THE

WEBER FAMILY

of

Westphalia

and America
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IOWA - MISSOURI - NEW YORK - OHIO - IOWA - DELAWARE - WEST VIRGINIA - OHIO

by

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MY WEBER ANCESTORS

"Weber" is a German occupational name meaning "Weaver"

My Immigrant Ancestor on the Weber side of my family is my father, Henry Carl Weber, who came to America with his parents in 1888 as a baby of 16 months. When he was an adult and was asked where he was born, he would answer "Minden on der Weser, Kreis Lübbeke, Regierungsbezirk, Westfalen." Now, in fact, he was born in a little farm village called Frotheim about 20-25 Kilometers west by northwest of the city of Minden in the present day German state of Nordrhein-Westphalen. (Frotheim has been absorbed into the larger town of Espelkamp today.) The statement above means that he was born in the governmental district of Minden (on the Weser River, to distinguish it from another town of the same name in Sauerland) and in the district of Lübbeke. Minden is a city northwest of Hanover where the Mittelland Kanal, an east-west canal, crosses the Weser River on an aqueduct. I did not understand all of this until I got deep into the study of our family history. I was a Prisoner of War in Germany during World War II and when I was liberated and being transported away from the prison camp on a British lorry (truck), I saw a road sign that pointed to Minden and I had a big lump in my throat thinking that I was going to get to see the town where my father was born. But then the truck went across the river on a temporary bridge and started off in another direction; I had no control over where we went so I just had to swallow hard and vow internally to come back another day.

TRYING TO FIND MY ROOTS IN WESTPHALIA

I did return there in 1978 and that is a long story in itself. I was there with Ruth, my wife. We stayed in the nearby town of Lübbeke in an inn where we rented the only room with a private bath. From there we scouted the area, using a rented car, visiting first the Archive in Detmold (Nordrhein Westfälisches Staatsarchiv Detmold, Willi Hoffmann Strasse 2, 32756 Detmold.) We had written ahead to make an appointment so they were expecting us. Ruth has a cousin, Wayne Culberson, who took his Doctor's degree in German, worked for Berlitz for a while and met a German girl there; they married and settled in Germany, where he teaches English. We had made arrangements for him to meet us at the Archive in Detmold to help us with the language as my German is extremely limited and Ruth cannot speak German at all. We arrived at Detmold before Wayne did and tried to make the ladies, who were assigned to help us, understand what we were trying to find out ... by this time I had learned that the real home was Frotheim. Those poor ladies were trying so hard and we were at an almost hopeless impasse when Wayne walked in and said a few words in German and they heaved a huge sigh of relief. How I learned that the real home was Frotheim and what we found at the Archive will be a part of the story later.

My father was a tall, thin, handsome, serious minded young man, the son of Johann Heinrich WEBER (Vay'- buh in German) and Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE (Ike-ree'-duh). Johann Heinrich used the name Heinrich during his lifetime and Caroline Wilhelmine used the name Wilhelmine and the nickname "Minnie." Heinrich was Henry J. instead of Johann Heinrich. They managed to get permission to emigrate from their homeland of Westphalia (or Westfalen) and came to America in 1888.

WESTPHALIA

Westphalia is a province that was the result of the gradual merging together of about nine different religious and secular bodies; the Kingdom of Westphalia was created by Napoleon during the time of his conquests in the early part of the 19th century, 1806 - 1813. But beginning in 1815, after
Johann Heinrich Weber  
(Henry J. Weber)  
Immigrant  
at his home on Bulwer Ave.

Henry C. Weber and  
his mother, Caroline  
Wilhelmine Weber  
(nee Eickriede)  
at home - Bulwer Ave.
Napoleon’s defeat, it became a part of Prussia. Today, it is part of the German state of Nordrhein Westfalen.

WHY DID THEY LEAVE GERMANY?

We do not know all of the reasons for their deciding to emigrate to America but one thing is probably a part of that set of reasons. Heinrich’s way of life in Frotheim was farming but he did not inherit any land so he had to work for other people as a hireling. (More on the reason for that later.) A worldwide depression had begun in 1873 and continued on until the mid-1890s in the German agricultural activities; local farmers had to contend with imported grain from both Russia and America. Another possible reason was that Prussia was a very military oriented state and had many wars. Forced conscription of young men was employed to raise their armies and each “canton” had to furnish its own set of soldiers from within its boundaries. Another of my relatives, the Steubes, (Maria Steube was the second wife of my mother’s father Christian Seckel and was the only grandmother I ever remember) told the story that they sneaked out of Westphalia-Prussia in 1892 because they had already lost two sons in the army for “neglect of care” (family story) and wanted to protect their other son who was soon becoming of military age.
THE TRIP TO AMERICA

The Weber family left Germany from the port city of Bremen* on the ship S.S. Main with many others. It was a large ship; Johann Heinrich Weber's name was Number 430 on the passenger list. They headed for and landed at Baltimore, Maryland on August 22, 1888 when Heinrich was 45 years old. With him on the passenger list, we find Wilhelmine, Age 38, his wife, and five children, Sophie (Age 10), Friede (Age 8 – this is Friedrich, who we knew as Fred), Wilhelm (Age 6) known as "Will", Augus (Age 3 – later known as August) and Caroline (a female, age 9 months – this is my father Henry, obviously an error; his mother's first name was Caroline and his baptismal name was Carl Henry.) He was 16 months at the time but the Reise Pass (permit to travel - somewhat like a passport today) called him 9 months so that is what is reported on the passenger list. They had to travel to Bremen, a distance of more than 75 Kilometers to board the ship. The "Reise Pass" was dated 2 August 1888 at Lübecke and they landed in Baltimore on 22 August 1888 so the trip must have taken only 15 - 20 days. As of this writing (July 1998), I do not know the kind of accommodations they had or how much it might have cost him for the trip. They listed their destination on the passenger list as "Iowa." On his "Reise Pass," Johann Heinrich Weber was shown as an "Arbeiter," worker.

FROTHEIM, A FARM VILLAGE

The farm village of Frotheim was a cluster of homes, a cemetery with a chapel, and an elementary school with the fields that the farmers worked surrounding the town, in the European manner. They measure their land in "hectares" there; a hectare is equal to 2.47 acres. For many years prior to this time, the land had been divided among the children at the death of the parents. But, once this practice has continued for a long period, the size of each plot of inherited land becomes smaller and smaller, to the point where it is not enough to support a family. So the government ruled that this practice would no longer be allowed and one person would inherit the entire land of the deceased parents - usually the eldest or maybe the eldest son. So land became a very precious commodity and a seemingly strange practice (to today's US culture) arose, legally. When a man married a woman who owned land, it was perfectly legal and desirable for the man to assume the woman's surname as that was the name in which the land was held. That way the land would be kept in the family.

JOHANN HEINRICH'S PARENTS

That is what happened to Heinrich Weber. His father was Gottfried Weber and his mother was Marie Elisabeth Kütemann [Kü-teh-mun] (born October 4, 1818 in Isenstedt - a village a few kilometers away); they were married at Frotheim 16 (with the record of their marriage made in church books of the parish Evangelische church of Gehlenbeck) on 6 March 1841.2 Their home was at Frotheim 16 (there were so few houses that they had not bothered to create street addresses yet - later they did name streets and the lane the family home was on was named Weberstrasse.) But Gottfried died at the very early age of 32 on 7 August 1848 of "breast krähenheist" (an undefined sickness of the breast, possibly pneumonia) leaving Marie with 4 small children. We do not know how Marie managed with four small children and a farm to tend but she probably had help from her relatives and neighbors. Eight months later, Marie married Courd Heinrich Siebe of the nearby town of Nettlestedt on 7 April 1849. He later assumed the name "Weber."

The four children left with Marie on the death of Gottfried were:
Caroline Wilhelmine Weber, born January 13, 1842; Johann Heinrich Weber, born September 15, 1843;
Marie Louise Weber, born March 25, 1845; and a son whose name and birth date are unknown. Thus the land of Gottfried Weber must have passed to his wife and then to Courd Heinrich Siebe (Weber). Courd and Marie had four more children: Anna Margarete Weber, born February 2, 1850; Anna Sophie Charlotte Weber, born May 10, 1852; Friedrich Wilhelm Siebe, born March 14, 1856; and Caroline Wilhelmine Weber, born May 7, 1859.

This church in Gehlenbeck is built in the Romanisch style and has been standing since the year 1100.
S.S. MAIN, 1868 North German Lloyd

Courtesy The Peabody Museum of Salem

The "Reise Pass" (Permit to Travel) for Arbeiter Heinrich Weber, his wife and 5 children.
Of two of these half sisters, we shall hear more. Anna Sophie Charlotte later married a man named Peitman; she lived until January 19, 1920. My host on my 1978 visit to Frotheim is descended from this union.

The half sister named Caroline Wilhelmine Weber (b. 1859) married a man named Ernest Steinmann and emigrated to America, living in the Los Angeles area. A family story had it that she returned to Germany on a visit involving some sort of legal settlement and thereafter was quite well-to-do; one story had her living in Beverly Hills with her three children, "Gussie" (a Female), Lena and Henry. (I have not found any records of her but have not searched hard either.) When she visited Germany, the family story also includes a part that she tried to get Caroline Wilhelmine Weber, my grandmother, to return with her ... but she would not. We do not know when this might have happened. Caroline Steinmann died in 1953 or 4 in Los Angeles and all of her children are also now all deceased (January 1994).

JOHANN HEINRICH WEBER'S LIFE IN FROTHEIM

Johann Heinrich Weber left little information about his early life but we know that he worked in Frotheim as a hireling on other people's land, such as that of Anton Brammeier, and lived with his family at Frotheim 28, Frotheim 75 and Frotheim 149 (where they lived when their second child, Fred, was born in 1879 - actually they lived in a "little" house next to the "big" house at Frotheim 149.) Johann had grown up in Frotheim and married Caroline Wilhelmine Eickriede of Frotheim 33 on June 9th, 1877. He was 34 years old when he married. Caroline was 26 years old when she married; her parents were Friedrich Wilhelm Eickriede, a farmer, and Anna Sophie Margrethe Elisabeth (nee Doding) Eickriede. Caroline Wilhelmina Eickriede had been born on the 14th of October 1850 and she was baptized at Gehlenbeck Evangelische Church on 20 October 1850 by Pastor Redeke. Her baptismal sponsors were Marie Margrethe Elisabeth Eckriede and Friedrich Wilhelm Bartmann. Johann Heinrich and Caroline Wilhelmine Weber had 6 children born in Frotheim:

Anna Sophie Weber, born April 1, 1878 (later known as Sophie);
Heinrich Frederich Wilhelm Weber, born May 20, 1879 (later known as "Fred.");
Frederich Wilhelm Weber, born April 3, 1881 (later known as "Will.");
Karl Heinrich August Weber, born March 18, 1883 (later known as "August.");
Carl Heinrich Weber, born February 14, 1885 (but died April 9, 1886);
Carl Heinrich Weber, born April 6, 1887 and baptized April 17, 1887 at Isenstedt Evangelical Lutheran Church, the new parish church for Frotheim built in 1880.

This last child is my father, who used the name "Henry C. Weber" all his life. Notice that the parents named him after the son they had just lost the year before. "Will" and all the subsequent children were baptized at the Isenstedt (pronounced Ec'-zen-schet) Church. We have a photograph of the baptismal font there taken during our 1978 visit to Frotheim.

It will be obvious here that the baby they brought to the new world in August 1888 was older than the 9 months that was shown on the passenger list - he was 16 months old at the time of arrival.
LIFE IN THE NEW WORLD

Their route or means of transportation to Iowa (which possibly might have been by train) and "where in Iowa" they went is not known but they only stayed there for a few years. By 1891, they were in St. Louis, Missouri as evidenced by a photograph of their oldest daughter, Sophie, as a student at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Another new daughter, Anna Karoline Wilhelmine Weber, was born October 23, 1891 (she was always known as "Min" or "Minnie"). Heinrich moved to St. Louis, MO for the expressed purpose of providing a Christian (Lutheran) Day School education for his children. He must not have found that wherever he went in Iowa; he might have heard from another family from Frotheim who came to America and first settled in Wisconsin and then moved to St. Louis, the Krato family. When the Webers first arrived in St. Louis, they were taken in and lived with the Krato family (the Henry Krato family) who had 9 children of their own. These families remained friends for several generations and both became members of St. Paul's German Evangelical Lutheran Church, a conservative Lutheran group who referred to themselves as believers in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, a possible reference to the forced merger of the Lutheran and the Reformed churches in Prussia and the subsequent outlawing of the teaching of Lutheran doctrine by the Calvinist Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III.

THE STRUGGLE - THEY SPEAK ENGLISH HERE

These Germans spoke their local dialect of the German language called "Plattdeutsch" or Low German (a reference to the low lying lands close to the North Sea) and had not learned English yet so they tended to cluster together. The Krato family lived at John and Mc Kissock Avenues, one block closer to the Mississippi River from Broadway; the Webers were found at 5308 Mc Kissock in 1894, a number of blocks north from the Kratos. By 1896, the Weber family had purchased a house at 5236 Bulwer Avenue in St. Louis, near the "fertilizer factory" (ie., "bone yard" where animal bones were ground into bonemeal) where Heinrich worked as a laborer (the highest pay he received, according to family stories, was $9/week.) This house was a "duplex," with two family dwellings side by side with a single wall between them and an apartment in the basement; it was the second house on the west side of the street south of Withers Ave. and is still standing. (January 1994) They must have been very frugal because, in 1910, Heinrich Weber reported to the census taker that he owned the home without a mortgage. He also told the census taker that the language he and his wife spoke was German while all the children reported English as their language. Even his obituary in 1917 was written in German.

In that same year of 1896, on May 27th, the city of St. Louis was struck by a devastating tornado that cut a swath eight miles across the southern part of the city from near Shaw's garden and ending at the Eads Bridge. These areas are south and west of the Weber home so it did not strike them specifically but it was a tremendous disaster for the areas where it did strike.

NATURALIZATION

(Johann) Heinrich Weber became a citizen of the United States on September 13, 1900 in the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction swearing to support the Constitution of the United States and renouncing his allegiance to the "Emperor of Germany." By this time, there was a country of Germany, having been pulled together by Otto von Bismarck, Prime Minister of Prussia, in 1870 after three wars with France and with Austria. The ruler of the united German empire was Wilhelm I, also called the Kaiser (Emperor), the second son of Friedrich Wilhelm III, king of Prussia. (Notice how many boys were named after the kings of Prussia.)
Frotheim

I learned about Frotheim from "Minnie" Weber, the sister of my father, who, in 1966, graciously gave me Heinrich Weber's Deutsches Reich Königreich Preussen 'Reise-Pass' (permission to travel) valid until 2 August 1889 which is for "Arbeiter (Worker)Heinrich Weber" and says "aus (from) Frotheim." It was issued at Lübecke on 2 August 1888 and includes his "Ehefrau (legally married wife) und seiner(his) 5 kinder (children) von (of) 10, 9,7,5 und 1 Jahr alt (years old) nach (to) Nord-America."

THE FAMILY IN ST. LOUIS

They had two more children besides "Minnie" born in America: Louis Weber (of whom little is known except that he died before 1910) and Anna Wilhelmina Louise Weber, who was always known as "Louise," born April 10, 1894 in St. Louis. Another of their children suffered an early death: son, Karl August (also known as Charles Aug.) died of pneumonia at the age of 12 and was buried on 17 June 1895 after (according to a family story) receiving a severe beating from his school teacher. His name was pronounced with a diphthong sound, like AH-oo-gust. He is buried in Grave 1 on the H. Weber family lot in New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Neighbors, St. Louis County, Missouri. They also lost another of their sons, "Will" (Friedrich Wilhelm, born in Frotheim on 3 Apr 1881) who died 23 June 1902 of enteritis\(^7\) at the age of 21 and is buried in Grave 2 on the family lot in New Bethlehem Cemetery. By the 1910 census in April of 1910, of the nine children born to this couple, only five were still alive and all were living at home. 1910 also saw the death of Mark Twain, author of "Tom Sawyer."

THE FIRST MARRIAGE

However, on 16 November 1910, son Carl Henry, who called himself "Henry C." married Elizabeth (Therese Catherine Elise) Seckel at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in St. Louis and he left the family home to live with his new wife. She was known by the nickname "Lillie" all her life; that is a form of the feminine given name of Elisabeth, as is also the form Elise. When they were married, it was the time of the "wasp waist" style for young women and family lore has it that Henry could span her waist with his two hands.

Wedding Photo of Henry C. Weber and Elizabeth (Elise[Lillie]) Seckel - 1910
SOME CHANGES IN THE WAY WE LIVE

We take so many modern conveniences for granted that we fail to remember just how recent their invention has been. For example, when it is dark, we just switch on the electric lights and get light in our homes. But, it was only in 1882 that Thomas Edison, the inventor of the electric light bulb, started the first commercial "power plant" and it was quite small by today's standards - it was just enough power to light 800 of his electric light bulbs. Before that time, people used "coal oil lamps" (kerosene) or candles and fireplaces for light; they needed a lot more human attention than electric bulbs.

And just how long it took for electricity to spread to St. Louis and into the Weber home is lost in history. Electric power distribution from commercial power plants started in the cities and only started moving into the rural areas of the country in the 1930s. And, how about chlorinated drinking water? In our town, Columbus, Ohio, that practice began only in 1908; prior to that, the city averaged 135 deaths annually per 100,000 people from typhoid fever.

THE LOUISIANA EXPOSITION - ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR

But another event of major importance to St. Louis occurred in 1903-4 when the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (World's Fair) was held in St. Louis, in the area of Forest Park and Washington University today. It was there that electric street lighting and the "ice cream cone" were introduced. Mechanical refrigeration was also new. People used to keep their food cold in insulated boxes that contained blocks of ice, called "ice boxes." When I was a child, we had an "ice box" in our home and had to get our blocks of ice regularly from "the ice man," a vendor who came around in a wagon (later a truck) bringing large chunks of ice. We would place a sign in the front window telling him how much ice we wanted that day - 25 pounds, 50 pounds or more. And that was only practical when mechanical refrigeration had been invented and commercial establishments could turn water into ice. Prior to that people used to cut ice blocks from the river in the winter and keep them all winter and spring until the summer by insulating them with great big bales of hay. So these advances were a part of Heinrich Weber's life.

THE ST. LOUIS FAIR

And there was an annual "fair" a lot closer too. The Fairgrounds Park housed a zoo, a racetrack and many other forms of public entertainment for many years. The St. Louis Fair had been held there in the fall of each year since 1856 and it continued until 1902. And that was within walking distance. After the Webers came to St. Louis, the decade called "The Gay Nineties" rolled by with lots of glamour and entertainment. Moving pictures had not yet been invented and certainly not radio or television but vaudeville was alive and well and there was plenty of other entertainment. They may not have participated in much of this considering their financial circumstances but it was there.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, to which they belonged and which was the center of their life, also had a parochial school which the children attended. It was located at East Prairie Avenue at Von Puhl, about one long block west of Broadway. Church services were held here until the church part of the two story building was destroyed by fire. A new church was built at John Avenue near West Florissant Avenue. That was my church when I was young and the old church/school was where I went to elementary school following in my father's footsteps.
The Weber home in St. Louis at 5236 Bulwer Avenue.

St. Paul's Lutheran School in 1980s. This is the same building as the "old" church which burned. The building was then converted to a three room school housing 8 grades and kindergarten.
World War I broke out in Europe in 1914 following the assassination of the Crown Prince of Austria, a leading power in Europe at the time, in Sarajevo, by a Serbian gunman. Russia supported the Serbs but Austria was outraged and went to war against Serbia. Germany and Austria were allied and soon found themselves at war with many of the other powers in Europe including Italy, England and France.

**FINAL ILLNESS AND DEATH**

On 14 December 1916, Heinrich J. Weber became ill; he entered the hospital on 26 December 1916 and died 23 January 1917 (of "Blauseuleiden, [pneumonia?]") at the age of 73 years, 4 months and 8 days. He was buried in Grave 3 on the family plot in New Bethlehem Cemetery. His last years spanned the first three years of World War 1 in which his homeland, Germany, was engaged in a bitter and bloody struggle with England, France, Italy and Russia. He lived to learn about the terrible trench warfare battles in France, the use of poison gas on the troops, the 1915 sinking of the liner "Lusitania" by German submarines killing many American passengers. But he was spared trauma of the entry of his new homeland into the conflict against the place of his birth and early life in April 1917.

His obituary from the St. Paul’s “Herald” reads, in German, as follows:

![Johann Heinrich Weber](image)

**LOOSELY TRANSLATED**

**JOHN HENRY WEBER**

was born September 15, 1843 at Frotheim, in the district Lübbeke, governmental district Minden, Germany, as the eldest son of (legally married) Frederich and Louise Weber. He was baptized and confirmed in his native place. He married (conjugal union) Caroline Wilhelmine Eickriede. This marriage God blessed with nine children, of whom four preceded their father into eternity. In the year 1888, he came to America with his family and settled first in the state of Iowa. But since no Christian school existed there, he moved to St. Louis. Shortly before Christmas an old ailment gave him much distress and pain, and in spite of all applied medical remedies and care, his earthly life came to an end on January 23. The time of his earthly pilgrimage, he brought to (numbered) 73 years, 4 months and 8 days. The nearest (immediate) sorrowing relatives are: the widow, 2 sons, 3 daughters, one daughter-in-law ("Lillie" Weber), 3 grandchildren. On the 26th of January we put to bed (rest) his tired body in God's acre. May his memory remain close!
The term "Evangellsche" deserves an explanation. Prior to the Reformation, only one church was legal in the then Holy Roman Empire, namely the Roman Catholic Church. When Martin Luther instituted his reforms, he did not want a church body named after him but asked that the church might be Evangellsche (the "Evangel" is the gospel of Jesus Christ). Wars were fought between the Roman Catholic authorities and the reformed princes for a long time. After the Peace of Augsburg in 1555, a religious principle was established called "He who rules determines the religion (of his area)" and two churches were then legal - the Roman Catholic and the Lutheran. However, the German Reformed church practiced their interpretation of the reformation in secret. After the Thirty Years War in 1648, the Peace of Westphalia emerged - the same principle remained but now three churches were legal, including the Reformed. In 1817, Prussia’s king, who was Reformed, forced a merger of the Reformed and Lutheran churches called "The Evangelische Kirche." Frotheim was a part of Prussia at this time.

In Heinrich Weber’s obituary, his parents are called Friedrich and Louise - perhaps the names they were known by.

I have no documentary evidence of this claim.

The location was probably in their home and is recorded in the church books of the Gehlenbeck Evangelische Kirche. In the 1910 USA census, Heinrich and Wilhelmine reported that they had been married 32 years.

In 1991 Dollars, this would amount to $102.42, according to comparisons compiled by the Department of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Living Conditions and published in Forbes magazine.

The members of the Weber family became citizens automatically through the naturalization of their father. My father, Henry Carl Weber, told me he used to carry a copy of his father’s naturalization papers with him during World War I to prove he was an American citizen because there was so much hatred of the Germans among the American population.

Inflammation of the intestine, especially the small intestine (family lore says "tuberculosis").

In 1888, 52,794 German emigrants passed through Bremen. Source: Wellauer, M., “German Immigration to America in the 19th Century,” ROOTS, INT L, (Milwaukee), Table C, Page 54.

Aerial view of Frotheim - 1945.
The village is at the intersection of all those roads. Note the long strips of farmland around the village.
United States of America
State of Missouri
City of St. Louis

In the ST. LOUIS COURT OF CRIMINAL CORRECTION
September 13, 1890

Hans Jacob Weber

a native of...

The applicant to be admitted a citizen of the United States, comes and proceeds to the satisfaction of the Court that he has resided in the United States for at least five years, and in the State of Missouri at least one year, immediately preceding this application, during which time he has conducted himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and the Court, moreover, being satisfied that said applicant has taken the preparatory steps required by the laws of the United States concerning the naturalization of aliens, and declaring here in open Court, open oath, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he does absolutely renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Parentage, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the

...of whose he is et present a subject, therefore the said...

Hans Jacob Weber
is admitted a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

State of Missouri
City of St. Louis

J. F. K. Knittel
Clerk of the ST. LOUIS COURT OF CRIMINAL CORRECTION.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court at office in the City of St. Louis, this 13th day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred...
The Louisiana Purchase Exposition
(aka The St. Louis World’s Fair)
1904
Who were the sorrowing relatives at the death of Henry J. Weber? Two sons were Fred and Henry C. Weber; three daughters were Sophie, Minnie and Louise Weber; one daughter-in-law was my mother "Lillie" Weber (nee SECKEL); three grandchildren were my brothers and sister, Earl, Ethel and Elmer Weber. Later in 1917, the United States was drawn into the European war that we now call World War I and many men were called into the army. The youngest Weber daughter, Louise, married one of these soldiers, Edward Carl ROHNE (Roh'-nee), on August 22nd of 1917. He was the son of William and Sophie (nee Wolters) Rohne. The Rohne's are reported to be from Rahden, in Northwest Germany. Their marriage took place at the parsonage of St. Paul's Lutheran Church to which they belonged all their married life. [I have always wondered where the given name "Louise" came from, given the German propensity for naming children after their older relatives - perhaps it was Heinrich's mother's name of endearment - his obituary said that his mother's name was Louise.]
After her loss of her husband, Caroline Wilhelmine Weber lived in the Bulwer Avenue home with her two daughters, Sophie and "Minnie." Sophie cared for the home and her mother while "Minnie" worked outside the home to provide for their needs. She worked at Lowell Bank until the time of bank failures in the Great Depression of the 1930s when Lowell Bank also failed. The widow "Minnie" Weber was 70 years old when she went to church in January 1921 and, while walking on her way home, fell on a muddy slippery sidewalk. In that fall, she broke her hip. Modern technology of hip replacement was not known at that time and she was confined to her bed. She must have been in pain for many years before she died on 29 November, 1929 at the age of 79 years, 1 month, 15 days — of complications from diabetes. Of all of her nine children, only Louise and Henry presented her with grandchildren, seven in all, all of whom she lived to see. Unfortunately, she also lived to see the death of her first grandchild, Henry and Lillie's eldest son, Earl, who died on 12 May 1925 of Mitral Insufficiency (oral family stories call it "leakage of the heart" and I suspect it might have been a heart valve problem.)

Her obituary in the December 1929 issue (Volume 13, Number 12) of the St. Paul's Herald, issued monthly by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, John and West Florissant Aves., St. Louis, Missouri reads:

On Tuesday, December 3, we buried a dear old fellow-member and another of God's faithful children in the person of Mrs. Wilhelmine Weber, nee Eickriede. The deceased, together with her husband and family, came to the United States about forty years ago, settling in Iowa. They lived there a few years and then moved to St. Louis in order that they might have the advantages of a Christian Day School for the children, which fact shows the Christian spirit which actuated the deceased and her husband. Since the time she and her family came to St. Louis, they were members of St. Paul's Church. In January, 1921, Mrs. Weber attended church in order to hear Pastor Schulze's farewell sermon. On her way home, not far from the old church, she slipped on the muddy, slippery sidewalk, fell and suffered a broken hip. From that time to her death she was confined to her home. In those long years she became one of God's patient cross bearers in whose affliction the power of faith was exemplified in a remarkable degree. In all those years she was never heard to utter a murmur or complaint about her unhappy lot. On the contrary, she was fully resigned to God's will and found strength, comfort and consolation in God's Word to sustain her. Her burden was also made lighter by the good care she received at the hands of her children, in particular her daughter, Sophie, who was always at her side. The deceased fell asleep peacefully on November 29, at the age of 79 years, 1 month and 15 days. The funeral sermon was based on Matt. 16: 24. She is survived by two sons, Fred and Henry, three daughters, Sophie, Minnie, Mrs. Louise Rohne, six grandchildren and one sister (actually sister-in-law), Mrs. Wilhelmine Steinmann of California. The death of Mrs. Weber is, indeed, a great loss to her dear family and to her congregation and friends, but to her, true Christian that she was, it was a deliverance from this vale of tears and a blessed departure for that place where there are no sorrows, no pains and no tears, but only happiness and bliss everlasting.

