



ASHHS Gifted Book on German Immigration

ASHHS President Michael Kearney accepted on behalf of ASHHS the book *Schleswig-Holsteinische Auswanderung Nach New Holstein, Wisconsin 1848 – 1858* (see pics).

The book is an exhaustive study of a narrow window of immigration. It studies hundreds of families who emigrated from Schleswig-Holstein to New Holstein in the US state of Wisconsin.

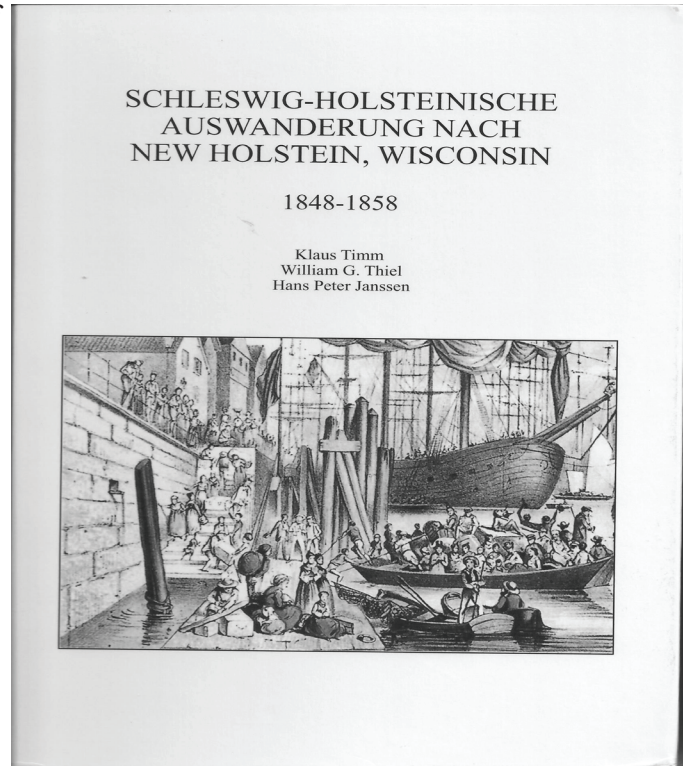
The book contains biographies of 400 families and overall lists 2140 persons who immigrated.

By studying the families who settled in Wisconsin, readers also learn about the political, social, economic, and historical contexts from which the emigration occurred.

For those linked to New Holstein, Wisconsin and interested in family history, this book may be an invaluable resource. One reader has already discovered some previously unknown family history.

Note: Certain sections of the book are written only in German. Some parts are split German and English. Most of the biographies & obituaries are English.

For more information, please contact ASHHS.



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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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Conversation With Lolly

A Look Back at a Remarkable Life

~ By Charles Kuehl, Spring 2021

I live in St. Louis but originated in Davenport, Iowa where my sister Mary Burchett lives. It was through Mary that I got to know Lolly Meyer Kile. I found her to be lively, intelligent and fun, and when Mary mentioned recently that Lolly will turn 100 next year my curiosity was piqued. That curiosity gave rise to a series of telephone conversations where I learned that she had gone through many, many extraordinary experiences. What follows is a summary of those conversations, conducted during the past year.



Lolly Meyer was born in 1922 in Fehmarn, an island off the northeast coast of Germany, south of Denmark. The island is small, approximately 70 square miles,

with a population around 12,000. It is quiet and lovely and isolated enough to have its own culture.

When Lolly was a year and a half old, her mother died of typhoid fever contracted from water from the family well. Lolly and her brother, Hans—a year older than Lolly—were raised by their father (also Hans) and two grandmothers. Her maternal grandmother was Danish, from the Danish district of Lolland (a variation of which was the source of the name "Lolly"). Her paternal grandmother cut short her plans to visit her four US-based children for a year each. As a group, the three seemed to have handled the chores of parenting admirably.

Lolly's Years as a Child

Lolly's childhood was spent entirely on Fehmarn. She lived in Landkirchen and went to church and school there. She started school at age 6, walking there and back with her friends. But at the end of the day a special friend was patiently waiting to greet

her—her dog Pulli. The dog was in his advanced years and died when Lolly was 7. It was her first experience with death and—as is the case with most children—she couldn't make sense of it and missed Pulli greatly.

Europe in the 1920s and early '30s

Before completing our description of Lolly's childhood, it may be useful to reflect on the extreme difficulties and turbulence facing Europe during the years during the 1920s and early '30s. The period was fraught with uncertainties and threats for Germany.

