Probstei guide had planned a visit to the church belfry. Everyone except Tom and I declined. We had to navigate several flights of steep, narrow, and dark steps to the belfry. During the climb and at the top we were able to view the original beams (1250 AD) in the loft of the church. The beams are held together with wood pegs.



Picture 3

We were in the belfry at noon when the bells were rung. You can see me in the picture standing by one of the old bells (Picture 3). It was today that I was identified as “a little German girl.” It was said: she is just like “a little German girl,” look how excited and enthusiastic she is about all she is seeing.

After lunch, that afternoon, Kurt and Erika had arranged for us to visit some family-related people and places. First, we visited an old (restored) cottager's

home in Bokholt. This cottage was owned (circa 1700) by one of Kurt's ancestors who was an Arp and married a Wellendorf. Even though I do not know my relationship to the Wellendorf wife, this visit had special meaning. This picture was taken in front of the cottage and is Erika Fredricks, Annita and Kurt Arp (Picture 4). Next Kurt had arranged a visit with an elderly retired couple, Kurt and Lena Wellendorf Freier, and their daughter Caren Hartmann in Probsteierhagen.



Picture 4

Lena is confined to her bed, but the entire party: Kurt, Annita, Erika, Caren, Kurt (Lena's husband), Tom, and I all sat around Lena's bed and had a lengthy visit with Caren translating the English spoken for Lena and likewise translating Lena's comments into English (Picture 5). Kurt Arp is related to Lena, but I am not certain exactly how. Lena and I, if related, are very distant. Lena related stories heard from her parents and grandparents. One of particular interest was that the Wellendorf farm in Wisch was flooded in about 1800, and the house had two meters (six and half feet) of water in it. I have included the above picture of Lena and I that Tom has dubbed the “two young Wellendorf girls.” After this visit, Erika took Kurt, Annita, Tom, and I to visit Der Hof von Gellhorn, Hufe #4 in Wisch. This farm was recorded as being in the Wellendorf family for a number of generations starting in 1628. The original house was

Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ (A Little German Girl's Dream Story) By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

destroyed by a flood (circa 1800), and the present-day structure was built at that time. I am not able to connect Hinrich Wellendorf (born circa 1692) to the owners of this farm, but it is possible he was related to either these people or the Wellendorfs that owned the adjoining farm #3 in the 1600s and 1700s. That evening we were joined for dinner at the Ruser Hotel by Erika, Kurt and Annita, and our Probstei guide. A great meal was served along with much enjoyable and enthusiastic conversation. We made plans for the next day's activities and retired for a good night's sleep.

Wednesday morning came early for Tom and I. A friend had told us that we must experience the sunrise over the Ostsee (Baltic). We arose at 3:30am and drove to the beach (Schönberger Strand). It was a splendid sunrise at 4:10am. We returned to the hotel for a snooze before breakfast. After breakfast we drove to Schönkirchen to meet our Probstei guide at the church. This is his and his wife's home church and they both do volunteer work there. He wanted us to see the church crypt which has some very old vaults. He was especially interested in one very old vault that previously had not been identified, but due to his research and his restoration of a metal plate on top of the vault, he has identified the person in the vault. Our guide and his wife were scheduled to leave on their holiday (vacation) to Sweden that day, but he had taken the time to share this last experience with us. We bid farewell to our friend and new friends and drove to Laboe to meet with Erika, Kurt and Annita. Erika had arranged for us to visit Laboe Naval Memorial. This is a monument and museum dedicated to the men of all nations that have lost their lives in naval action. Yes, a very interesting and moving experience. After the museum, we lunched and told our friends goodbye. Kurt and Annita were driving home to Denmark that afternoon. Tom and I, now on our own for the first time since arriving in Schönberg, visited the Probstei Museum (Gottsche) in Schönberg. The Probstei museum is housed in the restored buildings of the former Götsche farm. It provides the visitors with informative, diversified impressions of domestic culture and living conditions on a farm from the 19th to the 20th century. After dinner, Tom and I retired for a good night's sleep to recover from our sunrise experience and full day.