While she did live through the Stock Market crash of 1929, she was spared all the sadness and gloom that prevailed in the country during the economic depression that followed when
millions of people lost their jobs, banks failed, people lost their savings, so many became homeless that they were living in shanty towns, often built of cardboard or sheet metal (euphemistically named “Hoovervilles” in sarcasm of the US President at the time) and people were reduced to begging for food and the necessities of life.
Chapter 3

OUR INTRODUCTION TO FROTHEIM
THE HOMEPAGE OF MY WEBER ANCESTORS

I mentioned that we went to the Archive at Detmold, one of the genealogical storehouses in the province of Westfalen and there we found many things, among them an old map of Frotheim which showed a lane called "Weberstrasse." My wife, Ruth, is an amateur artist so she made a sketch of the map. But, perhaps, the letter I wrote to all my relatives when we returned home might well be a better way to tell this story - it was written July 15, 1978 from our home at the time at 26 North Hills Drive, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101 and the text is as follows.

Ruth and I have just returned from our long awaited trip to Europe and we have a story to share with you that you may find hard to believe. We have been promising ourselves a trip to Europe for a great many years and this year we finally made it. I had promised myself that I would go back there ever since WWII (World War II) when I was there in the capacity of a soldier. We had three basic objectives for the trip:

1. Visit the place I was captured and the place where I was held prisoner during the war;
2. Take a tour of the major cities of Western Europe; and
3. Visit the place where my father, Henry, was born to see what I could learn about the Weber family.

We did indeed find the very spot where the action took place when I got captured by the Germans in the war and also the place where I spent most of the time when I was a prisoner. That is just our personal interest and I did not have any big emotions in seeing the places again. We will be happy to tell you any more about this phase of the trip when we see you.

The second part of the plan was accomplished by our taking a 15 day tour run by American Express. We met the tour in Paris and then traveled to Nice (French Riviera), Florence, Pisa (Leaning Tower), Rome (Vatican, Sistine Chapel), Venice, Innsbruck (where they held the Winter Olympics in 1976 ...), Luzern (a picture-card perfect city in Switzerland), through the Black Forest in Germany to Heidelberg (famous for the "Student Prince and the great university there), took a cruise on the Rhine River past medieval castles and steep vineyards and then on to Amsterdam (which is another city built with canals like Venice and famous as the diamond cutting capital of the world) and finishing up in London. We saw the famous sights in each place but we never stayed anywhere for more than two days so it was not physically possible to see or experience everything of interest in any particular place. We took a lot of pictures...

Introduction to the “Home Place” in Germany

While we enjoyed these phases of the trip very much and can regale you at great length about the quaint things about each place, like their money and their language, the most thoroughly enjoyable part of the trip was Part 3. As many of you know, I have been digging into the family history for a number of years. In the last year before the trip, I had gotten in touch with an Archive place in the general area where the Webers came from and had hired them to do some research into the family (Detmold.) In the spring of this year, they sent me photocopies of the baptismal record of my grandfather, Johann Heinrich Weber. This identified his parents. Then they dug still further and found the church records of the marriage of Johann's parents. This document then identified the parents of each of Johann's parents. So I had the names and some limited information about the Weber family, on my grandfather's side, back to my
great-great grandparents. Even more important was the fact that all the records were found in
one place -- at the Evangelische Gemeinde (Protestant Community or Congregation) of
Gehlenbeck. Well, we also found on these documents the address of each family when the
event being recorded took place. And they were all in Frotheim.

Geography and First impressions

This is all useless until you know where these places are. Well, we wrote to the tourist
agencies in nearby places (Minden-on-the-Weser is the nearest big town - it is a very old town
which today has a population of about 80,000 people and is in Northern West Germany [NOTE:
this was when Germany was divided after WWII] in a province [or state] of Nordrhein -
Westphalen) and they sent us a map of the area. Gehlenbeck is a small village which is now a
suburb of a small city called Lübbecke (about 20,000 people.) And Frotheim is a small village
about six kilometers (about 3 1/2 miles) from Gehlenbeck. (See map on next page) (Just in
passing, Lübbecke celebrated its 1200 year anniversary in 1975.) This whole region is an
agricultural area with rich, black, loamy soil. And lest you have visions of this being a poor area,
forget it. The people of West Germany are enjoying a great prosperity these days and this
region has to be the neatest, tidiest place we have ever seen anywhere. The typical house in
the region was the typical half - timbered stucco construction that we all associate with the
pictures we see of Germany. But it is hard to believe that those pictures are not showing the
exceptionally neat house -- maybe in the tourist area. But, not so; every house looked like it
had been repainted in the last two weeks and one had to look hard to find any building in
disrepair.

Flowers - A Treat for the Eyes

While it was actually early July when we were there, this area is so far north that it was
strawberry season when we were there and the roses were also in bloom. These people really
loved to beautify the spot where they live and every home had a garden of all sorts of flowers --
not just a few straggly flowers but a large and beautiful garden, with some flowers that we have
never seen before. Window boxes were favored throughout Germany and they usually
contained red geraniums. If you combine the quaint appearance of their lovely houses and the
abundance of flowers, the entire effect was really gorgeous. Ruth kept looking for weeds or for
some house that looked a bit shabby because she couldn't believe what she was seeing. And of
course, there were some -- but not enough to spoil the overall effect.

About two months before our trip, I wrote to this Archive place again and asked them to
do some searching for information on my grandmother's side of the family. Dad had always
described the place where he was born as "Minden-on-the-Weser, Kreis Lübbecke,
Regierungsbezirk, Westphalia." So, I thought he might have been born in the city of Minden and
set the people at the Archives off to search for records of my grandmother in Minden. (Minden is
about 25 kilometers [15 miles] from Frotheim.) About two weeks before we left, I suddenly
realized that I was going to have quite a language problem when I went to see the people at the
Archives to find out what they had learned about my grandmother and her family. After all I can
speak almost no German -- maybe a few words here and there but not enough to carry on a
conversation.

Wayne Culberson - a BIG Blessing

It turns out that Ruth has a cousin who lives in Germany not far from this place
where the Archive is located. His mother had visited us not too long ago and encouraged us to
go see Wayne when we got to Germany. He got a Doctor's degree in German here in the United
States and planned to teach college. But about then the former requirement for German in the
technical universities in America was dropped and he was not able to get a job. He worked for
Berlitz for a while where he met a German girl who he married. They now live in Germany and
he teaches English to German kids. Well, his mother wrote to him and told him about our plans.
And just a few days before we left, a letter from him arrived in which he offered to meet us and
help us translate.
What a gift from the Lord! I jumped at the chance and he met us at the Archive place the first day we were there.

We got there a little before he did and found that one woman there could speak English reasonably well—enough to get us in touch with a redhead lady who had been doing the research for me. Unfortunately, she couldn’t speak any more English than I could speak German. But we did learn that all her efforts to find any records of my Grandmother Weber (born Caroline Wilhelmine Eikriede) in Minden had been completely unsuccessful. NOTHING! We were really managing to get confused when Wayne arrived. You never saw such a relieved person as that lady when she could speak German to Wayne and he could translate for us.
Map of the area: Minden is on the Weser River in Westphalia. Osnabrück is in Niedersachsen. Mittellandkanal is an east-west canal that crosses the Weser River at Minden. Teutoburger Wald is a forest; Wiehengebirge is a line of low hills.
Research in the Detmold Archive

We decided to try looking in the same church records - in Gehlenbeck - where they had found some records for Grandfather Weber -- and we hit pay dirt. Sure enough, she was from Frotheim too. We found her baptismal record (they had duplicate copies of the church records on file here.) She was born October 14, 1850 (at 5 a.m.); her parents were Friedrich Wilhelm Eickriede and Anna Sophie Margrette (nee Doding) who lived at Frotheim 33. Her baptismal sponsors were Marie Margrethe Elisabeth Eickriede and Friedrich Wilhelm Bartmann. Her father was a farmer. Then we dug some more and found her parents' marriage record. They were married at Gehlenbeck on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1847. This gave us their parents names and addresses.

The groom's parents were Wilhelm Eickriede and Margarethe Marie Elisabeth (nee Rathmann) who lived at Frotheim No. 33. He was almost 19 years old (born December 30, 1828) and his father was a farmer. Anna's parents were farmers too. They lived at Frotheim No. 17. Her father was named Anton H. (the name on record is a Latin form of Heinrich) Doding -- actually, he was born with the family name of Jostmeier but assumed his wife's name of Doding when he married her. Her (the mother's) name was Margaret Elisabeth Doding. Grandmother Weber’s mother, Anna, was born of this marriage on March 19, 1823. This unusual arrangement of the man assuming the name of the bride was also true in the case of Caroline’s paternal grandparents – Friedrich Wilhelm’s parents; Wilhelm Eickriede was born with the family name of Rathman and came from Gehlenbeck; he assumed the Eickriede name when he married Margarethe Marie Elisabeth Eickriede. The notes I made are a bit confused here and show her as having the maiden name of Kütemann, which would imply that she was a widow. We’ll have to wait for the actual photocopies of the records to unscramble that one. These men, who were farmers, did this name change because the law at that time kept the land in a certain family.

But, Where in Frotheim?

About this time, we got to wondering whether we could figure out a way to find out where these addresses were in the current village of Frotheim. We had been there the night before just to get the lay of the land and found out that today the roads are identified with street names just as we are used to in our towns. In the olden days of about a century ago, there were fewer people there and each house just had a number. We thought it would be fun to see the exact spot where Grandpa was born and Grandma Weber too. So the people at the Archive searched and found the old land records and even some old (November 1829) maps of the village. And there was a plot of land at Frotheim No. 16 with the name Weber on it. The road leading to the farm was even named “Weberstrasse” at that time. [See next page] And we found another map that showed where No. 33, Grandma Weber’s birth place, was located. Ruth is quite talented with both the understanding of maps and in drawing things so she made a rough sketch of the old maps. I ordered a photocopy of the old map that shows the Weber farm and they are going to mail me the negative so that I can have it enlarged to whatever size I want. That will come in the mail in a month or so.

That was all we managed to find at the Archives because we had so much information at the time that we needed time to digest it and put it all together. So, after a long private visit with Ruth’s cousin Wayne, who had been such a great help to us, we parted company and headed back to Lübbecke where we were staying. We had a perfectly lovely dinner in a little German Inn on the way in a tiny town — where the waiter even spoke English.¹

After we got back to Lübbecke and caught our breath a little while, we decided to go to Frotheim and see what we could learn from our old maps. Could we figure out where these

¹ I had told the waiter “Ich kann kleine Deutsches sprechen, sehr kleine” (I can speak a little German, very little) and he responded “Well, perhaps you would like to order in English then.” We quickly agreed but we were indeed shocked.
A map of Frotheimer Fields as they were in 1829. The "Weberstraße" lane is in the upper left, close to the North Arrow, and Weber No. 16 is slightly to the right. That is where Herbert and Christa Peithmann live but their address is now "Auf der Horst 4." NOTE: Their farm fields are long and narrow!
spots were? We tried to find where Grandma Weber had been born, at No. 33, first because we recognized some of the roads on the map — or so we thought. After looking around and noting some of the present street names on the sketched maps that Ruth had made, we were puzzled in trying to find a particular road — the road to Rahden.

**The Adventure Begins**

We parked in the center of the village (nothing more than a crossroads with a grocery store and a bar about 50 meters away) to stop and think, and I walked around a bit. I came upon a lovely modern school building on a side street and walked back to the car where Ruth was waiting to drive her over to see it. (Just then a farmer was bringing his cows in from the field and he had just gone past the car and past me while I was at the school — he had a unique way of getting the cows in — he had them chained to a farm wagon and was the pulling the wagon with a modern tractor.)

As we arrived at the school, two women walked out of the school building and I decided to speak to them. I told them, in my limited German, that I was an American and spoke only a very small amount of German but that my father and grandfather had been born in Frotheim. ("Mein Vater und Grofivater was hier geboren.") One of the women instantly sent another boy, who was with them, to get her son Dirk who was studying English in school. While he was coming, I showed her the old maps ("Alte Carte", in German.) A much older lady was present but did not participate much; however, soon a man (a very short man) came out of the school and joined in the growing excitement.

**Identifying Ourselves**

I have been sitting in the car all this time, which turned out to be a good thing since I am so much taller than these people that I might well have intimidated them. The short man (Robert Mutterrer) spoke a few words of English and Dirk (13 years old) spoke a few more. Robert invited us inside the building because it was "kalte" (it was cold — in the low 50's and drizzling.) (Sometime during this conversation, I showed them my grandfather's "Reise Pass" - permit to travel, like a passport — that showed his name and said "aus Frotheim." They were quite impressed with that as it was an official document in German and named the man and their town.)

As Dirk pieced the story together for them, the excitement grew. Robert got me a beer and offered Ruth a Coke (with either rum or whiskey) and soon they called Dirk's grandfather (who was in his 80's.) Everybody talked excitedly about how the old maps matched up with the parts of the village that they know today. They quickly determined that this visitor from "Nord Amerika" was good for excitement and all plunged into trying to figure out where my "vater's " house had been. They told me that there were no more Webers in town, that Weberstrasse "ist nichts heir" (not here anymore) and that Frotheim no longer had a burgomeister (mayor.) (Note the tendency of the Germans to go to their leader.) Since the streets were renamed and the houses are now numbered as residences on a particular street, our old numbers no longer matched the house numbers. So the problem was how to locate the old property in this situation. ———Everybody's talking at once — in German and Dirk is straining his brain to translate and very frequently saying, in frustration, to the older folks "Ich weiss nicht" (I don't know!!)

Soon Robert has brought me another beer and told me, for about the third time, that he was "Haus Meister" at the school and has been for "zwei und Zwansich jahre" (22 years.) He was so proud of that when he told me. And he told me at least three times. (It was something I could understand in German.) Robert asked me what kind of work I do but when I told him, through Dirk, I don't think he understood at all. By now, Dirk's grandfather had joined the group. He was very dogmatic and was really quite stern with Robert. And he scolded me about three or four times for mispronouncing the maiden name of my grandmother. I had spelled it wrong (Eickreide) and was calling it IKE' RIDE dee; "Nein, Nein IKE-REE-duh," he would tell me.
(And he was right - it is spelled Eickriede.) He recognized some of the names of places on the maps and figured out where the farm right across the road from Frotheim No. 16 was and then Robert excitedly made a phone call to someone.

**Something is happening!**

After I figured out that something had happened, Robert told me that he had telephoned *"der lehrer"* (the teacher) who spoke English and that he was coming in his *"auto"* "zwei kilometers" (a bit over a mile.) The excitement continued as they worked on the location of the Eickriede's house for me. This is when the older man kept correcting me in my pronunciation — *in a very stern and commanding tone*. They never did figure out where Frotheim No. 33 (where Grandma Weber was born) was. (It is now an open field as the house burned between 1850 and 1860.)

**"Der Lehrer Kommt"**

Then the teacher arrived! They were all so excited that they would hardly let him come in through the door before they thrust all the documents that I had upon him. He handled this with them *rather summarily* and told me that we were related and that he now lived in the location of what had been Frotheim No. 16. The old house had been built in 1568 and had burned in 1909. He urged that we go quickly to his house where his wife was expecting us. And so we did, but not before getting the names of these people who had helped us so much. We gave them our address too (and we have already had a letter from Dirk, our 13 year old translator.....I guess they don't have too many North Americans dropping into their village like that.)

If you think this a fantastic story, so far, wait until you hear the rest as it gets even better.

(In the earlier information from the Archives, we had learned that my Grandfather Weber was the son of Gottfried Weber and Marie Elisabeth Küteman who were married in Gehlenbeck on March 6, 1841. While I had not known it before, I had heard from Walter Rohne, my cousin, that Gottfried died young and Marie remarried after his death — this information came just shortly before we left but it proved extremely valuable.)

When we got to the Teacher’s house, we learned a series of amazing coincidences about each other. He did speak pretty good English, without which we would have been lost. His name is Herbert Peithmann and his wife, Christa, also spoke English pretty well — although from time to time they would get flustered by some word. Herbert, it turns out, is also a genealogy buff and promptly brought out his family tree records. It turned out that he and I both have the same great — grandmother. Marie Elisabeth Küteman. I am descended from her first marriage to Gottfried Weber and he is descended from her second marriage to Courd Heinrich Siebe (who adopted the Weber family name when he married her.) So, as far as I can figure out, that makes him a third cousin - or maybe a 3 1/2 cousin — to me.* He is 50 years old and also had been in WWII (World War II.) He was taken into the German Luftwaffe (Air Force) at the age of 15, and at 16, he too became a prisoner of war. He was a prisoner of the Americans for just about the same length of time that I was a prisoner of the Germans. We both lost a lot of weight while prisoners and both weighed about 100 pounds when we were finally set free.

**Herbert and Christa Peithmann, our hosts in Frotheim**

Herbert is quite well educated and teaches mathematics and biology in 10th grade in a nearby city called Espelkamp. He sometimes serves as the substitute teacher in English, but aside from that he claims that he has not spoken English since 1949. His wife is also a well

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2 In German, when there is an “ie” combination, it is pronounced like an “e;” an “ei” combination is pronounced as “i.”
3 Walter Rohne is the son of Ed Rohne and Louise (nee Weber) and we had gone to elementary school together.
4 Actually, we are Second cousins as we are both Great Grandsons of our common ancestor.
educated woman and had worked with the British Army (who still has troops stationed in this part of Germany\(^5\)) as a telephone operator. What a break!! However, it was not long before we were both using our English-German, German-English dictionaries.

**“Die Gehlenbeck Kirche” - The Gehlenbeck Church**

The other big break was that Herbert was on his summer vacation at the time and spent the next two days showing us various places of interest to us in Frotheim. We went\(^6\) to see the pastor of the Gehlenbeck church and he let us look at his old original church records. Here we found that Gottfried Weber died August 7, 1848, at the age of 32 and left Marie with four minor children. They had been married for 7 years. Gottfried died of some "kranken" (sickness) of the breast, maybe something like either tuberculosis or pneumonia. Marie married Courd Heinrich Siebe on April 7, 1849 and he adopted the Weber name. We also found a record of the death of Casper Heinrich Döpke Weber, also of Frotheim No. 16. He died on March 20, 1841 at the age of 74 years, 1 month, 17 days from which we computed that he was born February 3, 1767. While we do not know this for sure, this may be Gottfried’s grandfather. (By now, we know that this is not true although there may be some sort of relationship between him and Gottfried’s grandmother.)

The Bake House - a wedding present

The interesting aspect of this is that Herbert has an old house on the back of his property, originally built as a "Bake - house" (it used to have a big oven in it) where, as Herbert said, They baked "Grossen Brot" (big loaves of bread.) On the lintel above the door to this half-timbered building is a carved inscription that it was built in 1785 and was a wedding present for Wilhelmine Döpke. (This IS Gottfried's grandmother who married Johann Rolf Weber on 21 June 1786 at Gehlenbeck.) Herbert has kept this building in excellent repair and uses it as a workshop today. While I am not sure of this, this information may take us back another generation in the Weber ancestry.

**Bake House - Built 1785**

The inscription across the beam where the roof starts says:

*Bote sein und arbeite fein, so wird er Segan des Herrn bei dir sein. Johann Rolf Weber + Anne Marie Döpke*

*NOTE: The “in” suffix on her surname denotes “feminine.”*

\(^5\) This was in 1978.

\(^6\) In Herbert’s car.
The Gehlenbeck Congregation grows!

At this church, we also found the record of the marriage of Cord Heinrich Siebe (born 18 December 1823) to Maria Elisabeth Weber (née Kütemann) on April 7, 1849. Cord's father was born with the name Meier and subsequently took the name Siebe. Cord afterwards called himself Weber. This congregation grew so large that it formed a daughter congregation in the village of Isenstedt, which is much closer to Frotheim, and from 1880 on, all records we found were there.

The Church at Isenstedt - after 1880

In the Evangelische Gemeinde Isenstedt, we found the baptismal records for my father, Henry, and three of his brothers. My father was baptized as Carl Heinrich Weber on April 17, 1887. At that time, the family address was shown as Frotheim No. 28 and Grandpa Weber's occupation shown as a "Heuerling" which I think means someone who works another man's land (we might use the word sharecropper.) {This word means "renter" or "tenant" according to Thode's "German - English Genealogical Dictionary," while Cassell's German Dictionary calls the meaning "hired man" or "day laborer."}

The Evangelische Kirche at Isenstedt
This is the daughter congregation of the Gehlenbeck Church established in 1880 serving Frotheim.
{Isenstedt is pronounced "E-zen-schet"}

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7 Doesn't that create some confusion? Men did that when the woman owned the land! Land ownership was critical! They were farmers!!
8 All his life he called himself Henry C. Weber just as his father called himself Heinrich J. even though he was Johann Heinrich.
My Dad's sponsors were August Eikriede and Anton Brammeyer (who is Herbert's uncle.) The other two brothers were Frederick Wilhelm Weber, born April 3, 1881 (and called "Will") and Karl Heinrich August Weber, born March 18, 1883 (and called "Ahu' - gust.") When these boys were born, they had a different address, Frotheim No. 149. A Friedrich Eickride was sponsor for both these boys and Karl's (that is, Ahu' - gust) second sponsor was named Peitmann (from Herbert's family.) Yet another son, Carl Heinrich Weber was born February 14, 1885 but he died (the next year as a baby) on April 9, 1886. Notice that my father bore his identical name but was born a year later. Friedrich Steinmann was one of the first Carl's sponsors.

The Baptismal Font at Isenstedt
The author(left) and Herbert Peithmann standing at the site of my father's baptism inside the church at Isenstedt.

One of the daughters of Marie Elisabeth Kütemann, from her second marriage to Cord, was Caroline Wilhelmine Weeber (that second "e" is in the records from time to time), born May 7, 1859. (When she grew up) She married Ernst Steinmann and they emigrated to North America too. They lived in St. Louis at one time. They had three children, one boy and two girls. Later they moved to the Los Angeles area because of the bad air (in St. Louis at the time.) Caroline lived until about 1954 or 55 when she died at the age of 94 or 95. Apparently her husband died before 1911 as Herbert said that she was the godmother of his sister then and her husband had died by then. Two other Steinmann brothers of Ernst also emigrated to America, named August and Cord. The people in Frotheim think August lived in the St. Louis Area but they never heard from Cord...this is a story told by a 95 year old man named Steinmann. These are the people that we used to refer to as Aunt (or "Tante") Steinmann. None of her children married and I am going to try to get their addresses through Herbert's sister, with whom we also visited while we were there. {I have failed to do this}
An Eikriede Family in Frotheim

We also visited a family who still lives in Frotheim by the name of Eikriede but I never got it clear from Herbert whether they were somehow related to my Grandmother or not. Both the man and the woman were in their 80s and, once claimed that my grandmother had visited them in their house --- but then they changed that story and it might have been Caroline Wilhelmina Steinmann, as we have heard from Marie (my cousin -- nee Rohne) and from Herbert that she returned to Germany. These people were most pleasant to us -- in fact their son, Willi, about got me drunk on the cognac he served us (When this cognac was first offered, Willi
"Chug-a-lugged" his shot glass full of this "white lightning", and I immediately decided I should not compete with him] — but they really didn't seem to remember much about their family.  

The Frotheim Cemetery  

Herbert also took us to see the cemetery at Frotheim which is so beautiful a spot that one could easily mistake it for a huge outdoor formal garden if it were not for the tombstones. Herbert showed his immediate family's plot and we have a nice picture of him and the neat graves and very modern headstones. His father's name was Wilhelm and his mother's name Wilhelmine (Real original and imaginative names, aren't they.) He had a brother Heinrich who was wounded six times during WWII and then died in 1951, the implication being that he died from the after effects of his wounds. While we were there, we also saw the plot where Gottfried and Marie (nee Kütemann) Weber (and also Courd, Marie's second husband) are buried. We have a photo of that too.

The Frotheim Cemetery Chapel  

The first church built in Frotheim was a small chapel at the cemetery. It is one of those half-timbered buildings and is still used occasionally, although they now have a much more modern building. Inside the chapel is a big wooden sign hanging on the wall that lists the people who contributed to the construction of the chapel and how much they gave. And on the top of the list was J. H. Weber, who would have been Gottfried's father. Herbert went to a lot of trouble to get the key to the chapel to let us see that sign. We have photos of all this too.

The Contributors to the Construction of the Cemetery Chapel - Frotheim  

Herbert Peithmann brought us here to see the name of J. H. Weber at the top of the list for having contributed 22 Tolar to the building. This sign hangs on the left wall of the chapel inside.

In a typical European fashion, they had their barn immediately adjacent to their home with only a corridor between. They also had their toilet in the barn, the non-flush variety, which Herbert jokingly called a "Plumpt Closet" in a play on words, the flush type is called a "Wasser Closet" (Water Closet) in Germany.
The Cemetery Chapel Door in Frotheim
The author (left) and Herbert Peithmann standing in front of the door to the chapel in the Frotheim cemetery - built in 1818.
Psalm 26, Verse 8 translation: Lord I have loved the habitation of Thine house and the place where Thine honor dwelleth

The Cemetery Chapel in Frotheim - Inside
Ruth Weber (left) and the author (taking notes) sitting on the crude benches inside the Frotheim Cemetery Chapel.
(Note the large sign on the wall above the author's head)
Our Pleasurable Visit with Herbert and Christa Peithmann

We really had a most enjoyable time with Herbert and Christa. They have two little boys named Dierck and Bernd (pronounced BURNT) about 6 and 4 years old. Their home is lovely, quite large and extremely solidly built. In fact they have a second floor apartment where Christa's mother lives and we never saw or heard her while we were there. We had our evening meal there two nights with them and talked of so many things I can't even remember them all. Herbert was having great sport with me trying to teach me some German -- what certain things are called, how the verbs are conjugated, present and past participles, how to speak to a woman in a public place, etc. He claimed he could teach me German in six months. When you are completely immersed in it, you do learn quickly -- because of necessity. Herbert is actually somewhat of a comic, too. I thought many times how well he and {my brother} Elmer would get along, they'd have a real good time once they got acquainted.

I haven't pieced together all of the generations between Marie Kütemann and Herbert Peithmann yet but I'm sure I will as time goes on.

The Peithmann home and family

Standing in the courtyard of their home, left to right, Herbert, Christa, the author and in the front row, Dierck and Berndt Peithmann.
July 1978

Our Trip Home

Our trip home was interesting. Remind me to tell you about my experiences driving on the autobahn and trying to find the airport in Hamburg {and Ruth's encounter with the machine pistol wielding customs agent who asked to see her passport and her camera - but she did not understand what he wanted. So she took his picture and he ducked for cover thinking she had some sort of weapon in the camera.} {We flew from Hamburg to New York.} We met Al(an) {our eldest son} in New York and visited with him for one day. He whisked Mom from the airport to the Metropolitan Museum as the closing hours of a two month American tour of Monet paintings (Ruth's favorite artist (at the time)) were upon them. They saw it all and were just leaving when the closing bell sounded.
I hope this finds you well and happy. I'll write more as we learn more through Herbert.

Love, Les

The parenthetical statements enclosed with brackets {} were not in the original letter.