The country was required by the Weimar Republic (stipulated by the Treaty of Versailles) to repay to the Allies the costs they incurred during the war. Those costs of the war were so immense that Germany printed large amounts of money.

That, in turn, led to hyperinflation, so severe that at its peak, one US dollar was worth 4 trillion marks. People's savings became worthless. Only by changing to a new currency was the rate of inflation controlled. Unfortunately the economy then slowed down, and as a result, vast numbers of people lost their jobs.

In 1929, the U.S. stock market crash caused a devastating slowdown of world commerce.

The Emergence of Hitler on the National Scene

Although Lolly could not have known of these post-war developments, they were threatening Germany's very existence. The stage was set for a strong man to take over the country.

That man, Adolph Hitler, rose out of the turbulence of the time and led his Nazi party to control the government. His rise to power was startlingly swift—and ruthless.

In January 1933 German President Hindenburg asked Hitler to accept the role of chancellor. He did, and the move put Hitler in the center of German politics, giving him wide-ranging authority and responsibilities.

~ Continued on page 9

From the President

By Michael Kearney



Moin!

Sunday, August 22, the ASHHS picnic in Durant was a big success. We gathered under a pavilion but it wasn't needed because it was such a beautiful day. There was a nice turnout of a couple dozen people with roast beef and pulled pork sandwiches as well as salads and door prizes. We were richly entertained by Franz Neff playing his accordion.

We all hope that the US and Europe are moving beyond Covid and returning to normal. But the unvaccinated are still accounting for a large number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths. The US FDA has given final approval to the Pfizer vaccine with the same approval expected soon for Moderna and J & J vaccines. As a result, many employers are requiring their employees to get vaccinated which should get all of us closer to "Herd Immunity."

Yours truly
President



Midyear 2021 ASHHS Endowment Fund Report

~ Provided by Dean Rohweder

The market value of the ASSHS Endowment Fund on June 30, 2021 was \$96,665.02, an increase of \$6,346.54 for the first six months of 2021. No gifts have been received in the fund this year. Currently the Endowment Fund has \$2,576.69 available in the savings account for grants and the Quad Cities Community Foundation is suggesting a distribution of \$3,200 from the ASHHS Endowed Funds for 2021 which will provide the ASHHS Endowment Committee with a total of \$5,728.69 funds to use for grants that support and promote the goals of the Society. The committee is always willing to consider requests for funds for such purposes.

Sommer by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Der Sommer folgt. Es wachsen Tag und Hitze,
und von den Auen drängen uns die Glut;
doch dort am Wasserfall, am Felsensitze
erquickt ein Trunk, erfrischt ein Wort das Blut.
Der Donner rollt, schon kreuzen sich die Blitze,
die Höhle wölbt sich auf zur sichern Hut,
dem Tosen nach kracht schnell ein knatternd Schmetternd;
doch Liebe lächelt unter Sturm und Wetternd.

Summer follows. It grows day and heat,
and from the floodplains the embers push us;
but there at the waterfall, at the rock seat
a drink refreshes, a word refreshes the blood.
The thunder rolls, already the lightning crosses,
the cave arches up to secure hat,
after the roar, a rattling butterfly quickly crashes;
but love smiles under storm and weather.

ASHHS Calendar

Our next quarterly meeting would normally be held sometime in November 2021. Those plans are currently tentative considering COVID infection rates particularly of the Delta variant.

We ask that everyone stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updated information.

New Email Address

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

Congrats to all Schleswig-Holstein Olympians

At the conclusion of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Germany won a total of 37 medals (10 Gold, 11 Silver, 16 Bronze). This placed Germany eighth in total medal count. ASHHS wishes to congratulate all German Olympians along with our American Olympians.

To honor those Olympians from Schleswig-Holstein (and Hamburg), we have listed here those outstanding athletes, along with their sport, who have dedicated themselves to become Olympians.

To make the list, we researched all German 2020 Olympic athletes at www.olympics.com. If their bio listed either birth or residence in Schleswig-Holstein, they are listed here under that city of record. *Note: several German athletes did not have any birth or residence recorded. We apologize for any omissions.*

Bad Segeberg

Mona Barthel Tennis

Eckernförde

Finnia Wunram Marathon Swimming

Elmshorn

Rob Muffels Marathon Swimming

Flensburg

Johannes Golla Handball
 Juri Knorr Handball
 Lara Lessmann Cycling BMX Freestyle

Hamburg

Ammar Riad Abdul Jabbar Boxing
 Lisa Altenburg Hockey
 Owen Ansah Athletics
 Svend Brodersen Football
 Andreas Dibowski Equestrian
 Jette Louisa Fleschutz Hockey
 Florian Fuchs Hockey
 Hanna Carina Granitzki Hockey
 Franzisca Hauke Hockey