Thursday, we visited the Schleswig-Holstein open-air museum (*Freilichtmuseum*) south of Kiel. Before his departure, our Probstei guide had made arrangements with an English-speaking guide for our tour of this facility. This is the biggest open-air museum in northern Germany. On the 140-acre site with meadows, gardens, fields, and ponds you can see seventy historical buildings, farmyards and mills from Schleswig-Holstein complete with furniture, household equipment, farm equipment, and tools. There are farm animals and pets that the children are permitted to touch. Craftspeople demonstrate their trades and sell their products. You can stop off at the restaurant and try the products of the museum's own bakery, dairy, cheese factory, and smokehouse. Our guide spoke excellent English and was very well versed on the museum and Schleswig-Holstein life and cultures. In several of the households, I was thrilled to see a handmade milk yoke. The yoke is made to be carried on the shoulders with a bucket of milk attached to each end. These yokes are similar to an antique I have in my home that belonged to my grandmother, Helene Glunz Wellendorf. We saw cooking utensils for *Fueden* (Fudgins) and *Groten Klump* (Groten Hans) that I also have for preparing these German foods. If you are ever passing through Kiel on a tour or a cruise and stop and can see only one thing, we recommend this museum.



Picture 5

Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ (A Little German Girl's Dream Story) By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

Friday, our original plans were to drive to Laboe, park the car, and ride the ferry across the bay to Kiel and spend the day in Kiel. Guess what, we found out that Kiel Week (an annual boating event) was starting and traffic was impossible with shoulder-to-shoulder people. We revised our plans and decided to go the other direction and visit Fehmarn Island northeast of Probstei. It was a beautiful drive over to the island and across the causeway onto the island. We especially enjoyed the unobstructed view of the Ostsee from the island. That evening, returning to Schönberg, we then drove to Fluggendorf and ate at an old restaurant, Arp's Gasthof. Bill Gottsch had told us he had eaten a very fine meal of roast goose and red cabbage on his trip. Bill, goose was not on the menu in the summer, but we had a delicious roast pork dinner.

Saturday morning, we revisited the village of Wisch, my Wellendorf ancestral home. We took my picture by the Wisch road sign and purchased a Wisch village flag. After lunch, we called Caren Hartmann and asked if we could come over and visit with Lena and Kurt. Caren invited us to tea. We met Caren at her home in Röbsdorf and met her husband Arnold. Caren and Arnold live in the beautifully renovated home where she grew up. Her parents Kurt and Lena Freier ran a restaurant and bakery there also. Caren drove us to her parents' home in Probsteierhagen. Kurt had baked a delicious cake for tea (most drank coffee). We again had a very enjoyable visit with Lena, Kurt and Caren while all feasted on seconds of Kurt's cake. Caren drove us back to Röbsdorf to pick up our car. We ate a leisure dinner at the hotel, gave our farewells to Mrs. Ruser (hotel owner) and retired early for our departure and trip to Dithmarchen tomorrow.

Sunday, we left Schönberg and the Ruser Hotel after a wonderful nine-night stay. I can truly say, "I now feel much closer to my ancestors from Probstei." On our drive to Meldorf (in Dithmarchen), Tom had routed us through Rendsburg, Germany. Rendsburg is a major crossing point of the Kiel Canal (Nord-Ostsee Kanal). There are several modern highway bridge crossings in the area, but a major attraction is the railway bridge and an antique (but still in use) "transporter" bridge for cars and pedestrians. The most prominent structure in town is a railway bridge made of steel, 2,500 meters in length and 41 meters in

height. It was constructed in 1913 to take the railway over the Kiel Canal from the relatively flat land on either side. It is the longest railway bridge in Europe. On the northern side, in the city, the bridge feeds into a spiral to gain height. Suspended from the railway bridge, a transporter bridge—one of only twenty ever built—traverses the canal. A transporter bridge (also ferry bridge or aerial transfer bridge) is a type of movable bridge that carries a segment of roadway across a river. The gondola is slung from a tall span by wires or a metal frame. The design has been used to cross navigable rivers or other bodies of water where there is a requirement for ship traffic to be able to pass. As we stood on the canal bank at the transporter bridge, we saw a variety of barges and ocean-going vessels passing through the canal. From Rendsburg we drove on to Meldorf arriving at the Zur Linde Hotel. Meldorf is a very old market town. A large church is located in the town center adjacent to a large old cobbled stone market square. Zur Linde is a small hotel (20 rooms) that faces directly on the market square and churchyard. The hotel has no direct street access, and one must park in the market square parking area and walk to the hotel. Again, the hotel was almost randomly selected from the internet, but it was a most delightful place to sleep and eat.

~ To be concluded next issue

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