One of Herbert's jests with me concerned the sturdy construction of all the buildings we saw; he said "Vee Chermans build tings to last ten hundert years and hope dey last a tausend!"

Since then, Herbert has sent me a lot of information and I have found a great deal in the Gehlenbeck Church Records as well as the Isenstedt church records that trace the family history back a few more generations. But that is the next chapter.

Ruth's Sketch of the Part of Frotheim where Webers lived.
The Eickriede Family in Frotheim
Left to right: Mrs. and Mr. Eickriede, son Willi Eickriede, Herbert Peithmann
at their farmhouse

The Peithmann Family Plot in the Frotheim Cemetery
Herbert Peithmann standing at the graves of his mother, father and brother.

NOTE: The appearance of the cemetery
The Altar Area of the Church at Isenstedt
Left to right, Ruth Weber, Lester Weber and the Pastor at Isenstedt
Baptismal font to the right is the site of my father's baptism.
CHAPTER 4
THE WEBER LINE IN THE FROTHEIM REGION

A Pedigree Chart is included in this chapter for my father, Henry Carl Weber, which traces his ancestors back into the late 17th century, which is the limit of our current knowledge. In this chapter, we will follow the WEBER line of his ancestors.

Gottfried and Marie Elisabeth's Family

While it was mentioned in the last chapter, the family into which Henry C. Weber's father, Johann Heinrich Weber, was born is shown as a Family Group Record with Gottfried (GOT' freed) Weber and Marie Elisabeth Kütemann (Koot' uh man) the parents. It shows all I presently know about Johann Heinrich's parents and siblings. Gottfried was a farmer whose home was then known as Frotheim 16, a home that was built in the 16th century. Gottfried lived in the early half of the 19th century so his home was ~250 years old. It is interesting to recall that Johann Heinrich's obituary spoke of his parents as "Friedrich" and "Louise;" one can see how Friedrich could have come from Gottfried but Louise? How did that get extracted from Marie Elisabeth? They did name their second daughter Marie Louise!! She was not named in honor of either of her grandmothers, unless there is a "nickname" involved. Was she named after her sponsors? That will have to await further research.

(Louise is an Anglicized version of a feminine given name of Luise. And, just as many of the boys were named after the kings of Prussia, since the "Empress" of Prussia at the time of Prussia's defeat by Napoleon was named Luise, so maybe some of the girls were called Luise. Also, Napoleon's second wife was Marie Louise, the daughter of the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.)

Gottfried - a soldier?

When Gottfried and Marie Elisabeth were married in 1841, he was 25 years old and she was 22. They were married at the Weber home, Frotheim 16, by Pastor Redeker, but the event is recorded in the Gehlenbeck Church Books. Westphalia, where they lived, was in the country of Prussia which had a standing army staffed either by volunteers or, if necessary, by conscription. Was Gottfried ever in the Prussian Army? The spacing of their children does not suggest that Gottfried was absent for any long period of time in the military.

Time of Upheaval

The quarter century just prior to the birth of Gottfried was a time of tremendous political, military and social upheaval. The French Revolution of 1789 had sent ripples throughout Europe that aroused nationalistic and liberal feelings among the peasantry - it was about time for them to have a voice in what their countries were about and not just abide by the will of the ruling class. Napoleon of France had conquered much of Europe, had humiliated Prussia, had held Austria at bay and seemed to be unstoppable until he made the tragic mistake of invading Russia, finding Moscow uninhabited and destroyed, and having to retreat while being harassed by Cossack guerillas and losing 500,000 of a 600,000 man army. He had been forced to abdicate as Emperor of France and was banished to the island of Elba. Although he escaped from there and attempted a return to power, it failed within 100 days when he was defeated at Waterloo in 1815; and when the allied nations captured him again, he was exiled to the barren island of St. Helena, off the west
PEDIGREE CHART FOR Henry Carl WEBER - WEBER,PAF

1 Henry Carl WEBER
  BIRTH: 6 Apr 1887
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  MARR: 16 Nov 1910
  St. Paul Luth.,St. Louis,MO
  DEATH: 25 Nov 1960
  St. Louis,MO

2 Johann Heinrich WEBER
  BIRTH: 15 Sep 1843
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  MARR: 9 Jun 1877
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  DEATH: 23 Jan 1917
  St. Louis,MO

3 Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE
  BIRTH: 14 Oct 1850
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  DEATH: 29 Nov 1929
  St. Louis,MO

4 Gottfried WEBER
  BIRTH: 18 Feb 1816
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  MARR: 6 Mar 1841
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  DEATH: 7 Aug 1846
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ

5 Marie Elisabeth KUETEMAN
  BIRTH: 4 Oct 1818
  Isenstedt,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  BURIAL:

6 Friedrich Wilhelm EICKRIEDE
  BIRTH: 30 Dec 1828
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  MARR: 24 Dec 1847
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  BURIAL:

7 Anna Sophie Margarethe Elisa DOEDING
  BIRTH: 19 Mar 1823
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  BURIAL:

8 Johann Heinrich WEBER
  BIRTH: 22 Apr 1817
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  MARR: 19 Jul 1807
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  DEATH: 21 Oct 1822
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia

9 Frederike Wilhelmine Dorot SCHUETTEN
  BIRTH: 30 Dec 1828
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  MARR: 24 Dec 1847
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  DEATH:

10 Albert Heinrich KUETEMANN
  BIRTH: 22 Nov 1828
  Isenstedt,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  MARR: 15 Sep 1811
  Isenstedt,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  DEATH:

11 Anna Marie Elisabeth BLASE
  BIRTH: 28 Jun 1832
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  DEATH:

12 Frederick Wilhelm RATHMAN
  BIRTH: 5 Sep 1803
  Gehlenbeck,Westphalia,Germany
  MARR: 24 Jun 1825
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,West,Germ
  DEATH: 28 Feb 1852

13 Anna Margarethe WILhelmine EICKRIEDE
  BIRTH: 27 Jul 1838
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ
  MARR: 15 Apr 1851
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ
  DEATH:

14 Anton Friedrich Heinrich JOSTMEIER
  BIRTH: 16 Dec 1839
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ
  MARR: 3 Mar 1812
  Gehlenbeck,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia
  DEATH: 28 Feb 1851
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ

15 Margaret Elisabeth DOEDING
  BIRTH: 26 Jul 1832
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ
  DEATH: 2 Feb 1850
  Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westph,Germ

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Relationship: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (^)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved

+ means the individual is a child in another family.
Johann Ernst WAEBER (WÄBER)
BIRTH: Mar 1706
Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
DEATH: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia

Johann Rolf WEBER
BIRTH: 1742
Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
MARR: 21 Jun 1786
Gehlenbeck, Westphalia
DEATH: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia

Johann Heinrich WEBER
BIRTH: 22 Apr 1787
Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
MARR: 19 Jul 1807
Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
DEATH: 21 Oct 1822
Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia

Frederike Wilhelmine Do SCHUETTEN
BIRTH: 2 Jan 1761
Rahden, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
DEATH: 31 Dec 1825
Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia

Anna Christin Wilhelmine DOEPKEN
BIRTH: 2 Jan 1761
Rahden, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
DEATH: 31 Dec 1825
Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

+ means the individual is a child in another family.
Relationship: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
coast of Africa, where he died of cancer on May 20, 1821. In 1814-1815, the countries of Europe met at the “Congress of Vienna” to restore the map of Europe. Westphalia (or in German, Westfalen, meaning "Western Plains"), which once belonged to The Duchy of Saxony and later the Archbishop of Cologne, was a kingdom established by Napoleon as a part of his "Confederation of the Rhine"; he put his brother, Jerome Bonaparte, on the throne there. In 1815, Westphalia was returned to Prussia so when Gottfried made his appearance in the world the next year, he was a subject of Friedrich Wilhelm III, king of Prussia. The nearby city of Minden, which had become a part of Prussia after the Thirty Years War in 1648, became a part of the Kingdom of Westphalia in 1807 during Napoleon's conquest but reverted back to Prussia in 1814. (In 1983, Minden had a population of 76,631.)

Napoleon Lights a Fire among Germans

Unwittingly, Napoleon had contributed to the nationalistic feelings of the German people for a united Germany. This nationalistic idea was fiercely opposed by the ruling elite - princes, barons, dukes and the like who, before Napoleon's time, had Germany chopped up into literally hundreds of small German states and thousands of independent estates and baronies, each ruled by a person/family who were very reluctant to see their power leak away into a larger "Germany." After 1815, neither the "Holy Roman Empire" nor most of the hundreds of principalities composing it were restored. The "diet" of The German Confederation, a standing conference of permanent emissaries with diplomatic status, now consisted of only 4 free cities and 35 rulers. See the map of The German Confederation after 1815 at the end of this chapter.

The Ruling Families of Europe

There have been several ruling families in continental Europe who have maintained control over their countries and constantly sought to expand their domains. France had been ruled by The Bourbons before the revolution of 1789; Austria by The Hapsburgs; Russia by The Romanoffs and Prussia by The Hohenzollerns. But many, many minor rulers also asserted their authority in their own lands, no matter how small they might be. England had a ruling family too and, because the "elector" of Hanover became King George I of England in 1714, England and Hanover had a personal union that lasted until 1837. Hanover got the Lingen County part of Jerome Bonaparte's kingdom of Westphalia after 1815 (see footnote 2) and its geographic position divided eastern Prussia from its western provinces of the remainder of Westphalia and the Rhineland.

Nationalism & Liberalism

There seemed to be an emergence throughout the German speaking lands of a sense of collective national identity undermining the particularistic loyalties to individual regional dynasties. In those days, this sense of nationalism and a desire for freedom and something akin to democracy was considered liberalism. This was noticeable in both the press and the universities and maybe never even penetrated to Gottfried's home in Frotheim (but that is speculation!) And these liberals were not a patient group who would let a slow process of change develop but, looking at Britain as a model (without realizing the slow agonizing history of the development of parliamentary democracy while having a reigning monarch that had taken place among the British), they were anxious to move quickly. All of this was developing during Gottfried's life and it wasn't until the year he died, 1848, that the princes agreed to a popular election of a German National Assembly in Frankfurt and the dissolution of the "diet" of the German Confederation.
"The Revolution of 1848"

This "revolution" of 1848, while having considerable involvement of the working class, was sustained by the "middle class" who, at that time, were relatively weak. The Industrial Revolution was barely getting under way in Germany and the economy remained primarily agricultural. Even the largest cities were little more than overgrown towns by today's standards. At the beginning of the 19th century, for example, there were only two German cities that had a population of more than 100,000: Berlin and Hamburg. The middle class did not have enough strength, numerically, economically or politically to impose their will on the princes. Their dream was to unite their countrymen in one great fatherland --- but that ran into the political realities of the day. Austria, a German speaking nation, was one of the most powerful states in continental Europe and was ruled by the Hapsburgs, whose subjects also included a great many non-German peoples. The new Frankfurt assembly, sadly, voted to exclude Austria from the new Germany and to offer an hereditary crown to the king of Prussia, having no practical alternative. King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, of Prussia, refused to accept the crown as a "diadem molded out of the dirt and dregs of revolution, disloyalty and treason." Kings were considered to have their title, position and power "by the grace of God." And there went the "revolution." Liberalism and Nationalism, intimately tied together in the German mind, as ideals were at an end. Nationalism raised its head again stronger than ever but, up until the end of the second World War in the 20th century, liberalism never fully recovered.

Did the "Revolution of 1848" penetrate to Frotheim?

Johann Heinrich Weber, my grandfather, was a child of 5 years old when these events were developing and, without the benefit of modern day communication methods, he probably knew little or nothing about them. And Gottfried had a farm to tend and four small children, all 6 years old or younger; and then suddenly, on 7 August 1848, at about 4 a.m., he died at the age of 32 years, 5 months and 20 days: cause reported to be "Breast Kranken" (an undefined sickness of the breast/chest area.) He was buried on the family place at Frotheim 16 on 11 August 1848.

The Widow with 4 Children and a farm
Solution - Remarriage

This left Marie Elisabeth Weber (nee Kutemann) in a tough spot with four little children and a farm. As mentioned earlier, she married again, to Courd Heinrich Siebe eight months later, and it is from that marriage that Herbert Peithmann, my host in Frotheim in 1978, is descended. Marie is our common ancestor. She is our great grandmother and we are second cousins. Courd adopted the name Weber and three of his children have that surname too but his son is called Siebe.

Gottfried's Parents

It was Gottfried's father and mother who lived through that dreadful period of the rise of Napoleon in France and his subsequent conquest of much of Europe. Gottfried's father was Johann Heinrich Weber (1787-1822) and his mother was Frederike Wilhelmine Dorothea Schuetten (1779-1849). Our research has not identified her parents as yet but the surname "Schuetten" is probably really "Schütte" where the "n" at the end is a feminine ending and the "ue" is an Anglicized form of the German "ü." They were married on July 19, 1807 when he was 20 years old and she was 17.
Johann Heinrich Weber (1786 - 1822)

Johann Heinrich was the son of Johann Rolf Weber; his mother was Anna Christin Wilhelmine Döpken of Rahden (a nearby town, northwest of Frotheim). He was their oldest son born 10 months after they were married on June 21, 1786, as recorded in the Gehlenbeck records.

The year that Johann Heinrich took his new bride was the beginning of the Napoleonic era - the year that Westphalia became a kingdom under Napoleon; I have not learned any stories local to this area that date from that time. One thing that did happen under Napoleon's reign was the establishment of civil records for the first time.

Johann Heinrich and his wife were a farm family. In Westphalia, the climate is mild with occasionally heavy rainfall during the winter. The crops grown are buckwheat, potatoes, sugar beets, peas, beans, flax, rye, wheat, barley, oats and fodder grain. Extensive meadowlands and pastures favor horse breeding and cattle raising in Westphalia.

Johann's Contribution to the Cemetery Chapel in Frotheim

In 1818, a chapel was built in the cemetery at Frotheim and several photos are included of that chapel in Chapter 3 as Herbert Peithmann made it a point, during our 1978 visit, to take us to see it and even get inside of it — it is locked up much of the time unless some event is scheduled to occur there. It is a half-timbered structure with a very plain interior. Above the door is a somewhat crudely carved and painted sign (see photo) quoting Psalm 26 verse 8 "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honor dwelleth" in German or probably in Plattdeutsch, the dialect of this northern part of Germany. And, inside on the wall is a great big sign that identifies those persons who contributed to the construction of the chapel, even detailing how much they contributed. And there at the head of the list is J. H. Weber, Frotheim 16, who contributed 22 Tollars (T is NOT a typing error - a "Tollar" was a Gold Mark and, in 1978, Herbert estimated that it would be worth about 300 Deutch Marks today.) Johann Heinrich was just ~30 years old when the chapel was built and he must have been very much in favor of it. Notice that the next largest contributor gave much less than he did. [Such a listing of contributors and the amount they contributed was still in vogue when I was a boy when the annual contributions to the church was published in much the same way, except on paper; it has since been dropped as today it is considered much too personal for public display.] The seating in the chapel is quite simple, consisting of wooden benches with only one board as a backrest. (See photo in Chapter 3.) A sign on the balcony tells that the chapel was built in 1818 ("Erbaut im Jahre 1818.") Other names, recognizable to me, on the list of contributors include Doeding, another (Leibzü) Weber, Eikriede, Bartmann, F. W. Schütte, Steinmann, Brammeier and Kütemann (but no Krato.)

Johann Heinrich Weber's Widow

Johann did not have long to enjoy having the chapel in the village as he died just four years later, in October 1822, at age 35. His widow, Fredericka Wilhelmina Weber, remarried on May 31, 1823; the groom's name was Johann Friedrich Lomner who adopted the surname Weber. She lived with him almost 26 years until her death from consumption (today this disease is called tuberculosis) in January 1849 at the age of 69 years. He survived her as did two of her grown children. Her son Gottfried had died just the previous August after presenting her with four grandchildren.
The Cemetery Chapel - Frotheim
Lester G. Weber and Herbert Peithmann, left to right
Inscription from Psalm 26, Verse 8
Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house
and the place where Thine honor dwelleth.

Inside the Cemetery Chapel - Frotheim
Large Sign on Inside Wall of Frotheim's Cemetery Chapel
Contributors to the Construction of the Chapel
NOTE: At top of list of contributors is
J. H. Weeber of No. 16: 22 Tollars

Other Surnames of Ancestral Families are also found here.
Doeding; Eikriede; Schütte; Küttemann; Jostmeier; another Weeber
Johann Rolf Weber

Johann Rolf Weber, the father of Johann Heinrich, had been born in Frotheim in 1742, son of Johann Ernst Wäber (wife’s name is not known,) and he is the one who married Anna Christin Wilhelmine Döpken, nearly 20 years his junior (she was born in 1761 in nearby Rahden) and built the “Bakehouse” for her as a wedding present for her at their marriage in June 21st, 1786. ¹ This is the very same Bakehouse that still stands on the old family home behind Herbert Peithmann’s house. Here they baked “Grossen Brot” says Herbert. (I think that means BIG loaves of bread.) See photo of Herbert and his son Dierck at the Bakehouse.

European Events During His Life

He was a farmer and lived during the period of the American Revolution as well as the French Revolution which did so much to inspire the peasants to seek a role in government rather than merely submit to the will of whoever their temporal ruler was. It took longer for this sense of a desire for a role in government to simmer in Germany and it did not erupt until 1848. During the period of 1740 to 1786, Prussia grew to a great power. Frederick (the Great), Prussia’s ruler (house of Hohenzollern) invaded, without provocation, the Hapsburg province of Silesia in 1740. The house of Hapsburg were the dynastic rulers of Austria. The Seven Years War, the third Silesian war, between Austria and Prussia began in the year 1750 with France supporting Prussia, the war fought in America as the French and Indian War.

The Family of Johann Rolf and Anna Christin Wilhelmine Weber

Johann Rolf and Anna Christin Wilhelmine Döpken (her family name was probably Döpke as the “en” designates the feminine gender of the person) had three children. I have already mentioned their first born, who was Johann Heinrich Weber, born April 22, 1787. Their second child was a daughter Sophie Dorothea Weber, born August 20, 1797 and their third child, also a daughter, Marie Luise Weber, was born almost exactly three years later on August 17, 1800. It was at her christening on August 24, 1800 at the Gehlenbeck church that her father, Rolf, fell and died “von Boden” (according to Herbert), thought to be a fall to the ground down some steps or off a porch or platform of some sort. He was 58 years old.

The Widow Weber

After the death of her husband, Anna Christin Wilhelmine (her name of common use is not known) was left with land to farm and three children to raise, although by now, Johann Heinrich had grown to 13 years old and could probably be of some help to her. But she married again in less than a year (on May 6, 1801) to Caspar Heinrich (Cord) Schütte of Frotheim 46. He had been born in 1767 so was 33 years old when he married this 40 year old landed widow. So, as was the custom and was legal at that time, he assumed the surname “Weber,” the name in which the land was held. They lived together for over 24 years until Anna Christin Wilhelmine died on the last day of December 1825, sadly, long enough to see the demise of her first born son, Johann Heinrich, on 21 October 1822. She lived 64 years, 11 months and 29 days and was buried January 3, 1826. When her second husband, “Cord” Schütte, died, he left behind an adult son, name unknown.

¹ Source of both marriage and burial: LDS (Mormon) Genealogical Library Microfilm 473,478, Gehlenbeck Church Records.
The BakeHouse behind Herbert Peithmann's House
Herbert's son, Dierck, in the small door above the Inscription
while Herbert is standing to the right.

The inscription reads:
Bote sein und arbeite fein, so wird er Segan des Herrn bei dir sein
Johann Rolf Weber + Anne Marie Döpkens 1785

Translation: Be a messenger and work well, thus the blessings of the Lord will be with you.
Johann Rolf Weber and Anne Marie Döpkens 1785

(In German, it rhymes)
When we visited the Frotheim cemetery in 1978, we did not see their graves. Land is so scarce in Germany that they have a practice of only using a grave for 30 years and then disinterring the bodies for the ability to use the graves for more current burials. The youngest daughter of Johann Rolf Weber lived only 18 years until 1818, when her older brother was still alive. She did carry that given name of “Luise” that I wondered about in my father’s generation.

The Name Change

Johann Rolf’s father’s name was spelled Waeber (possibly Wäber) but we should not get too concerned about this as rigorous spelling is a 19th & 20th century phenomenon; in earlier days, it was quite common for people to spell their names phonetically (the way it sounds). This is a basic reason for finding so many changes in the names of German pioneers in the written records. They were telling their names to English speaking clerks who could barely understand them so wrote down whatever it sounded like. At any rate, his father was named Johann Ernst when he was born in 1706. We do not presently know his mother’s name as the Gehlenbeck records are almost illegible at this age. We did find the death record of Anna Catharina Weber who died April 19, 1774 at age 75, shown as living at Frotheim 16, but we have not found a marriage record for Johann Ernst and Anna Catharina (yet.) When Johann Ernst died on August 5, 1775 at the age of 69, the pastor of the church at Gehlenbeck recorded his name as “Weebers.”

We did learn from Herbert, through the school records, that Johann Ernst’s father was named Waeber (Wäber). No documented data has been found for his birth/christening (or death) but I have made the assumption that his birth was sometime about 1680 based on Johann Ernst’s date of birth. The earliest microfilm records of the Evangelische Church at Gehlenbeck is a Register of Names beginning in 1770.

The Immigrant’s Ship - S.S. Main

S.S. MAIN, 1868 North German Lloyd

Courtesy The Peabody Museum of Salem

2 Microfilming of these records was done by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, usually called the Mormons, for their Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City and available through their local Family History Centers.
Genealogy of Caroline Wilhelmina (Eickriede) Weber - written by Herbert Peithman.
HUSBAND Lester George WEBER

BIRTH: 23 Jul 1924 PLACE: St. Louis, (No county), MO
CHR.: 10 Aug 1924 PLACE: St. Paul Ev. Luth, St. Louis, MO
MAR.: 11 Jun 1949 PLACE: Bethlehem Luth Ch, Ft. Wayne, IN
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
FATHER: Henry Carl WEBER MOTHER: Therese Katherine Elise SECKEL
OTHER WIVES: PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)

WIFE Ruth Eileen DUELL

BIRTH: 21 Jan 1924 PLACE: Ft. Wayne, Allen County, IN
CHR.: PLACE: DEATH: PLACE:
BURIAL: PLACE:
FATHER: William Carlisle DUELL MOTHER: Lenore Dora SARBER
OTHER HUSBANDS: PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Anne Kathleen WEBER [Dr] PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)
-- BIRTH: 14 Nov 1950 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
CH.: 24 May 1975 PLACE: St. Paul Luther Ch, St. Louis, MO
MAR.: 24 May 1975 PLACE: Rochester, MN
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Edward Andrew TOWEY

2. NAME: Kay Lorraine WEBER PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)
-- BIRTH: 10 Aug 1952 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
CH.: 29 May 1976 PLACE: Our Master Luther Ch, St. Louis County, MO
MAR.: 29 May 1976 PLACE: Detroit, MI
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Karl WIZINSKY

3. NAME: Alan Paul WEBER PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)
-- BIRTH: 9 Aug 1954 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
CH.: 11 Oct 1980 PLACE: Ebenezer Luther Ch, St. Louis, MO
MAR.: 11 Oct 1980 PLACE: New York City, NY
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Sabine RINKER

4. NAME: Donald Martin WEBER PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)
-- BIRTH: 5 Mar 1958 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
CH.: 2 Sep 1989 PLACE: Immanuel Luther Ch, St. Louis County, MO
MAR.: 2 Sep 1989 PLACE: Rochester, Oakland County, MI
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Chele Ann NATONSKI

5. NAME: Sue Ellen WEBER PARENT LINK TYPE: (B)
-- BIRTH: 21 Dec 1960 PLACE: St. Louis County, MO
CH.: 30 Apr 1989 PLACE: St. Mary's Hosp, Clayton, MO
MAR.: 30 Apr 1989 PLACE: La Jolla, CA
DEATH: PLACE: BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Robert Steven ALPERT

HUSBAND Lester George WEBER
NOTES:
Sources: Baptism = 1; Confirmation = 1 (16 Apr 1938). See also Lesbio files.
for Lester's biography. Marriage: June 11, 1949 to Ruth Eileen Duell of Fort Wayne, Indiana at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN. Wedding reception at bride's parents home.
Born in St. Louis MO and elementary school (St. Paul Lutheran) and high school (Beaumont High School) plus.

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved

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first year of college (Harris [Teacher's] Junior College) there.

Drafted into US Army 1943; basic training at North Camp Hood, Texas (near Waco); Army Specialized Training Program at University of Florida for one semester; ASTP program terminated for early participants and got transferred to 94th Infantry Division, 30th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the Anti-tank Company, Ninth platoon. Training in Missouri until winter 1944 when assignment of 94th to the European Theater of Operations occurred. Traveled across North Atlantic ocean on the liner Queen Elizabeth without any escort - no problems along the way. Landed in Glasgow, Scotland and travelled by train to Trowbridge, England where we were re-outfitted with Garand (M-1) rifles and received to head for France. We traveled there on an old Indian freighter and landed on Utah beach on D-day + 4. (Utah beach was one of the beaches the American Army landed on when they invaded Europe on June 6, 1944, called "D-Day," a code word to obscure the planned date of the action. We landed 94 days later.)

We encountered no resistance since the fighting had long since moved inland. The 94th was assigned to "contain the garrison at Satory and St. Nazaire" with Les' unit assigned to Lorient. The Germans on the Brittany peninsula had been cut off by the advance of Patton's 3rd Army and were backed up into these ports which they used as submarine ports. Stayed at Lorient until Christmas and then were ordered to the Western Front where we replaced the 4th Armored Division so they could help relieve the beleaguered garrison at Bastogne after the German offensive called the "Battle Of the Bulge." (They made a huge bulge in the Allied lines trying to capture Antwerp.) It was fairly quiet in our sector until we were ordered to take Orscholz... an event described elsewhere which ended up in les' getting captured and becoming a Prisoner of War. Main place of imprisonment was Stalag XI at Fallingbostel (Niedersachsen, Luneburger Heide). POW for 85 days and liberated by British 2nd Army in April 1945. Repatriated to England where we had some free time in an Army hospital for recuperation. He got to go to London on "VE-Day" (Victory in Europe Day plus one) and there got to see the King and Queen of England and their family at Buckingham Palace and also Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, in an open top car driving through the streets.

Attended Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana and graduated from there with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering February 1949. For a short time, worked for a small company called "Specificide, Inc." in Indianapolis but was not happy there and found new employment with Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis, MO. Employment involved development of processes involved with the refining of uranium from ores and concentrates; helped build a new plant in Wellington, MO in 1957-80. While there received Master of Science Degree from Washington University, St. Louis, MO in 1961 for employment with E. Dupont de Nemours and Co., Inc. in Buffalo, NY. Subsequent transfers took him and his family to Lancaster, OH, Clinton, WI, Wilmington, DE and Parkersburg, WV where he worked until retiring Dec, 31, 1989. In 1991, we moved to Columbus, OH where we volunteer work; Les in German genealogy for members of Palatines to America, Ruth in watercolor painting, ladies club at our church and both of us in a ministry of worship services once/week to local nursing homes.

WIFE - Ruth Eileen DUELL

NOTES:
- Met each other in Oct 1948 at church at Purdue University at a Gamma Delta outing; Les was in charge; Ruth visited as a guest with a friend. Case of love at first sight!
- Ruth's family tree extends to prior to the Revolutionary War in the USA and is recorded separately as it is so extensive.