Tobias Constantin Hauke Hockey
 Kira Horn Hockey
 Torben Johannesen Rowing
 Margareta Kozuch Beach Volleyball
 Hannah Kuechler Swimming
 Yvonne Li Badminton
 Laura Ludwig Beach Volleyball
 Lena Mecheel Hockey
 Tim Ole Naske Rowing
 Thomas Ploessel Sailing
 Anne Katarina Schroder Hockey
 Constantin Staib Hockey
 Charlotte Stapenhorst Hockey
 Julius Thole Beach Volleyball
 Luise Wanser Sailing
 Clemens Wickler Beach Volleyball
 Amelie Wortmann Hockey
 Alexander Zverev Tennis

Itzehoe

Hendrik Pekeler Handball

Kiel

Susann Beucke Sailing
 Frieda Hammerling Rowing
 Erik Heil Sailing
 Paul Kohlhoff Sailing
 Dominic Ressel Judo
 Alica Stuhlemmer Sailing
 Svenja Weger Sailing
 Anastasiya Winkel Sailing

Pinneberg

Jacob Heidtmann Swimming

Ratzeburg

Max Appel Rowing

Reinbek

Max Kruse Football

Please keep your membership current.

Don't miss out on the stories
 and events coming in 2021 and beyond.

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

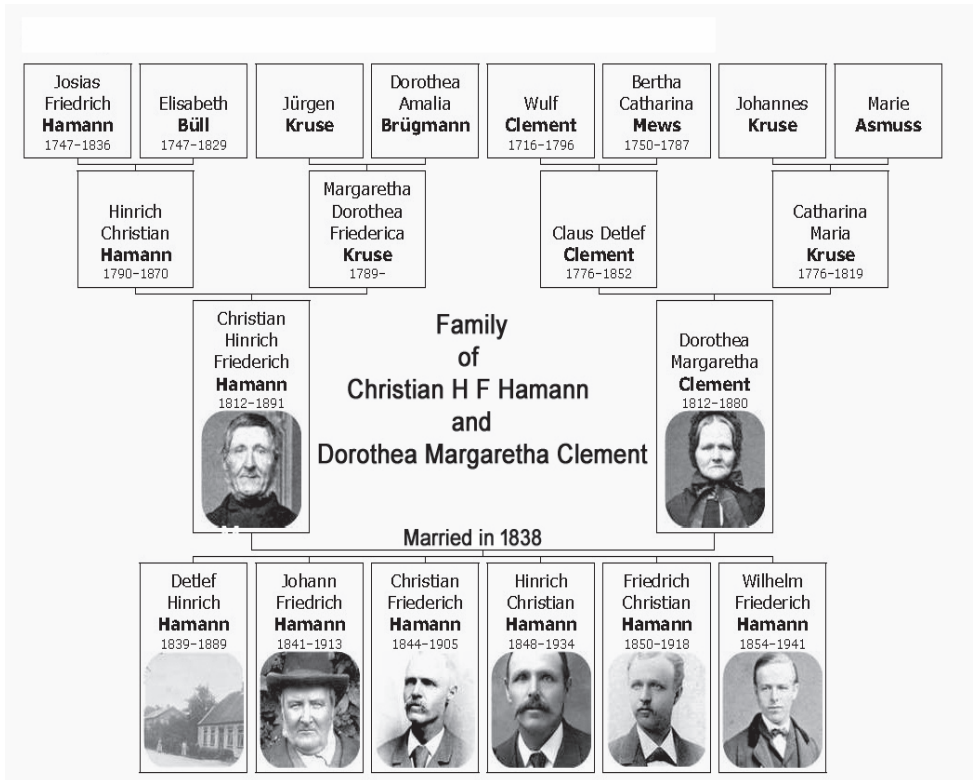
Send submissions to danielwholst@gmail.com

Hamann family from Gettorf, Königsförde, Gut Birkenmoor and Borghorst

By Hans-Werner Hamann

The parents of our four emigrants to the United States were Christian Hinrich Friedrich Hamann born on March 17, 1812 at Gut Birkenmoor and Dorothea Margaretha Clement, born at August 11, 1812 in Gross Königsförde. Christian Hinrich Friedrich Hamann was an illegitimate child of Hinrich Christian Hamann (1790-1870) and Margaretha Dorothea Friederica Kruse (1789-??). Dorothea Margaretha Clement's parents were Claus Detlef Clement (1712-1782) and Catharina Maria Kruse (1776-1819).