CHILD 1 Anne Kathleen WEBER

NOTES:
- Anne was always an excellent student in school. She attended Immanuel Lutheran School, a two room elementary school in St. Louis County, Lancaster High School in Lancaster, OH, Lancaster Community College, Ohio Univ., Valparaiso University where she graduated with BS degree in Nutrition.
- She was admitted to medical school at the University of Iowa while we lived in Clinton, IA and then married to Edward O'Gey, Jr., an attorney in St. Paul, MN. She was able to transfer to the University of Minnesota Medical School where she received her degree. She then continued on to specialize in Ophthalmology at U of Minn. and upon completion of her residency, she has practiced at the Park Nicollet Clinic in St. Louis Park, MN and now Minn. Anne and Ed have three children, Bright, Edward Jr. (called Ted) and Patricia (called Tricia.) They live in Deephaven, a suburb of Minneapolis, MN.

CHILD 2 Kay Lorraine WEBER

NOTES:
- Kay was an excellent student. She attended elementary school at Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Louis County until we moved to Buffalo in 1963 when she continued at Martin Luther School. In 1965, the family moved to Lancaster, OH and she continued her education at Thomas Ewing Junior High and Lancaster High School. After her junior year, the family moved to Clinton, IA and she completed her high school education at Clinton High. She won a National Merit Scholarship and went to Valparaiso University for her freshman year in college. Her sophomore year was spent in Clinton at Mount Saint Clare, a two year college. She graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI with a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy.
- She married Karl Wizinsky in Detroit and had one child, Matthew (b. 12 Aug 1978.) Their marriage ended in divorce in 1983 and she continued with Karl, Claire Lorraine Weber (b. Oct 1980) and is a working mother who manages a small company, Therapeutic Support Alternatives, Inc. dealing in therapy for head injuries in the Detroit area. She had her maiden name restored so she (as of December 1997) is Kay Weber. She is an Occupational Therapist in a nursing home in Detroit. She lives in a suburb of Detroit called Novi.

CHILD 3 Alan Paul WEBER

NOTES:
- Christening Source: Churchbooks, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Church St., Baden, St. Louis, MO. Later in life, he was re-baptized by浸信会在 St. Louis and assigned to a ministry of worship services once/week to local nursing homes.
- He graduated from Iowa State University in Communicative Arts with the intent of making a career in film making. He worked in New York City after graduation. He married a German girl, Sabine Rinker and they have three sons, Joshua, Johannes and Josef. He got a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio State University and got a job with Shell Oil Co. in California in computer programming for their marketing division. Later he was transferred to Houston, TX where he lives now.
CHILD 4 Donald Martin WEBER

NOTES:
"Don" studied Mechanical Engineering at Ohio State University, Columbus, OH and stayed on for a 5th year, at the suggestion of one of his professors, to study CAD-CAM, (Computer Assisted Design - Computer Assisted Manufacturing.) He has made a career of this subject, with employers of, first McDonnell-Douglas and then EDS (Electronic Data Systems.) He lived in Huntington Beach, California when he worked for McDonnell-Douglas and moved, first to the Detroit area with EDS and then later to the Chicago area (Darien), where he lives now (May 1999.) Last year, he left EDS to join a totally different kind of work (but still in the Computer Field) with a small company, Geodesic Systems, where he has recently been appointed Manager of Quality Assurance.
Don loves to ski; he learned how to do the elementary stuff in Clinton when we lived there and has become more proficient as he got older and stronger. Don and Chele have two children, Kyle and Ellen.
In May 1999, he and Chele are jointly seeking to divorce.

CHILD 5 Sue Ellen WEBER

NOTES:
Sue Ellen (nee Weber) Alpert is the youngest child of Ruth and Lester Weber; she is a talented beautiful blond who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Ohio State University and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego. (1993) She is a Product Manager with the NCR Company, (which for a time was a part of American Telephone and Telegraph.) (Source: personal knowledge of her father.) But, in 1997, NCR "downsized" their workforce for about the third or fourth time, and Sue (working on a part-time basis at the time) was caught in it.
She married Robert Alpert, a chemical engineer, who also has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego. They have two children, Tara and Brian.
FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR HENRY CARL WEBER/THERESE KATHERINE ELISE SECKEL - WEBER.PAF

HUSBAND Henry Carl WEBER

BIRTH: 6 Apr 1887 PLACE: Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia,Germany
CHR.: 17 Apr 1887 PLACE: Isenstedt Ev.Kir,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia,Germany
MAR.: 16 Nov 1910 PLACE: St. Paul Luth,St. Louis,MO
DEATH: 25 Nov 1960 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
BURIAL: 28 Nov 1960 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem,St. Louis County,MO
FATHER: Johann Heinrich WEBER
OTHER WIVES:
DEATH: Frotheim,Kreis Lubbecke,Westphalia,Germany
PLACE: St. Louis,(No county),MO
PLACE: Bethlehem LuthCh.St, Louis,MO
PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
PLACE: New BethlehemCem.Bellefontaine Ne.St, Louis County,MO
MOTHER: Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE

WIFE Therese Katherine Elise SECKEL

BIRTH: 9 Dec 1889 PLACE: St. Louis,(No county),MO
CHR.: 9 Feb 1890 PLACE: Bethlehem LuthCh,St, Louis,MO
DEATH: 28 Sep 1950 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
FATHER: Christian SECKEL
OTHER HUSBANDS:
DEATH: PLACE: St, Louis,,MO
PLACE: Bethlehem LuthCh.St, Louis,MO
PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
PLACE: New BethlehemCem.Bellefontaine Ne.St, Louis County,MO
MOTHER: Elise Catharina Maria BIERMANN

CHILDREN

1. NAME: Earl Heinrich Christian WEBER
--- BIRTH: 26 Aug 1911 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
M CHR.: 17 Sep 1911 PLACE: St. Paul EvLuth,St. Louis,MO
MAR.: PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
DEATH: 12 May 1925 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
BURIAL: 15 May 1925 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem,St. Louis County,MO
SPouse: 

2. NAME: Ethel Wilhelmina WEBER
--- BIRTH: 5 Mar 1913 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
F CHR.: 31 Mar 1913 PLACE: St. Paul EvLuth,St. Louis,MO
MAR.: 1942 PLACE: North Carolina
DEATH: 6 May 1974 PLACE: Jennings,St. Louis County,MO
BURIAL: 9 May 1974 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem,St. Louis County,MO
SPouse: Leonard J MILLER

3. NAME: Elmer William Frederick WEBER
--- BIRTH: 19 Jan 1915 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
M CHR.: 14 Feb 1915 PLACE: St. Paul EvLuth,St. Louis,MO
MAR.: 18 Dec 1941 PLACE: Durant,,Oklahoma
DEATH: 22 Sep 1989 PLACE: Jennings,St. Louis County,MO
BURIAL: 25 Sep 1989 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem,St. Louis County,MO
SPouse: Flora HOVER

4. NAME: Lester George WEBER
--- BIRTH: 23 Jul 1924 PLACE: St. Louis,(No county),MO
M CHR.: 10 Aug 1924 PLACE: St. Paul EvLuth,St. Louis,MO
MAR.: 11 Jun 1949 PLACE: Bethlehem LuthCh,Ft, Wayne,IN
DEATH: PLACE:
BURIAL: PLACE:
SPouse: Ruth Eileen DUELL

5. NAME: Charles Edward WEBER
--- BIRTH: 27 Nov 1925 PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
M CHR.: 20 Dec 1925 PLACE: St. Paul EvLuth,St. Louis,MO
MAR.: PLACE: St. Louis,,MO
DEATH: 22 Oct 1951 PLACE: Bethesda LuthHom,Watertown,WI
BURIAL: 25 Oct 1951 PLACE: Watertown,WI
SPouse:

HUSBAND Henry Carl WEBER

NOTES:
Sources: Baptism = 6 [Isenstedt Evangelische Kirche (in 1978 a part of Espelkamp) recorded as baptism No. 38 in 1887; Marriage=; Death=;Immigration = 25.
Immigrated to USA with his parents at age of 16 months on "SS Maine" arriving in Baltimore, Maryland August 22, 1888.

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
Frotheim is a farm village that has been absorbed into Espekamp (1978); the parish church at the time of his birth and since 1850 was in Isenstedt; before that time the parish church was at Gehlenbeck.

On the passenger list of the "SS Main," he was called Caroline, which was the given name of his mother; his given name was Carl Henry, but during his lifetime, he always reversed it to "Henry C." His family initially settled somewhere in Iowa but moved to St. Louis, MO by 1891. He attended Elementary school at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church school; took a "Commercial Course" at Walther College in St. Louis for 2 1/2 years (Source=52) graduating in January 1903. He worked for Meyer Brothers Drug Co. from 7 Oct 1903 until 15 September 1909 when he was disabled by illness (Source=55); married Therese Katherine Elise ("Lillie") Seckel 16 Nov 1910. Lifetime employment at Wabash Railroad Company in St. Louis in the Auditor of Freight Revenues Department from 12 Aug 1910 until 4 October 1957. He retired from this job at the age of 70 1/2 years.

After "Lillie" died in 1950, he married again (between 6 and 9 months later) to Lena Brown with whom he lived until his death.

His baptismal record (LDS Film 473,469) has his name as "Carl Heinrich Weber" April 17,1887. At that time, the family lived at Frotheim No, 28 and his father's occupation was shown as "Heuerling" (hired man; day laborer.) His baptismal sponsors were August Eickriede and Anton Brammeyer (who is Herbert Peithmann's uncle.) On this same record, under the column labeled "Ob is ehelich oder unehelich?" (Are they married or unmarried?) the date of 14 Feb 1885 is shown; this was the birthday of his older brother of exactly the same name, a child who died as a young boy. His parents named him exactly the same name. Also, of interest, is the time of day that he was born = 2:30 am.

Buried: (Source 10) Grave 9, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, MO.

During World War I, there was much anti-German sentiment and he carried a copy of his father's naturalization papers with him all the time.(Source=56)

WIFE Therese Katherine Elise SECKEL

NOTES:
She lived with the nickname of "Lillie" or "Lil" her whole life; this is a diminutive for Elise (Eilisabeth). Her mother died when she was three years old, leaving her father with 3 small children. Father re-married 4 years later. She had only a 5th grade education, having to quit school to help at home. She had 5 children: she was well liked and over 300 people attended her funeral (and viewing). At her funeral, she had picked out the hymns and asked her friend, who played the organ, to play them "in German."

She is buried(Source 10) in Grave 6, Lot 1084, Block B, Section 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery on Bellefontaine Road in the town of Bellefontaine Neighbors, St. Louis County, Missouri.

Sources: Baptism (Tauf Register, Pg.77, No. 16) = 2; Marriage = 1; Death = 1; children's Baptisms = 1

CHILD 1 Earl Heinrich Christian WEBER

NOTES:
Sources: Birth, Baptism, Confirmation, Death = 1; Burial = 10. Source: Confirmation=38 [13 Apr 1924]; Burial=54. Earl was a handsome and very intelligent young man who suffered from "leakage of the heart." He died the year after he was confirmed. He is buried in Grave 4, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, a suburb of St. Louis. At the time of his death, his mother was 3 months pregnant with Carl Edward Weber.

CHILD 2 Ethel Wilhelmina WEBER

NOTES:
Sources: Birth, Baptism, Confirmation (28 Mar 1926) = 1; Burial = 10. Ethel was the second child of Henry and Lillie Weber and the only daughter. She attended St. Paul Lutheran elementary school and Beaumont High School in St. Louis, MO but was forced to quit school before she graduated from High School in order to help support the family. At the time, Carl Weber, who had been afflicted as a child with a damaging brain disease, was still living at home and the days were those of the 1930's depression. She worked as a "comptometer" (early form of calculator) operator for the Railway Express Company. She suffered from an ovarian tumor and she lost her ability to bear children by the removal of her ovaries and a hysterectomy. But she still had a maternal instinct and, after she had married Leonard Miller (they were married when she went to visit him in the Army, during World War II, in North Carolina) they adopted a boy, David Miller.

She was a Lutheran Christian but her husband was Jewish by birth and could not find it within himself to accept Christianity because it would have meant that he would have to believe that his parents had gone to hell and he couldn't do that. David was, however, raised to be a Christian in the Lutheran tradition.

CHILD 3 Elmer William Frederick WEBER

NOTES:
Sources: Birth and Baptism = 1; Confirmation (1 Apr 1928) = 1; Death = Social Security Records (Social Security Number 492-05-8917) Married Flora Hoyer 18 Dec 1941 in Durant, OK; renewed their
CHILD 4 Lester George WEBER

NOTES:

Sources: Baptism = 1, Confirmation = 1 (10 Apr 1936). See also Leibio files for Lester's biography. Marriage: June 11, 1949 to Ruth Eileen Duell of Fort Wayne, Indiana at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN. Wedding reception at bride's parents home.

Born in St. Louis MO and elementary school (St. Paul Lutheran) and high school (Beaumont High School) plus first year of college (Harris Teacher's Junior College) there.

He entered and trained at Fort Camp Hood, Texas (near Waco); Army Specialized Training Program at University of Florida for one semester; ASTP program terminated for early participants and got transferred to 94th Infantry Division, 31st Infantry Regiment and assigned to the Anti-tank Company, Mine platoon. Training in Mississippi until summer 1944 when assignment of 94th to the European Theater of Operations occurred. Traveled across North Atlantic ocean on the liner Queen Elizabeth without any escort - no problems along the way. Landed in Glasgow, Scotland and travelled by train to Trowbridge, England where we were re-outfitted with Garand (M1) rifles and readied to head for France. We traveled there on an old Indian freighter and landed on Utah beach on June 06, 1944, called "D-Day", a code word to obscure the planned date of the action. We landed 94 days later. We encountered no resistance since the fighting had long since moved inland. The 94th was assigned to "contain the garrison at Lorient and St. Nazaire" with Les' unit assigned to Lorient. The Germans on the Brittany peninsula had been cut off by the advance of Patton's 3rd Army and were backed up into these ports which they used as submarine ports. Stayed at Lorient until Christmas and then were ordered to the Western Front where we replaced the 4th Armored Division so they could help relieve the beleaguered garrison at Bastogne after the German offensive called the "Battle Of Bulge." (They made a huge bulge in the Allied lines trying to capture Antwerp.) It was fairly quiet in our sector until we were ordered to take Orscholz. We led our forces into the village and captured it. Les' getting captured and becoming a Prisoner of War, Main place of imprisonment was Stalag XII at Fallingbostel (Niedersachsen, Lüneburger Heide). POW for 85 days and liberated by British 2nd Army in April 1945. Repatriated to England where Les spent some time in an Army hospital for recuperation. He got to go to London on "VE-Day + 1" (Victory in Europe Day plus one) and there got to see the King and Queen of England and their family at Buckingham Palace and also Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, in an open top car driving through the streets. Attended Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana and graduated from there with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering February 1949, For a short time, worked for a small company called "Specifice, Inc." in Indianapolis but was not happy there and found work in chemical engineering while he was stationed in Fort Wayne. Left Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis, MO. Employment involved development of processes involved with the refining of uranium from ores and concentrates; helped build a new plant at Weldon Springs, MO in 1957-60. While there received Master of Science Degree from Washington University in Chemical Engineering. Left Mallinckrodt in 1963 for employment with E.I.duPont de Nemours and Co., Inc. in Buffalo, NY. Subsequent transfers took him and his family to Lancaster, OH, Clinton, Iowa, Wilmington, DE and Parkersburg, WV where he worked until retiring Dec. 31, 1989. In 1991, we moved to Columbus, OH where we do volunteer work. Les in German genealogy for the members of Palatines to America, Ruth in watercolor painting, ladies club at our church and both of us in a ministry of worship services once/week to local nursing homes.

CHILD 5 Charles Edward WEBER

NOTES:

Sources: Birth and Baptism = 1,57 & 58. Baptismal sponsors were Edward Rohne, husband of father's sister, Louise, and George Seckel, brother of mother's brother, who lived in the same house as my boyhood home. When he was just about 2 years old, there was an epidemic of encephalitis in St. Louis and, I believe, he was stricken with it and never developed mentally any further than that entire life. He was kept at home and many attempts were made by his parents to educate him, in special schools once it was clear he could not make it in regular school, in a deaf school for a while when it was not clear just what his problem in learning really was... all without success. He grew physically and, by the time he was 8 years old, it was clear that his mother could no longer handle him at home as he would run into the street in front of his home. His parents applied for him to be placed in a home and, after a struggle lasting several years, he was accepted at the Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wisconsin on a live-in basis. This put quite a strain on his parents to pay for his "tuition" though they did. They visited him frequently at his father could get free passes on the Railroad trains since he worked for a railroad himself. The home at Watertown tried to educate him too but with little success. He somehow became epileptic along the way and would suffer seizures, sometimes just a vacant stare and sometimes he would fall. I am his brother and I visited him at Watertown with my parents (and his) on many occasions, actually getting to know many of the other patients there. This was a Christian place and the faith in God that these patients showed was "awesome." They had a chapel service every morning and every evening so he knew that God was there and that he was loved.
loved him and that he was redeemed and forgiven through the death and
resurrection of His only son, Jesus Christ.

Carl died in a seizure; he fell into the Rock River that flowed right by
the home but, when his body was found, he had no water in his lungs. So he was dead by the time he hit the water.
Nobody witnessed this but there was no evidence of any foul play. Fortunately his mother, who had cared for him so
lovingly, did not have to experience this loss as she had died and gone to
heaven the year before, in 1950. Ether, Elmer and Lester attended his funeral; I do not remember why my father did
not attend, but he didn't. Carl is buried in a plot in the Watertown cemetery along with other patients at
Bethesda.
HUSBAND: Johann Heinrich Weber

BIRTH: 15 Sep 1843 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
CHR.: 17 Sep 1843 PLACE: Isenstedt, Ev Luth, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
MAR.: 9 Jan 1877 PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
DEATH: 23 Jan 1917 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
BURIAL: 26 Jan 1917 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

FATHER: Gottfried WEBER
MOTHER: Marie Elisabeth KUETEMAN

OTHER WIVES:

WIFE: Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE

BIRTH: 14 Oct 1850 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
CHR.: 20 Oct 1850 PLACE: Isenstedt, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
DEATH: 29 Nov 1929 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
BURIAL: 2 Dec 1929 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

OTHER HUSBANDS:

CHILDREN:

1. NAME: Sophia WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 1 Apr 1879 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   F CHR.: 18 Apr 1881 PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev, Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 24 Apr 1951 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 27 Apr 1951 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

2. NAME: Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 20 May 1879 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   M CHR.: 2 Jun 1879 PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev, Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 11 Feb 1953 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 14 Feb 1953 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

3. NAME: Fred William WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 9 Apr 1881 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   M CHR.: 18 Apr 1881 PLACE: Isenstedt EvLuth, Isenstedt, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 26 Jul 1902 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 28 Jul 1902 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

4. NAME: Karl (Charles) Augustus WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 18 Mar 1883 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   M CHR.: 1 Apr 1883 PLACE: Isenstedt EvLuth, Isenstedt, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 17 Jun 1895 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 20 Jun 1895 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

5. NAME: Carl Heinrich WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 14 Feb 1885 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   M CHR.: 1 Mar 1885 PLACE: Isenstedt EvLuth, Isenstedt, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 9 Apr 1886 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   BURIAL: PLACE:

6. NAME: Henry Carl WEBER
   -- BIRTH: 6 Apr 1887 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   M CHR.: 17 Apr 1887 PLACE: Isenstedt EvKir, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany
   MAR.: 16 Nov 1910 PLACE: St. Paul Luth, St. Louis, MO
   DEATH: 25 Nov 1960 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 28 Nov 1960 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO

SPOUSE: Therese Katherine Elise SECKEL

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2010 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR JOHANN HEINRICH WEBER/CAROLINE WILHELMINE EICKRIEDE

HUSBAND Johan Heinrich WEBER
WIFE Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE

CHILDERN (continued)

7. NAME: Anna Wilhelmina WEBER
   --- BIRTH: 28 Oct 1891 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   F CHR.: PLACE:
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 31 Aug 1975 PLACE: Peoria, IL
   BURIAL: 3 Sep 1975 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO
   SPouse:

8. NAME: Louis WEBER
   --- BIRTH: PLACE:
   M CHR.: PLACE:
   MAR.: PLACE:
   DEATH: 1917 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: PLACE:
   SPouse:

9. NAME: Anna Wilhelmine Louise WEBER
   --- BIRTH: 10 Apr 1894 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   F CHR.: PLACE:
   MAR.: 22 Aug 1917 PLACE: St. Paul Parish, St. Louis, Missouri
   DEATH: 1947 PLACE: St. Louis, MO
   BURIAL: 1947 PLACE: Bethlehem Cem, St. Louis County, MO
   SPouse: Edward Carl ROHNE

HUSBAND Johan Heinrich WEBER
NOTES:
- Born in Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Regierungsbezirk Minden (on the Weser), Westphalia, Germany. Weber family home was Frotheim No. 16, built in 1568.
- Immigrated to USA with wife and five children in 1888 on the ship "SS Main" from Bremen to Baltimore. He was a farmer and his initial destination was Iowa (exact location there unknown) but, after just a few years, he moved his family to St. Louis to give his children a Christian education. He initially stayed with friends from Frotheim, Heinrich Krato, who had 9 children. Took a job as a laborer in a fertilizer factory (bonemeal factory-where they ground up animal bones.)
- Sources: Baptism = 5; Passport (Source 7); Death = 1 & 8; Burial = 8 UO; 20 (Roll 811, ED7, Sheet 8, 5238)

WIFE Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE
NOTES:
- She was born in Frotheim, a little farm village about 15 km. northwest of Minden-on-the-Weser; there she grew up at Frotheim 839, a house that has since burned. The village has been absorbed in the town of Espelkamp in the 20th century.
- She gave birth to six children before she and her husband, Johann Heinrich Weber, emigrated to the USA in 1888, but one died as an infant. She had a total of nine children. (Source 20, Roll 811, ED7, Sheet 8, 5238)
- Baptismal sponsors were Marie Margrethe Elisabeth Eikriede and Friedrich Wilhelm Bartmann. This baptism was recorded in the Gehlenbeck Church Books but is also recorded in the Isenstedt Church Books (Source 6.)
- Her Baptism appears on the Mormon International Genealogical Index (IGI) (1993 edition) with a source call number of 473468. Her mother's name on the IGI is reported to be Anne Sophie Margarethe Elisabeth Doeding. (Perhaps that is the source of her daughter, Sophie's, given name; named after her maternal grandmother, a typical German naming pattern for the first daughter."
- The place of her baptism is reported here to be "Isenstedt."

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that the place of the baptism was Isenstedt Ev.Luth. (closer to Frotheim than Gehlenbeck) but performed by the pastor of Gehlenbeck since the Isenstedt church was a daughter congregation of Gehlenbeck; the church at Gehlenbeck has been standing since the year 1100 AD. The Pastor doing the baptism was Wilh. Redeker.

**CHILD 1 Sophia WEBER**

**NOTES:**

Sophia was the "spinster" of the Johann Heinrich Weber family and cared for her mother at home after she fell and broke her hip in 1921 until she died in 1929.

She continued to live with her sister "Minnie" (Really, Anna Wilhelmina) all her life, even after "Minnie" married.

She is buried in Grave 7, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, a suburb of St. Louis.

Her baptism is not recorded in Source 6 (LDS 0473469)

**CHILD 2 Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm WEBER**

**NOTES:**

Source: birth and baptism = 5; 1879, No. 102, LDS Film 473,481. "Geborene und Getauft im Jahre 1879" and also in Source 6 (LDS Film 0473469) with the event taking place at the church at Gehlenbeck. Baptismal sponsors were Friedrich Eickriede and Heinrich Blotevogel. Under the column labeled "Bemerkungen" (Remarks), Pastor P. Muller wrote "eh. 1.4.78," a date that differs from other entries for the date of his parents' marriage.

He used the name "Fred" all his life; he never married but lived for a time in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (near Cleveland) where, "its said, he owned a lot of property. When the 'Great Depression' of the 1930's struck, he was financially wiped out. He was a mild man, almost a mirror image of his father in appearance, with wavy white hair in his old age.

Later in life, he became mentally ill (I think he was clinically depressed) and was "committed" to the Asylum on Arsenal Street in St. Louis (no anti-depressants were known at that time). He often would wander away from there and be gone for days on end walking all the way. Our family visited him several times a year.

A family story has it that Fred was hit by a street car (trolley) and after that, he was ill. He is buried (Source 10) in Grave 8, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1 of New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, MO.

**CHILD 3 Fred William WEBER**

**NOTES:**

Source: Birth and burial = 10. He is buried in Grave 2, Lot 1084, Block 8, Sec. 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO., a suburb of St. Louis. Baptismal record source = 6 (LDS Film 0473469). It shows his day of birth as 9 Apr instead of 3 Apr; sponsors were Friedrich Eickriede and Friedrich Hegerding. Family home shown on baptismal source as Frotheim b. No. 149 (next to house Number 149.) Under the question on the baptismal record labeled "Ehelich oder unehelich" (married or unmarried, referring to his parents at the time of his baptism), this record shows "ehl. 9/6 77" (married June 9, 1877), which differs from other reports, but is the correct date of his parents' marriage.

**CHILD 4 Karl (Charles) Augustus WEBER**

**NOTES:**

He was known as "August", pronounced OU'gust like the OU in OUCH. The only information I have is that family history has it that he died from being administered by a teacher in St. Paul Lutheran School. No further particulars are known. He was one of the 5 children who immigrated to the USA with father.

He is buried in Grave 1, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1 of New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO., a suburb of St. Louis. He was baptized at the Isenstedt Evangelical Lutheran Kirche.

He was named Karl Augustus at his baptism. Note that "Charles" and "Carl" or "Karl" are used interchangeably by the Germans of this time period.

His baptismal sponsors were (Source 6; LDS Film 0473469) Friedrich Peithman and Friedrich Eickriede. Under the question on the baptismal record labeled "Ehelich oder unehelich" (married or unmarried, referring to his parents at the time of his baptism), this record shows "ehl. 9/6 77" (married June 9, 1877.) This means the 9th day of the sixth month (June) 1877; it does not match the data on Carl Heinrich Weber's baptism or that of Henry Carl Weber, but it is the correct date of his parents' marriage.

**CHILD 5 Carl Heinrich WEBER**

**NOTES:**

My cousin Marie (nee Rohne) claimed that there was a child who died young in Germany whose name was Henry L. This was included in a letter to me from her brother, Walter Rohne dated June 7, 1978. I suspect that this is the same person.

This boy was baptized at Isenstedt Evangelical Lutheran Church in Isenstedt with sponsors of Heinrich Coors and Friedrich Steinnann. A notation in the margin of the baptismal record (Source 6; LDS Film 0473469) says that he died 9 Apr 1866. At the time of his baptism, his father was listed as a "Heuerling," a day laborer (hiring).
CHILD 6 Henry Carl WEBER

NOTES:
Sources: Baptism = 6 [Isenstedt Evangelische Kirche (in 1978 a part of Espelkamp) recorded as baptism No. 38 in 1887; Marriage=1; Death=1; Immigration = 25.
Immigrated to USA with his parents at age of 16 months on "SS Main" arriving in Baltimore, Maryland August 22, 1888. Frotheim is a farm village that has been absorbed into Espelkamp (1978); the parish church at the time of his birth since 1850 was in Isenstedt; before that time the parish church was at Gehlenbeck.
On the passenger list of the "SS Main," he was called Caroline, which was the given name of his mother; his given name was Carl Henry, but during his lifetime, he always reversed it to "Henry C." His family initially settled somewhere in Iowa but moved to St. Louis, MO by 1891. He attended Elementary school at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church school; took a "Commercial Course" at Walther College in St. Louis for 2 1/2 years (Source=52) graduating in January 1903. He worked for Meyer Brothers Drug Co. from 7 Oct 1905 until 15 September 1909 when he was disabled by illness (Source=55); married Therese Katherine Elise ("Lillie") Seckel 16 Nov 1910. Lifetime employment at Wabash Railroad Company in St. Louis in the Auditor of Freight Revenues Department from 12 Aug 1910 until 4 October 1957. He retired from this job at the age of 70 1/2 years.
After "Lillie" died in 1950, he married again (between 6 and 9 months later) to Lena Brown with whom he lived until his death.
His baptismal record (LDS Film 473,469) has his name as "Carl Heinrich Weber" April 17, 1887. At that time, the family lived at Frotheim No. 28 and his father's occupation was shown as "Heuerling" (hired man; day laborer.) His baptismal sponsors were August Eickriede and Anton Bremeyer (who is Herbert Peithmann's uncle.) On this same record, under the column labeled "Ob is ehelich oder unehelich?" (Are they married or unmarried?) the date of 14 Feb 1885 is shown; this was the birthday of his older brother of exactly the same name, a child who died as a young boy. His parents named him exactly the same name. Also, of interest, is the time of day that he was born - 2:30 am.
Buried: (Source 10) Grave 9, Lot 1084, Block 8, Section 1, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, MO.
During World War I, there was much anti-German sentiment and he carried a copy of his father's naturalization papers with him all the time. (Source=56)

CHILD 7 Anna Wilhelmina WEBER

NOTES:
Nickname="Minnie"; she worked outside the home most of her life, in Lowell Bank, in a dentist's office etc and supported mother and her sister Sophie. She married late in life to her sister Louise's husband after Louise died at early age from cancer. His name Edward Rohne. She was living with his daughter Marie, in Peoria, IL when she died. Minnie is the one who gave me her father's "Reise Pass" which specified that he was allowed to travel from his home in FROTHEIM, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia with his wife and 5 children to "Amerika." It was a powerful tool on my first visit to the family home place - FROTHEIM - in 1978 as the people there "really" believed me when I showed them that passport.
Her Social Security Number is 489-01-7309.

CHILD 8 Louis WEBER

NOTES:
Not much is known about Louis. He is not shown in Source 10 as being buried on the family plot in New Bethlehem Cemetery (Sec. 1, Block B, Lot 1084), Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO., a suburb of St. Louis.

CHILD 9 Anna Wilhelmine Louise WEBER

NOTES:
Married Edward Rohne; lived in family home next to spinster sisters, Sophia and Wilhelmina (Minnie) for many years; two children, Marie (b. 1918) and Walter (b.1922). These are my only two cousins on the "Webber" side. Later on she and Ed moved to a brick home on Warne Ave. She died of cancer. Confirmation 12 Apr 1908; Source = 1; Birth =1.
Henry Carl Weber at his confirmation in St. Louis, Missouri

This photograph was found in Frotheim in the family of Heinrich Blotevogel, grandson of the sister of Caroline Wilhelmina (nee Eickreide) Weber and sent to me through my contact with Herbert Peithmann.

Three of the Weber immigrant children as adults taken in Carondelet Park, St. Louis, Missouri on January 29, 1950. From left to right, Fred Wilhelm Weber (*1879), Henry Carl Weber (*1887) and Sophia Weber (*1878.)
## FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR GOTTFRIED WEBER/MARIE ELISABETH KUETEMAN - WEBER.PAF

**HUSBAND Gottfried WEBER**

| BIRTH: | 18 Feb 1816 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| CHR.: | 18 Feb 1816 | PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev., Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| MAR.: | 6 Mar 1841 | PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev Ch, Gehlenbeck, Westphalia, Germany |
| DEATH: | 7 Aug 1848 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| BURIAL: | 11 Aug 1848 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| FATHER: | Johann Heinrich WEBER | MOTHER: Frederike Wilhelmine Dorothea SCHUETTEN |
| OTHER WIVES: | Heinrich WEBER | |

### OTHER HUSBANDS: Court Heinrich SIEBE

**WIFE Marie Elisabeth KUETEMAN**

| BIRTH: | 4 Oct 1818 | PLACE: Isenstedt, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| CHR.: | 11 Oct 1818 | PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev., Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany |
| DEATH: | | PLACE: |
| BURIAL: | | PLACE: |
| FATHER: | Albert Heinrich KUETEMAN | MOTHER: Anna Marie Elisabeh BLASE |
| OTHER HUSBANDS: | Court Heinrich SIEBE |

### CHILDREN

1. **NAME: Caroline Wilhelmina WEBER**
   - **BIRTH: 13 Jan 1842**
   - **CHR.: 16 Jan 1842**
   - **MAR.:**
   - **DEATH: PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **BURIAL: PLACE: Gehlenbeck Ev Lu, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **SPOUSE:**

2. **NAME: Johann Heinrich WEBER**
   - **BIRTH: 15 Sep 1843**
   - **CHR.: 17 Sep 1843**
   - **MAR.: 9 Jun 1877**
   - **DEATH: 23 Jan 1917**
   - **BURIAL: 26 Jan 1917**
   - **SPOUSE: Caroline Wilhelmine EICKRIEDE**

3. **NAME: Marie Louise WEBER**
   - **BIRTH: 25 Mar 1845**
   - **CHR.: 30 Mar 1845**
   - **MAR.:**
   - **DEATH: PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **BURIAL: PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **SPOUSE:**

4. **NAME: Heinrich Wilhelm WEBER**
   - **BIRTH: 1847**
   - **CHR.: 17 Oct 1847**
   - **MAR.:**
   - **DEATH: PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **BURIAL: PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westfalen**
   - **SPOUSE:**

**HUSBAND Gottfried WEBER**

**NOTES:**
- He was a farmer; had 4 children; died of "breast krankheisen" at age 32 yrs, 3 months and 20 days; burial record shows 32 yr, 5 mo, 26 days. His home shown as Frotheim 16.
- Source-baptism: 5; birth date confirmed on marriage record; Source (marriage) = 5, 1841, No. 7, LDS Film 473,483
- Source: death & burial= 5, 1848, No. 96, P.264; LDS Film 473,484... buried at Frotheim 16.

**WIFE Marie Elisabeth KUETEMAN**

**NOTES:**
- Marie had 4 children by Gottfried Weber before he died. She re-married to Court Heinrich Siebe on 7 Apr 1849 and he changed his name to WEBER (because of the ownership of the land) ... he also was a farmer. They had 4 children from

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
this marriage, one of whom was Caroline Wilhelmina Weber who came to USA at about the same period as Johann Heinrich Weber ... later she moved with her husband, named Ernst Steinmann, to Los Angeles, possibly Beverly Hills.

Another was Sophie WEBER, who is the grandmother of Herbert Peithmann, our host in Frotheim in 1978; she also married a man named Siebe. (RIN 93 & 94)

Source: Birth 5 baptism: 5, 1818, No. 132, LDS Film 473,479; Marriage: Source 5, 1841, No. 7, LDS Film 473,483, which also confirms her birth date.

KUETEMAN is spelled with an umlaut over the U but PAF can't handle that so I spelled it KUETEMANN where UE = U mit an umlaut.

She was born at Isenstedt 22 a/c Gehlenbeck Church Books, Taufen for 1818.

Her marriage to Gottfried Weber is MRIN 11 in this program.

CHILD 1 Caroline Wilhelmin Weber

NOTES:
Source: Gehlenbeck church records (See Source No. 5)

CHILD 2 Johann Heinrich Weber

NOTES:
Born in Frotheim, (in 1992 at part of Espelkamp), Kreis Lubbecke, Regierungs Bezirk Minden (op der Weser), Westphalia (in 1992, Norderhein-Westphalen), Germany. Weber family home was Frotheim No. 16, built in 1568.

Immigrated to USA with wife and five children in 1888 on the ship SS Main from Bremen to Baltimore. He was a farmer and his initial destination was Iowa (exact location there unknown) but, after just a few years, he moved his family to St. Louis to give his children a Christian education. He initially stayed with friends from Frotheim, Heinrich Krato, who had 9 children. Took a job as a laborer in a fertilizer factory (bonemeal factory-ground up animal bones.)

Sources: Baptism = 5; Passport(Reise Pass) = 7; Death = 1 & 8; Burial = 8 & 10; 20 (Roll 811, ED7, Sheet 8, 5238
Belwer) = Owned home, mortgage free.

Naturalized; US Arrival- Source 25; Died at 73 yrs, 4 mos. 8 days.

He had two sisters and one brother; they lived in Frotheim, in a small house owned by a farmer named BERMANN (Frotheim No. 20) as "Huehrlings" (hiring). An Anton Bammeyer was baptismal sponsor to Henry Carl Weber at the Isenstedt Church; he is Herbert Peithmann's uncle.

Source: Baptism = 3, 1843, No.158, LDS Film 473,480; sponsors = Friedrich Weber and Friedrich Dading; his baptism is also recorded in Source 6 (Isenstedt) on the same day (discovered on LDS IGI on 20 Oct 1994) so I "hypothesize" that the place of baptism was Isenstedt but the minister was the one from Gehlenbeck; marriage = 5, Jun 9, 1877, No. 18, LDS Film 473,483. Buried: Grave 3, Lot 1084, Block B, Section 1, New Bethlethem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine, MO (Suburb of St. Louis). Cause of death (Source=1) "Blaseleiden" - Cemetery records (Source 10) say "Pneumonia."

The record of his baptism at the Gehlenbeck Evangelisch church in Westfalen, Preussen is now (1993 edition) on the Mormon International Genealogical Index (IGI) and source shown as Call No. 1051547. The equivalent Isenstedt baptismal record is labeled Call No. 1781031.

CHILD 3 Marie Louise Weber

NOTES:
Sources of her baptism = 5 and 6. Her baptism is recorded in both the Isenstedt Church books but also the Gehlenbeck church books. The Isenstedt church is a daughter congregation of the Gehlenbeck church (which has been standing since the year 1100 AD) and I "hypothesize" that the baptism was performed at Isenstedt (closer to Frotheim than Gehlenbeck) by the pastor at Gehlenbeck and recorded in both church records. These records were discovered in the Mormon IGI with Library Call No's 1051547 (Gehlenbeck) and 1781031 (Isenstedt) on 20 Oct 1994.

Perhaps she is the source of the name of Johann Heinrich Weber's youngest daughter who was named Louise, perhaps after Johann's sister.

CHILD 4 Heinrich Wilhelm Weber

NOTES:
The only thing I know of him is that he was baptized and the names of his parents. The baptism may have been performed at Isenstedt Evangelisch Lutheran Church but the record found in the Mormon IGI (20 Oct 1994) was at Gehlenbeck, but his brother Johann Heinrich and sister Marie Louise are shown in the churchbooks at both of these nearby churches. It may have been the pastor at Gehlenbeck who performed the baptism at Isenstedt as the latter was a daughter congregation of Gehlenbeck, which has been in existence since the year 1100 AD.
FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR JOHANN HEINRICH WEBER/FREDERIKE WILHELMINE DOROTHEA SCHUETTEN - WEBER.PAF 30 Oct 1998 Page 1 of 1

HUSBAND Johann Heinrich WEBER

BIRTH: 22 Apr 1787 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
CHR.: PLACE:
MAR.: 19 Jul 1807 PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
DEATH: 21 Oct 1822 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
BURIAL: 24 Oct 1822 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
FATHER: Johann Rolf WEBER
MOTHER: Anna Christin Wilhelmine DOEPKEN
NOTES: Johann lived a short life, dead at 35 years; he was the largest contributor to the chapel in the Frotheim cemetery - his contribution was recorded on a big sign still hanging in the chapel in 1978 showing that he contributed 22 TOLLARS. The value of the "Tollar" is not known - in 1978 Herbert estimated this would have been 300 Deutsch Marks. He left a widow and 5 children when he died.
Source: marriage = 5, 1807, marriage on 19 July 1807, LDS Film 473,483
Source: death & burial = 5, 1822, No. 94; LDS Film 473,484.

WIFE Frederike Wilhelmine Dorothea SCHUETTEN

BIRTH: 17 Dec 1779 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
CHR.: PLACE:
DEATH: 4 Jan 1849 PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
BURIAL: 5 Jan 1849 PLACE: Frotheim Cem, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia
FATHER: PLACE: PLACE
OTHER HUSBANDS: PLACE: PLACE
MOTHER: PLACE: PLACE
NOTES: Her name also has the term "Cord" in it just before her surname;
Source: 1st marriage = 5, 1807, 19 Jul 1807; LDS Film 473,483.
After the death of Johann Heinrich Weber in 1822, she re-married on May 21, 1823, to Johann Friedrich Loember (o, mit an umlaut) of Frotheim 70. He was born Jan 23,1775 (or Nov. 20, 1795) and lived until Jan 28, 1875.
Source:5= Gehlenbeck Evangelisch Kirchebuch.
Source: death & burial = 5, 1849, No. 1, P. 267; LDS Film 473,484.

CHILD 1 Gottfried WEBER

NOTES: He was a farmer; had 4 children; died of "breast krankheisen" at age 32 yrs, 3 months and 20 days; burial record shows 32yr, 5 mo, 26days. His home shown as Frotheim 18.
Source: baptism: 5; birth date confirmed on marriage record; Source (marriage) = 5, 1841, No. 7, LDS Film 473,483
Source: death & burial = 5, 1848, No. 96, P.264; LDS Film 473,484... buried at Frotheim 18.

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
**FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR JOHANN ROLF WEBER/ANNA CHRISTIN WILHELMINE DOEPKEN - WEBER**

**PAF** 30 Oct 1998 Page 1 of 2

**HUSBAND Johann Rolf WEBER**

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**WIFE Anna Christin Wilhelmine DOEPKEN**

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**CHILDREN**

1. **NAME: Johann Heinrich WEBER**
   - **BIRTH**: 22 Apr 1787 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **CHR.**: | PLACE: |
   - **MARR.**: 19 Jul 1807 | PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **DEATH**: 24 Oct 1822 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **BURIAL**: 24 Oct 1822 | PLACE: |
   - **SPOUSE**: Frederike Wilhelmine Dorothea SCHUETTEN

2. **NAME: Sophie Dorothea WEBER**
   - **BIRTH**: 20 Aug 1797 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **CHR.**: | PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **MARR.**: | PLACE: |
   - **DEATH**: | PLACE: |
   - **BURIAL**: | PLACE: |
   - **SPOUSE**: |

3. **NAME: Marie Luise WEBER**
   - **BIRTH**: 17 Aug 1800 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **CHR.**: 24 Aug 1800 | PLACE: Gehlenbeck, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **MARR.**: | PLACE: |
   - **DEATH**: | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **BURIAL**: 1818 | PLACE: Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia |
   - **SPOUSE**: |

**HUSBAND Johann Rolf WEBER**

**NOTES:**

Source: Source 5

Johann Rolf Weber built a bake house for his new bride, which was still standing in Frotheim in 1978 behind the old Frotheim 16, the Weber home. On the bake house is an inscription which says "Pray clean and work fine (it rhymes in German) so will the blessing of the Lord be with you + Johann Rolf Weber and Anna Maria Dopken + 1785." Inside the little house was an old time baking oven.


"Von Boden" may mean "down steps" or "off a porch."

Source: Burial = 5, 24 August 1800, LDS Film 473,478. Residence=Frotheim 16.

**WIFE Anna Christin Wilhelmine DOEPKEN**

**NOTES:**

As of Oct 29, 1992, her birth date and christening date and place are not known nor is the place of their marriage but Rahden is very close to Frotheim and

Records of: Lester C. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
wedding is likely to have occurred in her home church. (Gehlenbeck??)

When her husband, Johann Rolf Weber died in 1800, she re-married on 6 May 1801 to Caspar Heinrich (Cord) Schuette (Frotheim 46), b. 1767; d 20 Mar 1841; he then took the name WEBER, which was legal and normal at this time. When he died he left behind an adult son. (Source, 2nd marriage = 5, 1801, No.7.)

She was then the young bride for whom the bake house behind Herbert Peithman's home (the old Weber home, Frotheim 16) was built by Johann Rolf Weber. See notes on him for inscription and contents.

Sources: Source 5 and Letter from Herbert Peithman dated November 15, 1978 from Frotheim after Ruth and Lester Weber visited him there in June 1978. She died at the age of 64 yrs, 11 months and 29 days on 31 Dec 1825 per source=5, "Gestorbene in Jahr 1826" No.1; her place of burial is not shown.

Source marriage = 5, "Copuliote 1166" 21 Jun, LDS Film 473,478.

CHILD 1 Johann Heinrich WEBER
NOTES:
Johann lived a short life, dead at 35 years; he was the largest contributor to the chapel in the Frotheim cemetery -- his contribution was recorded on a big sign still hanging in the chapel in 1978 showing that he contributed 22 TOLLARS. The value of the "Tollar" is not known in 1978 Herbert estimated this would have been 300 Deutsch Marks. He left a widow and 5 children when he died.


Source: marriage = 5, 1807, marriage on 19 July 1807, LDS Film 473,483
Source: death & burial = 5, 1822, No. 94; LDS Film 473,484.

CHILD 2 Sophie Dorothea WEBER
NOTES:
Source: Birth=Source 5

CHILD 3 Marie Luise WEBER
NOTES:
Source: Birth and baptism=Source 5
On the day of her baptism, her father Johann Rolf Weber fell and died.

Source: burial = 5, 1818, No. 155; LDS Film 473,484.
HUSBAND Johann Ernst WAEBER (WABER)

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<tr>
<td>BURIAL:</td>
<td>Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>FATHER:</td>
<td>WAEBER (WABER)</td>
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<td>MOTHER:</td>
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WIFE

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CHILDREN

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Johann Rolf WEBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIRTH:</td>
<td>1742</td>
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<td>MAR.:</td>
<td>21 Jun 1766</td>
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<td>DEATH:</td>
<td>24 Aug 1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPOUSE:</td>
<td>Anna Christin Wilhelmine DOEKEN</td>
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NOTES:

This place of and exact date of birth and christening are not known (Oct 29, 1992). His surname was spelled with an A (with an umlaut) following the W. He is the father of Johann Rolf Weber, b. 1742. The likely place of residence is Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany (but Germany was not a nation at this time.)

Source: Letter from Herbert Peithman, Frotheim, dated Nov 15, 1978 after Ruth and Lester Weber visited there in June 1978...

CHILD 1 Johann Rolf WEBER

NOTES:

Johann Rolf Weber built a bake house for his new bride, which was still standing in Frotheim in 1978 behind the old Frotheim 16, the Weber home. On the bake house is an inscription which says "Pray clean and work fine (it rhymes in German) so will the blessing of the Lord be with you + Johann Rolf Weber and Anna Maria Doecken + 1785." Inside the little house was an old time baking oven.


Source: Marriage = 5, 21 Jun 1786, LDS Film 473,478; residence Frotheim.

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2030 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
# FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR WAEBER (WABER)/UNKNOWN - WEBER.PAF

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**HUSBAND WAEBER (WABER)**

**NOTES:**  
Nov 13, 1992: This man is the father of Johann Ernst Waeber, where the a is with an umlaut, ä, here rendered "ae."

Based on the birth of his first child, he must have been born about 1680 or so. The church records at this time are

Records of: Lester G. Weber  
2030 Mackenzie Drive  
Columbus, OH 43220  
United States Of America

**Parent Link Types:** (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
CHILD 1 Johann Ernst WAEBER (WABER)
NOTES:
His place of and exact date of birth and christening are not known (Oct 29, 1992). His surname was spelled with an A (with an umlaut) following the W. He is the father of Johann Rolf Weber, b. 1742. The likely place of residence is Frotheim, Kreis Lubbecke, Westphalia, Germany (but Germany was not a nation at this time.)
Source of following data: letter from Herbert Peithman, Frotheim, dated Nov 15, 1978 after Ruth and Lester Weber visited him there in June 1978...he found this in the Frotheim school records...Johan Ernst had one brother and three sisters, namely: Caterina Margeretha Waber, b. 12 Apr 1713, Anna Catrina Waber, b. 15 Mar 1716, Gerd Heinrich Waber, b. Feb 1719 (d. 8 Mar 1800) and Anna Ilsabehn Weber, b. 15 May 1724. Gerd Heinrich was some sort of low ranking officer.
Source: 5 (Gehlenbeck churchbooks) death & burial, 1775, Aug 5(spelled WEEBERS); LDS Film 473,478. Herbert Peithman says the churchbooks of this time are worn out (or burnt). Parents of Johan Ernst Waeber (Waber) are only known in their Surname of Waber with an estimated birth date for the father of 1680 (Nov 2, 1992.)

CHILD 2 Caterina Margeretha WAEBER (WABER)
NOTES:
Source: Frotheim school records by Herbert Peithmann, 1978 resident at Weber home in Frotheim. Sister to Johann Ernst Waeber, father of Johann Rolf Weber. The name is spelled with an a (with an umlaut.)

CHILD 3 Anna Catrina WAEBER (WABER)
NOTES:
Source: Frotheim school records obtained from Herbert Peithman, the 1978 resident of the Weber home place in Frotheim. Sister to Johann Ernst Waeber. The surname is spelled with an a (with an umlaut.)

The burial record source = 5, 1774, 19 Apr; LDS Film 473,478. Source shows burial of a woman named Ana Cathar Weber of Frotheim 16 (the Weber homestead) but also shows her age as 75 years so there is some doubt that this record belongs to this person...it might be to the wife of either Johann Ernst or Gerd Heinrich. We will leave that here as an unanswered question until further evidence is found.

CHILD 4 Gerd Heinrich WAEBER (WABER)
NOTES:
Source: Frotheim school records obtained from Herbert Peithman, the 1978 resident at the Weber home place in Frotheim. The surname is spelled with an a (with an umlaut.) Gerd Heinrich was some some sort of low ranking officer.

CHILD 5 Anna Ilsabein WEBER
NOTES:
Source: Frotheim school records obtained from Herbert Peithman, the 1978 resident of the Weber homestead. Note that her brothers and sisters were named with the surname WAEBER, where the spelling in German is a "a" with an umlaut, here rendered "ae," but her surname is shown spelled with as "e."
Chapter 5

Some History of This Area

The Province of Westphalia (or in German, Westfalen) was once a part of Prussia. It has an area of 7805 square miles in northwest Germany. It lies mostly between the valleys of the Rhine and the Weser Rivers. It is highly irregular in shape and its terrain equally divided between the mountains in the south and east and the level plain in the north and west (Westfalen means “western plain.”) When a part of Prussia, it was bordered by the Rhineland in the west and south, Hannover in the north and Hesse-Nassau and Lippe in the east. Part of its western boundary forms the German frontier with the Netherlands. There is a forest called the Teutoburger Wald from which arise two rivers, the Ems and the Lippe which are the major drainage streams outside of the Rhine and the Weser Rivers. The province was divided into three governmental districts, called “Regierungsbezirk” (This was a term my father used that always puzzled me) Minden, Münster and Arnsberg.

The climate is mild with occasionally heavy rainfall during the winter. The land supports crops of buckwheat, potatoes, sugar beets, peas, beans, flax, rye, wheat, barley, oats and grain for cattle fodder. There are a lot of meadow lands and pastures that favor horse breeding and cattle raising. Its largest industrial region is the Ruhr centered at Dortmund. Bielefeld is a textile center which has been famous for its linen products since the 14th century. The Mittelland Kanal (canal) carries water borne freight east and west from the Weser River. Minden is the ancient city on the Weser River that was the home of the Bishop of Minden; the Minden cathedral (Dom) still exists. Most of the population are of Saxon descent. In the south, Siegerland, the population is largely Rhenish-Franconians while Hessian-Franconians tend to live along the Eder River.

It was in the 11th century when the term “Westphalia” (western plain) first appeared as the region forming the western portion of the duchy of Saxony. At that time the eastern portion of Saxony was called “Eastphalia.” The ruler of Saxony, Duke Henry the Lion, was placed “under the ban” of the Holy Roman Empire (he was outlawed) in 1180 and the Emperor gave Westphalia to the Archbishop of Cologne. The Elector of Cologne ruled Westphalia until 1803; then the duchy was separated from the church and divided between Prussia and Hesse-Darmstadt. During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), this area passed from Catholic to Protestant and back again to Catholic control. It is estimated that between 30 and 40 percent of the population of the area died during this war. Afterwards the area suffered severe destruction from other wars in 1689, 1701-14 and 1740-63. When Napoleon conquered the area in 1807, he made Westphalia a Napoleonic kingdom and installed his brother Jerome as king. After Napoleon was defeated, the ruling powers gave nearly the entire duchy of Westphalia to Prussia at the Congress of Vienna (1815). (The county of Lingen was given to Hannover and Westphalia also lost the principality of Lippe.) It did not change until World War II when it became part of the current German state of Nordrhein Westphalia.

In earlier times, Westphalia was made up of the following religious and secular political bodies:
1. Bishopric of Cologne (Erzbistum Köln)
2. Princely bishopric of Münster (Fürstbistum Münster)
3. Princely bishopric of Paderborn (Fürstbistum Paderborn)
4. Princely bishopric of Minden (Fürstbistum Minden)
5. Princely abbey of Corvey (Fürstabtei Corvey)
6. Imperial city of Dortmund (Reichsstadt Dortmund)
7. Counties of Mark and Ravensburg (Grafschaften Mark und Ravensburg)
8. Counties of Tecklenburg and Lingen (Grafschaften Tecklenburg und Lingen)
9. Principality of Lippe (Fürstentum Lippe)

The area of Minden, Lübbecke, Gehlenbeck and Frotheim lies in part of the irregular shape of the northern portion of Westphalia. The city of Osnabrück in Niedersachsen (formerly Hannover) is almost directly west of Minden. Gehlenbeck has been absorbed into the town of Lübbecke which is the home of the hotel where we stayed in 1978 and, perhaps like “ugly Americans”, rented the only room having a private bathroom. Once a year, Lübbecke has a festival where the fountain in the center of the town square runs with beer...normally it is a water fountain. Shortly before we got to Lübbecke, in 1975, they had celebrated their 1200 year anniversary. So it is a town of remarkable contrasts, from ancient buildings to ultra modern schools and churches. The Gehlenbeck church building has stood here since the year 1100. We purchased a book about their 1200 years and I will include some of the pictures from it but it is all in German, which is reasonable because that is their language.

Lübbecke (home of the Gehlenbeck Church)

The name Lübbecke was mentioned for the first time as Hilbeki, a place of a battle during the Saxon Wars of Karl the Great (Charlemagne) in 775. A priest, Nandratus, donated his properties in Likbekegowe to the bishop of Minden about two hundred years later (974). Lübbecke was oriented to Minden from that time on, whereas the earls of Tecklenburg owned great parts of this area, originally even perhaps the castle of the county, Reineberg, situated above Lübbecke. This castle was mentioned for the first time in a document of 1221. It was the property of the bishop of Minden at that time, but not without dispute. According to later chronicles, the “Edenherren” (title similar to earls) of Diepholz seized the castle in the 13th century. The bishop of Minden refers to a destruction during the time of his predecessor in 1277. The bishops of Osnabrück at times had rights of property at the Reineberg. The castle could only be partly seen as “protection” of the city of Lübbecke, as the castle and the county (Amt) Reineberg were used as a pawn up to Prussian times. Owners of the pawn were sometimes dynasty families; the earls of Ravensberg 1343 and 1396 ff, of Tecklenburg 1412 and of Hoya, who gave it to themselves as a pawn in 1436.

The Bishop of Minden was the one who raised Lübbecke to the status of a city in 1279 and from whom the new city attained income for the construction of fortifications after 1298. In 1295, offices were transferred to Lübbecke, which, as the mother parish, it was now the center point of his area (Archdiocese) which had previously been in Ahlden on the Aller and Neustadt on Ruebbenberge. It was combined with the Andreas Church, to which then (and still today) the present parishes of Hulhorst and Blasheim belong, and existed until 1810. In addition, the Holy Spirit Hospital came in the 14th century (until about 1700). In 1350, in the year of the plague and the persecution of the Jews, as an inscribed stone announces, the church must have been enlarged.