Christian Hinrich Friedrich Hamann and Dorothea Margaretha Clement married in Gettorf in 1838 and had six children, four of whom emigrated to the US. The first two were Christian Friederich Hamann born on March 25, 1844 and Hinrich Christian Hamann born on November 8, 1848. They both began their emigration on March 16, 1870 from Hamburg and arrived in New York on March 30, 1870. Both



were born in Gross Königsförde and baptized in the St. Jürgen Church in Gettorf. I wrote about Hinrich Christian Hamann in the last ASHHS newsletter, and here are some more about him and his family in Omaha, Nebraska.



Marriage Certificate



Church in Gettorf

Hamann Family

~ By Hans-Werner Hamann

The first two sons of the Hamann-Clement family were Detlef Hinrich Hamann (1839-1889) and Johann Friedrich Hamann (1841-1913), both of whom stayed in Gettorf in Schleswig-Holstein. The two younger brothers Friedrich Christian Hamann born in 1850 and Wilhelm Friederich Hamann born on June 25, 1854 followed their brothers to the USA and lived in Fremont, Nebraska and Kearney, Nebraska a few years later.



1909 Johann Hamann and H C Hamann in Gettorf
Johann and HC Hamann

Now back to Hinrich Christian Hamann, born on November 8, 1848 in Gross Königsförde, today the place is located directly on the Kiel Canal, or as we call it in Schleswig-Holstein, on the Nord-Ostsee-Kanal. It wasn't built then. That didn't happen until about 40 – 50 years later. Like all his siblings, he was baptized in the St. Jürgen church in Gettorf on November 14, 1848,

Gross Königsförde belonged to the parish of Gettorf. He attended the little school in Gross Königsförde and then learned the trade of a joiner or carpenter. In March 1870 he emigrated to the USA with his older brother and went straight to Omaha, where he worked for the Starbach brothers as a joiner. In May 1871 he went to Chicago, where he was an eyewitness to the great fire in October of the same year. In 1873 he returned to Omaha.

Through his acquaintance with August Prinz, he met his future wife Agatha Maria Stahl, she was the younger sister of August Prinz's wife Katharina Stahl. On August 30, 1874, Agatha Maria Stahl and Hinrich Christian Hamann married in August Prinz's house. The church that August Prinz and Hinrich Christian Hamann built in Omaha was not finished at that time.

The marriage certificate was still made out in German, and the entire wedding ceremony was probably also done in German. For both August Prinz and Hinrich Christian Hamann, it was reported that they spoke almost only German, probably Low German as in their home country of Schleswig-Holstein.

In 1894 he founded a laundry in Omaha with his younger brother Wilhelm Friedrich Hamann, who had meanwhile also emigrated to the US, and he became a successful entrepreneur. For the laundry, which was getting bigger and bigger, he built a handsome new building in Omaha, which belonged to the Hamann family for a long time. At the beginning of the 1930s he withdrew from the business and handed over the management to his son Martin Hamann.

In 1909 he traveled again by ship from New York back to Hamburg and visited his older brother Johann Friedrich Hamann in Gettorf. Before he died on December 4, 1834 at the age of 86, he was able to celebrate his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife on August 30 1934. His wife Agatha died three years later on Jan 15, 1937 also in Omaha.