Lübbecke soon grew to the largest and most important place, next to Minden, in the bishopric. In 1336, it concluded a peace treaty with the cities Minden, Herford and Vlotho, the Bishop of Minden and the “Stiftsvogt vom” (translation is uncertain) “(--> Haus) Berge,” which was renewed in 1358 and expanded, for Lübbecke, with a pact with the Baron v. Schaumberg. In spite of that, it could not avoid being burned to the ground in 1368 by the noblemen of Lippe.

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1 Source: Historical Synopsis of Each State in the German Empire, 1871 - 1918 in German Boundary and Locality Name Changes published by The Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Series C, No. 4, 1978.
2 Source: Handbuch der Historischen Städten Deutschlands, (Volume 3) Nordrhein-Westfalen by Dr. Walther Zimmermann and Dr. Hugo Borger (Nordrhein) and Dr. Friedrich Von Klocke and Dr. Johannes Bauermann (Westfalen) published by Alfred Kröner Verlag, Stuttgart.
In the City of Lübbecke itself, there were numerous noble families who were owners of their own houses. Altogether, there were 16 so-called "Burgmannshöfe"\(^3\); today, only one remains: the current local history museum by the market. Lübbecke was often destroyed by fires (particularly in 1519, 1705) and by war (in the 30 Years War, when the castle Reineberg was struck several times heavily, and in the 7 Years War).

Lübbecke received a judicial constitution in 1524.

Even the reformation occurred early in Lübbecke. In the year 1549, the Synod was held here, at which Hamelmann appeared -- still a defender of the old faith. But by the Lübbecke Recessional of 1573, the religious jurisdiction of the bishop was set aside.

In 1650, Lübbecke paid tribute (monetary, I suspect) to the Gr. Kurfürst\(^4\) and, from that point on, became a Prussian city. Fortifications became unnecessary; therefore, starting in 1722, the buildings of the Reineberg were torn down, until in 1810, Lübbecke eliminated the gate towers and in 1823 the barriers and city walls. Since 1832, Lübbecke has been a district town (-> Rahden).

After 1945, it was the head office of the British control commission for Germany.

The parish of Lübbecke also includes the "Gut Obernfeld" with the widows residence (called "The Minister's house" after Prussian Minister von der Recke) built by Schinkel at the location of the earlier Livenstede.

Some other historical tidbits

The composer Ludwig von Beethoven lived and composed his beautiful music during the lifetime of Johann Heinrich Weber (1787 - 1822) and his son Gottfried (1816 - 1848). He was from the city of Bonn but his musical genius was revealed in the cultural center of the day, Vienna. He studied music under Mozart. He was a romantic person and fell in love several times but never married. His genius with music during his relatively short lifetime (1770 - 1827) was originally "performance" but it changed to "composing" because he was gradually losing his hearing. When he got progressively more deaf, he found that he had to hold his ear against the piano to be able to hear what he had written. When his highly original 9th Symphony using a chorus singing Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy" in the last movement was first performed, he was completely deaf and when the audience gave the performance a standing ovation, he could not hear it. One of the musicians in the orchestra turned him around to see the audience standing in applause.

But I doubt that the Frotheim Webers of that day ever heard such music as there were no recording devices in existence yet. If they had music in their lives at all, it was probably at their church or in their homes but not over recording devices or radios.

\(^3\) Burgmannshof = literally, "castle-man's court". Probably a series of castles belonging to lesser nobility
\(^4\) Grosser Kurfürst = "greater prince". I don't know a corresponding English title.
Their Church in St. Louis

When the Weber Family from Frotheim came to St. Louis, MO, they affiliated themselves with St. Paul's Church (German) U.A.C. This congregation had been organized in 1862 at Lowell, in North St. Louis and first assembled for worship in a hall on what is now (1883) DeSoto Avenue and Benedict Street. In 1863, they built a small frame church. Their first pastor was Rev. G. R. A. Claus. In 1872, they laid the cornerstone of a new church building at the corner of Prairie Avenue and Von Phul Street. This new church was dedicated on May 25, 1873 with the Rev. J.H.Ph. Graebner of St. Charles preaching. And that day, their second pastor, Rev. I. Achilles was installed. The new church building is a (two story) brick building, 34 feet X 68 feet, with a steeple. The first floor housed a parochial school, 2 teachers, 102 pupils. Rev. C. C. E. Brandt was the next pastor and he was installed November 5, 1876. In 1883, (five years before the arrival of the Weber family in the USA,) there were 105 families, approximately 500 persons, connected with the church; 52 are voting members and 345 are communicant members. There is a Young Men's and Young Ladies society in full vigor; no Sunday School. The pastor conducts catechism class and examinations on Sunday afternoons.

This congregation was a daughter congregation of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on 19th and Salisbury Streets in North St. Louis. This building was damaged by fire when lightning struck the steeple. When another new building was built for the worship services at 2137 East John Avenue in February 1926, this building was converted to a three room parochial school and this is where I went to elementary school beginning in 1929. Note the story (in Chapter 2) about Caroline Wilhelmine Weber's fall on a slippery sidewalk in January 1921 while walking on the way home from this church when she broke her hip.

A Time-Line of Events in Germany and America

1272
1st Hapsburg family ruler

1438
Hapsburg family of Austria began almost continuous rule over the Holy Roman Empire.

1618-1648
30 Years War - much of Germany devastated; Hapsburgs defeated.

June 1683
1st German settlers leave Krefeld.
Wm. Penn conveys 1000 A. to German group in Krefeld.

1709
Rhine freezes over & is closed for 5 weeks.

1492
Columbus discovers America

1586
Dutch settlements

1624
Swedish settlements

October 1683
Krefeld group arrives in America

Source: J. Thomas Scharf "History St. Louis City and County from the earliest periods to the present day including Biographical Sketches of Representative Men" published by Louis H. Everts & Co., Philadelphia (1883) in two volumes. This from volume 2 Page 1737, Column 2.

Cold winter killed many. 13,000 went to London
3000 went on to America; 60% from Palatinate.

1710
Charles XI King of Spain becomes Emperor
of Holy Roman Empire

1731
Archbishop Firman expells all Protestants
from Salzburg.

1740 - 1786
Prussia a great power

1750

Seven Year War
Third Silesian War between Austria and Prussia.
France supports Prussia.

circa 1775
Landgrave of Hessen rents troops to King George V
of England in American Revolution.

1792 French revolution “Liberte, Egalite”, Fraternite
has an effect of German serfs.

Beethoven composes 3rd Symphony, Eroica,
and dedicates it to Napoleon. Napoleon
proclaims himself “Emperor”

1806 Napoleon ended the Holy Roman Empire
(1st Reich); established Confederation of
the Rhine.

1812 Napoleon dominates Europe

1815 Napoleon defeated & Congress of Vienna
redraws the map of Europe. Prussia held
Rhineland, Westphalia and north-central
German areas.

1817 Student gathering at Wartburg. Official
reaction to revolutionary enthusiasm begins.
Censorship begins.

1832 Goethe dies. Hambacher Gathering
Proclamation of German unity & revolution
by German intelligensia.

1832 Beginning of large scale emigration
from Germany.

Settlers arrive from Rhine area by way of
London. Settle Hudson River, NY area

1732
Georgia founded as a refuge for Salzburgers
and other Protestants.

1754
French and Indian Wars

1756
Gnadenhutten massacre

1775 Hessian troops fight in Revolutionary
War. 12,000 of 30,000 defect and
remained in America.

1776 American Independence declared.

1783 British defeated; Cornwallis surrenders.

1787 Northwest Ordinance

1803 The “Louisiana Purchase” nearly doubles the
size of the United States.

1812 War of 1812 between United States
and Great Britain.
1846 Worldwide Cholera

1848 Failed Revolutions across Europe; Congress at Paulskirche in Frankfurt

1854 Peak year of German immigration 215,000

1861-1865 Civil War; Immigration declines.

1865 - 90's US Expansion into the West and Reconstruction of the South

1866 Prussia forced Austria out of German affairs.

1867 Prussia established North German Confederation

1870-1871 Germany defeated France in Franco-Prussian War; Germany united and the German Empire founded (2nd Reich) - Bismarck chancellor.

1872-1878 Kulturkampf (Social legislation)
Catholic immigration

1893 Severe economic depression; foreign expansion sought by industrial and political leaders.

1898 Spanish-American War; USA becomes an imperialist power with acquisition of Guam, Puerto Rico and Phillipine Islands and the annexation of Hawaii.

1914 Panama Canal Opens

1914-1918 World War I

1917 USA enters World War I
USA emerges as a World Power

1920s Time of Prosperity - Roaring 20s

1929 Stock Market Crash on Wall St.

1913 Severe economic depression; foreign expansion sought by industrial and political leaders.

1933 Rise of Hitler and Fascism (3rd Reich)

1938 Hitler seizes Austria & Sudetenland

1939 Hitler invades Poland and begins WWII
Hitler invades France & Low Countries

1940 USA becomes the “Arsenal of Democracy” providing war materials to Hitler’s foes.

1941 Japan bombs US fleet at Pearl Harbor- USA enters WWII

1945 USA drops 2 Atomic Bombs on Japan and Japan surrenders.

1945 Lester, Elmer & Leonard discharged from army.

1946-49 Lester attends Purdue University

1949 Lester graduates from Purdue/marries Ruth Duell in Fort Wayne, Indiana
Chapter 6
The Eickriede Line in Frotheim

Grandma Weber’s Birth and Baptism

My grandmother, Caroline Wilhelmine Eickriede (IKE’ Ree duh) was born at 5 am on October 14, 1850, according to the baptismal records in the Gehlenbeck Church (LDS Film 473,480, Entry 179 for 1850), where it also states that her parents, Friedrich Wilhelm Eickriede, occupation Colonist, and Anna Sophie Margrethe Elisabeth Döding, were legally married and lived at Frotheim Number 33. They had their daughter baptized by Wilhelm Redeke at the Gehlenbeck church on October 20, 1850 where the two baptismal sponsors were Marie Margrethe Elisabeth Eickriede and Friedrich Wilhelm Bartmann (I believe, as this name was smudged on the record.) The baptism was also recorded at Isenstedt’s church books too (Source: LDS Film 473468, Entry 105 for 1850) but that church was not built in 1850 so this might also have been a later entry when Frotheim became a part of the Isenstedt parish. The churchbooks are very explicit when it comes to whether the parents were married or not; on this record, it reads “ehelich” (legally married) while some common law marriages may show the term “unehelich” (not legally married.) This created a stigma for the child.

We learned nothing at all about her childhood and only learned that their home at Frotheim Number 33 had burned down when we were struggling to identify the place when we first arrived in Frotheim in 1978. The term “Colonist” describes a farmer who is cultivating new land that has not previously been used for agricultural purposes; often this was marginal land that other farmers had passed by. The time of her birth might have been a politically stressful time as the “Revolution” of 1848 had just recently happened.

We Visit an Eickriede Family in Frotheim

All else that I know about the Eickriede line was gleaned from what Herbert Peithmann sent me as shown in Chapter 4. When we visited Frotheim in 1978, Herbert arranged to have us meet an Eickriede family who were still living there but we had no knowledge of their relationship with my grandmother. But it gave rise to some interesting experiences as mentioned briefly in Chapter 3. They live in a farm house that is separated from the barn only by a corridor; the house and barn are VERY close together. While we were there, I needed to use the toilet so they sent me out to into the barn where there was an old fashioned “outhouse” type of facility. On my way back to the house, I met Herbert heading the same place (remember he has been trying to teach me some German ... he is in fact, a teacher) and he said to me (in German) “ist nichts wasserclosett, ist ‘plumpt’closett” (a normal modem toilet is referred to here as “wasserclosett.” The word “plumpt” [ploompt] is a sound effect, not a real word.) Another strange thing about the names of restrooms in Germany is how easy it is for Americans to get confused; the men’s room is called “Herrn” (looks like “Hers” and the Ladies room is called “Damen” (which can be mispronounced as “Duh [ie, the) Men’” instead of Dah’men.) Or, if it is a unisex restroom, it might be labelled simply as WC (wasserclosett.)

Anyway, when we arrived at the Eickriede family, the old couple was very cordial to us and so was their (roughly) 40 year old son, Willi, who immediately offered us a glass of cognac to drink. He proceeded to Chug-a-lug his own glass of cognac. I instantly made an internal resolution that I was not going to “drink with” much less try to “compete with” him, as I sipped away at my own glass. This “cognac” is like white lightning. On the chart of the Genealogy of
Caroline Wilhelmina (Eickriede) Weber found in Chapter 4, Herbert seems to imply that the name of the man we visited was Heinrich Eickriede.

Conversation was awkward since none of them spoke a word of English and we spoke essentially no German. But Ruth and Mrs. Eickriede got along fine as they each got out the photos of their grandchildren and then, with finger pointing and “oohs” and “aahs,” the mutual admiration message got through in spite of the lack of a common verbal language.

**Herbert’s Genealogy of the Immediate Eickriede Family**

Herbert also found that my grandmother, Caroline Wilhelmine Eickriede, had an older sister, Sophie Charlotte (born Jan 26, 1849, died November 30, 1921) who married Wilhelm Blotevogel (born September 26, 1850, died May 11, 1932) on April 18, 1874. A man named Heinrich Blotevogel, who is still living in Frotheim and is a grandson of Caroline’s sister Sophie Charlotte, sent Herbert (who in turn sent them to me) photographs of Caroline Wilhelmine Weber (nee Eickriede) as a young woman with three of her children and a photograph of my father as a boy at his confirmation. I will include the one of my father but the one of Caroline with three of her children has faded so much as to be unable to copy. But that was touching; ‘twas ever thus, a mother, proud of her children and in a far away land, sends pictures of them to her sister back home and they stay in the family. Her sister Sophie would have known my father because he was a baby when the Webers left Frotheim and she would remember that. Caroline named her first daughter after her sister, Sophie, which was also her mother’s name. Three brothers are also named on the chart; one of the brothers married a woman (probably with land in her name) named Leikmeier and assumed her surname. Another, Friedrich Eickriede was a miller and the third, Ferdinand, left Frotheim and went to eastern Poland. Their parents were married in Gehlenbeck on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 1847. Isn’t that romantic? But their mother, Anna Sophie Margarethe Elisabeth Döding (born March 19, 1823) died quite young (2 months short of her 41st birthday) on January 7, 1864 of consumption, a disease which today is called tuberculosis, leaving behind 8 minor children and her grieving husband, Friedrich Wilhelm Eickriede¹ (of Frotheim 33.)

**Caroline’s Eickriede Grandparents**

The husband was the son of Friedrich Wilhelm Rathman (born September 5, 1802), who took the name Eickriede when he married Anna Margarethe² Eickriede (born July 27, 1798) on June 24, 1825 as the widow of Cord Heinrich Steinmann (born October 8, 1789). She had married him on December 4, 1813 at age 23. I have not learned the circumstances of her first husbands death.

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¹ When he was baptized at the Gehlenbeck Church, on January 1, 1829, his surname was recorded as “Rathmann”, Microfilm Number 473480 by the LDS (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints-Mormons); father is shown as “Rathmann Col. Eikride” and mother as Margareta Marie Elisabeth Eikride of Frotheim No. 33. Note name spelling difference.

² At the time of her marriage to Cord Heinrich Wilhelm Steinmann on Dec. 4, 1813, the pastor recorded her name as Anne Grethe Liese Eickriede; Grethe is a short form of Margarethe and Liese is a short form of Elisabeth—LDS Microfilm 473483.
Chapter 7

Henry and Lillie Weber's Family

Henry Weber, son of Johann Heinrich Weber and Wilhelmina (nee Eickriede) married Elise Seckel, daughter of Christian Seckel and his deceased wife Elise Bierman, in 1910. Henry worked for the Wabash Railroad in the Auditor of Freight Department in a “white collar” job. He audited the charges for delivering freight on their railroad which involved a large number of various rules and regulations. It was a daytime job and he regularly went to work in the morning and came home in time for “supper.” He rarely, if ever, had to work nights or weekends. His place of employment was in downtown St. Louis and he took public transportation in both directions. Elise, called “Lillie” or “Ll” all her life, “kept house,” which entails all the functions that it does today including furnishing and decorating the home, cooking meals, washing dirty clothes, cleaning the home, caring for the children, shopping for groceries and all other needs for the home; it is a task often underrated in today’s society but she was also THERE for her children to comfort and to care for them when they skinned their knees or ran into a tree (like I did.) She saved my life once when I literally hung myself.1

Where They Lived

Henry and Lil lived in a number of rental homes before they could afford to buy a home and after that first home, where I was raised, they continued to own their own homes. Their neighborhood was a congenial place with a small shopping area about two blocks away so one could walk to the grocery or to the drug store easily. Their life focused on church and school for the children; they were members of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church on East John Avenue and their children attended the parochial school of that congregation, which was on East Prairie Avenue at Von Puhl. This is the life I knew as I was growing up.

Their Family

My older brothers and my sister had been born while they were living in rental homes in the same general area and close to the rest of the extended families on both sides. So there were aunts and uncles and cousins (by the dozens) to form a relationship. Their first born baby was a son and they named him Earl; he was a very intelligent young man but unfortunately he had a heart defect called “leakage of the heart” at the time and he only lived to reach the age of 14. Their second child was a girl they named Ethel; she lived a full life and married a man named Leonard Miller. She too had physical problems that required a hysterectomy at an early age which prevented her from having any children. She and Leonard adopted a boy of about 10 years old named David. Their third child was a boy who they named Elmer; he too lived a full life and married Flora Hoyer, the daughter of a Lutheran minister in Oklahoma who was studying to be a nurse at Lutheran Hospital in St. Louis. Elmer was in the Army during World War II and was posted to an Air Force Base in northern Texas (Denison) where he and Flora lived in a home off the base and he went to work just as he might have done if he had not been in the Army. They had one son who they named Earl. Again misfortune struck the family and Flora developed cancer of the liver which took her life when Earl was about 12 years old. After some time, Elmer remarried to Mathilda Lutz, a daughter of a Lutheran missionary to India. He lived with her the rest of his life.

1 I had been playing “cops and robbers” alone in our back yard when I was play-acting an execution by hanging and accidentally kicked the support out from under my feet and was dangling by the rope around my throat.
Little Autobiography

I was the fourth child, a boy, and was named Lester; I have lived a full life as well but the LORD doesn’t seem to be done with me yet even though as I write this I have lived longer than any of my male forebears that I have included in this book. Briefly, I was in the Army in World War II also and was sent overseas to Europe with the 94th Infantry Division where I was in a platoon whose tasks involved mines and “booby traps.” I was a Prisoner of War of the Germans for close to three months and was repatriated to the United States upon my liberation by the British 8th Army. I went to college at Purdue University and graduated in 1949 with a degree in Chemical Engineering; while there I met a girl, Ruth Duell, who would become my wife and the mother of my children. We were married in her home town of Fort Wayne Indiana in June 1949 and have lived since then in several different cities because of the nature of this profession. We had five children, of whom much more later, Anne, Kay, Alan, Donald and Sue during the decade of the 1950s with Sue born in 1960.

Carl (Carly-boy)

Their next baby was a son who they named Carl; he suffered from encephalitis as a young child and had also fallen in such a way as to strike his head against the piano leg. The net effect was that he did not develop mentally beyond a two year old while his body developed physically. Many attempts to educate him failed and he became increasingly difficult to care for as he had no sense of danger and would dart into the street in front of our house frightening my mother. Ultimately, they were convinced he had to be institutionalized and they were able to get him into Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wisconsin where he lived out his brief life.

Their Hobbies

Henry was active in the affairs of the St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church where he served for a time as treasurer and also taught Sunday School until he was in his mid-50s. Being the German that he was, he enjoyed beer and, at that time, there was a place he could buy beer about a half block from our home and he would often bring home a small bucket of draft beer. He drank beer in moderation and I never saw him “under the influence of alcohol;” one of his other hobbies was playing the card game called “Pinochle” which we played as a family and he also played with some of his male friends. The form of entertainment we had when we lived together as a family consisted of a radio (there was no television yet) and we would often sit in the “living room” and listen to the radio (either music, news or dramas.) Mother liked to crochet and to quilt (she liked to attend the “Quilters” at church, a group of women who made quilts for charity) and also to knit, and she was able to do either crocheting or knitting while listening to the radio.

Henry Marries Lena Brown

After Lillie died in 1960, Henry remarried Lena Brown who he met on a trip to California. She was a widow with several daughters. They lived together the rest of Henry’s life. Lena was “Grandma” to Ruth’s and my children and we even knew her when I ended up living in Buffalo New York in 1963 in my first assignment with E.I. duPont & Co., Inc. Henry died in 1960 and she was living with one of her daughters in Hamburg, NY, just south of Buffalo and right in the “Snow Belt.”
Henry Carl Weber  
1887 - 1960

Therese Katherine Elise Weber  
(nee Seckel)  
"Lillie"  
1889 -1950
L -> R: Ethel (2), Elmer (1), Earl (3)
1916

Earl Heinrich Weber - 1924
1911-1925
Henry and Lillie's Family in Shawnee, Oklahoma
July 1928
Visiting Lillie's brother, George.
L to R: Ethel, Elmer, Lillie, Lester, Henry (holding Carl)

Ethel Wilhelmina Weber
1913-1974

Ethel Wilhelmina Miller
(nee Weber)
Wedding Day, July 23, 1942

Ethel and Leonard Miller
and David - 1953

Visit by George Seckel's wife
Easter 1953
L to R (rear): Henry, Alma Seckel, Elmer
(Front) Lester, Ethel
Elmer William Frederick Weber
1915 - 1989
At his confirmation

Flora (nee Hoyer) and Elmer Weber with son Earl
Christmas 1949

Flora and baby Earl Weber
Winter 1944 - Denison, Texas
Mathilda ("Matz" nee Lutz) and Elmer Weber on their wedding day June 1958

L to R (back row) Elmer Weber and Leonard Miller
(Front Row) "Matz" and Lena (nee Brown) Weber and Ethel (nee Weber) Miller
at Ethel and Len's 25th Wedding Anniversary, June 1961

"Matz" Weber, Sue Alpert and Elmer Weber at Sue's Wedding April 30, 1989
Lester George Weber
1924 -

Graduation 1949
Purdue University

Carl and Les Sept. 1, 1941
Bethesda Lutheran Home
Les - Purdue University - 1949
with the Chemical Engineering Building in the background

Les and Ruth (nee Duell) Weber
Christmas 1949

Lester - Washington University
with Anne and Kay - 1954
Charles Edward Weber
(Carl)
1925 - 1951

Bethesda Lutheran Home
Watertown, Wisconsin
July 1939 - Age 13
Henry and Lena (nee Brown) Weber
Our Family's Church Home
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
East John and West Florissant
St. Louis, Missouri

Henry and Lillie's Burial Plot
(along with Henry's parents)
New Bethlehem Cemetery
Halls Ferry Road - St. Louis Co.
Missouri
Chapter 8

The Immediate Family of the Author

As shown earlier on Family Group Records (in Chapter 4), my immediate family includes my wife, Ruth Eileen Duell, and our five children. Ruth and I met when we were both students at Purdue University. I was in my senior year and she had already graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Sociology and was doing graduate work at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Ruth was a native of Indiana (colloquially called “Hoosiers”) as she had been born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the same year as I was born in St. Louis, Missouri. We met almost by accident; her girlfriend brought her along to a picnic affair that our Lutheran group, called Gamma Delta, was having with the Gamma Delta chapter from the University of Illinois at Turkey Run State Park (IN.). I happened to be the president of Gamma Delta that year. BUT, it turned out to be a rainy day in October and the question arose as to whether we should make the trip or call the whole thing off and try again another day. After an hour or so of debate, and after we had contacted the group at Illinois, we decided collectively to chance it and go!!

Ruth has always been fond of the woods and state parks have a special appeal to her. We took a hike together along with some other folks. I suppose the group from Illinois was there but I only had eyes for her. You might call it love at first sight.

Courtship

We dated a bit after that and got to know each other better. Most of our dates were meeting in the library and studying together. I think I took her out on ONE actual date while we were courting. We would meet each other after classes and I would walk her home. She lived in a “boarding house” with some other girls and a woman who owned the house. That lady did not like me; she might not have liked any guys who were paying close attention to one of her girls. But, we rigged up a secret code for when I would come to call on her. I would stand outside at the appointed time and whistle the tune to the Thanksgiving Day hymn “We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing.” She would hear me and show up outside. That way I didn’t have to confront the angry landlady. She lived on the east side of campus and I lived in a fraternity house (called Alpha Kappa Lambda) on the west side of campus and it was a fairly long way to walk, especially as the winter weather came on.

Over the Christmas holiday from Purdue, Ruth had come to St. Louis to meet my family and I had gone to Fort Wayne to meet her family as we were “engaged to be engaged” at that time. We both also went to Pittsburgh with Ruth’s folks to meet her brother, Bob and his wife Beryl. Bob was also a chemical engineer, having received his degree from Yale University; he was working for the Armstrong Cork Company.

Engagement to be Married

I was going to college on the “GI Bill” and I had very little money so what time we spent together had to be very economical. She was not from a rich family either so we didn’t mind as we both were used to living economically. I asked her to marry me and gave her an engagement ring on her birthday (January 21, 1949.) It was not a great big diamond but it was all I could afford.
Graduation from College and First Job

I received my baccalaureate degree in February of 1949 and took my first job at a company in Indianapolis, Indiana called “Specifide, Inc.” who made a supplement for cattle food that contained “choline” (no, that is NOT chlorine but choline) with the idea of being a big fish in a small pond -- it was a very small company. But, I became disillusioned with this choice in the next two months as the manufacturing process was extremely odoriferous (it SMELLED!!!) The only place the city would allow Specifide, Inc. to manufacture this choline was in the “stockyards.” The odor was so penetrating that I had three carefully separated sets of clothes, those I wore to and from work, those that I wore at work and those that I wore any place else. I would take three showers every day but the odor would stay with me wherever I went. When people started to move away from me on the bus, which I had to take to get to work, I began to think I had made a big mistake in my selection of a career. Ruth had moved to Indianapolis to be with me and we each had a room in a separate rooming house; she had a job at Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Second Job

I had applied for a job at Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis and started working there in April 1949. The first assignment was as an analyst in an analytical chemical laboratory where I worked until my “clearance” was granted which allowed me to work in the Uranium Division. Mallinckrodt was a contractor for the Atomic Energy Commission [AEC] (in 1999 this function is a part of the Department of Energy, US Government) to purify naturally occurring uranium from its ores and concentrates into several of its salts and finally into metallic uranium, pure enough to function in atomic piles, where certain impurities could capture neutrons and impede the functioning of the pile to sustain a “chain reaction.” Mr. Edward Mallinckrodt, the owner and president, was a world leader in the handling of ethyl ether, a highly flammable and explosive solvent that was originally used to extract uranium nitrate from the solution of the ores and concentrates, after they were dissolved in nitric acid. This combination is a very dangerous mixture and Mallinckrodt was famous in the chemical world for being able to handle this safely.

Our Wedding

When I went to St. Louis to take this job, Ruth stayed in Indianapolis and planned our wedding. We were married June 11, 1949 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne by our Lutheran minister from Purdue, Rev. E. P. Weber, who later became the president of a Lutheran college in Oregon. The wedding reception was held at Ruth’s parents’ house. As guests at the wedding, there was my immediate family from St. Louis and lots of Ruth’s relatives -- seemed like cousins-by-the-dozens when I was in the receiving line and being introduced to them. I have come to know many of them during our marriage, but, at that moment it was bewildering. Ruth’s two best friends were her bridesmaids and were dressed in the colors she chose, light green and yellow. So, to keep with the color scheme, we had, as refreshments, sandwiches on bread that was colored light green and yellow. I have been reminded of my (negative) reaction to green bread many many times.

We had a very brief honeymoon in southern Michigan, a place we could get to from Fort Wayne without the benefit of an automobile. We traveled there on trains and an “interurban” (like a trolley car, only faster) that traveled between small cities. And then I brought my new bride to St. Louis, where I had rented an apartment (remember I’m still broke!)
Our First Home

It was an upstairs apartment just about a block away from my brother Elmer and his wife Flora and within walking distance (on a good day) from work. Ruth made it into a home for us and the main thing she did not like about it was the fact that we had to share a bathroom with two other couples. We lived there for about a year during which Ruth worked at Missouri Bag Company in the office for 3 months and then did substitute teaching at some of the St. Louis schools. And, before that year was out, she knew that she was about to become a mother. During that same time period, my mother became ill and died. She was only 60 years old and it was quite a shock to all of the family. Ruth always regretted not having her around because she liked her and it was reciprocal too, mother liked Ruth.

Our Second and Third Homes
and the Arrival of Anne Kathleen Weber

My father and mother had moved to a small house just shortly before she became ill and that opened up an opportunity for us to move to a nicer rental home, the downstairs "flat" where my father and mother had lived before they moved. We lived there, at 4645 Farlin Avenue, when Anne was born on November 14, 1950. I continued to work at Mallinckrodt, by now an engineer in a pilot plant where we were developing a new solvent system to replace the highly dangerous ethyl ether system. While we lived here, my sister, Ethel, and her husband, Leonard Miller, lived upstairs. We shared the basement. While we lived in the apartment, we did not own a car but now we bought an old car from my father who was about to trade it in. This gave us more freedom and, as every young couple does, we wished for a home of our own. That became possible later, after we had saved some money, and we purchased a small home in the county on a street called Green Valley Drive.

Now that we had a car of our own, we also could visit Ruth’s folks more easily. It was about 375 miles from St. Louis to Fort Wayne and, prior to the construction of the Interstate Highway system, a trip like this took us about 12 to 13 hours. We always had to negotiate our way around Indianapolis and every way we tried took us about an hour.

A New Job Challenge and Further Education

That solvent process that we had been developing in the pilot plant at Mallinckrodt got installed at a new uranium refining facility at Fernald, Ohio near Cincinnati. Now, my new role in the process development field involved the reduction of uranium salts to the pure metal. We built a pilot facility in an old section of a building that had served as a production facility for the salt. And we embarked on development of improvements in the metal reduction process, one of which saved us a million dollars a year in manufacturing costs (and at that time, a lot of money was measured in thousands and a great deal of money was a million.) We also improved the productivity of the process as well and learned how to produce a much larger batch at a time.

Meanwhile, I was going to graduate school in chemical engineering at Washington University in St. Louis; most of my classes were on Saturday morning and I was able to conduct my research project in the basement of our new home. It was not a dangerous operation although I did spill a little acid on the concrete floor that created a man-made trough in the floor - not more than 1/4 inch deep.
Kay Lorraine Weber Arrives

And, while on Green Valley Drive in August of 1952, along came another darling little baby girl that we named Kay Lorraine. Up till the advent of a second child, we took Anne almost everywhere we went. But, the parental demands increased and the advent of a new home entertainment medium called television was getting well established. We bought our first TV set after Kay was born.

Both Anne and Kay were able to attend my graduation at Washington University in 1954 when I received a Master’s Degree in Chemical Engineering. Of course, they stayed with their mother during the festivities.

And, Yet Another New Challenge

It was just about this same time that I was assigned to a task force to provide design liaison for the construction of a new uranium production facility at Weldon Springs, Missouri. This involved a lot of traveling as the AEC had selected an architect-engineer firm in Pittsburgh, Blaw-Knox, to do the design work for the new plant. So Ruth and the girls had an introduction to airplanes and had many trips to the St. Louis airport to either meet Daddy or to take me to a plane to go to Pittsburgh...often weekly but sometimes even twice a week. Propeller driven “Constellation”s were the big planes of the day and one boarded the plane by a set of portable stairs that were rolled up to the plane out on the tarmac...before the advent of jetways. This was also the method of egress.

Arrival of our First Son

And, in the midst of this, we welcomed a new baby boy into our family in August of 1954; we named him Alan Paul Weber at his baptism at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. He became a very good swimmer in high school and even participated in several state swim meets. Life was pretty busy for both Ruth and for me as the demands of the family and those of the design project continued and I continued to travel a lot. Blaw-Knox ended up subcontracting some of the design work to another architect engineer firm in Baltimore and it was for the work on my phase of the project. So now my travels took me both to Pittsburgh and to Baltimore.

It was in Baltimore that I met a mechanical design engineer who was a retired admiral from the Naval Air Force; he claimed he was the first man ever to land a jet airplane on an aircraft carrier and he referred to it, not as a landing, but as a “controlled crash.” Travel can be an adventure but, like almost anything else, too much traveling soon became a real chore. I hardly had much time to be with my young family and I was glad to see it come to an end.

Our Fourth Home

As it became evident that my place of employment would be at the new plant site, we began to think about relocating to a more convenient part of St. Louis so that I would not have such a long commute to and from work every day. We found a new development being built in Olivette, a suburb of St. Louis, and bought a new house there on a court called Chickasaw. We made the move in 1957. There were just seven houses/families on Chickasaw Court and we soon got to know most of them. It was a ranch style house with a part of the back yard fenced in so little children could play there safely. We had a carport here to keep our car out of the winter weather and it was soon decorated with climbing red roses. It was nice to live on a court where there was very limited traffic so the children could be permitted to play in the street.
Completion of construction and the start-up of the new plant consumed a few months while I was still an “Assistant Manager of the Expansion Department;” there were three of us with different responsibilities for sections of the new plant plus a manager to whom we all reported. My phase of the project included all that was involved with the production of metal and the development of new processes and details in a Metal Pilot Plant.

A New Job Assignment and a New Son

Once the plant was operational, the Expansion Department was disbanded and we all moved to new assignments. Mine was to supervise a Technical Group called Production Technology Department where we provided technical assistance to the Manufacturing Department. We had become established in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olivette, MO and it was there that our new son, Donald Martin Weber, was baptized following his birth in March 1958.

“Big Roomers”/“Little Roomers” — a New Beginning and An End

My role in the Production Technology Department lasted for the next five years including some major changes in some of the processes involved in the manufacturing process ... one involved the recovery of an acid stream, which we had previously had to neutralize, in some quite sophisticated facilities. Ruth was actively engaged in keeping our family clothed, fed and nurtured; she became active in the 4H club when the girls got old enough and in Cub Scouts. I continued to be active in the church which started out with a two room elementary school and later built a much larger school. It was in this two room school that both Anne and Kay started first grade...they used to call each other the “big roomers” or the “little roomers.” Two male teachers taught all 8 grades. In the year that Kay started first grade, we received another blessing from the Lord in the form of our “baby” Sue Ellen who was born in December 1960. Sadly, during that same year, my father died of congestive heart failure at the age of 73. He never got to know Sue and vice versa.

Campers, We Are

During this time in St. Louis, we took some camping vacations...in a tent. We went west to see the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore. We also went to Yellowstone National Park and to the Grand Tetons National Park. This was great fun as we all liked the great outdoors. We didn't care too much for the black bears that raided our garbage can, not five feet from the wall of the tent in Yellowstone. We also took frequent trips to Fort Wayne to see Grandma and Grandpa Duell and they also came to visit us.

Mid-Life Crisis

In about 1962, when I was getting close to 40 years old, I was in a position to realize that the life expectancy of the plant at Weldon Spring was getting short as the only outlet for our products was a very deadly one and the country had built up a large stockpile of fissionable materials already. The rest of Mallinckrodt was too small, in my estimation, to absorb all the technical personnel now in the Uranium Division, so I elected to look elsewhere for employment. I was having a mid-life crisis! My young family needed me to provide for them. I had been engaged in a highly specialized field involving inorganic chemistry for the most part and a great deal of the chemical world was involved with organic chemistry.

In early 1963, after a set of interviews with the E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company, Inc. (their official name that they like to use), I accepted an offer of a job at the Yerkes Laboratory in
Buffalo, New York in their Film Department. A new product had been invented and was being developed; it had very promising properties, especially for the emerging field of space exploration. My assignment involved part of that new development; it was a task that you would not assign to a new chemical engineer just out of college. It all involved organic chemistry!!! After many years in supervision, I was now having to play a technical role on a tight schedule and without any opportunity to conduct any tests on any proposed solutions. I was alarmed! I thought I should brush up on my technical skills so I enrolled in a class in advanced mathematics at the University of Buffalo, which was only a few blocks from the house we had purchased.

Buffalo, New York

When Ruth and I had gone to Buffalo on our “House Hunting” trip, I became ill on the airplane (we were sitting close to the open door when we made a stop in Chicago where it was “Zero degrees” and I was all bundled up in blankets.) Some fun! Ruth got me to a motel and she went house shopping; I agreed to buy that house without ever seeing it, but trusting her judgment. I had pneumonia! But I recovered. Later on, when we were “closing” on the purchase of the house, I had my lawyer in a room with the lawyers from the lender and from the seller and they asked me to sign a document. Before I did, I insisted on reading it all; it was good that I did because the document listed the wrong location. The lawyers made light of the error but it would have proven troublesome for me later had it not been corrected right then. Moral: Read the fine print!

It was a traumatic move for Ruth to bring all the children on the train from St. Louis to Buffalo and she still remembers that time. Anne was the oldest at 12 and Kay was 10 so they were able to be of some help. But Sue was only 2, Don was 5 and Alan was just 8. We could not afford a trip by plane and duPont was not helping us make the move financially.

Buffalo is notorious for the amount of snowfall in the winter but it is also famous for its proximity to Niagara Falls. The city is quite flat and is well prepared for heavy snows. In the two winters that we lived there, our children never missed a single day of school because of a “snow day.” And we had multiple trips to Niagara Falls in all seasons of the year; many of our relatives decided to come visit us while we were there and, naturally, Niagara Falls was the sight to be seen by all. The water from Lake Erie roars down the short Niagara River and falls over a huge precipice in a thundering roar on its way to Lake Ontario. We visited in all seasons but the most memorable to me was in the spring when the ice was breaking up and large ice floes would go racing over the falls; it really gave you a visual realization of just how fast that water was flowing.

Mid-Life Crisis Continued

One of the fascinating parts of my job there was the problem of “When does fog form?” It turns out that 100% humidity (the right combination of water vapor in the air and temperature) is only partly true. That can exist without fog forming! Why not? That was the question. (This is a simplification of the technical problem involved but illustrates the problem.)

Anne was in the 8th grade while I was in my room studying my math one night and I was mumbling to myself about the problem I was trying to solve. She overheard me and came in and said “Oh, Daddy, I know how to do that!” Really! I’m “sweating blood” about this job and trying to stay on top of things by taking tough math courses only to find that nowadays they are teaching that to 8th graders!!!! Did wonders for my ego! But, you know what, she did know how!
Lucky for me that duPont is a big company with a LOT of resources, including some wonderful consultants in the (then still existing) Engineering Department. They knew a great deal of how to deal with this complex problem and with their help, we came to a conclusion about how to proceed and, even, how to dodge certain unsolvable problems. They had advanced computing capabilities in the then relatively new fangled (and quite difficult to use) new digital computers.

While we lived there, we saw a lot of Lena, my Dad’s second wife because her daughter lived in Hamburg, New York, just a few miles south of Buffalo and in a REAL Snow Belt. It was here I saw snow so deep that, when two roads intersected, you couldn’t see the approaching cars ... so people took to putting orange plastic balls on their radio antennas, which, at that time were an outside fixture to the car.

The children attended Martin Luther Lutheran elementary school in Buffalo and we attended a nearby Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (about three and a half blocks away.) We became involved in their activities and Anne continued to take piano lessons, which would prove helpful in our next location.

Death of Ruth’s Dad

But, it was also during this time frame, in 1964, that Ruth’s Dad, Carlisle, was stricken with cancer of the esophagus. He was treated at the Oschner Clinic in New Orleans (Ruth’s brother, Bob, lived in Pensacola, Florida at this time) and he died while recuperating from treatments at his son’s home in Pensacola. We took the entire family all the way to Florida from Buffalo for his funeral.

Plant Startup - New Product

In the spring of 1965, the Development Team was transferred to the plant site where the new product would be produced and our task was to help with the startup of the new plant facilities. We decided to live in a nearby town, Lancaster, Ohio, so the children could continue their education in the Lutheran elementary school there. (Sounds a little like my Grandfather Johann Heinrich Weber, doesn’t it?) For a time we lived in a rented house along with Ruth’s mother, now a widow, while we contracted the construction of a new house just down the hill from the school.

Our Home in Lancaster, Ohio

The church here was in its formative stages but they had constructed a school and were conducting worship services in the school gym. Here they needed an organist from time to time and Anne had the opportunity to play and lead the congregation in worship. Building a house was a new experience for us and we learned a lot. Fortunately, we had been guided to a good (and honest) contractor who worked with us on the basic design and the “zillion” decisions that are necessary to achieve the final product. Ruth got to have a family room immediately adjacent to the kitchen, and behind the two car garage, where the washer and dryer were enclosed in an alcove with doors. This provided the opportunity for the children to play while within her sight and control. Her mother, Lenore, took an apartment nearer to the downtown but stayed in Lancaster with us.

My role on the job began to involve a lot of traveling because the work I was involved with had been sub-contracted to a firm in New Jersey. So I spent a lot of time there as we worked out the intricacies of this problem as we had not been allowed to build our own pilot plant to learn all the processing techniques that were found to be needed. There were long days and sleepless nights while at the contractor because they had no knowledge about our problem and had to be directed a lot. Some mysterious things were happening which I did not understand and logistical problems began to
develop as the plant started up and we attempted to resolve this issue. Again, fortunately, help came from the presence of an organic chemist on the Development Team who discovered the source of the problem. And, once you understand what the real problem is, the solution is then a lot easier.

The land behind our new house was a steep hill and we decided to beautify the back yard a bit and make a flower garden. This project grew and grew (as is the nature of projects) until we had hauled in railroad ties to form a low wall in front of the garden and then decided that a beautiful stone wall to form the rear of the steps next to the garden would be nice. This really turned out to be a project for the whole family and, since I was the engineer, it fell to me to make sure that, once built, it would stay there. So we anchored it to the hill behind and put mortar between the stones to add more strength. We worked real hard on that project those years, and these days, when we go back in nostalgia to see the house we built, we are proud to see the beautiful wall still standing there.

Donnie had a lot of fun at this house as the lots on both sides of us were empty and provided ample opportunities for this budding engineer to build his own cities in the dust and to design his own version of Mount Rushmore on the cliff next door to us. “Creativity” was the buzzword of the day! Al had a good friend in a neighbor boy; they were in Junior High School together and started publishing their own newspaper. He also sang in a singing group from his school called the “Vocalaires” and after his confirmation in 1968, he got to go to a Boy Scout National Jamboree in Idaho. Sue got to ride on a float as the Mardi Gras Queen of her school in a parade downtown; Donnie got to ride on a Christmas Float in another downtown parade. Kay was an excellent student and was inducted into the National Honor Society in her Junior year; she sang in the High School Chorus and was a National Merit Scholar. Anne was also a very good student as well as being a musician; she was a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist. She also got to go to the Orange Bowl with the Lancaster High School Band (she played the clarinet) where they played in the Orange Bowl Parade and appeared on television on New Year’s Day in Miami, Florida. She graduated from High School in 1968 and then spent the next year as a freshman at the Ohio University Branch in Lancaster.

A New Set of Opportunities

After we got the plant started and my part of the project in reasonably good shape, I was transferred to the Research Laboratory on the same site where I was introduced to polyester film. It was only about a year before I was made a Research Supervisor where I had the responsibility for a team of engineers, each of whom knew a lot more about polyester than I did. We were building a new semi-works for the processing of polyester film types. While on this job, we had some real good times with the Lab (oratory) Director who organized events for his team of supervisors on a social basis. We had dinner in a variety of elegant restaurants in nearby Columbus along with our wives. Ruth enjoyed those social opportunities. A number of those supervisors have subsequently advanced within duPont to become vice-presidents.

We were on vacation in St. Louis the summer in between Kay’s Junior and Senior year in Lancaster High School and Anne was about to start her sophomore year of college at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, when I received a telephone call offering me a promotion to become Technical Superintendent at the cellophane plant in Clinton, Iowa. I was puzzled but the Lab Director told me I would be a fool not to take the opportunity. We drove north to see Clinton and I took the job. I had little idea of what the responsibilities of a Technical Superintendent were and struggled to learn. Again, I was plunged into technology that was well established but I knew nothing about it; this became a familiar pattern for me.
Clinton, Cellophane and Tears

Clinton is a town right on the Mississippi River, just north of the Quad-Cities including Davenport. It was an industrial town with duPont's large plant, Clinton Corn Processing Plant and an Ammonia plant. Both duPont's cellophane plant and corn processing produced odorous discharges at the time and an ammonia plant was a very dangerous operation. I drove alone from Lancaster to Clinton and told a lot of stories of seeing “corn and soybeans” and “soybeans and corn” all along the way. I took a room in a motel near the plant while the rest of the family remained in Lancaster. The mixtures of odors was enough to convince me that I wanted to live farther away from the plants so we focused on a home in the northern section of Clinton called “Lyons.”

But, it was a tough move for Kay because she was an attractive young lady who was well established with a group of friends in church and in Lancaster High School and knew nobody at all in Clinton. I wish there could have been some way to ease her pain but, tears and all, she moved with us! And, to her great good fortune, there was a group of girls who took her under their wing and made her a part of their group. A Blessing!

Ruth’s mother, Lenore, did not want to move to Iowa and didn’t want to stay in Lancaster alone either. So she moved to Pensacola to be with her son, Bob, and his family and to be able to visit and decorate Carlisle’s grave. She lived in a house that was just a block away from Bob and his family.

Smells and Chills

In retrospect, Don describes the odors of Clinton as like “sticking your head into a bag of Fritos.” And that was just the effects of the Clinton Corn Processing Plant. The odor from the cellophane plant was a hydrogen sulfide odor, quite disagreeable. When we first arrived and inquired about the nature of the winters there, one of my friends (who has since become a duPont vice president) told me that there were about two weeks in January where the temperature plunged to about twenty degrees below zero in the morning and sometimes it never got above zero all day. I thought he was exaggerating but, sure enough, it did get that cold each January.

We bought a 4 bedroom house in Lyons where we had a back yard of a corn field and a ravine area covered with trees, a scene of which Ruth did an oil painting. It was a long way from the plant but still a reasonable commute.

Pressure Problem

Cellophane is an organic film that is coated to provide a moisture barrier in order to protect the product it is used to package, such as potato chips, from picking up moisture from the air. During these years, the biggest problem we had was a time when the moisture barrier measurement test in the laboratory suddenly went “bonkers” and the results could not be trusted. In the meantime, we are producing tons of film every day; What could we do???? Should we release it based on some other test? Well, in fact that is what we had to do; we measured the thickness of the coating and released it to sale on the basis of the coating thickness being within normal bounds. But, this became a big “political football” with the Sales Technical people in Wilmington. Ultimately, I had them run some “Humidity Room” tests on some of our product with proper coating thicknesses while we scrambled to try to figure out what had gone wrong with the other test. When the tests on our film proved our point, the “ruckus” died down; but it was sure tense there for a time.
The Anti-War Protests

Anne had continued her college education at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio while we were in Clinton. This was during the Vietnam War and there were student protests against the war on many campuses. Students (and outside agitators, we think) rioted at Ohio University. The University was shut down with the school year declared ended and the students were told to get off campus within 24 hours. Anne called us to tell us about this development one morning just as I was getting ready to go to work. She wanted us to come get her but we were over 500 miles away. Fortunately, one of my friends in Lancaster saved the day and provided a place for her to stay at his house until we could get there the next day.

The rebellious youth of the 1960s had started the “Do Your Own Thing” movement and it became popular to use illegal and dangerous drugs or anything else that your parents did not approve of. Resist Authority!! This was a contentious time in America. The police were called “pigs” when they tried to maintain order in the streets and campuses and even the National Guard was called in sometimes to control what seemed to be close to revolution. It got ugly!

Valparaiso

That fall, after Kay had received a scholarship from Valparaiso University, we let her go there. She was a very intelligent young woman and got placed into an advanced group called “Christ College.” In the course of that year, Kay became very unhappy with the school and wanted to come home. We learned later that one of her instructors in “Creative Writing” encouraged the students to use drugs to increase their creativity. She will have to tell the rest of the story because we do not know it all. She did come home and spent the following year at a local junior college. While she was at “Valpo,” Anne was too, and it was there that Anne received her Bachelor’s Degree in Nutrition.

Clinton Sports

While we were in Clinton, Al became a good swimmer and made the High School Swim Team. He even got to swim in the State Meet in the Individual Medley, a race in which one swimmer performs all four of the basic swimming strokes. He was awarded a “Swimming Frog” because of his prowess in swimming. He graduated from Clinton High School in 1972 and enrolled at Mount St. Clare Junior college for the fall term. Don and Sue learned to ski at the park in Clinton and then went on to ski at Chestnut Mountain, a place Don continues to frequent as he has opportunity. Don also earned a Swimming Frog at his Junior High.

Cellophane - a Mature Product

Cellophane was a mature product and facing competition from other films that could perform similar functions; duPont was slowly reducing the number of plants it had that produced it; at one time there had been 6 plants and, during my exposure to the product, it had been reduced to three plants. As time progressed, duPont shut down the cellophane operations at Clinton, sold the remaining Cellophane business and the most modern plant, at Tecumseh, Kansas, to another company who continues to produce it.

“BIVAC” - Wilmington

In the Spring of 1973, I was transferred to Wilmington Delaware, where I was assigned to a new and fledgling business venture called “BIVAC” that had to do with the packaging of fresh meat in a vacuum package while retaining its red, fresh appearance. My role was that of Customer Service
Manager with an office at Chestnut Run. I moved there and lived in an apartment with Dick Scott, a friend, who also had been transferred to Wilmington on the polyester bottle venture, from April 1st to July; the family came in early June and we all lived in the apartment until we found a house. In July we bought a house at 201 Whitekirk Drive.

Again, this was totally new technology to me. Our task was to install large vacuum packaging machines that were manufactured for us by the company that held the patent on the system and to help maintain the machines in the customers facilities when they requested our help. The customers signed an agreement stating that they would do their own maintenance on the equipment and a few of the better customers actually did so. But most of our customers relied on us to do the repair work and were quite impatient with us whenever anything went wrong. It was a very small organization within duPont and we were very closely linked to the Marketing-Sales group and to the Development group within this business venture. The product really was quite good and the package was so transparent and the meat so red and fresh looking as to be quite amazing and, as it turned out, ahead of its time. At one point in our experience, one of our supermarket customers in California, Lucky Stores, ran a customer acceptance test and found, to everybody’s dismay, that the majority of the women who were interviewed did not believe that there was a package around the meat at all...it was that clear. And, as a result, would not buy it. That was a setback.

Some of our customers ...???

We had some really “tough” customers; one guy in Detroit made one of the Customer Service Representatives, who worked for me, so angry that he refused to go back to his shop to do anything more for him; I had to go see this guy (the customer) and do some real straight from the vest talking to him. It turned out that he went bankrupt not too long later; he did not have much business sense. He was buying carcasses for (let’s say) 10¢/lb and selling the meat for (let’s say) 15¢/lb thinking he was making money but completely forgetting that he was not able to sell the entire number of pounds as meat that he took in as a carcass; there is some waste and a lot of bones.

Another adventure I had during this time was the need to remove a machine we had installed in a plant in Puerto Rico. Another new kind of experience! We went there, stumbled our way through customs (since we did not speak Spanish) and got to the place where the machine was located, in a college town called Mayaguez, on the western end of the island. As luck would have it, the college students were “on strike” over some issue at the time and an English speaking college student asked us for a job. Wonderful! I took him on and he helped us immensely ... to order lumber from the local shops and to get it delivered, to find help in getting that big machine out of its basement location and crated up, filling out the export forms, paying the right amounts for both labor, materials and government export paperwork. He was a gift from God!

Our customers were spread out all over the United States from New Jersey to California with one in Canada and one even in New Zealand. This involved a LOT of travelling and sometimes even some problems with “Customs” like when one guy failed to notify the Canadian Customs that he was bringing his tools (probably worth about $150) into Canada and then found out that they wouldn’t let him take them back out.

I had a good crew BUT then...!!!

I had a crew of five Customer Service Representatives when I really ran into a big problem; suddenly four of the five men developed back problems and couldn’t lift anything, even a suitcase. At this time we had SO much work to do that the single remaining guy could not possibly keep up with it.
No help from anywhere! It got to me and I developed a “garden variety depression,” as the doctor called it. While I have a reasonable tolerance for chaos and disorganization, this went beyond what I was able to tolerate and soon my career in management came to an end. The depression was treated with medications that proved effective.

STRESS!!

During our time in Wilmington, I had a few other stressors. I had been elected president of our congregation when, about a few weeks later, a big controversy arose within our church body at the seminary in St. Louis ... it related basically to methodology of interpretation of the Bible. I was struggling to comprehend what it was all about and how we ought to react. The matter never became clear to me as it was also all mixed up with church government and politics. And starting in the 1973 school year, Anne was accepted to the Medical School at the University of Iowa; Kay was at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo, MI studying Occupational Therapy; Al was a sophomore at Iowa State University studying Telecommutative Arts; Don was a sophomore at McKean High School near our house and Sue was in 7th grade at Brandywine Springs Junior High School, in Wilmington. On March 7, 1974, Ruth’s brother Bob died of heart disease at the young age of 51 and on May 6, 1974, my sister, Ethel, died of a heart attack in her sleep; that summer, Ruth’s mother moved from Florida to Delaware and lived in an apartment in Newark, DE. During the 1974 -75 school year, all of the children advanced one level at the same locations. Don was on the swim team during all three years of his high school and won a title at the State Swim Team Finals. Kay graduated with honors from Western Michigan University in April 1975, Sue was confirmed that Spring and Anne got married to Ed Towey in Rochester, MN on May 24, 1975. During the next (’75-76) school year, Anne managed to get into the Medical School at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis continuing her medical education while she was married to Ed. Kay moved to Detroit to work as an Occupational Therapist.

In February 1976, Al graduated from Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa but stayed on during the spring semester to finish a movie project he was working on. In May 1976, Kay was married to Karl Wizinsky at Farmington, MI. Don graduated from McKean High School in June and Al moved to New York City to try to break into a career in the film business. He was supporting himself by driving a cab and by taking old fashioned photographs in Central Park where he met Sabine Rinker, a German girl.

Move to Parkersburg

In September, I was transferred to the Polymer plant at Parkersburg, West Virginia. I was no longer in the management ranks but still retained my same “salary grade level.” But the kind of title that it would command at a plant site seemed to me to be “too much” considering that again I was plunged into a totally new technology to me. So I requested a lower title and that was respected by the management at the plant. My first assignment involved Capacity Planning. We were in the business of making specialty plastics to be used in engineering applications so we were creating compounded plastics. The basic technology involved the extrusion of plastics but not only the extrusion but also the compounding of one plastic with another to create the needed finished product. One of the big early tasks in this kind of planning was the interpretation of the Sales Forecast and I got pretty good at that. The end product demanded the production of the components of the compound as well as the production of the extruded compound.