He was buried in Omaha at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

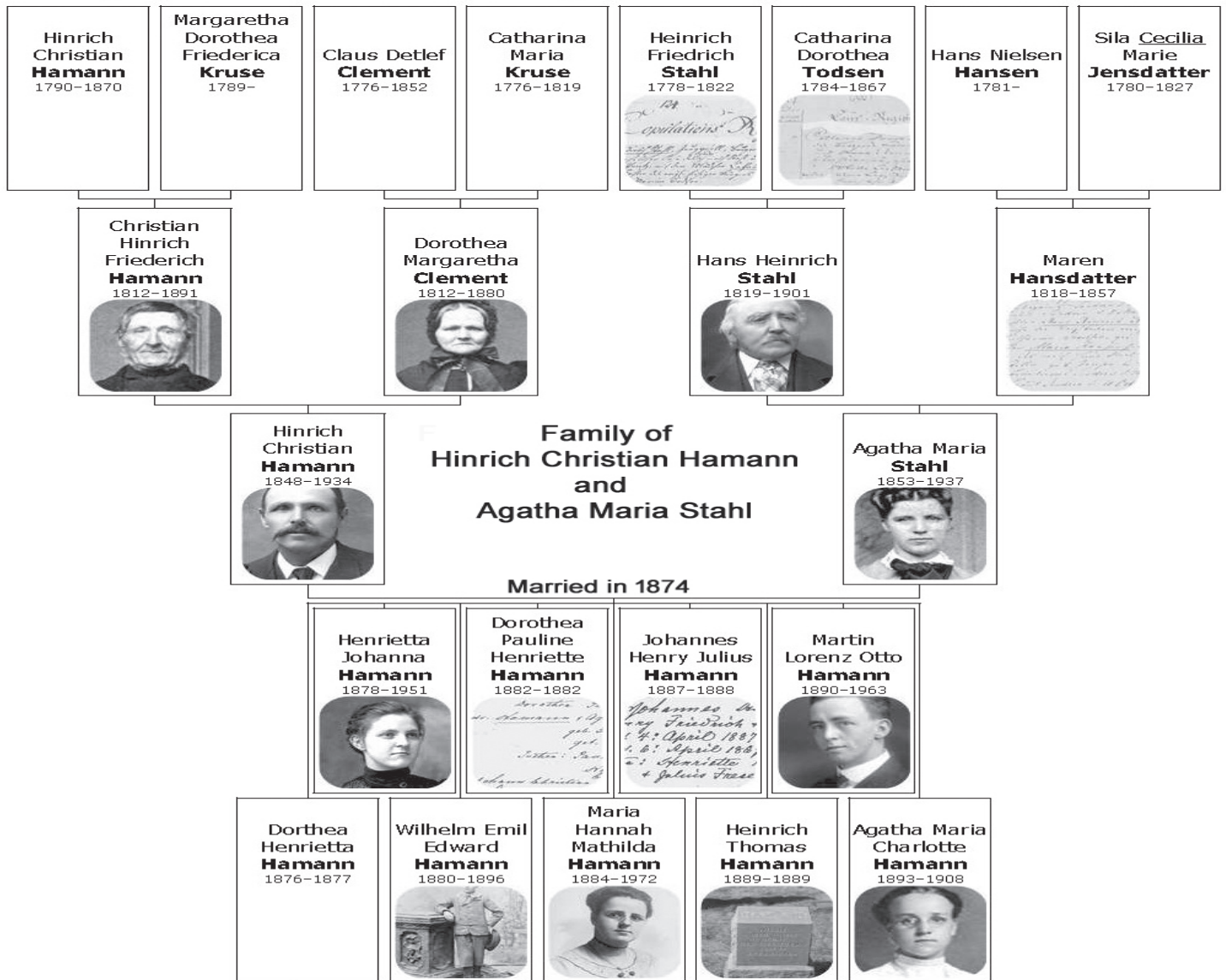
For questions and / or additions to the Hamann-Stahl family: E-mail: ha-wehamann@t-online.de or take look at www.ancestry.com "Hamann-Stammbaum"



Hamann home in Omaha, Nebraska

Hamann Family

~ By Hans-Werner Hamann



~ 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.

Conversation With Lolly

~ Continued from page 3

On August 2 of the next year, Hindenburg died. Hitler seized the opportunity by doing the unexpected: naming himself as Hindenburg's replacement, thus becoming chancellor and president. The move gave him uncontested power which he put to use immediately by requiring that members of the army swear an oath of unconditional obedience to him personally. He had become dictator, with seemingly no limits on his power.

The Early Days of Hitler

Lolly remembers some of Hitler's early moves approvingly. For example, the men and boys who worked for the farmers of Fehmarn were traditionally paid at a level that would never allow them to achieve economic independence of any kind. They would not be able to buy a car or house for example. As a result Hitler ruled that farmers would have to substantially increase the wages they paid their workers.

That settled the matter of pay, but farm families soon demonstrated other ways to maintain their dominant economic status. Lolly tells the story about when she was sent by the local government to work for a farmer. The pay was modest, but even children were expected to help because many farm boys had been drafted.

When her assignment was made she was about 13, and shortly after she started, she caught the eye of the farmer's son. He was soon smitten with her and startled the family at supper one evening with an announcement that he would someday marry her. His mother put an end to that possibility, saying emphatically "No you won't. She is not rich."

Another of Hitler's early moves was to require that schools devote considerable time to language, history and national culture. In view of his plan to unify the country, this was important and understandable. But because Platt was no longer acceptable as the language of schools, the children of Fehmarn had to learn proper German, so the change came at the expense of some of the leisurely atmosphere formerly seen in elementary schools.

The Nazification of Germany

Some of Hitler's early initiatives demonstrated his willingness to use his power in a generous and humane fashion, but before long things changed, because he felt justified in imposing many limits on the lives of ordinary citizens. This period is described by historians as the "nazification of Germany." It brought on many restrictions as Hitler's impact on life in pre-war Germany was felt in countless uncomfortable ways.

One example is the way in which he dealt with the influence of foreign countries. For many years Germany and Russia had been enemies. Perhaps as a way to irritate Hitler and undermine his government, the Russians tried to get people to question certain activities of Germany. They did so by sending radio broadcasts to the German mainland and, of course, Fehmarn. Before long, the loyalty of anyone caught listening to Russia radio was subjected to close scrutiny, sometimes leading to extreme penalties.

The SS (*Schutzstaffel*), under the supervision of Heinrich Himmler, was given the task of enforcing the ban against the Russian broadcasts. If SS officials doubted the loyalty of the members of a German household, men were sent to their home where they stood listening outside. If they heard a banned broadcast they would barge in. In some cases, the family would be taken away, never to return.

Another example of a change to everyday life was the way people went about socializing with others. After Hitler became Chancellor, everyone was expected to say, "Heil Hitler" rather than the traditional "Guten Tag." Lolly's father, Hans, however, did not always abide by the rule, occasionally going into a shop, saying "Guten Morgan," bringing on a correction from the owner. His response was "I've been saying Guten Morgan all of my life and I will continue to do so."

Even the children of Fehmarn had to deal with government policy under the Nazi. The language used in school was Platt, until 1933 when the government decreed that schools throughout the country would use and teach the same proper language. High Deutsch was in; Platt was out.

~ Continued on page 12

Crosses of Distinction

~ By Daniel W. Holst

Chapter Fourteen "Into France"

Those late-night dreams, vividly realistic, sometimes nightmarish, woke Adamina. She set up in bed. Sweaty hands wiped themselves across her face. She looked at them. They glistened. Moonlight had broken through her tent's roof via a crisscross of torn hems. The loose edges flapped gently in a quiet breeze.

This particular nightmare had but one outcome, but damned if she could remember it now. At once such a realistic landscape full of detail and action slowly vaporized into static scenes and glimpses that further disappeared into a void crushed by paranoia.

Now her mind drifted solidly onto the promise she had made. She would fulfill that promise before the sun rose. It was a dark promise best done under a sunless world. She remembered that request by that lieutenant. A young dragoon named, Hansi, rested in the hospital tent. He had been injured in battle by reckless action. But that recklessness allowed the French to break through and kill several other dragoons. His lieutenant wanted him to stay in the hospital when his unit would return to battle. Adamina had agreed to keep him sick. And now she knew what she would do.

The hospital would only be staffed by one or two nurses. No doctors would be present unless a patient had need of one. She knew no one would question her presence. She left her tent and walked over to the field hospital. Tears bulged under the pressure to save lives and not risk them. But the path to the greater good is never clear, and she was bound to this path. She thought of her father. She rubbed her eyes letting the tears wet her fingers. Even dead, her father's presence had yet to leave her. She looked upwards, imagined his face, and felt him. His peaceful countenance calmed her. She was encouraged.

"Minna, what are you doing?"

Adamina jumped at the unexpected voice. It was her friend, Adelaide. "Adie, no," she exclaimed. "You mustn't be here. Not now."

"Why? You going to kill somebody?"

Adamina just stood there, feeling afraid.

Adelaide scrutinized her friend. "You're not, are you? Are you going to kill the Frenchman?"

"What Frenchman?"

"A soldier left behind in the battlefield. He's sick.

I've overheard some patients wanting to kill him."

Adamina looked toward the hospital tent. "So that's who Hansi has talked about."

"Hansi. Is that the name of the young man you've been spending a lot of time around?" She looked curiously at Adamina and spoke in feigned shock. "Do you like him?"

"Adie, it's not that. Please don't ask me about him. I have to." Adamina quickly stopped talking and looked downward. She felt flushed.

"What do you have to do?"

"Leave me alone. I made a promise." Adamina began to walk toward the hospital tent.

"Tell me, Minna. I can help."

"No Adie. You'll get in trouble."

Adelaide grabbed Adamina's arm to stop her.

"Are you in trouble?"

Adamina faced Adelaide. "Go away. Now. I have to do this."

Adelaide stood firm. "No. We're friends. I won't let you do this. I won't let you get in trouble."

A feeling of love and a desire to hug her friend overcame Adamina. "Adie, I made a promise to keep Hansi sick or injured. Because his recklessness hurts his unit. His lieutenant asked me, and I promised."

Adelaide took Adamina's hands in hers. "Why?"

"Because he is reckless—"

"No, Minna. Why is Hansi so reckless. He must have a reason. Let's ask."