We lived in Parkersburg for 15 years, the longest of any of my duPont experiences. It was a very large plant producing only plastics in a variety of types, colors and styles. In the course of the expansion planning, it was also possible to improve the productivity of the equipment and therefore of
the personnel and we did that over a period of time. We gradually moved from a rudimentary way of handling and extruding compounded plastics to a “state of the art” methodology by the time I retired. Each of the individual “projects” was handled by one of the other engineers and my role continued to be in the background of the actual production. You might characterize it as an “idea man” - ideas that were not all mine but came from many sources within the Technical community on the plant.

We rented a small house for a time; I lived there alone until the family arrived in November 1976. Ruth’s mother moved with us as she did not want to be left alone in Wilmington, DE. And she lived with us for a number of years. Sue transferred from McKean High School to Parkersburg High School and was a sophomore but Don did not go to college that fall. 1977 was a momentous year when our first grandchild was born — Brigit Towey, born January 15th. Her mother, Anne, was still attending Medical School while she was pregnant with Brigit and graduated from the University of Minnesota’s Medical School in May. That was just a month after we moved into the house that we bought on North Hills Drive. We selected it largely because it had a level sidewalk from the driveway to the front door to help Ruth’s mother, who was getting weaker as she grew older. West Virginia is a land of hills and North Hills was no exception. But it was THE place to live when we moved there. Don started Parkersburg Community College in the spring semester and then went back to the University of Delaware for the summer.

He started studying Mechanical Engineering at the Ohio State University that fall while Sue was a junior at Parkersburg High. Sue continued at Parkersburg High and graduated in June 1979.

The extrusion operation was a very noisy operation and, as we moved toward a modern operation, we were also able to minimize the noise exposure of the operators and localize some of the controls in a sound treated control room.

Karl and Kay presented us with our first grandson, Matthew Wizinsky, on August 12, 1978 and Ruth was able and anxious to go to Novi (suburb of Detroit) to help with the new baby.

While in Parkersburg, I enjoyed singing with a community chorus called “People’s Choice” who gave about two public concerts each year.

Al married Sabine Rinker in New York City on October 11, 1980 and we attended the wedding, camping in our “Pop-Up Trailer” across the river in New Jersey. That was the same year that Sue started Ohio State University’s Business School as a sophomore as she had done her Freshman work at Parkersburg Community College. More grandchildren made their appearance in 1981 with the birth of Edward Towey, Jr. (called Teddy[now Ted]) in Minneapolis, MN on September 4th and Joshua Weber, son of Al and Sabine, on November 7th in New York City. In December 1981, Don graduated from Ohio State with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and took a job working for McDonnell Douglas in the Los Angeles area.

Lenore Duell, Grandma

Ruth’s mother and the children’s grandmother, Lenore (Sarber) Duell, lived with us in our home on North Hills Drive for several years until she became too frail and weak so that we had to place her in an “Assisted Living Facility” in Parkersburg. She was not happy there but endured. In the spring of 1982, she had gotten even more frail and we had to move her to a nursing home where she died a short time later on June 17, 1982 having lived 84 years, 5 months, 13 days. She was buried in Pensacola, Florida next to her husband, Carlisle, in Bayview Cemetery.
Other Tasks in Parkersburg

Later on in my work experience at Parkersburg, efficiency in the use of capital was becoming important and one of my activities centered around an inventory control system; it took several years and introduced me to some more computer know-how that I did not know before but, in the end, it reduced the “working capital” that we had invested in the raw materials, packaging materials and supplies for the engineering compounding division by nearly ten million dollars. That was also helped along by the retirement of two of the men who had been responsible for that function before this project and knew “How we have always done it.”

Waves of emphases pass through the business community and new goals appear. “Quality” became a big issue with the realization that the Japanese had advanced beyond much of the industry in the USA in the application of Statistical Quality Control methods initially developed by an American. The application of an advanced type of Statistical Quality Control, advocated by our Engineering Department, became my next major project and I was given the assignment of “implementing” it. We had used Statistical Quality Control techniques in our Analytical Laboratories for many years to assure that the testing procedures were, in fact, giving the production personnel the proper results so some of it was nothing new. But the specific methodology for continuous processes was new and again needed computerized implementation. Fortunately, for me, we had a Systems Group on plant and they helped me select a new computer, justify a new place for it to be housed and help get it installed. This system helped to maintain the consistency of our quality although it was not proven suitable for batch type operations.

Ohio State University

Sue graduated from Ohio State with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in June 1983 and took a job with NCR (formerly National Cash Register) in Rancho Bernardo, CA near San Diego. That fall Al, Sabine and their son, Joshua, moved to Columbus where he planned to get a Masters Degree in Business Administration. He worked for a year, attended school for 2 years during which, on January 6, 1986 their son, Johannes, was born; Al graduated in June 1986, when he also took a job in California with Shell Oil Company. Seems like our family is moving to California.

Grandchildren

More grandchildren were born in the decade of the 1980s including:
Josef Weber, born to Al and Sabine on February 26, 1987 and
Patricia Anne Towey, born to Ed and Anne Towey on March 12, 1989.

Ruth’s Hobbies in Parkersburg

Ruth attended classes at Parkersburg Junior College but given by Glenville State College where she earned a second Bachelor’s Degree, this time in Social Work. She applied that a great deal in work with mentally ill people at a weekly meeting at the Mental Health Center in Parkersburg where the group was called “The Merrymakers.” And she also applied it in the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in West Virginia was a woman who was our neighbor when we lived on Chickasaw Court in St. Louis. Her son, with whom our children had played when they all were small, came down with schizophrenia when he was in his teens and nothing in the way of new treatments has yet been able to be of permanent help to him.
Ruth enjoys painting as a hobby...that is artistic painting. First she painted in oil paints but later found more enjoyment doing water colors. Each of our children has one or more of her paintings in their homes. She does not attempt to market her works.

**Weddings in California and Michigan**

In 1989, Sue and Bob Alpert were married in LaJolla, California on April 30th and Don and Chele Natonsky were married in Rochester, Michigan on September 2nd where I had been asked to sing a solo.

**Globalization**

My last work assignments in Parkersburg focused on further “Globalizing our Business” with some international assignments that involved installing a small operation in our plant just outside Mexico City, an opportunity to travel there (and take Ruth along for a week), and see some of the sights of the city including the volcanic mountains that surround it and the ancient pyramids outside the city. At the same time, we were installing a small operation in Buenos Aires, Argentina for which I provided liaison but never had the opportunity to see. Another foreign expansion was a plant in South Korea where I had the task of leading and coordinating the training of the cadre of South Koreans who came to our plant to learn our technology. That project continued up to my retirement on December 31, 1989.

**Retirement**

I worked a little longer after my retirement date, as a contract employee, to finish the Korean training; the rest of the American team went to Korea to help at the startup of the plant. Although, the Koreans were most polite and pleasant to me, I had no desire to go to Korea.

After I retired, we decided we did not want to stay in Parkersburg permanently and we put our house on the market. I had an episode of sickness in early 1990 that caused me to be hospitalized and ultimately to go to Mayo Clinic for diagnosis; they called it “seizure disorder” and put me on a medication to control it. So far it has! Our house did not sell until mid 1991 when we moved to a rental townhouse in Upper Arlington, a suburb of Columbus.

**New Grandchildren**

New grandchildren were born in the 1990s as well; they included:

Kyle Weber, born to Don and Chele on August 9, 1990;
Claire Weber, born to Kay Weber on November 6, 1990;
Ellen Weber, born to Don and Chele on September 16, 1991;
Tara Alpert, born to Bob and Sue Alpert on November 1, 1991 and
Brian Alpert, born to Bob and Sue on June 7, 1994.

On each of these occasions, Ruth went to their home and spent some time helping to care for the new babies and their mothers, giving rise to quite a few trips.

**What do you do when you retire?**

Since we have lived in the Columbus, Ohio area, I have focused my energies on doing genealogical research, first for myself and Ruth and then, after a two year stint as Membership
Registrar for the Palatines to America, a German genealogical organization to which we have belonged since Parkersburg, I have done research for the members of this organization in the library at Capital University. Each individual request is like a new challenge as I start out knowing little or nothing about their family and then try to contribute whatever I can find to add to their information about their roots. And, I also have gotten around to writing this book!

We joined a Lutheran Church called Upper Arlington Lutheran Church where we are actively involved in the Senior Citizen activities (Here they called senior citizens “Experienced Troopers”) and I sing baritone in the choir. Ruth and I both sing in a chorus that is part of our local Senior Citizen’s Center and we also both enjoy serving on a weekly worship team from our church (called UALC) providing Christian worship services for two “Care Facilities,” one the Columbus Alzheimer’s Care Center and the other Arlington Court, a rehabilitation center and nursing home.

Ruth and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in June 1999 with a Family Reunion to which all of our children and all but one of our 12 grandchildren came. It was held in Columbus, Ohio and the children, now grown adults with their own families, came from their homes in Minneapolis (Anne), Detroit (Kay), Houston (Al), Chicago (Don) and San Diego (Sue). Should some future genealogist try to find us, it is likely to prove difficult as we have lived in 13 different places in 7 cities. Here are our addresses after our marriage and the span of time when we lived there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1949 - June 1950</td>
<td>4421a North 20th Street, St. Louis, Missouri (MO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1950 - July 1951</td>
<td>4645 Farlin Avenue, St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1951 - February 1956</td>
<td>9820 Green Valley Drive, St. Louis (Moline Acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1956 - April 1963</td>
<td>8800 Chickasaw Court, Olivette, St. Louis suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1963 - February 1965</td>
<td>359 Capen Boulevard, Amherst, Buffalo NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1965 - November 1965</td>
<td>411 O’Gara, Lancaster, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1965 - August 1969</td>
<td>1469 Lynn Drive, Lancaster, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1969 - May 1973</td>
<td>714 Tower Road, Clinton, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1973 - July 1973</td>
<td>1314-1&amp;8 Cynwyd Club Drive, Wilmington, DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1973 - November 1976</td>
<td>201 Whitekirk Drive, Wilmington, Delaware (DE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1976 - April 4, 1977</td>
<td>4503 Whited Drive, Vienna, West Virginia (WV) (Family arrived in November 1976)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4, 1977 - June 1991</td>
<td>26 North Hills Drive, Parkersburg, West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1991 - present (September 1999)</td>
<td>2030 Mackenzie Drive, Columbus, Ohio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Often, in these various moves, I would have to go ahead to start the new job and Ruth brought the family along later to some place I had found for us to live. In both Lancaster, Ohio and Wilmington, Delaware we lived in temporary quarters until we could occupy the homes we had purchased in each city. In Lancaster, we actually had a new home built for us.

Les Weber
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR EARL KENNETH WEBER/ELLEN MAE KIRSCHENMANN - WEBER.PAF</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUSSAND Earl Kenneth WEBER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIRTH:</strong> 19 Apr 1944</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHR.:</strong> 5 May 1944</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEATH:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FATHER:</strong> Elmer William Frederick WEBER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER WIVES:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WIFE Ellen Mae KIRSCHENMANN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BIRTH:</strong> 30 Jun 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHR.:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BURIAL:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER HUSBANDS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHILDREN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. NAME:</strong> Christine Linnette WEBER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>-- BIRTH:</strong> 9 May 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>F CHR.:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DEATH:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SPOUSE:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. NAME:</strong> Jennifer Sarah WEBER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>-- BIRTH:</strong> 15 Jun 1972</td>
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<td><strong>F CHR.:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DEATH:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SPOUSE:</strong> Scott KUZNAR</td>
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<td><strong>3. NAME:</strong> Thomas Earl WEBER</td>
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<td><strong>-- BIRTH:</strong> 24 May 1975</td>
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<td><strong>N CHR.:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DEATH:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPOUSE:</strong></td>
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**HUSSAND Earl Kenneth WEBER**

**WIFE Ellen Mae KIRSCHENMANN**

**CHILD 1 Christine Linnette WEBER**

**CHILD 2 Jennifer Sarah WEBER**

**CHILD 3 Thomas Earl WEBER**

---

Records of: Lester G. Weber  
2030 Mackenzie Drive  
Columbus, OH 43220  
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
HUSBAND: Earl Kenneth Weber
NOTES: Earl was 13 years old when his mother, Flora (nee Hoyer) died of liver cancer. He attended High School and Rolla School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla, MO where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering. He married Ellen Mae Kirschenmann on June 17, 1967 and they have three children, two girls, Christine and Jennifer and a boy, Thomas. In 1993, Earl was transferred to a plant of his company in Granite City, IL, just across the river from St. Louis. But his family refused to move from their home in Wheaton, a northwestern suburb of Chicago, and he is having to commute on weekends to see his family. (May 1994) Ellen has Crohn's Disease which is rather debilitating for her.

WIFE: Ellen Mae KIRSCHENMANN
NOTES: Ellen was married to Earl Weber on Jun 17, 1967 in St. Louis, MO. Her father was a Lutheran minister (Missouri Synod.)

CHILD 1 Christine Linnette WEBER
CHILD 2 Jennifer Sarah WEBER
CHILD 3 Thomas Earl WEBER
**FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR DAVID MILLER/PAT - WEBER.PAF**

- **HUSBAND David MILLER**
  - **BIRTH:** 13 Dec 1939
  - **DEATH:**
  - **FATHER:** Leonard J MILLER
  - **OTHER WIVES:** Peggy KITCHEN
  - **MOTHER:** Ethel Wilhelmina WEBER

- **WIFE Pat**
  - **BIRTH:**
  - **DEATH:**
  - **FATHER:**
  - **OTHER HUSBANDS:**
  - **MOTHER:**

**CHILDREN**

1. **NAME:** Dawn MILLER
   - **BIRTH:** 9 Aug 1973
   - **FAMILY GROUP RECORD FOR DAVID MILLER/PAT - WEBER.PAF**

Records of: Lester G. Weber
2020 Mackenzie Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
United States Of America

Parent Link Types: (B)=Biological, (A)=Adopted, (G)=Guardian, (C)=Challenged, (D)=Disproved
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<td>2-- Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm WEBER (1879-1953)</td>
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<td>2-- Fred William WEBER (1881-1902)</td>
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<td>3-- Earl Heinrich Christian WEBER (1911-1925)</td>
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<td>3-- Ethel Wilhelmina WEBER (1913-1974)</td>
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<td>sp-Leonard J MILLER (1913-1992)</td>
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<td>4-- David MILLER (1939- )</td>
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<td>sp-Pat ( - )</td>
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<td>5-- Dawn MILLER (1973- )</td>
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<td>sp-Peggy KITCHEN (1940- )</td>
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<td>3-- Elmer William Frederick WEBER (1915-1989)</td>
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<td>sp-Flora HOYER ( -1957)</td>
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<td>sp-Scott KUZNAR (1970- )</td>
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<td>sp-Mathilda LUTZ (1915- )</td>
<td>Nagercoil, India</td>
<td>Nagercoil, India</td>
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<td>3-- Lester George WEBER (1924- )</td>
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<td>sp-Ruth Eileen DUELL (1924- )</td>
<td>Ft. Wayne, Allen County, IN</td>
<td>Ft. Wayne, Allen County, IN</td>
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<td>4-- Anne Kathleen WEBER [Dr] (1950- )</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>sp-Edward Andrew TOWEY (1945- )</td>
<td>Rochester, MN</td>
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<td>5-- Patricia Anne TOWEY (1989- )</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<td>4-- Kay Lorraine WEBER (1952- )</td>
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<td>sp-Karl WIZINSKY ( - )</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-- Matthew WIZINSKY (1978- )</td>
<td>Novi (Detroit), MI</td>
<td>Novi (Detroit), MI</td>
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<td>5-- Claire Lorraine WEBER (1990- )</td>
<td>Canton (Detroit), Michigan</td>
<td>Canton (Detroit), Michigan</td>
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<td>4-- Alan Paul WEBER (1954- )</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>sp-Sabine RINKER (1960- )</td>
<td>Pliezhausen, Wuerttemberg, Germany</td>
<td>Pliezhausen, Wuerttemberg, Germany</td>
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<td>5-- Joshua David WEBER (1981- )</td>
<td>New York City, NY</td>
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<td>5-- Johannes Immanuel WEBER (1986- )</td>
<td>Columbus, Franklin Cty, OH</td>
<td>Columbus, Franklin Cty, OH</td>
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<td>5-- Josef Daniel WEBER (1987- )</td>
<td>Upland, CA</td>
<td>Upland, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-- Donald Martin WEBER (1956- )</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>sp-Cher Ann NATONSKI (1960- )</td>
<td>Berwyn, Cook County, IL</td>
<td>Berwyn, Cook County, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-- Kyle Loren WEBER (1990- )</td>
<td>Rochester Hills, MI</td>
<td>Rochester Hills, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-- Ellen Alyse WEBER (1991- )</td>
<td>Rochester Hills, MI</td>
<td>Rochester Hills, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-- Sue Ellen WEBER (1960- )</td>
<td>St. Louis County, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis County, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-- Tara Diane ALPERT (1991- )</td>
<td>Scripps Hospt, Escondido (home), CA</td>
<td>Scripps Hospt, Escondido (home), CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-- Brian Benjamin ALPERT (1994- )</td>
<td>Escondido, California</td>
<td>Escondido, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-- Charles Edward WEBER (1925-1951)</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-- Anna Wilhelmina WEBER (1891-1975)</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>sp-Erward Carl ROHNE ( - )</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-- Louis WEBER ( -1917)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-- Anna Wilhelmine Louise WEBER (1894-1947)</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name (Birth/Chr.-Death/Burial) Birth/Chr. Place

3-- Marie Wilma Harriett ROHNE (1918-1985) St. Louis, Missouri
sp-Tim STOVALL

4-- Corrine LUCHINI (1937-) Unknown
sp-Lawrence BURCHELL [Plant Manager] (1958- ) Unknown
  5-- Renee' BURCHELL (1958- ) Unknown
  6-- Anna MUELLER ( - )
  6-- Matthew MUELLER ( - )
  6-- Andrew MUELLER (1990- ) New Cumberland, Pennsylvania
  6-- James MUELLER (1994- ) New Cumberland, Pennsylvania

5-- Lawrence LUCHINI (1940-1953) Unknown
5-- Dennis LUCHINI (1943- ) Unknown

sp-Paul THUNEHORST (1915- )
4-- Paul Edward THUNEHORST ( - )
sp-Kathy TOLATKO (1977- ) Unknown
4-- Marie Carolyn Yvonne THUNEHORST (1950- ) Peoria, Illinois
sp-Roger CHESTER ( - )
  5-- Rachel Marie CHESTER (1974- ) Unknown
  5-- Roger Ervin CHESTER (1977- ) Unknown

sp-Debby (Debra) DERRY ( - )
  5-- Christopher Michael THUNEHORST ( - )
sp-Rebecca SNODGRASS ( - )
  5-- Mark Aron THUNEHORST ( - )
sp-Rose Marie PRESTON ( - )
  5-- Tanya Marie THUNEHORST (1975- ) Unknown

4-- Cheryl Ann THUNEHORST (1952- ) Peoria, Illinois
sp-Michael GLEASON ( - )
  5-- Angela Janelle GLEASON (1964- ) Peoria, Illinois
  5-- Paul Edward GLEASON (1970- ) Unknown
  5-- Tamara Elizabeth GLEASON (1971- ) Unknown
sp-Jacob MUSGRAVE ( - )
  5-- Carolyn Lavonne MUSGRAVE (1971- ) Owensboro, Kentucky
  5-- Sean Glenn MUSGRAVE (1974- ) Unknown

4-- Lou Yvonne THUNEHORST (1955- ) Peoria, Illinois
sp-Lee LANGENBERG ( - )
  5-- Le' Lania LANGENBERG (1977- ) Unknown
  5-- Brandy LANGENBERG (1979- ) Unknown

3-- Walter Henry Edward ROHNE (1922-1990) St. Louis, Missouri
sp-Eugenia Henrietta MEYER ( -1990)
4-- Robert Bernard ROHNE [CPA] (1952- ) St. Louis, Missouri
4-- Ronald Edward ROHNE [CPA] (1953- ) St. Louis, Missouri
Appendix A

Advice to New German Immigrants

F. W. Bogen, a clergyman in Boston published a guidebook in 1851 *The German Immigrant in America*, which provided advice to new German immigrants. It was republished in 1992 by Heritage Books, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. It was originally written in both German and English. Here are some of his items of advice.

1) Learn English but enjoy German friends
   - Nearly every German immigrant takes lodgings at first in a German boarding house.
   - It lists useful books for immigrants — ranging in price from 12 1/2¢ - $1.50 including
     the 1849 issue of the Bible in both languages.
   - Observe signs in shop windows and the wares being sold.
   - Keep a blank notebook to write down new English words -- 10 per day = 3650 in a
     year.
   - Attend Sunday School.

2) Find an occupation adapted to his powers and abilities!
   - Don't wait for a lucky accident to happen -- spending all your money in the meantime.
   - LABOR - FRUGALITY - TEMPERANCE!!!

3) Forget former prejudices in regard to caste!
   - Learn about equality.
   - Fidelity and Merit are the only sources of honor in America.

4) Beware of people who might swindle you
   - The amount swindled in New York city amounts to $ 1 million = 2 1/2 million Florins.
   - Advice about who to trust -- in New York city, the German society of NYC is advised
     and their address given.
Sources of Information as cited in Family Group Records

1. St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Churchbooks, East John and West Florissant Avenues, St. Louis, MO on microfilm located at Concordia Historical Institute, Concordia Seminary, 801 DeMun Ave, Clayton, MO.

2. Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Churchbooks, formerly at 19th and Salisbury, now located at Salisbury and West Florissant, St. Louis, MO on microfilm located at Concordia Historical Institute, Concordia Seminary, 801 DeMun Ave., Clayton, MO.

5. Gehlenbeck Evangelische Gemeinde Kirchenbuch, Gehlenbeck (now absorbed in Lübbecke), Kreis Minden-Lübbecke, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany found on Mormon Film Numbers 473478, 473479, 473480, 473483, 473484.

6. Isenstedt Evangelische Lutherische Kirche Kirchenbuch, Isenstedt (now absorbed into Espelkamp), Kreis Minden-Lübbecke found at the church in 1978 and on Mormon Films Numbered 473467 to 473472 (references found on Microfilm Card Catalog 934439).

7. Deutsches Reich, Königreich Preussen, Reise-Pass, No. 6 des Register für Arbeiter Heinrich Weber aus Frotheim, 2 August 1888, Lübbecke, Westphalen (now Nordrhein-Westphalen), Germany. Original in possession of Renee’ Mueller, granddaughter of Marie Rohne, New Cumberland, PA.


9. Obituary of Wilhelmine Weber (nee Eickriede), St. Paul’s Herald, St. Paul Lutheran Church, John and West Florissant Avenues, St. Louis, MO, Volume 13, Number 12, December 1929.

10. Cemetery Records, New Bethlehem Cemetery, Bellefontaine Road, Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO, (a suburb of St. Louis, MO.)

20. 13th United States Census of 1910, St. Louis, MO.


56. Transcript of the naturalization of Heinrich Weber, September 13, 1900, St. Louis Court of Criminal Corrections, St. Louis, Missouri by Fred I. G. Knittel, Clerk of this court dated May 3, 1917 and recorded in Volume 17, Page 35, in possession of Lester G. Weber.


Achilles, I., Rev
Africa
Ahlen
Air Force
Allen County
Aller
Alpert, Brian
Robert Steven
Sue Ellen
See also Weber, Sue Ellen
Tara
America
American Independence
American Revolution
American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T)
Amsterdam
Andreas Church
Anti-Tank Company
Antwerp
Arbeiter
Archbishop of Cologne
Armstrong Cork Company
Arnsberg
Arsenal of Democracy
Atomic Bomb(s)
Atomic Energy Commission
August
Austria
Bachelor's Degree
Baden
Bake House
Baltimore
Bartman, Friedrich Wilhelm
Bastogne
Battle of the Bulge
Beethoven, (Ludwig von)
Beaumont High School
Bellefontaine Neighbors
Benedict Street
Berlin
Bethesda Lutheran Home
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cemetery (New)
Beverly Hills
Bielefeld
Bierman(n)
Elise Catharina Maria
Bismark, von
Otto
BIVAC
Black Forest
Black Hills
Blase
Anna Marie Elsabein
Blasheim
Blauseuleiden
Blotevogel, Heinrich
Wilhelm
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Bonaparte, Jerome
Marie Louise
Napoleon
Bone yard (aka Fertilizer Factory)
Bonn
Bourbons, the
Brammeier, Anton
Bonneville
Brandt, C.C.E., Rev.
Brandywine Springs
Breast Kranken
Breast krakenheist (krankenheisen)
Bremen
Britain
British
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ABBREVIATIONS
aka = also known as (another name)
News from Frotheim

During the process of preparation of this book, I was contacted by the son of “Young Willi Eickriede” shown in the photograph with his parents and Herbert Peithmann. Unfortunately, he informed me that Herbert died about 4 or 5 years ago (May 1999.)

The contact was made by e-mail, one of the miracles of the late 20th century. Fortunately for me, he wrote in English. I will continue to contact him to inquire about the rest of Herbert’s family and also Willi’s parents. Willi is the last Eickriede living in Frotheim, according to his son, Rainer.
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<td>= Evangelical Lutheran</td>
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<td>IA</td>
<td>= Iowa</td>
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<td>OH</td>
<td>= Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POW</td>
<td>= Prisoner of War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>= Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>= Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WV</td>
<td>= West Virginia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Explanations

Page 8 - Weber Home 5236 Bulwer Ave; See Pages 11 and 14  
Naturalization Paper; See Page 14

Page 9 - H. Weber family plot, New Bethlehem Cemetery; See Page 90

Page 10 - St. Louis World's Fair; see Page 15  
St. Paul's School; see Page 11  
New St. Paul's Church; see Page 90

Page 38 - Frotheim is in Kreis (like a county) Lübbeke, province of Westphalia in Germany.  
The PAF (Personal Ancestry File) software abbreviated this.  
Ilsenstedt and Gehlenbeck are in the same county, now called Kreis Minden-Lübbecke.

Page 38 - A vowel with an umlaut (like ü) is often written without the umlaut but with an “e” added. DODING should be DÖDING (DOEDING) (See also Page 57)

Page 39 - DOEPKEN is the feminine form of DÖPKE (See also Page 45)  
SCHÜTTEN is the feminine form of SCHÜTTE (See also Page 41)

Page 40 - Map of the German Confederation after 1815 is on Page 49.

### Corrections

Table of Contents has no entry for the Index.

Page 1 - City of Hannover is misspelled with only one “n.”

Page 56 - “Ether” should read “Ethel.”

Page 73 - 3rd line- (1883) should be (1983)

Page 75- (US History-1940) The word “Democracy” should only appear once.

Page 85- Photo of “Matz”, Sue Alpert and Elmer Weber is incorrectly called “at Sue’s Wedding  
April 30, 1989.” It was taken at Don’s Wedding, September 2, 1989.

### Additional News From Frotheim

Page 35 - Mrs. Eickriede shown on photo was Caroline Wilhelmine Möller before she married  
Heinrich Eickriede, the older man shown in the photo.

[Source: Rainer Eickriede, son of “Willi”, who lives in Kutenhausen (Kutenhauser  
Dorfstrasse 6, 32425 Minden, Germany; e-mail dated May 16, 1999.])
Additional Information Received after Initial Publication


2. An incomplete Family Group Sheet for David Miller, the adopted son of Ethel and Leonard Miller is also included on Page 109.

3. A Descendancy Chart from Johann Heinrich Weber and Wilhelmine Eickriede, the immigrants, is included on Pages 110 and 111.