Adamina squeezed Adelaide's hands in solidarity and smiled at her. They turned and walked into the hospital tent.

Hansi laid there on his bed. He had curled up into a fetal position; his hands rested near his chest. Darkness found its way into his wide-open eyes. Out of that darkness walked a couple of nurses. He sighed as they approached his bed.

Adamina bent down and looked him in the eyes. "I will hurt you."

Hansi lifted his head and looked carefully at her. "You can't, you're a nurse."

"I'm not a nurse, at least not yet, but I will hurt you. I promised."

Hansi turned over and looked straight up. "Fine, do it. I deserve it. I know my lieutenant doesn't want me to redeploy with my unit in a few days."

Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

Adamina felt her friend's arm around her back. It gave her courage. "He says you're reckless."

"Yeah, I've heard his whispers to the other dragoons when they thought I was sleeping. I am reckless. I need to die."

Adelaide looked around and whispered something in Adamina's ear.

Adamina grabbed his hand. Adelaide grabbed his other. They pulled him up. "Follow us."

They walked him outside and around the tents to a secluded area behind some trees.

Adamina asked, "Why do you need to die?"

Hansi sat down with his back against the tree. Adamina and Adelaide sat on each side of him.

"I don't belong here. I wasn't prepared for war." Hansi looked at the girls, but they just sat there watching him, expecting more. "I lied about my age. I abandoned my brother, disobeyed my father, and betrayed everything that once mattered just to be a soldier. I'm not a soldier. I'm just a kid."

Adamina looked at him compassionately. "What can we do to help?"

"I can't go home without my brother, but he is in America by now. I need to find him."

"How?"

"I don't know. I can't return home, nor return to Germany. I may have joined the army fraudulently, but I would still be a deserter. Going into France would mean capture. They would entreat upon me unimaginable horrors. I just need to leave."

Adelaide looked over at Adamina and gave her a book opened to a certain page. They whispered back and forth a bit.

Hansi tried to listen but all he could divine were a few words such as authority, dangers, and selfish.

Adamina returned the book to Adelaide then spoke to Hansi. "Do you know who Clara Barton is?"

"Sure, the lady with the Red Cross."

"She gave a book to me. It is quite wise. Listen."

Adelaide looked at him and read a short passage: *There are plenty of people with the encouragement and facilities given by the administrative authorities, would certainly be prepared to go, even at their own expense, and undertake for a limited time such an eminently philanthropic task. In this age, which is often called selfish and cold,*

what an attraction it would be for noble and compassionate hearts and for chivalrous spirits, to confront the same dangers as the warrior, of their own free will, in a spirit of peace, for a purpose of comfort, from a motive of self-sacrifice!

Adamina said, "We will help you. Even if we don't know how."

Some voice spoke from behind them. A Frenchman dressed in a medical gown walked towards them. "I, too, have read *Un souvenir de Solférino*. I can get you through France to a port to America."

~ Later that day

Lieutenant Karl Litzmann stood proudly with his new unit. It had been organized from the survivors of previous squads, but he didn't care. Those that stood before him had proven themselves, proven themselves before Prussia. He had just left his commander's tent with very specific orders. A young dragoon, two nurses-in-training, and the captured French soldier had been seen leaving camp before daybreak. His orders were simple: find them and return them to the camp for charges of desertion and giving aid to the enemy. If such action was unfeasible, his secondary orders were even simpler: eliminate them.

The thought of killing these deserters slaked Karl's lust in his role as instrument under this rising German nation. But he knew he had to be careful when addressing the men that were newly assigned under him. He had to frame this mission as a rescue, not an assassination. His men were tools. While these men were his stepping stones, the two subordinate leaders in the unit, Adim and Theodor were not. They were enlightened. He once heard them discussing the existentialism of war. It was a discussion he freely joined but only to understand and manipulate them. They would fight but also find ways not to fight.

"Men, a Frenchman has escaped with two nurses and a wounded dragoon into France. We are ordered to retrieve and bring them back alive. Force is only approved for our safety and their protection. Adim and Theodore will supervise under my command. Any questions? No? Good. We will depart in two hours."

He walked away smiling at his clear yet deceptive briefing. That the Frenchman had smallpox was of little importance.

Conversation With Lolly

~ Continued from page 9

The War

Like all civilians in Germany, Lolly experienced fear and had many disturbing experiences due to war. Perhaps the most graphic of these happened during a trip she made to Hamburg in 1944. By the time of the visit, the Allied air force had established control of the skies and took full advantage of that by staging raid after raid on the city. An apartment building next to the home of the family Lolly was visiting had been leveled during one of those raids shortly before Lolly's visit; it left the building in shambles. To add further anguish, the survivors left in the building could not be helped because the needed equipment and manpower were not available. Furthermore, the heat from the bombs was so intense that streets were turned into molten tar, thereby immobilizing parts of the city.

Toward the end of the war, the threat of what could have happened became even clearer. Many Allied aircraft were positioned in Norway, so their bombing runs took them over Fehmarn as they headed for their targets on the mainland. No bombs were dropped on the island, but the planes served as a reminder of the vulnerability of the island, and that the rest of the country was being subjected to fearsome punishment.

The Sailor from Kiel

One of the most common and troubling aspects of war is food shortages. The amount produced is decreased and much of it is devoted to the needs of the military. The resulting shortfall led to people scavenging and begging, and so it was that a young man showed up at the home of the Meyers in 1940. He asked for a handout of food, but Lolly's father insisted he join the family for the meal they were about to have. The young man did so and then went on his way, rejoining his U-boat company in Kiel to complete his 5-year assignment. At war's end the U-boat was bombed. To escape the fire and carnage, Karl had to swim to shore and then make his way to Fehmarn.

The war ended shortly thereafter and he joined members of his family in Dresden. Later he learned that the Allies had agreed that the Soviet Union should be given much of East Germany, including Dresden. To make the new boundaries clear, the Soviet Union

built a wall across the country separating West Germany and the Soviet sector.

The young man, Karl Volke, found the situation so troubling that he—at the risk of being shot—climbed over the wall, and then went to return to the family in Fehmarn that had treated him so kindly. His stay at the Meyer house led to him and Lolly getting married in Landkirchen in 1948.

After the marriage, Karl got a job with a British firm in Luneburg, which he lost when the firm closed its operations in Germany in 1951. Furthermore, as the allied occupation of Germany was to end in 1955, additional economic concerns were on the horizon. It was with this in mind that one of Lolly's aunts urged the couple to migrate to the United States.

Migrating to America

It took months of patience and perseverance to meet a demanding set of requirements for entry into the US, but in 1953 Lolly and Karl's application had been approved. Lolly and Karl left for America by boat out of Hamburg in January 1954. Shortly after arrival, however, everything changed. The company—Williams and White, a Rock Island heavy equipment manufacturer—which had given Karl a job offer was purchased by a Chinese group and everybody lost their job. Karl had worked for them for two weeks. Despite the setback, his set of skills and work ethic allowed him to provide a good life for Lolly and himself.

Life in the Quad Cities

Lolly's father was a stone mason. When Karl and Lolly married, he gave them an envelope with money to be used to build a home, specifying that it be a stone home. They built that stone home in Milan, on land owned by an aunt of Lolly. They lived there until Karl's passing in 1971.

She then met a widower, Howard Kile, a Hallmark gift shop owner. They married in 1972; he died in 1992.

In keeping with her sunny disposition, she says the good lord gave her not one perfect husband, but two.

While there is much more to Lolly's life, we thank her and Charles for providing this glimpse into her long and wonderful life.

Beautiful People Picnicing on a Beautiful Day

Blue skies, a gentle breeze, and perhaps most importantly comfortable temperatures and low humidity welcomed a long overdue gathering of ASHHS members on Sunday afternoon, August 22, 2021. It was a beautiful day.

Remarkably, this was our first public gathering in almost two years, and everyone brought out their best. Provided food was delicious. The meat was tender and tasty. And the delectable dessert still tickles my taste buds.

Stories were told. Erika Hansen told me about her post-war years in Germany and riding bicycles to trade goods for food from local farmers just so her family could eat a meal. It was during those years she learned that waste is, well, wasteful. She still saves everything, including her lemon peels.

Other stories about American military life in Germany two to four decades following World War Two were regaled. In them all was the constant love of the German people towards the American military.

Franz Neff played beautiful German music on his accordion while some joined in song and dance.

ASHHS provided door prizes to many members, and the photographer (me) was even courteous enough to ask if anybody was a secret agent or in witness protection so as to not bust their cover. After all, you never know.



A German Food Map. Is It Accurate?

What do you think? Is this food map accurate. Did it prompt any memories or thoughts. If so, please let me know: danielwholst@gmail.com



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Our membership year is from January 1 through December 31.

New members joining late in the year will have a paid membership through the following year.

Contact Us: E-mail address: ashhswaltcott@gmail.com • Website: www.ashhs.org

The ASHHS Office and Library is located at, 121 W. Bryant Street, Walcott, Iowa
(2nd floor of the Walcott American Legion Building)

*ASHHS is the foremost and only German Heritage Society dedicated exclusively to
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